



JAMMU UNIVERSITY Times

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. - Nelson Mandela

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



150 researchers from across country, abroad participate in Int'l Conference ... Pg 2



Psychology students perform Nukkad Natak for troops, their families.... Pg 6

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'Int'l Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers' at JU

Our research, creation of new knowledge should be dedicated for benefit of humanity: Hon'ble LG



JAMMU: Emphasising Scientists' and Academicians' crucial role in the well-being of society and how their pursuit of excellence will ensure a healthy society and give a boost to larger vision of nation-building, Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of JU Shri Manoj Sinha has

said: "Our research and creation of new knowledge should be dedicated for the benefit of humanity." "Stress is real and all the scientists and researchers should work together to harness the potential of research, innovation to produce path-breaking discoveries for prevention and management of



chronic lifestyle diseases," the Lt Governor said in his inaugural address at the 'International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers' at University of Jammu. In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of the

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Diwali Milan at JU

Festival embodies light, compassion, knowledge: VC



JAMMU:

Extending warm and heartfelt greetings to the university fraternity on the festival of lights, Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai said the auspicious occasion of Diwali embodies light, compassion and knowledge.

"Let's all embrace values of unity, compassion, and spirit of camaraderie for harmonious growth of the society, which is hallmark of celebrating such auspicious occasions", Prof Rai said at the vibrant 'Diwali Mian, organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, held adjacent to the Open Air Theatre. The event,

celebrated as part of the University's cultural initiative 'Jamburiyat', brought together students, faculty, and staff in an atmosphere of joy and unity. Prof.Umesh Rai wished the participants a peaceful and prosperous Diwali while expressing happiness over the strong sense of community and spirit of togetherness, the hallmark of the region's composite culture. He spoke about the symbolic importance of lighting diyas as a representation of the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Prof. Rai emphasized the significance

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2-day Int'l Conference on 'India and Central Asia: Renewing Historical Relationships' organized by DSRS



JAMMU: The Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai highlighted the crucial role of academic institutions in promoting regional diplomacy and mutual understanding. Presiding over the inaugural

function of the International Conference on 'India and Central Asia: Renewing Historical Relationships', the Vice Chancellor called upon the faculty to initiate interdisciplinary

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VC inaugurates Virtual Herbarium and Herbarium Scanning Facility



JAMMU:

The Vice Chancellor, Prof.Umesh Rai, inaugurated the "Scanning and Photographic Facility for Herbarium Digitization" alongside the Virtual Herbarium at the Department of Botany. This innovative facility, funded by the

Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the FIST program, was launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Prof. Rai in presence of prominent dignitaries, including Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Dean Life Sciences; Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning

and Development; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs and Sciences, and Prof. SusheelVerma, Head, Department of Botany.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Rai emphasized the importance of digitizing

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Two-day National Seminar on 'Exploring the Life and Legacy of Maharaja Pratap Singh'

JAMMU: The Department of History, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre, Jammu, organised a prestigious two-day national seminar focusing on the life and legacy of Maharaja Pratap Singh.

The inaugural session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by esteemed guests, including Dr. Karan Singh, Former Member of Parliament, Raja Sabha, Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, Ashutosh Bhat-



nagar, Director, JKSC, New Delhi, Prof SumanJamwal, Head, Department of History and Prof Shyam

Narayan Lal, Seminar Director. The solemn atmosphere was enhanced by the chanting of mantras

by students from the Department of Sanskrit, University of Jammu. The other prominent guests included the members of the royal family namely M.K. Ajatshatru Singh, KunwaraniRitu Singh, RajkumariDr.Jyotsana, Ranvijay Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief guest Dr. Karan Singh shedded light on the remarkable legacy of the Dogra rulers, particularly Maharaja Pratap Singh, whose contributions to the socio-economic transformation of Jammu and Kashmir were both

significant and far-reaching. He enriched the discussion by unveiling lesser-known and fascinating aspects of Dogra history, offering a more nuanced understanding of their governance, vision, and impact on the region. Dr. Singh also underscored the importance of integrating the Dogra narrative into mainstream historiography, advocating for a broader dissemination of informed and balanced knowledge about the history of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that the rich cultural

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'Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers'

150 researchers from across country, abroad participate in Int'l Conference

JAMMU:

Around 150 researchers from across the country and abroad participated in the International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers held in the University of Jammu. The Conference, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and Chancellor, University of Jammu Sh. Manoj Sinha on October 22, 2024, concluded with a grand valedictory function, marking the successful end of rich scientific discussions and collaborations.

