

JMC Commissioner reviews Bioremediation Trial at Kot Bhalwal Dump Site, Project launch soon



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited Kot Bhalwal dump site to review the trial of an advanced bioremediation process aimed at treating legacy waste and reclaiming land.

The initiative involves the deployment of high-capacity machinery including the Warrior 1200, Screens, and Komtrack 1800, with a combined processing capacity of approximately 3,500 metric tonnes (MT) of waste per day. This cutting-edge technology will help in converting organic waste into manure while efficiently segregating non-biodegradable materials such as polythene and stones.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yadav highlighted the significance of the project in promoting sustainable waste management and restoring ecological balance in the region. "The entire dump site will be cleared at the earliest, and we aim to transform it into a lush green park for the benefit of the local community," he said and added that the initiative marks a key milestone in JMC's ongoing efforts to build a cleaner and greener Jammu.

As a symbolic gesture of environmental commitment, the Commissioner planted a sapling at the site. Among others, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation, Mr. Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (W), Firdous Ahmed Qazi, besides other senior officers from JMC present on the occasion.

Trikuta Degree College Tour to Himachal Pradesh Wraps Up with Memorable Experiences



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: After an exhilarating journey filled with exploration and adventure, the Trikota Degree College tour to Himachal Pradesh concluded on 13 April 2025. The trip provided students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage of the region.

Throughout the tour, participants had the chance to visit iconic destinations such as Kullu, Manali, Kasol, Manikaran etc. They indulged in thrilling outdoor activities including trekking, river rafting etc experiencing firsthand the natural beauty and adrenaline-pumping adventures of Himachal Pradesh. The students also had the privilege of engaging with local communities, learning about their traditions, customs, and way of life. The success of the tour would not have been possible without the permission of Chairperson Ms. Suman Sharma and with proper planning and coordination of the Principal Ms. Sunita Magotra of Trikota Degree College as well as the faculty members Mrs. Vandana Gupta, Ms. Manisha Gadhota, Mrs. Sarika Sharma and Mr. Rattan Kishore who handled all the students actively and played a major role in the success of the college tour.

As the tour comes to an end, the memories created and lessons learned will continue to resonate with the participants, shaping their perspectives and inspiring future adventures.

PM Shri Middle School Gulshanabad Unveils Annual Newsletter "Aks-e-Gulshan"



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: PM Shri Government Middle School Gulshanabad Hajin on Tuesday released its annual school newsletter titled Aks-e-Gulshan 2025 and Logo in an impressive ceremony held in the school premises.

Clusterhead, Principal Govt Higher Secondary School Hajim Mehboob Ahmad Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. ZEO Hajin Masood Ahmad Magray, Head of Institution Mohammad Shafi Wagay, Parvaiz Ahmad, Dr. Riyaz ul Hassan, Mehraj ud din Parray, Zafar Iqbal Parray, Javid Ahmad Bhat, Javid Ahmad, Mohd Yaqoob Parray, Shameema Akhtar, staff members, and students were also present during the event.

The school newsletter was formally presented by HOI Mohammad Shafi Wagay. It highlights the school's achievements, various activities held during the year, and future plans.

Speaking on the occasion, Mehboob Ahmad Khan appreciated the efforts of the school staff. He said, "I am happy to see the dedication of the teachers and students. The release of this newsletter shows their commitment to improving the standard of education in government schools." He also encouraged the staff to continue such efforts for the betterment of students. Many speakers delivered speeches on various topics during the event.

Zafar Iqbal Parray delivered the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, staff, students, and organisers for their support and participation in making the event successful.

Indian Army Conduct Medical and Dental Camp in Tangdhar

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: As part of its ongoing outreach and welfare initiatives, the Indian Army successfully organized a medical and dental camp for school children in the Tangdhar.

The initiative aimed to promote health awareness, provide preventive healthcare services, and address medical concerns among young students.

The camp included interactive educational sessions where children were taught the importance of personal hygiene, oral care, proper hand washing techniques, and the correct method of brushing teeth. These sessions were designed to instill lifelong healthy habits in a simple and engaging manner.

