

## J&K Bank Signs MoU With Narayana Hospital for Corporate Salary Package



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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In a significant move aimed at strengthening institutional partnerships and expanding employee-centric banking solutions, J&K Bank on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Narayana Vaishno Devi Speciality Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. under its Corporate Salary Package scheme.

The agreement was signed during a function held at Narayana Super

Speciality Hospital, Kakryal, Katra. Zonal Head (Udhampur) Lalit Prakash signed the MoU on behalf of J&K Bank, while Director M. Muthu Mathavan represented Narayana Vaishno Devi Speciality Hospitals Pvt. Ltd.

Under the MoU, the hospital employees will be provided a wide range of customised banking and financial benefits, including specialised salary account variants, attractive loan facilities, insurance cover and enhanced digital banking services tailored

to their professional and financial requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Lalit Prakash said that J&K Bank remains committed to building strong institutional relationships through customer-focused and technology-driven banking solutions.

"This partnership with Narayana Vaishno Devi Speciality Hospitals reflects our endeavour to provide convenient and rewarding banking services backed by attractive financial benefits for the hospital staff," he said.

He added that the Bank's Corporate Salary Package has been specifically designed to ensure a seamless banking experience with customised features suited to employees across institutions.

Among those present during the event were Cluster Head (Reasi) Amit Bargartra, Chief Manager Ashish Gupta, Hospital's DGM Finance CA Rohit Sethi, Manager Finance Anita Bhagat, Senior Manager HR Ravindra Reddy, besides Branch Managers Vishal Sharma, Raj Kumar Verma and Kapil Nanda.

## CAO Jammu Reviews Progress of Hi-Tech Poly House at Panchayat Katal Batal

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Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Sh. Manohar Lal Sharma, along with Sh. Rajeev Katoch, SMS DL, visited the 500 square metre Hi-Tech Poly House at Panchayat Katal Batal in Zone Nagrota to review the progress and status of the ongoing work.

The visit was accompanied by Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Dansal, Sh. Ashwani Gupta, SMS SDs Sh. Pranav Chadha and Sh. Pankaj Bhawani, Dr. Kaushalya Devi, AEO Nagrota, Sh. Parveen Singh, JAEO, AEA Sh. Jashod and other field officers. During the inspection, the officers carried out a detailed site verification and assessed the status of the construction work. Technical guidance and



necessary advice were provided to the beneficiaries for the effective establishment and smooth functioning of the unit.

The officers stressed the need for construction of a protection wall towards the Tawi side in view of previous flood experiences,

though the chances of flooding were stated to be minimal. Emphasis was also laid on developing irrigation facilities through a shallow bore well and installation of electric poles to ensure smooth operational functioning of the poly house.

The Chief Agriculture Officer expressed satisfaction over the quality and pace of work executed so far. He directed the concerned officers to conduct regular field visits and ensure continuous technical supervision till the completion of the project.

## IIM Flags Off Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Youth Delegation to Kerala under Yuva Sangam

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The Indian Institute of Management Jammu flagged off the Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Delegation to Kerala under Yuva Sangam 2026, a flagship initiative of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Government of India on 26th May 2026 at Jammu Tawi Railway Station. The initiative seeks to strengthen people-to-people connections among youth from diverse regions of the country by promoting cultural immersion, experiential learning, mutual understanding, and the spirit of national integration. The flagging-off ceremony was led by Prof. (Brigadier) Neeraj Soni (Retd.), Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu, in the presence of faculty members Dr. Apurva Yadav, Dr. Garima Maurya, Shri Vijay Anant Kamble, Administrative Officer-Student Affairs, along with other officials from the Institute and media.

The Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Delegation, comprising 34 young participants along with two faculty members and one non-faculty representative, making a total of 37 participants, embarked on a week-long immersive journey to Kerala centered on cultural exchange, experiential learning, leadership development, and national integration, embodying the true spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and reflecting the ideals of unity in diversity, youth empowerment, and cultural con-



nectedness envisioned under the Yuva Sangam initiative. Marking the occasion, Prof. (Brigadier) Neeraj Soni (Retd.) handed over refreshments to the participants and conveyed his warm wishes for a safe, enriching, and memorable journey ahead.

