

Speaker stresses priority protection of bridges; calls for expeditious, quality execution of works

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Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today reviewed the flood protection measures at Apazyari Nallah being executed under NABARD besides assessing the restoration of flood-damaged spots under SASCI-II.

During the meeting held in this regard, the Speaker was informed that the anti-erosion and urgent flood protection works at Apaz-yari Nallah have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of over ?7.31 crore while the restoration of flood-damaged spots has been taken up under an estimated cost of over ?1.54 crore.

The officers apprised the Speaker that the projects comprising a series of protective interventions included crate works, check crates, reinforced concrete walls and cut-off walls. The special focus is being placed on safeguarding the bridge foundations and preventing erosion caused



by flash floods and high water discharge.

Emphasizing the importance of protecting the vital public infrastructure, the Speaker said that safeguarding the bridges against erosion and flood damage must remain a top priority, particularly in vulnerable areas.

He directed the Executive Engineers to undertake regular field visits to the nallah, identify all the vulnerable stretches and ensure that appropriate preventive measures are implemented well in time.

The Speaker stressed that all the works should be executed with the highest standards of quality and completed within the stipulated timeframe so that the intended benefits reach the people without delay. He also instructed the concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of the projects and maintain strict supervision during execution.

Highlighting the public importance of these works, the Speaker said that the bridge protection and flood mitigation measures would

benefit nearly 40,000 people residing in around 15 villages, including Badi-pora, Nowpora, Choudrigund, Hafroo, Loolipora, Watkaloo, Chak Banagund and Sogam besides several adjoining habitations.

He observed that the projects would significantly enhance the safety and resilience of the road network, ensure uninterrupted connectivity and provide long-term protection to public infrastructure from recurring flood-related damage.

Yuva Bhagat Sabha honours administrative, police officers for outstanding public service

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Yuva Bhagat Sabha, Sub-District R.S. Pura, a social organization actively engaged in community welfare and public service, organized a felicitation ceremony to honour administrative and police officers for their exemplary dedication and service to society.

The event was held under the leadership of Chairman Darshan Kumar Bhagat and President Devraj Bhagat. During the ceremony, SDPO R S Pura Gurmeet Singh, Station House Officer (SHO) Vikram Singh, and Tehsildar R S Pura Chandrashekhar were felicitated with mementos presented by Joginder Bhagat Munshi and Sunaina Bhagat, Women's Cell In-charge, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to maintaining law and order, ensuring efficient public service, and working for the welfare of the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Darshan Kumar Bhagat said that Yuva Bhagat Sabha has always been committed to recognizing and encouraging



individuals and officers who make significant contributions to society and public administration.

He emphasized that the organization will continue to organize such programs in the future to promote the spirit of public service and inspire others to work

for the betterment of society. During the event, the honoured police officers appealed to the public to actively support the mission of creating a drug-free society. They urged parents and community members to guide young people away from substance

abuse and work collectively toward a healthier and safer future. Members of Yuva Bhagat Sabha assured the officers of their full cooperation in this important social campaign.

Among those present were Vice President Dinesh Kumar Bhagat, Secretary Inderpal Bhagat, Members Rahul Bhagat and Romi Bhagat, Women's Wing members Suman Bhagat and Rani Devi, along with several distinguished guests and members of the Sabha.

Yuva Bhagat Sabha, Sub-District R.S. Pura continues to work actively in the fields of social service, youth empowerment, and the promotion of positive social and religious activities. Through its various initiatives, the organization remains dedicated to serving society and encouraging community participation for the greater public good.

The office bearers and members of Yuva Bhagat Sabha were appreciated for their unwavering commitment to social welfare. The organization reaffirmed its resolve to continue serving the community with the same dedication, sincerity, and spirit in the years to come.

Day 2 of IIM Jammu's 'Rang Tarang-2026' Witnesses Six Spectacular Presentations

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The second day of Rang Tarang-2026, the grand annual performing arts festival of IIM Jammu, unfolded with tremendous artistic energy as six captivating presentations enthralled a packed audience at the majestic Mandapam Auditorium. The festival, widely regarded as one of the most distinctive performing arts initiatives within a management institution, continued to celebrate creativity, innovation, and cultural excellence through theatre, music, and dance.

The day's programme featured four theatrical productions, one live musical performance, and one vibrant dance presentation, all receiving overwhelming appreciation and repeated rounds of applause from the audience.

A unique highlight of Rang Tarang-2026 is that all eighteen participating teams have been intensively trained and mentored by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, India's



internationally acclaimed theatre director. Conceptualised, designed, and directed under his artistic vision, the festival has transformed management students into confident performers, earning admiration for their remarkable stagecraft, discipline, and expressive talent.

