

Own Your City, Build Your Future in J&K: Rahul Sahai Urges MIET Students

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 14

Mr. Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, and Past Chairman of CII J&K and PHDCCI Jammu, urged students to take ownership of their home region and city and explore opportunities within Jammu and Kashmir while addressing the Leadership Talk Series organised by the School of Management, Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET), at the Sh. H.L. Gupta Auditorium, Kot Bhalwal campus. “Take ownership of your city and Jammu and Kashmir. This beautiful Union Territory has immense potential. Rather than looking only at opportunities outside, explore what you can build here. Your talent, ideas and enterprise can shape its future,” Sahai said. He emphasised that retaining young talent is essential to the region’s growth and encouraged students to become entrepreneurs and job creators. Moderated by Prof. Ajay Khajuria, Professor of Practice, School of Management, the conversation explored leadership, family business succession, institutional legacy and the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir. Reflecting on his formative years, Sahai recalled how his father, Late Shri Ram Sahai, built the Sahai Group, alongside contributing to institutions



and community life. He credited his father’s emphasis on Indian values, discipline, family responsibility and service to society with shaping his own leadership journey. Sharing his experience of succession, Sahai said he began by working like an Intern in the family business, learning from the ground up before moving into manufacturing and eventually assuming full responsibility after his father’s demise. He also recalled that his first public address was a vote of thanks at a memorial lecture in his father’s memory. The encouragement he received strengthened his confidence and determination to carry the legacy forward. “Conviction often comes before ability. When your purpose is strong, you develop the abilities needed to fulfil it,” he observed. Distinguishing management from leadership, Sahai said a manager ensures that assigned work is completed effectively, while a leader brings fresh ideas,

responds to changing situations and inspires others to take responsibility. Drawing upon his two years as Chairman of CII, five years leading PHDCCI Jammu and the past two years heading ICC Jammu, Sahai highlighted the role of chambers in both business development and community service. He recalled an initiative during his CII tenure that supported the construction of 200 toilets to help address open defecation. Discussing opportunities for young entrepreneurs, he highlighted IT services, Global Capability Centres, tourism and religious tourism, logistics, workforce solutions and sports ventures such as pickleball courts, indoor sports facilities and cricket academies. He also encouraged students to explore Mission YUVA and relevant government schemes, and identify practical business needs, including helping enterprises access TreDS. Sahai stressed that family businesses must evolve to accommodate the interests

and skills of the next generation. He called for collective, constructive engagement with public representatives to strengthen infrastructure and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. He reminded students that living in a smaller city does not limit ambition or achievement, citing M. S. Dhoni’s journey from Ranchi. He encouraged them to think beyond geographical boundaries, serve wider markets and explore ways to earn international revenue while building businesses from Jammu and Kashmir. An engaging question-and-answer session allowed students to discuss leadership and entrepreneurship directly with him. Prof. Ankur Gupta, Director, MIET, welcomed Sahai, highlighted the importance of connecting students with industry leaders and felicitated him with a memento. The programme was attended by Col. Rajesh Sharma (Retd.), Registrar, MIET; Prof. Yogesh Manhas, Professor of Practice, School of Journalism; and Prof. Ankita Nanda, Head, School of Management, along with faculty members and students. Ms. Antra Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Management, coordinated the proceedings. Sahai expressed his appreciation to the MIET management and faculty for providing a platform for meaningful dialogue with students.

AIIMS Jammu faculty participates in ICMR workshop on Breast Cancer survival in J&K

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Faculty members from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu participated in a two-day co-development workshop organised in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, focusing on cancer prevention and screening in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. A key component of the workshop was the development of an implementation research proposal aimed at improving Breast cancer survival in Jammu and Kashmir by addressing gaps in awareness, early detection, screening, diagnosis, referral and access to treatment. Representing AIIMS Jammu, Dr.Shalli, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Principal Investigator of the proposed project, participated in the deliberations along with her co-in-



vestigators, Dr.Pragyan-Parija, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, and Dr.Girija, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology. The team engaged in brainstorming and discussions with experts and programme representatives to identify context-specific, evidence-based strategies to strengthen breast cancer prevention and care in the region. The discussions focused on integrated population-level screening strategies, identification of high-risk groups, strengthening referral mechanisms, improving linkages between health-care facilities and ensuring timely access to diagnosis and treatment. The workshop also provided a platform to deliberate on implementation challenges and develop locally appropriate interventions to improve the cancer care continuum. Prof (Dr) Shabab Lalit Angurana, Professor and Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, and Dean (Research), AIIMS Jammu, is also a Co-Principal Investigator of the project. His support and research leadership strengthen the initiative’s multidisciplinary approach towards addressing gaps in breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment. The initiative reflects AIIMS Jammu’s commitment to promoting collaborative research focused on critical public health priorities. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sinha, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, emphasised the importance of collaborative research in addressing regional health-care priorities.