Aloha J&K Hosts Grand 9th GAT Annual Awards Ceremony At Tagore Hall, Srinagar

Top Students Felicitated With Dubai Museum Tour, Laptops And Gadgets; 10th GAT Officially Launched

TT CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, APR. 15: In a vibrant celebration of academic excellence, Aloha J&K hosted the 9th General Ability Test (GAT) Annual Awards Ceremony at Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The event was graced by renowned educationists, school heads, journalists and edu leaders from across Jammu and Kashmir.

The ceremony was attended by notable figures including internationally renowned educationist Syed Hyder; G. N. Var, President of the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK); senior journalist and human resource trainer Mehmoor ur Rashid; Mubashir Wafai, Chairman of Aloha J&K; Atif Chasti, CEO of Aloha J&K and several other dignitaries.

The event celebrated the top achievers of the 9th GAT, with awards including laptops, tablets, smart watches and a special educational tour to the Museum of the Future in Dubai for the top seven



performers.

In his keynote address, Syed Hyder spoke about the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. "AI is not our enemy-it is a tool. The question isn't whether it will change our lives-it already has. What we need to ask is: Are we preparing our children to become creators of AI or just consumers?" he asked. He emphasized the importance of strong foundational skills. "We must focus on building writing skills and critical thinking, so that we use AI as a tool for creativity

rather than becoming overly reliant on it," he said.

G. N. Var praised Aloha J&K for nurturing young talent and providing a strong academic platform. "We must follow the footsteps of saints like Shah-e-Hamdan (RA), who brought both spiritual and economic transformation to Kashmir. I dream of seeing Kashmir reclaim its position as a global center of learning," he said.

He also announced the launch of the Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) Talent Search Test to identify

and support budding talent across the region.

Highlighting the evolving educational landscape, Mehmoor ur Rashid emphasized the need for practical and skill-based learning. "In today's AI-driven world, we must shift from rote learning to real-world skills. Quality education must be accessible to all students, not just a privileged few," he noted. Mubashir Wafai stressed the importance of guiding students from the primary level. "Our focus is on young students across Kashmir, ensuring they are well-prepared

before reaching Class 10th. Many students struggle with career direction later on. Our aim is to support them early through structured General Ability Tests (GAT)," he said.

He added, "Opportunities like awards, gadgets and the Dubai tour motivate children and boost their confidence. But our true goal is to build a strong foundation for lifelong success." Atif Chasti, the driving force behind the GAT initiative, shared his pride in its consistent success. He said "GAT is not just an exam - it's a movement to recognize and uplift talent across Jammu and Kashmir. From registration to the awards ceremony, we strive for transparency and impact. I'm deeply proud of the team that brings this vision to life year after year."

The most awaited moment of the event was the prize distribution, where top achievers were celebrated for their outstanding performance.

Nazir(Rafiabad Public School); Syedah Nimat Fatimah (Foundation World School); Mariya Athar (Al Noor Model School); Zuha Noor(Alchemy Public School); Zeeba Firdous (SRM Welkin Higher Secondary School); Mohd Aseeb Wani (Faiz-e-Aam). These students will be taken on a special educational tour to the Dubai Museum. Second Position (Laptop Awards): Maliha Sareer (SRM Welkin); Mujtaba Tariq (Lucent Global); Anam (RPNagbal); Bilquees Nazir (SRM Welkin); Mustafa Bilal (New Era Day Boarding); Tabinda Bashir (SRM Welkin).

Third Position (Tablet Awards): Zuha Safwat Sheikh (Govt. Hr. Sec. School BK Pora); Shah Midhat (Alchemy Public School); Rayan Amir (Crescent Public School); Annum Ul Fatimah (Whiz Kids School); Misbah Bint Nazir (Ayesha Ali Academy); Mehreen Mushtaq (Dr. AGMS City School, Nowgam).

D a r a k s h a a n

Kashmiri Pandit Rehabilitation Policy - A Political Mirage or a Human Imperative?: KPSS

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: In a momentous development, the Kashmir Valley is finally set to be physically connected to the rest of India through a seamless railway line-an engineering marvel poised for inauguration by the Prime Minister himself. This long-awaited link promises to usher in a new era of accessibility, development, and national integration. Yet, as the nation celebrates this milestone, a poignant question echoes across the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community: when will they, too, be permanently reconnected with their homeland? For decades, they have waited not just for infrastructure, but for a sense of belonging, dignity, and justice. With eyes filled with hope and hearts heavy with longing, every displaced Pandit now looks towards the Prime Minister, expecting a single word-either a green signal or a clear deadline-that would mark the beginning of their long-overdue return to the land of their ancestors.