Addressing the delegation, Prof. (Brigadier) Neeraj Soni (Retd.), Chairperson, Student Affairs mentioned that Yuva Sangam offers a remarkable platform for young minds to experience the cultural richness, traditions, innovation ecosystem, and social fabric of different regions of India. Such initiatives play a pivotal role in nurturing informed, responsible, and culturally aware citizens while reinforcing the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. He further encouraged the participants to engage wholeheartedly in the programme, embrace new experiences, forge meaningful connections, and proudly represent the vibrant heritage, traditions,

and values of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh during their visit to Kerala.

The week-long immersion programme in Kerala, coordinated by IIM Kozhikode, promises a dynamic and multidimensional learning experience for the delegation. The carefully curated itinerary will expose participants to Kerala's rich cultural heritage, educational excellence, innovation ecosystem, entrepreneurship landscape, tourism potential, and community-led development models. The programme will feature institutional visits, cultural showcases, heritage explorations, industry exposure, experiential learning engagements, and interactive sessions with experts, academicians, entrepreneurs, and local stakeholders.

Through this immersive exchange, participants will gain first-hand insights into Kerala's diverse socio-cultural fabric, developmental practices, and governance models while fostering deeper cross-cul-

tural understanding, collaborative learning, and enduring bonds among youth from different parts of India in alignment with the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

The participants expressed great enthusiasm and excitement as they embarked on this unique national journey, looking forward to meaningful cultural interactions, knowledge sharing, and transformative learning experiences. The entire initiative is being seamlessly coordinated by the Student Affairs Office, IIM Jammu, ensuring effective facilitation and smooth execution of the delegation's participation in this prestigious national programme. Through its active participation in Yuva Sangam 2026, IIM Jammu continues to reaffirm its commitment towards nation-building, youth leadership, cultural harmony, experiential learning, and strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

## Planes carrying 19 Australians linked to Islamic State group land in Melbourne, Sydney

MELBOURNE, May 26: Two planes carrying 19 Australian women and children linked to the Islamic State group in Syria landed in Melbourne and Sydney on Tuesday, despite Australia's government warning that the returnees could face charges.

The government earlier confirmed seven women and 12 children were heading home on Qatar Airways flights, less than three weeks after a group of 13 people in similar situations returned to Australia's two largest cities.

Two women with seven children flew to Melbourne. Four women with six children landed about an hour later in Sydney, a joint police and intelligence agency statement said.

No one had been charged on arrival, but investigations into their activities in Syria were continuing, the statement said. Three of four women who returned home earlier were charged with slavery and terrorism offences and remain behind bars.

Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said anyone among the 19 on their way to Australia who has committed crimes "can expect to face the full force of the law."

"The government has not and will not provide any assistance to this group," Burke said in a statement.

"These are people who have made the horrific



choice to join a dangerous terrorist organisation and to place their children in an unspeakable situation," he added.

Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies have been preparing for their return since 2014 and have long-standing plans in place to manage and monitor them, Burke said.

"The priority of the government, as always, is the safety of the Australian community," he said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had earlier told Parliament: "I have nothing but contempt for anyone who has any sympathy for ISIS," referring to IS by an acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The bid by general practice doctor Jamal Rifi, a community leader in Sydney's Lebanese Muslim diaspora, to return 34 Australian women and children from Syria failed in February. Syrian author-

ities blocked their convoy's route to Damascus and turned them back to Roj camp, a location in north-east Syria near the Iraq border where people linked to IS have been held since IS forces in the Middle East were defeated in 2019.

Riji told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Tuesday that Syrian authorities had since been persuaded that the majority of Australians in Roj were children who had a legal right to grow up in Australia.

"These women are caring mothers," he said of the 19 women who just landed in Australia. "Definitely joining the death cult of the un-Islamic caliphate, it's a terrible decision. Some of these women, I believe, were tricked into going there. Some of them are victims of the death cult, and others are not," Riji said.