CII J&K Hosts 3rd Edition of SheLeads Jammu

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The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K successfully organized the 3rd Edition of CII J&K SheLeads -Jammu at Vivanta, Jammu, bringing together distinguished women leaders, administrators, entrepreneurs, academicians, healthcare professionals, media personalities and change-makers from across the region to deliberate on advancing women-led development and leadership. Held under the theme “From Local Strength to National Scale,” the conclave highlighted the remarkable journeys of women who have transformed challenges into opportunities and emerged as leaders in their respective fields. The event served as a platform for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, networking and inspiration, reinforcing the critical role of women in shaping the social and economic future of Jammu & Kashmir. Welcoming the participants, Mr Siddhant Chawdhary, Vice-Chairman, CII J&K, emphasized the importance of creating stronger ecosystems that foster women’s leadership across sectors. He highlighted CII’s continued commitment towards enabling women through mentorship, networking opportunities, leadership development and industry engagement. Discussions focusing on leadership, innovation, opportunity creation and women-led growth. The first session, “Breaking Barriers: Women Leading Change Across Sectors,” brought together accomplished leaders including Prof Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School, University of Jammu; Dr Palki Sharma, Founder & Chief Consultant, PS Body Skin Hair Clinic; Ms Suvidha Sarin, International Roll Ball Athlete & J&K State Awardee; and Ms Chitwan Jain, Owner, Silverlines. The panellists shared their professional journeys and perspectives on overcoming barriers, building resilience, embracing mentorship and creating opportunities for future generations of women leaders. The second session, “Powering Aspirations: Creating Opportunities in a Changing World,” featured two insightful panel



Delivering the keynote address, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh, Founder & Trustee, Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, spoke about the significance of empowering women to become catalysts of change and underscored the importance of preserving values while embracing leadership opportunities in a rapidly evolving world. The Chief Guest, Ms Sheetal Nanda, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Government of J&K, delivered a special address highlighting the transformative contribution of women in governance, sustainability, social development and public service. She encouraged women to continue aspiring for leadership roles and contribute actively towards building an inclusive and progressive society. The programme featured two insightful panel discussions focusing on leadership, innovation, opportunity creation and women-led growth. The first session, “Breaking Barriers: Women Leading Change Across Sectors,” brought together accomplished leaders including Prof Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School, University of Jammu; Dr Palki Sharma, Founder & Chief Consultant, PS Body Skin Hair Clinic; Ms Suvidha Sarin, International Roll Ball Athlete & J&K State Awardee; and Ms Chitwan Jain, Owner, Silverlines. The panellists shared their professional journeys and perspectives on overcoming barriers, building resilience, embracing mentorship and creating opportunities for future generations of women leaders. The second session, “Powering Aspirations: Creating Opportunities in a Changing World,” featured two insightful panel

Drug Control Department rebuts misleading Inferences Reaffirms Zero-Tolerance Policy against misuse of Habit-Forming Drugs

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The Drug Control Department, Jammu and Kashmir, has taken serious note of a news report published in a Jammu-based newspaper under the headline “Drug Seizures Mount, But Where Is Drug Controller J&K?” and rebutted what it termed as misleading inferences, stating that the factual position and enforcement efforts of the Department need to be placed on record for public awareness. The Department clarified that Since January 2026, seizures of intoxicant drugs valued at 756,85,243 have been effected with the active support and coordination of the Police Department as part of ongoing enforcement efforts against drug peddling and the illicit circulation of habit-forming drugs. Significantly, these seizures have been made from drug peddlers and