The Conference was organized by the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology (ISCE).

Addressing the valedictory function, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai expressed immense satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the 4-day International Conference, hoping that the in-depth deliberations, expert discussions, and knowledge-sharing sessions would prove to be highly fruitful, driving advancements in the field and inspiring further research and collaboration among scholars and practitioners world-



wide.

Prof. Bechan Lal, President of Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology (ISCE), delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the society's contributions to the field of comparative endocrinology and encouraged young researchers to advance the legacy.

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, who presided over the function, emphasized the critical importance of endocrinology as a field where scientific advancements are progressing rapidly. He highlighted that while it is essential to stay up-

dated with the latest developments, there is immense need for respecting the foundations laid by traditional science. He noted that conferences like these play a vital role in nurturing scientific dialogue and building meaningful research collaborations that bridge contemporary advancements with traditional insights, paving the way for a more comprehensive understanding in the field.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Prof. C. M. Chaturvedi, Professor Emeritus

from Banaras Hindu University, and Guest of Honour Prof. Vinod Kumar, INSA Senior Scientist. Prof. Kumar praised the diversity of topics covered during the conference and emphasized the importance of collaborative research in endocrinology.

Earlier, Prof. Seema Langer, Convener of the conference, in her welcome address extended her gratitude to Prof. Bechan Lal, President of ISCE, and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, for their unwavering support in ensuring the event's success. She also recognized the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee.

The achievements of young researchers were also recognized during the valedictory function with prizes awarded for the best oral and poster presentations, motivating the next generation of scientists.

Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Organizing Secretary of the conference, presented a detailed summary of the three-day proceedings.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Parvinder Kumar, acknowledging the col-

lective efforts of all participants, speakers, and the organizing team.

Earlier in the day, the conference began its final day with four technical sessions, featuring 21 presentations on topics spanning endocrinology, neurobiology, and biodiversity. The sessions included three plenary talks, six invited talks by renowned experts, and 12 oral presentations from researchers presenting their latest findings. One of the highlights was an online lecture delivered by Prof. Manfred Gahr from the Max Planck Institute for Biological Sciences in Seewiesen, Germany, offering valuable insights into cutting-edge endocrinological research.

The day continued the momentum set by the previous days, facilitating an impressive exchange of scientific ideas and further exploring new frontiers in the field of endocrinology. The conference, with its diverse range of presentations and discussions, left participants enriched and inspired, having fostered new collaborations and scientific partnerships across borders.

2-Day Int'l Conference discusses India's historical relationship with Central Asia

JAMMU:

Two-day International Conference on "India and Central Asia: Renewing Historical Relationships" was organised by the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata concluded with the valedictory session. The conference was aimed at fostering dialogue and rejuvenating India's historical, economic, cultural, and strategic ties with the Central Asian countries.

Prof. Pramod Kumar Pandey, grandson of Indian philosopher Rahul Sankrityan, delivered the valedictory address of the Conference. In his valedictory address, Prof. Pandey shared his valuable insights about the life and academic contribution of Indian philosopher Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityan in the context of ancient and modern ties of India with the Central Asian region. He revealed that Rahul Sankrityan had the knowledge of more than thirty languages and had widely travelled to different countries especially Tibet, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Russia also served as visiting professor in Sri Lankan and Russian Universities. His works delineated how soft power is significant in establishing India's interper-



sonal relationships with other countries. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Rajiv Nayan, Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. Eminent scholars, who shared their views in the conference were Prof. Javed Khatov, Penjikent Pedagogical College, Tajikistan; Ms. Sharofat Arabova, Film-Maker, Tajikistan; Prof. K. Warikoo, JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Maheshwar Singh, NLU, New Delhi; Prof. Ramakrishana Pradhan, GGU, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh; Prof. Nasir Rza Khan, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Prof. Nalin Mohapatra, JNU, New Delhi; Prof. Ramakant Dwivedi, ICAF, New Delhi; Dr. Anurag Tripathi, Christ University, New Delhi, Dr. Punit Gaur, Indian Council of World Affairs; Dr. Anjali Sehrawat, University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh; Recognizing the