After the departure of the latest group, at least two

Australians remain in the Roj camp, including a mother who was prevented from returning to Australia in February by a temporary exclusion order.

Exclusion orders were created by laws introduced in 2019 to prevent defeated IS fighters from returning to Australia for up to two years.

The woman, aged around 29, had remained at Roj with her daughter, who had been disabled by shrapnel wounds, The Australian newspaper reported. She left her Sydney home at the age of 18 in 2015 to marry an IS fighter in Syria, the newspaper reported.

Her family has engaged a Sydney lawyer to challenge the order, which bars the mother from Australia until February 2028.

The last Australian cohort returned from Syria on May 7, similarly without government help.

Kawsar Ahmed, also known as Kawsar Abbas, 53, and her daughter Zeinab Ahmed, 31, were arrested when they landed in Melbourne over allegations that their family had bought a female Yazidi slave.

Jana Safar, 32, was arrested at Sydney Airport when she arrived with her 9-year-old son on charges of being a member of a terrorist organisation and of entering or remaining in a region controlled by a terrorist organisation.

## Pak's Punjab govt defers roads renaming plan to avert backlash from extremist elements

LAHORE, May 26: Giving in to the pressure of some "extremist elements," Pakistan's Punjab government has deferred its plan to restore original historical names of roads and several streets in Lahore aimed at reviving the city's pre-Partition heritage, an official said on Tuesday.

The Lahore Heritage Areas Revival (LHAR), in its recently held meeting, jointly presided over by PML-N President and three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, gave approval to the restoration of original historical names of roads and streets in Lahore and its neighbourhood.Â

The Chief Minister's office informed the media about the decision in a statement.

Sharif, who is currently not active in politics after the Feb 2024 general elections, is the head of the

LAHR.Â

The government, however, appears to have taken a U-turn on the decision, saying it is still considering restoring the original names of Lahore's roads and streets.Â

"No such decision has been taken as yet," Lahore Deputy Commissioner Capt R Muhammad Ali Ijaz told Dawn on Monday.

When asked that both Sharif and Maryam had given approval to the restoration of the original names of roads and streets, and the CM office duly issued a handout in this regard on March 20, Ijaz insisted that "no decision has been taken as yet as the matter is under discussion."

An official source, however, said that some extremist elements, including vloggers, strongly criticised Maryam for restoring pre-Partition "Hindu and Sikh" names of the roads and streets in Lahore.



"As the critics gave the government's decision a religious colour, the Maryam Nawaz administration

has gone on the back foot and deferred the decision to avert backlash," he said.Â

After the backlash from extremist elements, the LHAR recently held a gathering of scholars, historians, architects, urban planners, and other prominent persons and sought their suggestions on the "proposal" to restore the original names of roads, streets, and localities across Lahore.

"The forum explored the cultural, historical, and civic significance of reviving the city's traditional nomenclature as part of a broader initiative aimed at preserving and promoting Lahore's rich heritage and identity.

"Participants exchanged views on the historical relevance of various names, the documentation of the city's past, and the potential impact of such a revival on heritage conservation, tourism, and public awareness," the LHAR said in a statement after the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a

consensus that Lahore's historic identity constitutes an invaluable legacy, deserving thoughtful preservation for future generations.Â

"Most of the participants spoke in favour of restoring the historical names of the roads and streets of Lahore."

Historic streets and roads in Lahore that were renamed in the past by successive governments include Queen's Road, Jail Road, Davies Road, Lawrence Road, Empress Road, Krishan Nagar, Santnagar, Dharampura, Brandreth Road, Ram Gali, Tempbell Street, Laxmi Chowk, Jain Mandir Road, Kumharpura, Mohan Lal Bazaar, Sundar Das Road, Bhagwan Pura, Shanti Nagar and Outfall Road.

Similarly,Â Mohan Lal Bazaar, Sundar Das Road, Bhagwan Pura Shanti Nagar and many roads/streets were renamed.Â (PTI)