PM Modi's vision is transforming J&K's healthcare sector: Dr. Tahir

Hails expansion of PG Medical Seats at GMC Jammu

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Senior BJP leader and Spokesperson BJP J&K UT, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, has warmly welcomed the significant enhancement of post-graduate medical seats at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, describing it as another milestone in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir's healthcare and medical education sector under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr. Chowdhary stated that the addition of 12 post-graduate seats, taking the total strength from 242 to 254 for the academic session 2026–27, reflects the Central Government's sustained commitment to strengthening medical education, improving healthcare infrastructure and creating greater opportunities for young medical professionals.He particularly appreciated the introduction of two postgraduate seats in Respiratory Medicine for the first time, along with the enhancement of seats in Pathology, Paediatrics, Pharmacology and Microbiology. Dr. Chowdhary said that the remarkable transformation of the healthcare sector in Jammu and Kashmir is closely associated with the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose government has given unprecedented attention to the development of medical infrastructure in the Union Territory. "For decades, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed limited expansion in medical education and healthcare infrastructure. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new chapter has begun. The establishment of two AIIMS, one each in Jammu and Kashmir, the expansion of Government Medical Colleges, the creation of additional MBBS and postgraduate seats and the strengthening of healthcare facilities have transformed the medical landscape of the region."



He further said that after decades of limited opportunities, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a major expansion in medical education, giving thousands of aspiring doctors better opportunities to pursue their dreams without having to depend entirely on institutions outside the region.Dr. Chowdhary credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led Central Government for bringing healthcare development to the forefront through visionary policies, sustained financial support and several transformative initiatives.

He also highlighted the importance of various Central Government schemes and initiatives, including Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission and the expansion of medical colleges and healthcare institutions, which are strengthening healthcare accessibility and delivery in Jammu and Kashmir.He said that PM Modi's vision of a developed and self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir includes a robust healthcare system, quality medical education, advanced treatment facilities and affordable healthcare for every section of society.

"Today, we are witnessing the realisation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New Jammu and Kashmir, where healthcare infrastructure, medical education and opportunities for young doctors are expanding at an unprecedented pace. The journey towards a stronger and more self-reliant healthcare system is gaining remarkable momentum," he added. Dr. Chowdhary also congratulated the administration of GMC Jammu, faculty members, medical professionals and all those associated with this achievement, appreciating their contribution towards strengthening the institution's academic excellence. He expressed confidence that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir will continue to emerge as a leading centre for quality medical education and advanced healthcare services."The credit for this historic transformation goes to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the decisive commitment of the BJP-led Central Government towards building a healthier, stronger and developed Jammu and Kashmir."

CTF demands immediate compensation for Warehouse fire victims

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

A delegation of the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF), led by its President Neeraj Anand, today visited Warehouse, Jammu, the city's major wholesale market for essential commodities, to express solidarity with traders affected by the devastating fire that broke out on Diwali night.During the incident, shops dealing in oil, ghee and grocery items were completely gutted, reducing goods worth crores of rupees to ashes. The tragedy severely affected seven families, destroying their business establishments, stocks and years of hard-earned savings.

Interacting with the affected shopkeepers, Anand listened to their grievances and assured them of the Federation's full support in their difficult times.He made a strong appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to announce immediate and adequate financial assistance for the affected traders, keeping in view the extensive damage to their shops and merchandise.

"These traders are not asking for charity but seeking a helping hand in their worst hour. While the entire city was celebrating Diwali, seven families saw their life's earnings reduced to ashes. The government must stand with them and provide immediate relief," Anand said.

He observed that the Warehouse traders have always extended cooperation to the administration during emergencies and various social causes, and it was now the administration's responsibility to stand by them through timely financial assistance and rehabilitation.