region's importance to India's economic, cultural, strategic, and security interests, scholars highlighted India's efforts to revive its centuries-old relationship with Central Asia through the 'Connect Central Asia Policy.' This policy adopts a broad-based approach, focusing on deepening political, economic, cultural, and security ties with Central Asian nations. To advance these goals, Indian leaders and diplomats have engaged in numerous visits to the region, fostering bilateral and multi-lateral dialogues. Scholars, in recommending ways to strengthen India-Central Asia relations, emphasized the need to promote connectivity, commerce, confidence-building, and contact through both formal and informal channels. Additionally, people-to-people connections should be strengthened, alternative routes should be developed

to balance China's influence in the region, and efforts should be made to bring these nations closer to India.

It is pertinent to mention here that more than 30 research papers were presented in this conference by the scholars in different sessions of the conference and shared their knowledge with regard to India and Central Asia Relations in the historical and contemporary context to give a new dimension to India-Central Asia relationship. Scholars from different Indian academic institutions and Central Asian countries participated in the different academic sessions and presented their paper while giving suggestions for more vigorous relations of India with Central Asia countries.

Earlier, Prof. Varinder Koundal, Director, DSRS felicitated Prof. Pramod Pandey who was the Chief Guest of valedictory session. Dr. Suneel Kumar presented the formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, and organizing teams for their contributions to the conference. Dr. Chahukeshi Jamwal conducted the proceedings of the conference. Eminent academicians, research scholars and students of Jammu University including Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Prof. Baljit Singh,

Prof. Vishav Raksha, Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Dr. Mohd. Moenir Alam, Dr. Surinder Mohan, Dr. Tilak Sharma, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Dr. Anu Mankotia, Dr. Anju Bala were also presented in the conference.

The Conference was inaugurated yesterday with a message from His Excellency Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Chancellor of the University of Jammu, expressing his support for the conference and highlighting the significance of India's ties Central Asia. Keynote address of the conference was delivered by Padma Shree Prof. K.N. Pandita. Inaugural session of the conference was presided by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Jammu. Conference was attended by eminent persons including Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata and Shri Ashutosh Bhatnagar, Director, Jammu Kashmir Study Centre, New Delhi talked about the contemporary economic, strategic and security imperatives prevailing at regional and global level which necessitate closer collaboration between India and Central Asia.

Swachhta Pakhwada Celebration: Hostel boarders pledge for a cleaner, healthier campus

JAMMU:

Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel commemorated Gandhi Jayanti by enthusiastically observing Swachhta Pakhwada from October 2-3, 2024.

Under the guidance of Provost Boys Hostel, Prof. Lalitsen Sharma, boarders actively participated in various cleanliness and awareness programs, fully embodying the values of Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat. The program aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and ownership

among students for maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Dr. Satyapriya Arya, Hostel Warden, delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the significance of the Swachh Bharat Mission and encouraging residents to take personal responsibility for cleanliness. Residents pledged to uphold cleanliness and inspire others to do the same, fostering a community-wide commitment to hygiene. According to Dr. Nitansh Sharma, Resident Warden, the



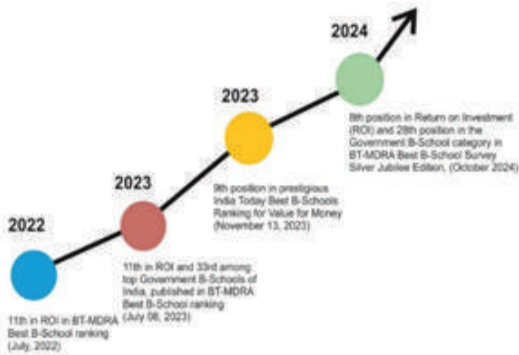
Swachhta Pakhwada commemoration not only motivated

boarders but also contributed significantly to promoting a

clean, healthy, and sustainable campus environment.