The evening commenced with an electrifying performance by the institute's in-house musical band led by Aryaman Guha, whose energetic repertoire captivated the audience and culminated in a well-deserved standing ovation.

The theatrical segment opened with the satirical devised production "Mugal-e-Modern," a witty and humorous take that playfully mocked the mischiefs

and eccentricities of the Mughal era through a contemporary theatrical lens. The performance was appreciated for its sharp humour, inventive staging, and engaging performances.

This was followed by the thought-provoking play "Forbidden Experiment," which explored complex human dilemmas with compelling dramatic intensity. The audience was equally mesmerised by "Jangi Ram Ki Haveli," a socially relevant production marked by powerful storytelling and memorable character portrayals.

The day's theatrical presentations concluded with "Haider," an adaptation inspired by William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," which

impressed the audience with its emotional depth, nuanced performances, and evocative theatrical treatment.

Bringing the curtain down on the day's events was a colourful dance presentation celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

Showcasing a vibrant blend of traditional Rajasthani folk dance forms, the performance filled the auditorium with infectious energy and visual splendour, earning enthusiastic applause from the audience.

With each passing day, Rang Tarang-2026 continues to emerge as a remarkable confluence of performing arts and management education, reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to nurturing creativity, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, leadership, and holistic personality development among its students.

The festival continues with an exciting lineup of theatrical and cultural presentations over the coming days, promising many more unforgettable performances.

Vikramaditya terms Soz's J&K Accession remarks historically incorrect

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Responding to recent remarks made by senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz suggesting that Jammu & Kashmir joined India because its Muslim-majority population chose to do so, Former MLC and grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, Vikramaditya Singh has termed the statement as "historically incorrect, ill-advised and unwarranted."

He said that reducing the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to a question of religious identity is not only a distortion of history but also undermines the constitutional process through which over 560 princely states acceded to India.

"The accession of Jammu & Kashmir was not decided through religious arithmetic or majoritarian sentiment. It was effected through a legally valid Instrument of Accession executed by the sovereign ruler of the State, exactly as was the case with other princely states. Any attempt to rewrite this settled historical fact only creates confusion and weakens informed public discourse."



Vikramaditya further emphasized that history is testimony to the fact that Maharaja Hari Singh treated all his subjects without prejudice of religion and his guiding principle since the day of his coronation was, 'all religions are mine and my religion is justice'. He also cautioned against rhetoric that, in his view, risks reopening old fault lines at a time when the people of Jammu & Kashmir deserve stability, development and democratic governance.

Vikramaditya highlighted, "Judging by the condition of the people living in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir are fortunate to be Indians and to enjoy the rights, opportunities and constitu-

tional protections that our country provides. India's democratic institutions have ensured that the people have a popularly elected government in place, and it must be allowed to discharge its responsibilities effectively, irrespective of when statehood is restored."

He added, "Instead of creating fresh fissures within our society by invoking religious identities, political leaders should focus on how the younger generations can build secure, prosperous and meaningful futures within the framework of the Indian Constitution. That is the conversation Jammu & Kashmir needs today."

The scion of the erstwhile Dogra royal family said, "History is not a matter of political convenience. The accession of Jammu & Kashmir to India is founded on a documented constitutional act carried out by Maharaja Hari Singh. Facts must prevail over political rhetoric. As someone whose family was directly connected with this defining chapter of India's history, I will continue to stand firmly in defence of the historical truth and the constitutional legacy that united Jammu & Kashmir with the Union of India."

IIM Jammu's Holistic Orientation Programme 2026 Equips Future Managers with Industry Insights, Institutional Excellence, and Experiential Learning

JAMMU, JULY 16: The fourth day of the Holistic Orientation Programme 2026 at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu continued to provide an enriching blend of industry perspectives, institutional orientation, and experiential learning, preparing the incoming cohorts to navigate the evolving business landscape with confidence, competence, and purpose.

The programme brought together distinguished leaders from industry, healthcare, public administration, and the Institute to engage with the newly admitted students of the 11th Batch of MBA, the 5th Batch of MBA (Healthcare), the inaugural Batch of MBA (AI and BA), and the 7th Batch of Ph.D.

The day commenced with the rejuvenating 'Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness' session led by renowned Yoga Guru Shri Sahil Mehra, under the aegis of Anandam: The Center for Happiness, IIM Jammu, reinforcing the importance of physical well-being, emotional resilience, and mental clarity as integral components of effective leadership.