Demanding accountability, Anand called for a time-bound enquiry into the incident to ascertain the circumstances leading to the fire and examine the response of the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Referring to the recent major fire at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station, he said two serious fire incidents within a few days in important commercial areas had raised concerns over the preparedness and emergency response mechanism of the department. He pointed out that, according to eyewitnesses and people present at both locations, timely arrival of fire tenders could have helped minimise the losses. He urged the authorities to examine the allegations of delayed response and take corrective measures wherever shortcomings are established. "Warehouse is one of Jammu's most important commercial centres, where essential commodities for the entire region are stored. Its fire safety cannot be left to chance. The administration must strengthen emergency response arrangements to prevent such incidents in the future," he added. The delegation comprised Raman Gupta, Parveen Gupta, Tushar Mahajan, Dinesh Gupta, Ajay Gupta, Sachin Gupta, Pooja Kapoor and Rahul Sharma.The CTF reiterated its commitment to pursuing the matter with the government and administration until the affected traders receive adequate compensation and necessary support for rehabilitation.

Panthers Party demands compensation for Warehouse fire victims

Seeks fire safety audit of major markets, modernisation of firefighting infrastructure

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

The Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) has expressed deep shock over the massive fire at Warehouse Nehru Market, Jammu, and demanded immediate financial assistance and adequate compensation for the affected traders and shopkeepers.In a statement, party president Advocate Vilakshan Singh expressed solidarity with the affected business community, whose shops and livelihoods suffered extensive damage in the devastating blaze on Sunday night. He expressed relief that no casualties were reported. Raising concern over allegations by the Warehouse Association regarding the delayed response of the Fire and Emergency Services Department, Singh said reports suggested that only two fire engines reached the spot after approximately one-and-a-half hours despite a nearby fire station. He stressed that these allegations must be examined impartially, particularly as the department has maintained that fire tenders were rushed to the spot. He pointed out that similar complaints had emerged following the recent fire at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station, and said repeated incidents in major commercial areas warranted serious examination and corrective action.The party demanded immediate interim relief and adequate compensation for all affected traders following a transparent, time-bound assessment of losses. Singh also called for an impartial inquiry into the alleged delay in firefighting operations, covering emergency calls, deployment and arrival of fire tenders, availability of personnel, vehicles and water resources, and possible lapses in emergency response. He demanded that responsibility be fixed wherever negligence is established and inquiry findings made public. Emphasising preventive measures, he sought a comprehensive fire safety audit of major markets, warehouses, godowns and densely populated commercial establishments, particularly Warehouse Nehru Market and Shiv Market. The audit should examine electrical installations, storage of inflammable materials, access for fire tenders and availability of hydrants and dedicated water points.

He further called for strengthening the Fire and Emergency Services Department through additional fire tenders, trained manpower, functional hydrants, modern equipment and an improved emergency communication system to ensure faster response. Singh urged the J&K Government and district administration to act on these demands without delay, assuring affected traders that the Panthers Party would continue to raise their concerns with the authorities until appropriate relief and corrective measures were ensured.

Drug peddler arrested in Pulwama, charas-like substance seized

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
PULWAMA, NOV 9:

Continuing its drive against drug trafficking, Pulwama Police arrested a suspected drug peddler and recovered a contraband substance, suspected to be charas (chura), from his possession during naka checking near Tenghar Bridge.Police said the accused was intercepted by a team from Police Station Pulwama during routine checking at Tenghar. He was identified as Farzan Ahmad Dar, son of late Mohammad Altaf Dar, a resident of Tenghar, Pulwama. Accordingly, FIR No. 229/2026 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Pulwama, and an investigation has been initiated to establish the source of the recovered substance and identify its possible backward and forward linkages.Police urged the public to share credible information about drug-related activities and cooperate in efforts to combat the drug menace.