For the past thirty-five years, the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits has been reduced to mere rhetoric, a political talking point welded during elections, much like the empty slogans that once echoed in

Pakistan about reclaiming Kashmir. What should have been a humanitarian priority has instead been turned into a political gimmick, detached from the pain and suffering of those who were forced into exile in 1990.

The recent discussions in the Assembly on the creation of a genuine rehabilitation policy for Kashmiri Pandits are a welcome step. However, past experiences have taught us that such discussions often remain confined to legislative halls without translating into real action. If the government is serious about undoing the decades-long injustice, it must act decisively, not merely engage in political posturing.

The forced exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 was not just about bullets and threats. Thousands perished in the aftermath from direct violence but due to extreme weather conditions, venomous snake bites, crumbling health facilities, and the sheer psychological trauma of leaving behind their aboriginal homeland for an uncertain future. What was once a temporary displacement has now become an endless road of exile, with no real roadmap for return.

The tragedy of the Kashmiri Pandits is not

just the forced exodus of 1990-it is the slow erosion of identity, culture, and belonging. A community that once flourished in the Valley has been reduced to a people of memories, longing for a home they can no longer claim as their own. Three and a half decades have passed, and yet the question remains: Will Kashmiri Pandits ever truly return, or will they remain a displaced people, forever bound to nostalgia?

The government's rehabilitation policies-whether the PM Job Package or temporary housing schemes-have failed to address the core issue: a dignified, sustainable, and voluntary return. The narrative of return cannot be built on employment alone. Can a few supernumerary jobs compensate for the loss of homeland, security, and community? Can return be meaningful without social reintegration, political empowerment, and economic stability?

Many from the community, especially the younger generations, have moved beyond Kashmir, their ties to the land weakening with time. For them, Kashmir is a tale of pain, not a place of future possibilities. How will a policy convince them to return if

it does not offer more than just survival? If Kashmir is to reclaim its lost diversity, the government must move beyond tokenism. Rehabilitation must be comprehensive-land ownership rights, cultural preservation, political representation, and long-term security assurances.

The fear is not just about the failure of a policy. The real danger is that, with time, the idea of return itself may die. The government must act now-not just with promises, but with a vision that ensures Kashmiri Pandits return not as refugees in their own homeland, but as rightful inheritors of their lost legacy.

The question remains: What should be the foundation of this policy? How will it ensure justice, security, and a dignified life for Kashmiri Pandits? And most importantly, when will this process begin in a real and tangible manner? Will it be just another document gathering dust in government archives, or will it become a transformative initiative ensuring the rightful return of an entire community? Will the beneficiaries be those who suffered, or will the policy be hijacked by political interests and administrative inefficiencies?

Deputation of JKTF Meets with MLA Shagun Parihar



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: On the Direction of State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh a deputation of the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF), led by Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, met with MLA Kishwar Shagun Parihar to discuss pressing issues affecting teachers & students in the region. Filling Vacant Posts: The delegation urged MLA Parihar to address the vacancies of Headmasters, Masters, and Teachers in District Kishtwar.

ATD and Transfer Policy: The delegation sought MLA Parihar's intervention in resolving issues related to ATD and transfer policy for Teachers appointed under the ReTs Scheme. Restoration of Old Pension Scheme: The JKTF delegation emphasized the

need to reinstate the old pension scheme, citing the inadequacies of the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

Rationalization of Teachers: The delegation requested MLA Parihar to that rationalization of Teachers should be on PTR basis especially in hard zones, to ensure students' interests are protected. Timely Release of Salaries: The delegation urged for timely release of salaries of employees of erstwhile J&K. As on date many employees haven't received their salary thereby hampering their livelihood. Detachment of teaching staff: The delegation requested detachment of all teaching staff from non-teaching assignments. Continuation of AAYAS Services: The delegation requested MLA Parihar to discuss the matter of

AAYAS with higher authorities to ensure continuity of services for Pre-Primary students.

MLA Shagun Parihar took Swift action, & resolved many issues on spot and assured the delegation that she would prioritize genuine concerns. She emphasized that She will work both for the betterment of employees and the student community.

Sanjeet Sharma also highlighted the shortcomings of NPS/UPS, stating that retired employees receive minimal pensions, and requested the MLA to raise voice so that old pension scheme will be reinstated for the welfare of lakhs of Government Employees.