TBS escalates in National Rankings 2024

Trajectory growth of TBS, JU



Top 100: ROI

INDIA'S BEST ► B-SCHOOLS

RANK	SCHOOL	CITY	STATE
1	Department of Commerce, Faculty of Commerce and Business, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, New Delhi	Delhi	G
2	Faculty of Management Studies, M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodra	Guntur	G
3	Sydenham Institute of Management Studies, Research & Entrepreneurship Education (SIMSREE), Mumbai	Maharashtra	G
4	Department of Management Studies, Guru Ghansidh Vasthivasthaya, Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	F
5	Department of Industrial and Management Engineering, IIT Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	G
6	Department of Management Studies, Essavel Engineering College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	F
7	Parul College of Technical Education, Ludhiana	Punjab	F
8	The Business School, University of Jammu, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	G
9	Delta Meghe Institute of Management Studies, Nagpur	Maharashtra	F
10	School of Management Studies, National Institute of Technology Calicut, Kozhikode	Kerala	G

JAMMU:

The Business School (TBS), University of Jammu, has once again demonstrated its excellence in management education by securing 8th position in Return on Investment (ROI) and 28th position in the Government B-School category in the highly acclaimed BT-MDRA Best B-School Survey Silver Jubilee Edition, published in October 2024. This recognition places TBS as the only B-school from Jammu & Kashmir to be ranked among the top management institutions in the country.

This year's ranking reflects a notable improvement compared to the previous year, where TBS was ranked 11th in ROI and 33rd among top Government B-Schools of India, published in BT-MDRA Best B-School ranking (July 08, 2023) and 9th position in prestigious India Today Best B-Schools Ranking for Value for Money (November 13, 2023). The consistent upward trajectory highlights the institution's dedication to provide quality education, strengthening corporate linkages, and enhancing the employability and success of its students.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, expressed his appreciation and

congratulated the entire TBS team, including faculty members, students, alumni, and other stakeholders of the department and the University, for their outstanding efforts that led to this achievement. He stressed upon the significance of participating in such rankings as they provide an opportunity to showcase the institution's strengths on a national platform and encouraged further initiatives by the department to enhance institutional excellence.

Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director, The Business School, highlighted that the improved ranking is a testament to the dedicated efforts of the faculty and the exemplary performance of students and alumni in the corporate world. The improved ranking is a result of the best practices that promote industry-academia connections that has been instrumental in achieving this recognition. The steady rise in ranking shows that TBS is committed to offer quality management education that is not only affordable but also results in substantial career growth for TBS students.

TBS's consistent improvement under the visionary leadership of

the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor reflects its dedication to establishing a robust and recognisable brand in management education. The institution is actively implementing a range of innovative programs, including Executive Education, Management Development Programmes (MDPs), Consultancy Services, and Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development, aimed at bridging the gap between academia and industry to provide students with the skills necessary for today's dynamic business environment.

By achieving 8th position in ROI and 28th position in the Government B-School category, TBS continues to stand as a beacon of quality management education in the region and beyond. The improvement in rankings from last year is a clear indication of the School's commitment to achieving and maintaining excellence, and TBS remains poised to continue this upward momentum in the coming years.

The Business School, University of Jammu, is proud to set benchmarks, achieve milestones and contribute to the growth and development of management education in India.

VC expresses gratitude to Hon'ble LG for sanctioning 19 faculty positions for JU

JAMMU:

The University of Jammu has achieved yet another significant milestone with the sanctioning of 19 new faculty positions in various departments in Phase-I to continue its journey towards achieving academic excellence.

In the year 2022, the Higher Education Department had sanctioned 17 positions in various teaching departments, including Journalism & Media Studies, Philosophy and Directorate of Hindi besides sanctioning 68 positions including teaching and non-teaching for University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus. This major development came after Prof. Umesh Rai took over as Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu.

Under the stewardship of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Shri Manoj Sinha, the University of Jammu has made significant strides in both academic and infrastructural development. The sustained support of the Hon'ble Chancellor has played a pivotal role in positioning the University on the international map, showcasing its potential as a global institution of higher learning.

The Vice-Chancellor while appreciating the concerted and unwavering support of Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary to Govt, Higher Education Department, JKUT and Santosh D Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, JKUT stated that the creation of 19 teaching posts in phase-I will surely strengthen the academic and research capabilities of the University and help in raising the standards of teaching learning in the University.

In the current year, the University of Jammu, for the first time, has witnessed significant advancements, including being listed among the top 50 institutions in India in the prestigious National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2024. This achievement reflects the University's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and research.

The dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chancellor has been instrumental in this success, cultivating an environment that nurtures both faculty and students to thrive in a competitive educational landscape.