Doda Police detain habitual offender under PSA, lodge him in Bhaderwah Jail

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
DODA, NOV 9:

District Police Doda have detained a habitual offender under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged him in District Jail, Bhaderwah, as part of efforts to maintain public order and prevent activities prejudicial to public safety.The detainee has been identified as Riaz Ahmed, son of Wali Mohd, a resident of Kakriyal Jatheli, Tehsil Mahalla, District Doda.According to police records, the individual has been named in multiple criminal cases registered over the years. These include FIR No. 197/2017 under Sections 188 RPC and 3 of the PC Act; FIR No. 83/2018 under Sections 341, 323, 427, 147 and 504 IPC; FIR No. 140/2019 under Section 188 IPC and Section 3 of the PC Act; FIR No. 147/2025 under Section 223 BNS and Section 11 of the PC Act; and FIR No. 15/2026 under Section 223 BNS and Section 11 of the PC Act. Police said the detention was ordered under the provisions of the PSA in accordance with the prescribed legal procedure.

Awantipora Police seize JCB Machine in illegal mining case in Pampore

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
PAMPORE, NOV 9:

Continuing its crackdown on illegal mining, Awantipora Police seized a JCB machine and apprehended its driver at Sheikh-ul-Aalam, Tanchibagh, in the Pampore area.Police said the action was taken as part of an ongoing drive against the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals.The apprehended driver was identified as Mohd Sakib Sheikh, son of Mohd Asik Sheikh, a resident of Dusoo, Pulwama, presently residing at Doonnard, Pampore. In this connection, FIR No. 102/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pampore, and further investigation has been initiated.Awantipora Police reiterated its commitment to curbing illegal mining and appealed to the public to share information about such activities.

Missing youth's body recovered from Willow Forest in Ganderbal

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
GANDERBAL, NOV 9:

The body of a youth who went missing on Sunday was recovered from a willow forest in the Phalipora area of Safapora in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, officials said.An official said the body was spotted in the willow forest at Phalipora around midnight, following which a police team reached the spot and took cognisance of the matter.The deceased was identified as Inna Khan, son of Mohammad Ashraf Khan, a resident of Chewa Ajas. He had reportedly gone missing around noon on November 8.Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding his death.

Jammu Rural Police rescue 34 bovine animals, seize Truck under Operation Kamdhenu

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Jammu Rural Police foiled an alleged bovine smuggling attempt under Operation Kamdhenu by rescuing 34 bovine animals and seizing a truck at Ban Toll Naka.Police said that during the intervening night, a truck bearing registration number JK02DU-7871, allegedly carrying bovine animals, was signalled to stop at Sidhra Bridge Naka. However, the driver allegedly broke through the naka and fled towards Ban Toll. Acting swiftly, police personnel pursued the vehicle and intercepted it at Ban Toll Naka after sustained efforts. During checking, 34 bovine animals were found loaded inside the truck and subsequently rescued.In this connection, FIR No. 260/2026 under Section 223 of the BNS and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act has been registered at Police Station Nagrota.The truck has been seized, and further investigation is underway.Jammu Rural Police reiterated its commitment to curbing bovine smuggling and ensuring the protection of animals through sustained enforcement under Operation Kamdhenu.

Kulgam Police intensify crackdown on illegal mining, seize four Tractors and 10 other vehicles

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KULGAM, NOV 9:

Kulgam Police have intensified their crackdown on illegal mining, unauthorised transportation of minerals and traffic violations across the district, seizing four tractors involved in illegal mining cases, besides 10 other vehicles, and issuing challans to 13 heavy motor vehicles. During naka checking at Vessu Crossing, a police team from Police Station Qazigund intercepted two tractors travelling from Sadoora towards Vessu without registration number plates. One was found carrying illegally extracted Nallah boulders, while the other was transporting sand without valid documents or authorisation. The drivers were identified as Sajid Amin Shan, son of Mohammad Amin Shan, and Danish Rafiq Shan, son of Rafiq Shan, both residents of Nowpora Akhran, Mirbazar. Accordingly, FIR No. 276/2026 under Sections 305(e) and 326(b) of the BNS was registered at Police Station Qazigund.

