

FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Signs MoU with GCW Parade to empower young women

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing leadership, entrepreneurship, and holistic development among young women.

The MoU was signed under the leadership of Varsha Bansal, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, and Dr. Naveen Anand, Principal, Government College for Women, Parade. The collaboration brings together the FICCI FLO Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) and the Centre for Women's Studies at the college. Dr. Seema Malpotra, Convenor, Centre for Women's Studies and CASH Committee, Government College for Women, Parade, played a pivotal role in conceptualising and facilitating this collaboration. In recognition of her efforts, she has been appointed as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the college under the MoU to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the partnership initiatives.

The partnership aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by creating meaningful opportunities for students through workshops, mentorship programmes, leadership development initiatives, entrepreneurship



awareness, financial and digital literacy, skill-building programmes, industry interactions, and experiential learning opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Varsha Bansal said, "Women empowerment begins at a young age. By engaging with young women at the college level, we aim to equip them with the knowledge, confidence, skills, and networks they need to become future leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. This collaboration reflects FICCI FLO's commitment to creating lasting impact through education and mentorship."

Dr. Naveen Anand welcomed the partnership and expressed confidence that the collaboration would

provide students with valuable exposure beyond the classroom and help develop practical skills and leadership capabilities essential for their future.

Present on the occasion from FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh were Ruchika Gupta, Past Chairperson; Sona Mehta, Vice Chairperson; Shipra Aggarwal, Treasurer; and Deepti Gandotra, Joint Secretary.

It is pertinent to mention that the Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) was initiated during the tenure of Ruchika Gupta, Past Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, with the vision of reaching the maximum number of young women and preparing them for the future through the right ed-

ucation, meaningful mentorship, practical exposure, and essential life skills. The initiative is dedicated to equipping young women with the confidence, knowledge, and tools required to emerge as capable leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and responsible citizens.

The MoU marks another significant step by FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh towards strengthening institutional partnerships and creating a robust ecosystem for women's empowerment, capacity building, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and inclusive growth, ensuring that young women are equipped to contribute meaningfully to society and the economy.

NEW DELHI, 07 AUGUST: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, in presence of BJP National General Secretary, J&K Prabhari and Member of Parliament Tarun Chugh, met Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and strongly projected the long-pending issues affecting the people living along the International Border.

A few days earlier, a deputation of border residents led by J&K BJP Kisan Morcha President Rakesh Pant had called on Sat Sharma and highlighted several unresolved issues concerning the border population. The delegation had sought permanent ownership rights for the refugees of 1965 and 1971, who have been residing in border areas for decades but continue to face uncertainty over their land and property rights. They had also demanded fair and adequate compen-



sation for agricultural land acquired by the Border Security Force for the construction of border roads, fencing, bunkers and other strategic defense infrastructure, which has adversely impacted the livelihood of numerous farming families.

The deputation had further urged that a joint team of senior officers from the Revenue Department and Defense authorities be deputed to the affected villages to conduct a comprehensive on-ground assessment so that practical and time-bound solu-

tions could be formulated for the benefit of the border residents.

Taking forward these concerns, Sat Sharma placed all the demands before the defense minister and emphasized that the people living on the International Border have always stood as the nation's first line of resilience, making immense sacrifices for the country's security. He said these patriotic families deserve justice, dignity, security and sustained developmental support, and requested the Union Government to ensure

early redressal of their genuine issues.

Tarun Chugh said the Narendra Modi-led government has consistently demonstrated its commitment towards the welfare and security of border residents and remains sensitive to their aspirations. He expressed confidence that every genuine issue concerning these patriotic citizens would receive due attention from the Government.

Rajnath Singh gave a patient hearing to the issues raised during the meeting and stated that the concerns of the border residents would be examined seriously. He said the Government of India remains committed to safeguarding both national security and the welfare of citizens living in border areas, and appropriate decisions would be taken in the larger public interest after due consideration.

CRS inspection of rail safety from Katra to Srinagar completed, DRM other senior officials present

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JAMMU, AUG 07

As part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Shri Dinesh Chand Deshwal, conducted a detailed inspection from Katra to Srinagar today, 7th August. During this inspection, the Chief Administrative Officer and Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Shri Vivek Kumar, along with other senior officials, were also present.

During the inspection, the railway line, tunnels, bridges, stations and other safety-related arrangements from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Sri-



nagar were closely examined.

Along with officials, the safety of rail operations, passenger amenities, sig-

nalling system and emergency management arrangements were also reviewed.

The Chief Commissioner

of Railway Safety expressed satisfaction over the construction work and safety standards on this important section of the project. He directed the officials to give top priority to passenger safety and comfort.

*Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Shri Vivek Kumar said, "The Railway administration will take the suggestions given by the CRS seriously and is committed to removing all deficiencies within the stipulated time frame and starting passenger services."

On this occasion, other senior officials of Jammu Division, project officers and the technical team were also present.

PM Modi's 'Vocal for Local' Vision Strengthening India's Handloom Sector: Billawaria

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 07

Marking National Handloom Day, the Greater Kailash Welfare Society, Ward-68, Greater Kailash, organised a programme highlighting the importance of India's handloom tradition and the need to preserve the country's rich heritage of weaving and craftsmanship.

