

## IIM Jammu Professor Among 'Game Changers of the Decade'

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Director of his journey.

Director of IIM Jammu, Prof. B. S. Sahay, congratulated Prof. Gupta, stating that his recognition exemplifies leadership that builds institutions with purpose and lasting impact. He added that Prof. Gupta's association enriches the institute's MBA (Healthcare) programme and inspires future leaders to pursue excellence with integrity and a commitment to national service.

Hailing from Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir, Prof. Gupta is an alumnus of Government Medical College Jammu and AIIMS New Delhi. With a distinguished career spanning decades, he has mentored over 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars, guided more than 112 research studies, and authored over 110 publications. His leadership at AIIMS New Delhi also saw his department become the first to receive ISO certification.

He has led several WHO-supported initiatives focusing on hospital governance, public-private

partnerships, and digital health systems, besides authoring eleven books on hospital planning, disaster management, procurement, and infection control.

As the founding head of AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Gupta spearheaded the institution's rapid development into a modern, patient-centric healthcare facility. Under his leadership, key initiatives such as "Patient First" and "Pain-Free" care models were introduced, while 43 major infrastructure projects were completed in record time. The institute also secured the 7th rank in the Government Medical Universities Ranking 2025, emerging as one of the top institutions in the country.

At IIM Jammu, he continues to contribute to the MBA (Healthcare) programme in collaboration with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu, bringing together clinical expertise, administrative insight, and policy experience to shape future-ready healthcare leaders.

Prof. Gupta's accolades include the FICCI Healthcare Personality of the Year Award (2025), Capital Foundation National Award, Times Healthcare Achievers Award, and the State Award for Meritorious Public Service by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, along with international recognition from Cologne University, Germany.

The latest recognition further underscores his enduring contributions to healthcare administration, institution-building, and public service, while reinforcing IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and impactful leadership.

## BJP made mockery of women with Reservation Bill: RL Gupta

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The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta launched a scathing attack on the BJP, accusing it of playing a "cruel political charade" with the women of India by mishandling the Women's Reservation Bill.

Addressing a gathering at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan in Jammu, chaired by District President Jammu Urban, Chander Mohan Sharma, Gupta said the BJP government "reduced a historic opportunity for women's empowerment into a hollow spectacle of political posturing." He argued that the ruling party introduced the bill despite being fully aware that it lacked the crucial two-thirds majority required for its passage.

"This was not legislative intent; it was legislative theatrics," Gupta remarked, adding that the government failed to build consensus or take the opposition into confidence. "When you bring a constitutional amendment without groundwork or dialogue, you are not empowering women you are merely exploiting their aspirations for political optics."

He further described the move as "a headline-hunt-

ing exercise rather than a genuine reform effort," asserting that such actions undermine both parliamentary credibility and public trust.

Calling upon women across the country to remain vigilant, Gupta urged them to unite and resist what he termed as "tokenism masquerading as empowerment." He emphasized the need for sustained, inclusive policies rather than "one-off symbolic gestures designed for applause, not impact."

Highlighting the stance of the Omar-led government, Gupta said it remains committed to substantive empowerment of women through meaningful participation in development across all sectors.

Referring to the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, Gupta reiterated that the BJP knowingly

pushed forward legislation without the numerical strength to secure its passage. "Introducing a bill destined to fail is not governance, it's political grandstanding," he quipped, noting that the bill's defeat in the Lok Sabha exposed the government's lack of seriousness.

On this occasion Prabha Salathia former President Women Wing Congress and District President Women wing, Congress along with women supporters joined National Conference. The names are Kalish Jamwal, Sunita Jamwal, Sheetal Manhas, Narinder Kour, Kulbir Kour, Neema and others.

"In the end," Gupta concluded, "governance is not about staging dramatic moments in Parliament; it is about building consensus, delivering results, and respecting the intelligence of

the people especially the women of this country."

Among others who were present in the meeting included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Deepinder Kour former MLC, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, S. Sandeep Singh Wazir Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Surinder Singh Jamwal, Aruna Thakur District President Ramban Women Wing, Sewak Singh Vice President District Jammu Urban, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban, Pinky Khalsa, Bahadur Lal Block President Bahu, Surinder Singh Jamwal, Ajay Singh, Ravinder Singh, Goutam Sharma and others.

## DC Anantnag chairs CLU Meeting; Directs streamlining Land Use Conversion Cases

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(Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Regulations, 2022. He emphasized the importance of adhering to these regulations to ensure balanced and sustainable development while safeguarding agriculture sector. He further called for adherence to the legal mechanism and procedural guidelines for disposing of the CLU applications.

Taking strong notice of the procedural gaps observed during the review, the DC asked the concerned departments to take immediate corrective measures and streamline the process as envisaged by the relevant regulations. He enjoined upon the officers

to focus on resolving the issues and discrepancies so that appropriate action is taken in a time bound manner as per laid down criteria. All cases be routed through Revenue Department and the district and sectoral officers shall personally examine the cases, he stressed.

To ensure a holistic review of each application, the meeting involved intensive coordination and technical discussions among various key departments.

Detailed scrutiny of applications was held especially with regard to Revenue Record, procedural guidelines and other essential aspects. A total of 17 cases, pertaining to different categories; out of which nine, complete in all respects, were approved.

At conclusion, explicit directions were issued to the concerned officers to make appreciable progress on pending formalities and procedural issues before the next meeting.

## DC Kathua listens to public grievances at Dhar Mahanpur; assures time-bound redressal

KATHUA, APRIL 18:

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today conducted a public outreach programme at Dhar Mahanpur and listened to a wide range of grievances and demands projected by the local residents.

