

# YUVA MANTHAN 2026 - 2-Day Young Researchers Conclave Concluded at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (UT), successfully organised "YUVA MANTHAN 2026," a two-day Young Researchers Conclave held on 10-11 February 2026, dedicated to igniting ideas, fostering innovation, and strengthening research culture among students.

The programme commenced with the inaugural ceremony featuring ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana, followed by the welcome address delivered by the worthy Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Kulvinder Kour. In her address, she emphasised the importance of research-oriented learning, critical thinking, and innovation in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The conclave included inspiring keynote interactions by Ms Arunima Sinha (Art of Living), who motivated students towards resilience, positivity, and purposeful living, and Shri Om Prakash Vid-yarthi (Retd. IFS), who



highlighted the importance of sustainable thinking, environmental awareness, and ethical leadership among youth. A brief presentation on Journal Club activities underscored the relevance of critical appraisal of research, evidence-based learning, and academic dialogue in higher education.

The technical sessions formed the academic core of the conclave, featuring student research presentations on themes such as the National Education Policy 2020, the Indian Knowledge System, Phys-

ical Sciences, and Entrepreneurship, reflecting originality, analytical insight, and scientific temperament. Outstanding scholarly contributions were recognised through Best Paper Awards, celebrating academic excellence and innovation.

The successful organisation of the event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Organising Committee, comprising faculty members Prof. Aran Kumar (Convener), Prof. Shivani Sharma, Prof. Sham Lal, Prof. Rohit Gupta, Prof. Ujwal Sharma along with stu-

dent members Lavanya Jamwal, Shailja Singh, Kashish Misri, Arkashuta Sharma, Ghuniksha Manhas, Sona Singh, Rishika Sharma, Muskan Gupta, Tavleen Kaur, Divyansha Sharma, and Himanshi Gandotra, whose collective commitment ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the conclave.

The valedictory ceremony acknowledged the contributions of faculty members, organisers, presenters, and participants, and concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Vijender Kumar, Staff Secretary of the college.

# J&K Auto Market Begins 2026 on Strong Note with Nearly 10% Growth

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In J&K for January 2026, the 2-Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 8.64% at 4,978 units in January 2026, as compared to 4,582 units in January 2025. The 3 Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 7.81% at 1,091 units in January 2026, as compared to 1,012 units in January 2025. The Commercial Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 30.69% at 1,056 units in January 2026, as compared to 808 units in January 2025. The Construction Equipment category witnessed a downfall of -22.22% at 28 units in January 2026, as compared to 36 units in January 2025. The Passenger Vehicle category witnessed a Growth of 9.83% at 6,962 units in January 2026, as compared to 6,339 units in January 2025. The Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -7.55% at 355 units in January 2026, as compared to 384 units in January 2025.

In J&K total retail is 14,470 in January 2026 as

compared to 13,161 in January 2025 thereby registering a growth 9.95% YoY.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations Jammu said that reflecting on January 2026 Auto Retail performance in J&K, "January 2026 showed a decent growth of 9.95% YoY.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal said that the retail performance in Jammu & Kashmir reflects cautious optimism in the market. Improved availability of vehicles, better financing options, and seasonal demand have supported sales momentum across segments. However, rural liquidity and inflationary pressures continue to influence buying decisions, particularly in entry-level categories."

Mr Aggarwal said that, "While passenger vehicles continue to perform well, especially in the SUV category, the two-wheeler segment needs sustained demand stimulus. Commercial vehicle growth signals positive movement in economic activity, but consistent policy support and infrastructure spending will be crucial to main-

tain this trajectory."

Mr Aggarwal said that, February '26 sentiment is firmly constructive, backed by supportive macros and on-ground dealer confidence. The operating environment is being strengthened by a growth-oriented Budget with a clear infra-agri thrust, continued wedding/festival tailwinds, and RBI rate stability on top of 2025's easing—together improving affordability, financing comfort and purchase intent.

Dealers are also flagging healthier enquiry inflows versus January and stronger pipeline management as a conversion lever, with the key watch-outs being the shorter month, high base from recent strong runs.

Mr Aggarwal said that, Looking ahead, FADA expects demand to remain stable in the coming months, supported by infrastructure projects, tourism activity, and improving consumer confidence. However, the association emphasized the need for calibrated policy measures to ensure sustainable growth in the au-

tomobile retail sector. "Stable interest rates, improved rural liquidity, and supportive policy measures will be key to sustaining growth in the coming quarters he added.

Mr. Aggarwal shared that during the pre-budget meeting, FADA J&K submitted a set of proposals and suggestions to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir aimed at accelerating the growth of the automobile sector in the Union Territory. He highlighted that the proposed measures are expected to drive additional vehicle sales of up to 14%, resulting in significant revenue enhancement for the Government of J&K, including an estimated ₹166 crore through Road Tax and ₹149 crore through SGST.

He further added that FADA has also recommended several measures for inclusion in the upcoming J&K EV Policy, which is currently under formulation, to make it more inclusive and growth-oriented. These recommendations are expected to further boost vehicle sales across the region.

# DC inaugurates newly developed Civic Amenities in Doda Township

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Deputy Commissioner (DC), Harvinder Singh today inaugurated newly developed civic amenities in Doda Township.

The completed works included development of a local spring and Children Park here in Keshav Nagar locality near Shiv Mandir.