In a separate action, a police team from Police Post Mirbazar intercepted two tractors at Palpora Crossing while they were travelling from Khrewan towards Palpora/Mirbazar. Both were allegedly transporting illegally extracted riverbed material without valid royalty documents or permission.The drivers were identified as Fasil Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat, a resident of Khrewan, Lassipora, and Naseer Ahmad Dar, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Tachloo, Qaimoh. Two separate cases, FIR Nos. 274/2026 and 275/2026, under Sections 305(e) and 326(b) of the BNS and Section 3 of the PPD Act, were registered at Police Station Qazigund. Meanwhile, five heavy motor vehicles were seized under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act for violations. During naka checking at Kilam and Devsar, Police Station Devsar seized five motorcycles and one tractor for plying without High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), including two vehicles bearing Punjab registration numbers. Five challans were also issued to tippers and dumpers for traffic violations.Similarly, Police Station Qaimoh issued challans to four dumpers/tippers, while Police Station Qazigund challaned another four dumper/tipper vehicles and seized four two-wheelers for traffic violations. Kulgam Police reiterated that enforcement drives against illegal mining, unauthorised transportation of minerals and traffic violations would continue, particularly targeting heavy vehicles to ensure compliance with traffic regulations and protect natural resources.

Healthcare faculty crisis demands urgent intervention: Dr Varinder

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Dr Varinder Sharma, Co-Convener, Health Cell, J&K BJP, today expressed grave concern over the persistent faculty shortage at GMC Jammu, which is functioning at far below its strength, with patient care suffering immensely as a result. Citing available reports, Dr Sharma said that only around 573 of roughly 908 sanctioned posts of faculty, senior residents and tutors are filled, leaving 335 vacant. The situation is especially worrying in specialised departments. The Forensic Medicine department is being headed by a Pathology HOD, while Nephrology has been run by doctors on deputation from the Health Department since the retirement of its HOD, Dr Bali, five years ago. Without specialised faculty, he said, patients are being denied the quality care they deserve. He warned that the winter migration from Kashmir and Ladakh will add further pressure on already stretched facilities, making the situation more chaotic in the coming weeks.

Dr Sharma demanded immediate filling of all vacancies on top priority, along with a comprehensive faculty and staff audit of GMC Jammu. He pointed out that there has been no augmentation of posts since the inception of the college, despite a manifold increase in patient footfall over the decades. Such an exercise was carried out for GMC Srinagar long ago, with faculty increased accordingly, and Jammu deserves the same treatment. He also drew attention to Gandhi Nagar Hospital, which is functioning without a Medical Superintendent and has many specialist posts lying vacant. Dr Sharma further highlighted that the three Chenab districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban face a similar crisis, with nearly 50 per cent shortfall in faculty and administrative posts. He noted that the High Court has itself taken serious note of the situation and has sought a timeline for filling some 6,775 vacant posts in the healthcare sector.

SMVDU holds five-day STTP on energy efficiency and electric mobility

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATRA, NOV 9:

The School of Electrical Engineering (SoEE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, successfully organised a five-day offline Short-Term Training Programme (STTP) on "Building Energy Efficiency, Power Electronics, Renewable Energy, and Electric Mobility". The programme aimed to enhance technical knowledge, professional competencies, and practical understanding of emerging technologies in electrical engineering and sustainable energy systems.The first two days featured industrial visits to Electricfield Company and Sudhir Gen Set, Jammu, providing participants with valuable exposure to industrial practices, electrical technologies, generator-set operations, and power generation systems.The technical sessions featured expert lectures by Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Assistant Professor, NIT Srinagar, and Prof. Sachin Shelar, Head, Power Quality Cell, AISSMS Institute of Technology, Pune. The sessions covered emerging developments in electrical engineering, power quality, and modern energy technologies, offering participants valuable academic and industrial perspectives.Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Head, School of Electrical Engineering and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU, extended his support and encouragement towards the successful conduct of the programme. The STTP received appreciation from Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, who congratulated the organising team for its efforts in promoting technical learning and professional development. The programme witnessed active participation from faculty members, staff, and students of the School of Electrical Engineering, fostering interaction, knowledge exchange, and discussions on emerging technological applications in teaching, research, and industry.The programme was coordinated by Dr. Jatinkumar Soni and Dr. Prabhu Omer, with Mr. Shubham Chib as Co-coordinator and Mr. Akash Deep as Organising Secretary. Through this initiative, SMVDU reaffirmed its commitment to quality technical education, industry–academia collaboration, faculty development, and capacity building in emerging areas of electrical engineering, renewable energy, and sustainable mobility.