The event was attended by BJP Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria described the handloom sector as an enduring symbol of India's cultural identity and self-reliance. He said the dedication of weavers, artisans, and craftsmen has kept the nation's centuries-old traditions alive while providing livelihoods to millions of families across the country. He stressed that safeguarding this legacy is a shared responsibility of society.

Highlighting the initiatives of the Central Government, Billawaria said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi, focused efforts are being made to strengthen the handloom and handicraft sectors through the vision of "Vocal for Local" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat." He noted that various government schemes are helping artisans access better markets, adopt modern business opportunities, and gain wider recognition in domestic as well as international markets. These initiatives, he said, are creating employment opportunities and improving the economic condition of artisan communities.

Appreciating the Greater Kailash Welfare Society for

organizing the programme, Billawaria said such initiatives play a vital role in creating awareness about India's traditional crafts and inspiring people to value indigenous products. He emphasized that encouraging the use of locally produced goods not only preserves cultural heritage but also contributes to the growth of the national economy.

Calling upon citizens to support the handloom sector, Billawaria urged people to include handloom and locally made products in their everyday lives. He remarked that purchasing indigenous products re-

flects respect for the country's artisans while strengthening the vision of a self-reliant India. He also appealed to the youth to become ambassadors of Indian handicrafts and actively promote the message of "Vocal for Local."

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from Greater Kailash Welfare Society, including Vikram Charak, Dr. Subhash Abrol, Veer Ji Bakshi, Uttar Kumar, and Prabhat Singh. Prominent citizens Ajay Pratap Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Rajinder Chib (Poppy), Vikram Singh, along with local residents, were also present.

KATHUA, AUGUST 07: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ramkote organized an Intra-College Quiz Competition on the theme "Indian Freedom Struggle and National Heroes" along with an Intra-College Essay Writing Competition on the topic "Role of Education in Promoting Peace and Unity". The events were organized under the overall supervision of Principal of the college Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul.

Students from BA semester 1st and 3rd participated, reflecting their keen interest in history, national values and contemporary social issues. The quiz competition was MCQ based and tested the knowledge of students in the Indian freedom movement and the remarkable contribution of national heroes in shaping the



nation's destiny. Naresh Singh (semester 1st) bagged first position, second position was shared by Tanu Devi and Mamta Devi (both from sem. 3rd) and third position was secured by Bhawani Gupta from semester 3rd.

The essay writing competition provided students with an opportunity to express their perspective on

the vital role of education in fostering peace, harmony, tolerance and national integration.

Participants presented thoughtful ideas, emphasizing how education serves as a powerful tool in building an inclusive and united society.

Tanu Devi (sem 3rd) grabbed first position and Bandana Devi (sem 3rd)

secured second position in Essay writing competition.

The competitions were judged by Prof Pankaj Nandan and Prof Suresh Chander, who appreciated the participants for their knowledge, creativity and clarity of expression. The winners were felicitated with prizes in recognition of their outstanding performances.

Sat Sharma raises J & K's Industrial Growth in Rajya Sabha, Piyush Goyal highlights 12,665 Cr Domestic, 500 Cr Foreign Investment proposals

NEW DELHI, AUG 07: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) raised an issue regarding accelerating foreign investment and industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir, seeking details on proposals received from international investors, sectors attracting foreign investment, and initiatives taken by the Union Government to promote industrial and manufacturing growth in the Union Territory in the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to the question, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush

Goyal informed the House that the Government of India has undertaken a series of major initiatives to strengthen the industrial ecosystem across the country, including Jammu & Kashmir. These include flagship programmes such as Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, Startup India, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes, One District One Product (ODOP), the Industrial Information System, the Single Window System for investment clearances, and the National Industrial Corridor Development Pro-

gramme (NICDP), aimed at creating world-class manufacturing hubs with modern infrastructure.

The Minister further informed that the recently launched Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) seeks to develop 100 investment-ready industrial parks across the country with a financial outlay of ₹33,660 crore, providing assistance of up to ₹1 crore per acre for eligible infrastructure components. Jammu & Kashmir will also benefit from this nationwide initiative.

Giving specific details



about Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister stated that the Government has implemented Special Package I & II, the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS)-2017, and the New Central Sector

Scheme (NCSS)-2021 to accelerate industrialization, attract investment, and generate employment. Under NCSS, 918 industrial units have registered with proposed investments

worth ₹12,665.47 crore. Out of 398 eligible units, 292 have already commenced commercial production after grounding investments of approximately ₹3,415 crore, generating employment for nearly 29,000 people.

The Government also informed that Jammu & Kashmir has notified the Industrial Policy 2021-30, Industrial Land Allotment Policy, Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, and the Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in the Industrial Sector to create a favourable invest-

ment climate. Under this policy, three foreign investment proposals worth ₹500 crore have already been received. During FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, foreign investment inflows were reported in sectors including food processing, computer software and hardware, pharmaceuticals, trading, hotel & tourism, and services. Sat Sharma said that the reply reflects the Union Government's sustained commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant investment

destination. He said the Centre's focused industrial policies, infrastructure development, and investor-friendly reforms are opening new avenues for employment generation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, and economic growth across the Union Territory. He reiterated that the BJP-led Government remains committed to ensuring that the people of Jammu & Kashmir fully benefit from the region's growing industrial potential and the increasing confidence of both domestic and foreign investors.