The sanctioning of these new positions marks yet another milestone in the University's journey of growth. It highlights the commitment of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Higher Education Department and Government of J&K UT to promote quality education and research. These positions will enable the University to expand its academic offerings, enhance research capabilities, and contribute to the holistic development of students, in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Expressing gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Government of J&K UT for their continued support, Prof. Rai said: "These newly sanctioned positions will help us further our mission of transforming the University into a centre of academic excellence, innovation, and research. With the backing of our leadership, we are confident that the University of Jammu will continue to set new benchmarks and strengthen its position as a leading institution, not just in the region but globally."

Prof. Rai further exuded confidence in the Finance and Higher Education Departments for prioritizing the consideration of remaining teaching positions in phase-II to support the University to meet its crucial academic commitments effectively.

National Seminar on Maharaja Pratap Singh: Engaging Discussions and Insightful Presentations

JAMMU:

The second day of the national seminar on "Maharaja Pratap Singh: Life and Legacy" concluded with a series of stimulating academic sessions, panel discussions, and a valedictory ceremony. The seminar, jointly organized by the Department of History and the Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre, witnessed a rich exchange of ideas and research on various aspects of Maharaja Pratap Singh's contributions to Jammu and Kashmir.

The day began with the Fourth Academic Session, chaired by Prof. Daljeet Ahluwalia, Punjabi University, Patiala. Notable papers included Dr. Abdul Rashid Lone's presentation on "The Dawn of Archaeological Research in Kashmir" and Dr. Bheem Bakshi's exploration of Maharaja Pratap Singh's reforms amidst colonial interventions.

The Fifth Academic Session, chaired by Dr. Younus Rashid, University of Kashmir, focused on broader historical perspectives, with Advocate Sumer Khajuria presenting a paper on Maharaja Pratap Singh's role in shaping the national narrative. A joint paper by Dr. Thinlay Norboo and Dr. Ghulam Murtaza highlighted



the geopolitical legacy of the Dogra dynasty in Ladakh.

Parallel sessions were chaired by Dr. Madhulika Singh and Dr. Siraz Ahmad, with scholars presenting papers on Maharaja Pratap Singh's developmental reforms, agricultural conservation, and architectural heritage.

The Sixth Academic Session, chaired by Nidhi Bahuguna, showcased research on Maharaja Pratap Singh's role in heritage conservation and economic strategies. The parallel session chaired

by Dr. Siraz Ahmad included papers on military reforms and cultural heritage under the Maharaja's rule, along with an insightful discussion on Queen Rani Charaki's influence on J&K's religious landscape.

A major highlight of the seminar was the engaging panel discussion on the theme "A Direction to Future Research: Erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir," which brought together distinguished scholars Padma Shri Prof. K.N. Pandita, Ashutosh

Bhatnagar, and Dr. Abdul Rashid Lone. The panellists collectively emphasized the importance of fostering collaborative research efforts to deepen historical understanding, with a particular focus on maintaining the authenticity of primary sources. They also proposed significant areas for future scholarly exploration, including debates on the potential reunification of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, integration of regional histories, and the broader implications for Indian national narratives. Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal and Prof. Suman Jamwal contributed valuable insights during the discussion, further enriching the dialogue by highlighting the intersection of historical sources and contemporary regional studies, and calling for more interdisciplinary approaches to research. Their interventions brought attention to the necessity of addressing the marginalization of primary sources in existing research and underscored the need to bridge gaps in historical discourse.

The seminar concluded with the valedictory session, marked by the felicitation of the Chief Guests, Dr. Kuldeep C. Agnihotri, former Vice Chancellor, Central

University Himachal Pradesh, and Padma Shri Prof. K.N. Pandita. Dr. Agnihotri, in his insightful valedictory address, highlighted the critical importance of maintaining historical continuity and integrating diverse historical narratives to achieve a comprehensive understanding of Jammu and Kashmir's rich past. He underscored the value of comparative studies in the field of research, calling attention to the challenges and biases that often influence historical interpretation. Prof. Pandita, in his presidential remarks, commended the organizers and participants for their efforts in advancing scholarly discourse on Maharaja Pratap Singh and the broader history of Jammu and Kashmir. The session closed on a note of optimism, with a collective call for ongoing scholarly inquiry and collaboration.