The projects, executed by the PWD (R&B) Division Doda are expected to serve as a vibrant community space promoting environmental conservation and social engagement.

During the visit, the DC interacted with locals, senior residents and students present on the occasion. He encouraged students to make constructive use of public spaces and emphasized the importance of community participation in maintaining civic assets.

The citizens expressed



gratitude to the district administration for creating a safe and accessible recreational facility in the local-

ity. Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar; officers of the PWD (R&B) Depart-

ment; senior citizens, students and prominent residents were present on the occasion.

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Carmel Convent School celebrated the International Day of Girls and Women in Science on 11 February 2026 with great enthusiasm and academic fervour.

To commemorate the occasion, the school organized an Inter-House Symposium Competition in the school auditorium, aiming to promote awareness about girls' participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Students from various houses participated whole-



heartedly and presented well-researched and thought-provoking Power-Point presentations. The participants highlighted the remarkable contributions of women scientists across the globe, discussed the challenges faced by girls in STEM fields, and proposed meaningful measures to encourage greater

female participation in science and technology.

The event was judged by Ms. Isha Jyoti Sharma, a pioneer in Computer Science, who commended the students for their confidence, creativity, and depth of knowledge. In her address, she encouraged young girls to pursue careers in science and tech-

nology with determination, innovation, and self-belief.

The programme concluded with the announcement of winners and the distribution of certificates. The celebration proved to be both inspiring and informative, reinforcing the school's commitment to empowering young girls to excel in scientific fields.

# BJP observes Samarpan Diwas on Punyatithi of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay across J&K

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Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) observed Samarpan Diwas on the Punyatithi (death anniversary) of party ideologue Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay with programmes held at district levels across the Union Territory, where senior party leaders paid rich tributes to the great thinker, philosopher, and architect of BJP's ideological foundation.

J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma CA, paid floral tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay at New Delhi. Remembering his immense political and ideological contribution, Sat Sharma said that Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay was not merely a political thinker but a visionary who gave Bharatiya politics a value-based direction through the philosophy of Integral Humanism. He said that Pt. Deendayal's thoughts continue to guide the BJP's policies and programmes even today.

He emphasized that the political relevance of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay lies in his people-centric approach, where governance is rooted in ethics, nationalism, and social justice. "From Panchayat to Parliament, BJP's commitment to the last person standing in the queue reflects Deendayal ji's vision," he as-



serted.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, paid tributes at the party office in Srinagar and highlighted the organizational strength derived from Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay's ideology. He said that Antyodaya, upliftment of the poorest of the poor is the soul of BJP's governance model. He stated that welfare schemes aimed at farmers, labourers, women, youth, and marginalized sections are practical manifestations of Deendayal ji's philosophy, which the Modi-led government has effectively implemented across the nation.

At the BJP Headquar-

ters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, the Samarpan Diwas programme was addressed by former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh and General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria.

Dr. Nirmal Singh said that BJP has reached its present pinnacle solely due to its unwavering commitment to the ideology of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is devotedly following Deendayal ji's path to realize the goal of Antyodaya and inclusive national development.

Baldev Singh Billawaria shed light on the inspiring life journey of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, describ-

ing him as a selfless nationalist who dedicated his entire life to the service of the nation and society, without seeking power or position.

The programme was attended by J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Rajiv Charak, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, Parbhat Singh Jamwal, Tilak Gupta, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Makson Tikoo, Ved Sharma, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Dharminder Kumar, Rakesh Pant, Neha Mahajan, and others. The event was organized by the Aajivan Sahayog Nidhi Department led by Convenor Prem Gupta, along with co-convenors Yudhvir Sambyal and Ajay Anand.

# DC Kathua presides over awareness programme for construction workers

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Labour Department Kathua today organised an awareness programme for unorganised and construction workers to sensitise them to the New Labour Codes and the Welfare and Social Security Schemes of the department.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma, who was the chief guest, presided over the programme.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for maximum awareness and wider coverage of the unorganised labour under different welfare initiatives of the Government. He urged workers to register themselves on the e-Shram portal and with the Building Workers Welfare Board to avail financial assistance for education, disability, accidental death and other social security benefits. "By contributing a nominal amount every month under schemes like Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, workers can secure pension sup-



port and financial stability for themselves and their families," he informed. Observing that the penetration of such schemes in Kathua has remained limited, he emphasised the need to reach every eligible beneficiary through sustained awareness drives and person-to-person mobilization.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that saturation of social security schemes remains a priority and directed the concerned officers to intensify registration campaigns across the district.

The programme was conducted under the supervi-

sion of Assistant Labour Commissioner, Piyusha Khajuria.

She highlighted that the objective of the event was to educate workers about their rights, registration procedures and the benefits available to them under different welfare schemes. She also elaborated on the salient features of the Labour Codes, stating that the reforms aim to expand social security coverage and improve access to benefits for workers in the unorganised sector.

The workers were informed about the provisions of the Building and Other Construction Work-

ers Welfare Scheme, including financial assistance, medical aid, educational support for children, marriage assistance and other welfare measures.

A nukkad natak was presented to emphasise the importance of registration and to spread awareness about the benefits available under different schemes.

Labour Inspector Kathua spoke on the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, explaining the eligibility criteria, contribution pattern and assured pension after the age of 60 years and encouraged workers to enroll for securing their future.