Public highlighted the damaged Kholi Talai-Katham road, pending land compensation and demanded a 6 km Naili-Katham road.

Residents of Dhar Korah Panchayat sought water supply renovation, veterinary and allopathic hospitals and restoration of the Zero Morh-Sanganghat road closed since flash floods. They also raised staff shortages at HSS Dhar Mahanpur and UPS Kohar and called for upgraded electric infrastructure.

MLA Basohli, Darshan Singh while addressing the gathering informed that the matter of school upgradation has been taken up with the Education Minister, addressing staff short-

ages flagged by locals. He assured that issues slowing the Jal Jeevan Mission including water supply concerns, will be resolved soon and added that ration card bifurcation is under consideration with the Centre Government.

He announced an ambulance from CDF and an RDD building under the Capex plan, while stressing prompt redressal of road, power and other public grievances and seeking people's cooperation.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner assured that all genuine demands would be looked into and resolved in a time-bound manner.

Regarding the healthcare centre at Sanganghat, the Deputy Commissioner informed that he has personally visited the site and the land dispute will be resolved shortly. On the issue of shortage of staff in schools, he directed the Chief Education Officer to rationalize teaching staff as

per requirement.

With regard to the vacant post of veterinary doctor, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, ordered on-the-spot posting of a doctor, thereby resolving the issue.

On the matter of gun licenses, the Deputy Commissioner informed that the licenses are issued strictly through online mode only. He also assured that the District Administration will work on the demand for establishment of a fruit market.

Taking note of road sliding issues, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to install crates to prevent further damage. Regarding the demand for opening a J&K Bank branch, he asked the bank authorities to explore a suitable site in consultation with the local population.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner also spoke about Mission YUVA and the on-going Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir 100 Days Abhiyan, urging people to actively participate in these initiatives.

Earlier, a massive awareness rally under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan was organised at Dhar Mahanpur, drawing participation of hundreds of people from all walks of life.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic involvement of youth, students, women and members of civil society, reflecting a strong collective commitment towards eradication of drug abuse from society.

Participants carried placards and banners bearing anti-drug messages, spreading awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse and the need for a drug-free society. Slogans were raised in unison, urging people to stay away from drugs and support the ongoing campaign.

## Ritu Singh leads Nasha Mukta J&K initiative at DPS Jammu under aegis of 100-Day Abhiyan

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sensitised the gathering about the causes and far-reaching consequences of substance abuse, emphasising that addiction adversely affects health, families, careers, and society at large. He highlighted practical strategies to combat stress and prevent substance abuse, including maintaining discipline, engaging in sports and creative pursuits, seeking guidance from mentors and family, and building emotional resilience. Urging students to remain vigilant and responsible, he encouraged them to actively spread awareness and make in-

formed life choices. The Divisional Commissioner also appreciated the commendable efforts of the DPS fraternity, lauding the students for their awareness, confidence, and commitment, and encouraging them to continue serving as agents of positive change.

In her welcome address, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh emphasised that the vision of a Nasha Mukta J&K is a shared societal responsibility. Reflecting the school's guiding philosophy of "Service Before Self," she highlighted the importance of nurturing responsible,

aware, and compassionate citizens. She urged students to uphold strong values, make wise choices, and actively contribute towards building a healthier, drug-free society. She also appreciated the collective efforts of students and staff in achieving milestones of excellence. In a remarkable show of collective commitment, around 5,000 students, their parents, and members of the teaching and administrative staff of DPS Jammu signed pledges in support of the Nasha Mukta campaign, significantly amplifying its outreach across the region. A key highlight of the programme was the unveiling of the "Wall of Strength", symbolising a united stand against substance abuse, featuring pledges signed by students, parents, and staff. The Chief Guest also inaugurated a Painting Exhibition on "Say No to Drugs," showcasing students' creativity, awareness, and sensitivity towards this pressing social issue.

## Punjab Governor Honors GGS College, University Toppers with Silver Medal

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GGs College of Management and Technology has once again demonstrated its academic excellence by achieving remarkable success at the university level. During the university's third convocation ceremony, several students from the college earned prestigious Silver Medals, marking a proud moment for the entire institution.

The students who brought laurels to the college include Prabhjot Kaur and Shanu from the BBA program, Anu and Harmanpreet Singh from BA JMC, Kirandeep Kaur from B.Sc IT, Gurpreet Kaur from B.Com (Hons), and Khushdeep Kaur from M.Sc IT. Each of these students secured second position in their respective courses at the university level, reflecting their consistent hard work, dedication, and academic brilliance.



The convocation ceremony was a grand and memorable occasion, where the achievers were formally felicitated by the Governor of Punjab along with the Vice Chancellor of the university. The students were awarded Silver Medals in recognition of their outstanding academic performance, making it a significant milestone in their educational journey. The ceremony not only cel-

ebrated individual achievements but also highlighted the growing academic reputation of the institution.

The Management, Principal, and faculty members of the college expressed immense pride in the accomplishments of these students. They extended heartfelt congratulations and appreciated the perseverance, commitment, and discipline shown by the awardees throughout their

academic careers. Their success is seen as a testament to both their personal efforts and the supportive academic environment provided by the college.

Dr. R. K. Uppal, while expressing his joy and pride, described the achievement as a moment of great honour for the entire campus. He emphasized that such accomplishments reflect the high academic standards and quality education imparted at the institution. He also acknowledged the collective contribution of teachers, parents, and mentors who played a crucial role in guiding and supporting the students.

This achievement has not only enhanced the prestige of the college but also serves as a source of motivation for other students. It sets a strong example of what can be achieved through dedication and determination, encouraging others to aim higher and excel in their academic pursuits.