

BGSBU celebrates 22nd Foundation Day

RAJOURI, DEC 15: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and fervour at the University campus. The event was graced by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu, as the Chief Guest. support from the administration for its continued growth and development. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, congratulated the entire University fraternity and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the faculty and staff towards the holistic development of the institution. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to work with renewed vigour to transform BGSBU into a centre of academic and research excellence. Registrar, BGSBU, Abhishek Sharma, highlighted the significant achievements of the University recorded during the past year. These included a steady rise in admissions, securing grants under Capex, establishment of smart classrooms and various infrastructure development initiatives. He also highlighted the ongoing renovation of hostels and other developmental works taken up by the University. On the academic front, the Registrar informed that the University has successfully implemented NEP-2020 and organized a Central Induction Programme for the newly admitted students to ensure a smooth academic transition. During the event, a University Compendium, showcasing the achievements of BGSBU over the last one year, was formally released. The University also launched the Community Connect Programme, Smart Classrooms and unveiled a website in local language, aimed at strengthening regional outreach.

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CM Omar Abdullah unveils official logo of Jammu Marathon, to be held on Mar 29

blend of fitness, heritage and scenic beauty. Sharing his personal journey into long-distance running, the Chief Minister recounted how he began running almost accidentally and gradually developed a deep passion for marathons. He said that from modest runs of five to eight kilometres, he unexpectedly found himself completing much longer distances, which eventually inspired him to participate in major marathons across the country. The Chief Minister said that he plans to participate in the Jammu Half Marathon on March 29 and encouraged citizens to begin their preparation well in advance. “From today itself, those who intend to run in Jammu must start preparing, because this is an iconic event,” he remarked.

He also announced that, keeping in view feedback received from local runners after previous marathon events, the prize structure has been suitably modified to ensure greater participation and recognition of runners from Jammu and Kashmir. Besides the half marathon, 10K and 5K categories have also been included to encourage participation from people of all ages and fitness levels. “Now there is no excuse. One doesn’t have to run 21 kilometres—there are 10K and 5K options as well, and everyone can earn a medal,” he said.

Calling upon citizens to embrace fitness as a way of life, the Chief Minister urged people to “take out their running shoes, remove the rust, clean them and get ready,” adding that events like the Jammu Marathon promote healthier lifestyles and community participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Milind Soman described the Jammu Marathon as an amazing initiative, stating that Jammu and Kashmir will not be left behind in the fitness movement. Praising the Chief Minister’s commitment to fitness, Milind Soman, who is also promotional ambassador for Jammu Marathon, said that the region does not need any other inspiration when it has a leader like Omar Abdullah who leads from the front. He urged people of all age groups to participate in the marathon and begin their fitness journey through running, assuring that he would be present with the runners on March 29, 2026.

The Jammu Marathon is being positioned as a major sporting and tourism event, aimed at promoting fitness, showcasing Jammu’s heritage, and placing the city firmly on the national marathon map.

CM Omar Abdullah e-inaugurates, lays foundation stones of ₹37.92 crore projects in Srinagar

Medicine and Radiology Departments at Government Medical College Srinagar, at an estimated cost of ₹18.70 crore.

He also laid foundation stones for the upgradation of Abhedananda Home at Solina at a cost of ₹9.90 crore, and for the construction of a Fleece Testing Laboratory at Zakura costing ₹2.13 crore.

Similarly, the Chief Minister laid the e-foundation stone for construction of a 1×15-metre span plate girder RCC decked bridge over Maloori Nallah on the Gandtal–Ganimohar road at a cost of ₹1.53 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for a ₹4.66 crore project involving construction of a 1×20-metre span plate girder RCC decked bridge over Maloori Nallah at Sarabagh, along with the road stretch from Sarabagh to Dara Health Centre.

During the event, the Chief Minister handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) from Srinagar district, reaffirming the government’s commitment to employment generation and livelihood enhancement.

Chief Minister took review of development projects under execution in Srinagar district under CSS, capex, SASCI and CDF. He insisted on optimal utilisation of funds and meeting the timelines.

CM listened to various issues posed by MLAs of Srinagar district and expressed concern over environmental issues due to Achan landfill site and stressed on decongestion of traffic in the city. He directed the concerned departments, divisional and district administration to find a longterm solutions to these pressing issues. CM also underlined the need to address the issue of deteriorating air quality in Srinagar and to take measures to control air pollution apart from the dry climate aggravating the issue.

NIA to file chargesheet in Pahalgam terror attack case

the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly

harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack, as per NIA investigations. The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on the fateful afternoon, selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.

NIA, which has arrested the duo under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, is further investigating the case (RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU), registered after the attack that shook the world on April 22, 2025.