persons involved in the illegal trade, and not from licensed pharmacies or medical sale establishments. Drug Control Department is mandated to regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Rules framed thereunder. In discharge of its statutory responsibilities, the Department has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards the irregular sale, purchase and diversion of habit-forming drugs. Drug Control Officers are actively engaged in regulatory inspections, scrutiny of sale and purchase records, verification of compliance with statutory requirements and initiation of appropriate legal and administrative action wherever violations are detected. As part of its preventive enforcement strategy, the Department has also ensured 100 percent compliance with the requirements for installation of CCTV

cameras and adoption of computerised billing systems by medical sale establishments. These measures are intended to strengthen traceability, improve transparency in pharmaceutical transactions, facilitate scrutiny of suspicious sales and deter diversion of medicines into unauthorised channels. The department further stated that wherever irregularities or violations relating to the sale and purchase of habit-forming drugs are detected and substantiated, the concerned Drug Control Officers are recommending appropriate action, including cancellation of drug sale licences, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and prescribed procedure. Pertinent to mention here that since January 2026 to ending September, 2026, 25 drug sale licenses stands already cancelled. The Department does not hesitate to initiate stringent and appropriate action against any licensed estab-

lishment found indulging in unlawful practices. It is also pertinent to appreciate that the seizure of illicit drugs from peddlers is a multi-agency enforcement effort involving the Police and other concerned enforcement agencies. Such seizures demonstrate the importance of coordinated action against the illegal drug trade. It clarified that illicit stocks are recovered from peddlers does not, by itself, establish that the drugs originated from licensed pharmacies or that the regulatory system has failed. The source and supply chain of every such recovery must be established through evidence-based investigation. The Department remains firmly committed to protecting public health, preventing the diversion of habit-forming medicines and ensuring that no person or establishment is permitted to misuse the drug distribution system with impunity.

BJP's development agenda transforming J&K's political landscape, party must seize emerging opportunity: Poonia

JAMMU, OCT 14: BJP National General Secretary, J&K Prabhar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Satish Poonia asserted that Jammu and Kashmir occupies a special place in the national consciousness, emphasizing that the BJP’s historic commitment to national integration, development and public service continues to shape the region’s future. Addressing an organizational meeting at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, he called upon party leaders to strengthen their public outreach and capitalize on the changing political atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir. BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, Rajya Sabha

MP Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh and former J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina also addressed the meeting. State office bearers, District Prabharis and Seh-Prabharis, District Presidents, spokespersons, Morcha Presidents and other senior leaders attended. Dr. Satish Poonia recalled the supreme sacrifice of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on the soil of Jammu and Kashmir for the complete integration of the region with the rest of India. He said that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation for accelerated development by expanding road connectivity and taking infrastructure to remote areas, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has carried this legacy forward on an unprecedented scale.



Describing the BJP as a party with a distinct ideological commitment, Poonia emphasized that its strength lies in connecting people through service, trust and inclusive development. He also recalled his long association with Jammu and Kashmir, including his participation in the Doda Bachao Andolan and movements associated with Lal Chowk, Srinagar. In his presidential address, Sat Sharma welcomed Dr. Poonia as the new J&K Prabhar and recalled his earlier association with the region through ABVP activities. He presented a detailed account of the month-long Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, being organized to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 25-year journey in public service as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister.

Sat Sharma highlighted initiatives including Aashirvaad Ka Diya, Seva Ke Rang, Seva Setu Abhiyan, Mere Sapno Ka Bharat and Seva Jyoti Yatra, stating that the campaign had reached a large number of booths across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the BJP was simultaneously taking the Modi government’s development achievements to the people and countering what he described as misleading propaganda by the INDI alliance. He asserted that the Congress’s negative politics had weakened its political standing and urged party leaders to develop strong ideological clarity and effectively communicate the BJP’s vision. Dr. Jitendra Singh described Jammu and Kashmir as a politically sensitive and strategically important re-

gion, where organizational responsibilities are entrusted to experienced leaders after careful consideration. He observed that the socio-political atmosphere, particularly in Kashmir, had undergone a significant transformation and urged the party cadre to recognize and seize the emerging opportunity. People are ready to embrace the BJP, we must be prepared to embrace this opportunity, he emphasized. Sunil Sharma highlighted the growth of the BJP’s organizational presence and public support, citing the strong participation in the party’s September 2, 2026, protest in Kashmir as an indication of changing public sentiment. He said people were increasingly rejecting the politics of the National Conference and Congress.