The delegation included Mstr Swami Raj, Deepak Raj, Jeevan Lal, Murli Lal, Ashok Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Beer Singh, Manjeet Sharma, Arun Kumar, Manjeet Sharma, Arun Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Munshi Ram, Kuldeep Kumar, Bal Krishan, Jai Krishan, Krishan Lal, and others.

Balwant Thakur shares art concerns, discusses importance of celebrations with IIM students

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: In connection with the celebrations of World Art Day, Natrang Director Padamshiri Balwant Thakur share his art concerns and dwell in details about the importance of the celebrations of this day today all over the world. He discussed details with 130 students of performing arts at IIM, Jammu. Elaborating the history and the significance of World Art Day Celebrations Balwant Thakur while quoting UNESCO said that recognizing the importance of promoting, developing, disseminating, enjoying and appreciating the arts, the UNESCO General Conference, at its 40th session held in 2019, adopted World Art Day.

Our arts are the strength of our spirit and the cradle of creativity, innovation, and cultural diversity among peoples across the globe. Our arts are the engine of our progress, the dissemination and exchange of knowledge,

the fostering of curiosity, and the impetus for dialogue. Art has always enjoyed this status, and nothing will change as long as we continue to support artists wherever they are, championing and protecting their artistic freedom. Art is an edifice; the higher we elevate it, the more it will soar toward a world of freedom and peace.

The vision of World Art Day, observed every year on April 15, is to strengthen the connection between artistic creativity and society, raise awareness of the diversity of these forms, and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. This World Day also provides an opportunity to address the issue of art education in schools, recognizing the pivotal role of culture in paving the way for equitable and inclusive education for all. World Art Day has much to learn, share, and celebrate. Today the whole world is celebrating this day in variety of

ways, including discussions, conferences, workshops, cultural events, presentations, and exhibitions. In Jammu the day is celebrated by initiating a serious discourse with the brilliant future managers of India.

"This World Art Day is a timely reminder that art can unite and bring us together, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Indeed, the power of art to bring people together, inspire, heal, and foster exchange has become increasingly evident, most notably during the conflicts and crises of the past few years.

"This is the high time that we adopt arts as an integral part of our lives and ensure that art acquires the required space in every home, every school, college and every educational institution. Let the authorities awake from a long slumber and start recognising the role of arts in shaping nations and generations" Balwant Thakur concluded.

IIM Jammu's MBA Program Recognized by CFA Institute Under University Affiliation Program

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, APR. 15: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has achieved a significant academic milestone with its flagship MBA program officially accepted into the prestigious University Affiliation Program (UAP) of the CFA Institute, USA.

This collaboration is aimed at integrating the CFA Program's Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) into IIM Jammu's curriculum, thereby reinforcing the institute's commitment to delivering globally relevant education in finance and investment management. The affiliation will provide students access to the CFA Institute's learning ecosystem, including exclusive scholarships, preparatory resources, and industry-aligned content. The CFA Institute, globally recognized for setting high standards in investment education, acknowledges academic institutions that embed a substantial portion of the CFA Program curriculum into their coursework. The partnership is expected to significantly benefit students in terms of career readiness, placements, and global recognition in roles such as investment management, equity research, portfolio analysis, and corporate finance.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, noted that the affiliation is a testament to the institute's commitment to academic excellence and global standards. He emphasized that the recognition aligns perfectly with IIM Jammu's vision of producing future-ready leaders equipped with world-class knowledge in finance and investment and stated that it will open up new opportunities for our students.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, stated that the collaboration with the CFA Institute will further enhance the institute's curriculum, bridge academia-industry gaps, and equip students with specialized skills sought after in the global financial sector.

Through this strategic affiliation, IIM Jammu joins a select group of elite institutions worldwide recognized by the CFA Institute for academic rigor and curriculum alignment with the evolving needs of the investment profession. This affiliation program serves as a testament to potential students, companies, and all stakeholders that the MBA curriculum at IIM Jammu adheres to international professional practices. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Professor, Finance and Accounting is the principle contact person at IIM Jammu who serves as the primary point of contact for CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program. The collaboration holds particular significance for IIM Jammu as it facilitates the integration of practical knowledge into its curriculum, offering unique insights into the global industry.