In July, in a joint operation conducted by the Indian Army, the Central Reserve Police Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police, three terrorists, Suleman, Hamza Afghani (Afghan) and Zibran, were eliminated under Operation Mahadev in the Dachigam area in Kashmir.

Suleman was an ‘A’ category commander of LeT who was involved in the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam and Gagangir. Afghan and Jibran were also category ‘A’ terrorists of LeT who killed our innocent civilians in Baisaran Valley.

CS releases publications on climate change and floriculture in J&K

remained underrepresented in mainstream discourse.

He remarked that the authors deserve appreciation for documenting and highlighting these important yet neglected aspects through scientific and literary engagement.

The books released include Alchemy of the Red Rose by Prof. Manoj Nazir and Ridhima Koul, The Impact of Climate Change on Flowering by Prof. Manoj Nazir and Ridhima Koul, and Manoj Nazir: The Man Behind the Gladiolus Revolution in India authored by Ridhima Koul and Dr.Jyotsana Maurya.

Prof. Manoj Nazir is a distinguished scientist in the field of floriculture, widely recognised for spearheading the Gladiolus Revolution in India. His contributions to plant biotechnology and horticultural research have had a lasting impact on scientific advancement and flower cultivation practices in the country.

Ms. Ridhima Koul is a biotechnology researcher and author with significant research experience in floriculture and plant sciences. Her academic work and writings focus on strengthening the interface between scientific research and public understanding.

Dr. Jyotsana Maurya is a biotechnology scholar and author, known for her research on medicinal plants and floriculture, and has contributed extensively through scientific publications and books.

CS calls for mission-mode implementation of DPIIT set district business reforms

appraisal of department-wise services and reform parameters mandated under D-BRAP. He emphasized the need for the Industries & Commerce Department, as the nodal agency, to develop a common real-time dashboard providing a consolidated view of the status of all services across departments and districts. He further directed that all such services be mandatorily integrated with the Single Window System to ensure ease of access and transparency for users.

The Chief Secretary called upon all concerned departments to notify pending services under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) with clearly defined timelines and ensure that these services are delivered through online mandates, as envisaged under the D-BRAP framework. He advised departments to draw upon the successful model of Mission YUVA for the integration of digital Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), noting that an effective digital system is already operational under the mission.

Stressing the importance of grassroots-level implementation, the Chief Secretary directed the strengthening and capacity building of District Industries Centres (DICs) to enable effective, timely, and outcome-oriented implementation of the reforms. He also called for the preparation of a roadmap for the establishment of industrial parks as a key objective under D-BRAP to promote district-level industrial growth. Additionally, he asked the departments to address issues related to the Jan Sugam portal to enhance its accessibility, visibility, and operational efficiency.

Addressing the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, (Financial Commissioner Revenue), Shaleen Kabra, apprised the participants of the implementation status of land-related reforms under the action plan. He elaborated on the functioning of online services such as demarcation of land, change of land use (CLU), and property registration, stating that these services have been operational for some time, with the remaining

components expected to be completed shortly.

Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shailendra Kumar, underscored the importance of onboarding all districts onto a single standardized dashboard to ensure uniformity in service delivery parameters. He emphasized the need for a mission-mode approach, particularly in view of the DPIIT assessment scheduled for April 2026.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti, highlighted the pivotal role of District Industries Centres as nodal agencies for the implementation of D-BRAP at the district level. He called for re-energizing and strengthening DICs to achieve the objectives of the reform plan in letter and spirit.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, presented the overall framework of the D-BRAP and informed that 46 services have been identified by DPIIT for digitization. These services are to be notified under the PSGA, delivered through online mandates, and monitored via a real-time dashboard by the respective government authorities.

The Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, briefed the meeting on the department-wise categorization of services, detailing the responsibilities of departments and districts in ensuring their smooth implementation. He also presented the current online status of each service along with their PSGA notification status. He informed that a real-time monitoring dashboard, as per DPIIT guidelines, is to be developed showcasing the significant components for both e-services and inspection dashboards.

Regarding the bucket of services coming under the ambit of D-BRAP it was revealed that the same encompasses a wide range of citizen-centric and business-related services, including land demarcation and boundary verification, change in land use, property registration, mutation of property records, digitization of land records, approvals and registrations for setting up play schools and private educational institutions.

It also mandates online issuance of Mandi licenses (APMC), establishment of health clinics, diagnostic testing licenses, permits for goods and passenger transport vehicles, new electricity connections, building plan approvals, permissions for demolition and reconstruction, certificates of vending for street vendors, parking licenses, NoCs for hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments, water supply connections, shop and establishment registrations, among others.

The action plan also aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for district-level investments through strengthened District Industries Centres and the development of industrial parks to attract sector-specific investments and foster sustainable economic growth across the UT.