As part of the Holistic Orientation Programme 2026, Mr. B. N. Makesh, Vice President - Corporate Relations, Yashoda Hospitals, delivered an insightful session on "Marketing & Corporate Relations in Healthcare." Prior to the session, he was felicitated by Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Faculty, IIM Jammu, in recognition of his valuable

contribution to the programme. Drawing on his rich industry experience, Mr. Makesh highlighted the importance of patient-centric marketing, brand building, stakeholder engagement, and ethical communication in strengthening healthcare institutions. He emphasized how strategic marketing and corporate relations contribute to organizational excellence, patient satisfaction, and long-term sustainability. An engaging quiz further enhanced student participation, making the session interactive while offering practical insights into the evolving healthcare management landscape.

Adding another significant corporate perspective, Ms. Tapasya Dube, Deputy Manager - Corporate HR & Talent Acquisition, Alkem Laboratories Ltd., delivered an engaging and thought-provoking session on career development in today's dynamic professional landscape. Prior to the session, she was felicitated by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Chairperson, Executive MBA & eBBA, IIM Jammu, in recognition of her valuable contribution to the programme. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, she encouraged students to embrace continuous learning, cultivate a growth mindset, build meaningful professional relationships, and remain adaptable in an ever-evolving workplace. Emphasizing that career success is driven by resilience, lifelong learning, and authentic connec-



tions, she inspired the incoming MBA cohort to pursue purposeful and fulfilling professional journeys.

A key institutional session was conducted by Shri Shailesh Lohiya, Librarian, IIM Jammu, introducing the incoming cohort to the Institute's Knowledge Management Center (KMC), a gateway to world-class learning, research, and innovation. He familiarized students with the KMC's extensive collection of academic journals, e-books, case studies, research databases, digital repositories, and business intelligence resources that support academic excellence and informed decision-making. A key highlight of the session was the introduction to the Bloomberg Terminal and Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) certification, providing students with exposure to real-time financial markets and global business

intelligence. He also demonstrated the Single Window Discovery Search, enabling seamless access to the library's vast physical and digital resources. Concluding the session, Shri Lohiya encouraged students to leverage the KMC throughout their academic journey and embrace the spirit of lifelong learning through curiosity, research, and continuous knowledge exploration.

As part of the Holistic Orientation Programme 2026, the incoming MBA cohort participated in "Teaching Through Case" sessions conducted by IIM Jammu faculty members, Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Dr. Baljeet Singh, Dr. Ashish Kumar, and Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida. Introducing students to IIM Jammu's signature case-based pedagogy, the faculty demonstrated how real-world business scenarios develop critical

thinking, analytical reasoning, strategic decision-making, communication, and leadership skills. Emphasizing active participation, collaborative learning, and structured analysis, they encouraged students to embrace the case method as a powerful approach to solving complex managerial challenges and preparing for dynamic leadership roles.

Dr. Debasis Satapathy, Executive Director, NBCC (India) Limited, delivered an inspiring session drawing timeless leadership lessons from the Mahabharata and the Bhagavad Gita. Reflecting on Arjuna's journey and his own professional experiences, he emphasized that true growth begins by stepping beyond one's comfort zone and embracing change. Highlighting the importance of adaptability, resilience, and diverse professional exposure, he encouraged students to leverage the opportunities at IIM Jammu to broaden their perspectives, continuously learn, and evolve into future-ready leaders.

Brig. (Retd.) Bhupinder Singh Kang, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), IIM Jammu, conducted an informative session on "Administrative Support, Discipline, Hostels and Security on the Campus," acquainting students with the Institute's administrative framework, hostel regulations, security protocols, and student support systems. Stressing the importance of discipline, personal responsibility, and accountability, he

encouraged students to contribute towards a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment while upholding the values and ethos of IIM Jammu.

The day's institutional orientation featured an insightful session by CA Shri Rajat Jain, Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer, IIM Jammu, who familiarized the incoming cohort with the Institute's Finance and Accounts services. He provided a comprehensive overview of student-related financial procedures, scholarships, fee management, and institutional financial systems, ensuring that students clearly understood the support mechanisms available throughout their academic journey. Emphasizing transparency, efficiency, and student-centric services, he highlighted the Institute's commitment to creating a seamless academic experience by empowering students with the knowledge to effectively navigate financial processes and avail institutional support with confidence.

The evening concluded with another vibrant edition of Rang Tarang 2026, a cultural programme conducted under the guidance of Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, renowned theatre maestro and Director, Natrang. The engaging performances provided the incoming cohort with a memorable cultural experience, celebrating creativity, teamwork, and artistic expression while fostering camaraderie and holistic development.