Rohit Shastri meets Himachal Governor, discusses promotion of Sanskrit in J&K

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Evam Vedic Sansthan Trust (Regd.) and State Awardee, paid a courtesy visit to the Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kavinder Gupta.During the meeting, Mahant Rohit Shastri held a detailed and meaningful discussion with the Hon'ble Governor regarding the preservation, promotion, and widespread propagation of Devvani Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir. He apprised the Governor of various initiatives and socio-cultural activities being undertaken by the Trust to take the Sanskrit language to every household and make it accessible to the general public.

Mahant Rohit Shastri informed him that the Trust has been consistently working for the promotion and popularisation of Sanskrit for several years. Its key initiatives include the Har Ghar Sanskrit Abhiyan, Sanskrit Nameplate Campaign, free distribution of simple Sanskrit books, Sanskrit language training programmes, and continuous efforts to secure a greater place for Devvani Sanskrit in the education system. He emphasised that the primary objective of the Trust is to revive the rich Vedic and Sanskrit heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and connect the younger generation with India's ancient knowledge tradition.On this occasion, the Hon'ble Governor, Shri Kavinder Gupta, appreciated the dedicated efforts of Mahant Rohit Shastri and the various initiatives undertaken by the Trust. Describing Sanskrit as an invaluable heritage of Indian culture and knowledge traditions, he also highlighted the importance of its preservation, promotion, and development.Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed his sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor for sparing his valuable time and sharing his encouraging and positive views on the promotion of Sanskrit.

Sahni demands probe into Warehouse market fire

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir President Manish Sahni, accompanied by party leaders, visited the fire-ravaged Warehouse-Nehru Market, where nearly a dozen shops were gutted in a massive blaze on Diwali night, and expressed solidarity with the affected traders.Terming the incident a matter of serious concern, Sahni strongly criticised the administration and questioned the preparedness of the Fire and Emergency Services Department to deal with major fire incidents.



He pointed to the alleged shortage of modern firefighting equipment, including CO2 and ABC powder extinguishers, which are required to tackle fires involving flammable liquids and other hazardous materials. He demanded an inquiry into the reported shortcomings and the department's preparedness. Referring to the recent fire at Shiv Market, Sahni said the administration had failed to learn lessons despite similar concerns being raised by traders. He questioned how fire tenders could reportedly take nearly one and a half hours to reach the Warehouse market when the nearest fire station was barely five minutes away. He also sought an explanation for the alleged failure to respond to emergency calls.

Sahni demanded a time-bound inquiry into the incident, strict action against officials found guilty of negligence and immediate, adequate compensation for the affected shopkeepers.

He further called for the permanent deployment of fire tenders and installation of modern firefighting facilities at all major wholesale markets in Jammu to prevent such incidents and ensure a prompt response during emergencies.

Oil Packers Association assures all possible help to fire-hit Warehouse traders

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

The All Jammu and Kashmir Oil Packers and Manufacturers Association has expressed solidarity with the business community following the devastating fire that broke out in the Warehouse area of Jammu on Diwali, causing heavy losses to several traders and shopkeepers.Raj Kumar Goyal, President of the Association, extended heartfelt support to the affected business owners and assured them that the Association would provide all possible assistance to help them overcome the losses suffered in the unfortunate incident. Goyal said the Association stands shoulder to shoulder with the Warehouse traders during this difficult time and expressed hope that the affected shopkeepers would receive the necessary support to resume their business activities.He also expressed solidarity with Deepak Gupta, President of the Warehouse Traders Association, and Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, in their efforts to extend assistance to the fire-affected traders.