Minor Fluctuations in Night Temperatures Across Kashmir, Jammu Region Remains Stable

recording 1.0°C compared to 1.4°C a day earlier. Pulwama was the coldest place in the Valley on Sunday night with a minimum temperature of minus 2.7°C, while fresh data for Monday was not available. Awantipora recorded minus 0.8°C, down from minus 0.2°C the previous night, and Shopian dipped slightly to minus 0.1°C from 0.1°C.

In the Jammu region, night temperatures remained mostly unchanged. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 11.4°C, the same as the previous day. Banihal saw a drop to 3.1°C from 5.5°C, while Batote recorded 8.3°C, marginally higher than 7.9°C earlier. Katra remained steady at around 11°C.

In Ladakh, night temperatures improved, with Leh recording minus 1.8°C compared to minus 5.0°C the previous night, while Kargil rose to minus 1.2°C from minus 4.6°C. Meteorological officials said night temperatures are expected to fluctuate slightly over the next few days, with no major weather system likely to affect the region.

Sham Lal Sharma chairs PAC meeting

Accountant General J&K, Tsewang Tharchin, briefed the Committee about the queries and present status of various audit paras pertaining to H&UD Department.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) briefed the Committee about the action taken on query raised in the CAG’s Audit paras of H&UDD.

The Chairman highlighted the main objectives and working of the Committee and directed the senior officers of H&UDD to clear all hurdles for improving work culture and accountability. He also asked for fixing responsibility to ensure visible and effective development is extended to the people living in urban areas.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers to

submit a comprehensive detailed report regarding Audit Para 6.3 (2020-21) with in ten days so that the final decision could be taken in this regard.

The members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions to make the Committee more fruitful and result oriented. They also highlighted various issues pointed out in the CAG’s audit paras.

Among others Director, Local Bodies Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar; Director, Local Bodies Jammu, Kapil Sharma; VC, SDA, Mohammed Rafi besides senior officers of H&UDD and Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

J&K cop injured in attack by armed men in Jammu

injuries to him, the spokesperson said. The men also brandished a pistol before fleeing. Two of the accused were identified as Rishab and Munna D, and a hunt is on to nab them and two of their other accomplices, he said. He said the SI was shifted to GMC hospital for treatment, and a case has been registered.

JMC intensifies anti-encroachment drive, demolishes illegal structures, seals commercial establishment

reiterated its zero-tolerance policy against unauthorized construction in residential areas. Illegal shutters erected in defiance of building norms were demolished at two separate locations.

Similarly, an illegal commercial establishment operating in Apsara Road, Gandhi Nagar was sealed. This action formed part of the continuous crackdown on unauthorized commercial activity.

Additionally, the team conducted an intensive drive along the BC Road to clear footpaths and pavements. The team seized a large number of items that were illegally placed and used to encroach upon the footpath, pavement and main road, disrupting the free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

After the successful execution of the drive, the Jammu Municipal Corporation strongly appealed to all citizens and commercial entities to co-operate with the Corporation in keeping the city free from encroachments.

The JMC urged the public to refrain from undertaking any illegal construction and encroachment on public and private land. Citizens were advised to adhere strictly to the building bye-laws and obtain all necessary permissions from the competent authority before initiating any construction or commercial activity. The JMC reaffirmed to continue its drives with full vigour against all violators to maintain the city's planned structure and ensure public safety and convenience.

J&K Bank holds Customer Meet at Dharamshala

customers from the area and provided a meaningful platform for direct interaction between customers and the Bank’s senior leadership.

Addressing the gathering, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, “Direct interaction with our customers gives us valuable insights into their expectations and experiences. The feedback and suggestions shared during such meets are extremely important for us and will be carefully assessed to further improve our products, processes and overall service delivery.”

“Customer service remains the cornerstone of the Bank’s growth. I have advised the staff to make all possible efforts to meet customer expectations by ensuring efficiency, transparency and a consistently courteous approach at every point of engagement”, he added.

The Executive Director gave a patient hearing to the concerns and suggestions raised by the participating customers and assured them that their feedback would be taken into account for further strengthening the Bank’s offerings and customer-centric initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said, “Customer trust and long-term relationships are at the core of Bank’s business philosophy. The inputs received during today’s interaction will help us further enhance our engagement and deliver solutions that are aligned with the evolving needs of our customers.”

The meet witnessed active participation from customers, who appreciated the Bank’s leadership for personally listening to and valuing their feedback. They also assured the Branch of their continued cooperation and support, terming the interaction as a positive step towards building a strong and mutually beneficial relationship.

While presenting a vote of thanks, Zonal Head (Kathua) expressed gratitude to the customers for their valuable inputs and thanked the senior leadership for their guidance and presence.