Over the course of two days, more than 38 research papers were presented across eight academic sessions, contributing to a deeper understanding of Maharaja Pratap Singh's life and legacy. The seminar concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sushma Jamwal, Research Consultant, Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating heritage with 'Jamburiyat'

With the third edition of Jammu University Times, we are honored to spotlight the profound sense of belonging, identity, and cultural pride that the University of Jammu aims to nurture through its newly launched initiative, "Jamburiyat." This theme resonates deeply with the mission of this temple of learning to connect students, faculty, and the community with the rich and glorious heritage of the Jammu region. Prof. Umesh Rai Vice Chancellor, with heartfelt conviction, captured the essence of this endeavor by quoting the revered poet Maithili Sharan Gupt: "Jis ko na nij kul ka na desh ka abhiman hai, wo nar nahi, nar pashu nira hai..." The words of one of the most important modern Hindi poets and one among the pioneers of Khari Boli remind us that pride in one's heritage and community is integral to the spirit of unity and self-worth. By connecting with our roots, we enrich not only ourselves but also those around us, creating a stronger and more cohesive community.

In alignment with this vision, our Vice Chancellor announced an exciting calendar of cultural events to be organized throughout the year by Utsah—the university's consortium of clubs. Under the vibrant theme of 'Jamburiyat,' these events will highlight and celebrate the distinctive customs, art forms, and folklore that define the Jammu region. The university community can look forward to a journey filled with music, dance, storytelling, and local traditions that bind us to our ancestral legacy.

As we embrace this journey, Jammu University Times will continue to document these initiatives, celebrating the unbreakable bond between our community and its cultural roots. Let us step forward together, honoring the past and building a future that is as proud and vibrant as the land we call home.

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University of Jammu's Societal Outreach: Key Insights from JK Women Science Congress

AYUSHI VERMA, NITIKA SHARMA AND PROF. JYOTI VAKHLU

The University of Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, DST, J&K, hosted the JK Women Science Congress 2024 from 11th to 13th of February 2024. The event was premiered on the "International Day for Women in Sciences," aimed at providing a platform for leaders in the field of science to deliberate upon the challenges faced by women in (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

One might wonder about the need for such an exercise when almost daily one hears stories of women overcoming odds and excelling. However, the answer to this lies in the fact that a woman is still expected to beat odds stacked against her, for no fault of her own. She has to surmount visible and invisible societal rules that deny her a flat, equal world. There is a need because even in this day and age, the odds against a woman succeeding in the field of science are staggeringly stiffer, than for her male counterpart.

Women make up an impressive 43% of the student body in STEM fields in Indian institutions. However, their numbers significantly decline at higher levels, with only about 14% representation as researchers and scientists in their fields. This disparity illustrates a glaring gap in their representation at the higher levels of scientific research. Moreover, the situation is even more pronounced in J&K, where women's representation in STEM stands at a mere 8%.

Lieutenant Governor JKUT and Chancellor, University of Jammu, Shri Manoj Sinha, while addressing the audience at inaugural ceremony, proposed that a book should be written about the women role models in science & technology from J&K, who have made significant contributions in their chosen fields. He expressed the opinion that compiling the triumphs and hurdles, both professional and societal, of these role models, will help young girls chart a successful path in STEM not only in JK but world at large.

When we think of leading scientists in any field, the first names that often come to mind are male pioneers. For instance, Albert Einstein, James Watson, Francis Crick, Steve Jobs, and Bill Gates are more commonly recognized than their female counterparts like Emmy Noether, Rosalind Franklin, Grace Hopper, and Hedy Lamarr. Even closer to home, names like Aryabhata and Charaka are widely known, while female scientists like Lillawati and Janki Ammal are hardly recognized. This disparity persists today, and denying it will not benefit anyone.

It is widely acknowledged that we need a larger workforce in STEM fields. Failing to train women in these fields puts us at an economic disadvantage, adversely affecting our society, country, and the world at large. The rapidly evolving world is unforgiving and has no place for our petty prejudices. STEM fields are crucial for technologically driven progress, and by not making these fields accessible to women, we will be doing a disservice to future generations. One of the core aims of the congress was to raise awareness among girls about the new possibilities offered by science and to instil self-belief in them, to make bold career choices based on their interests and passions.

Under the vision the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, the congress was held in a transdisciplinary mode, with all sessions of different disciplines being held under one roof in the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University. The event was organized under the Conventorship of Prof Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu and co-convener by Prof. Jyoti Vakhlou. The event comprised of the 13 technical sessions and one panel discussion, featuring talks by 14 eminent speakers, faculty discussions by 8 faculty members from sister universities, 13 oral presentations, and 10 flash talks by young researchers. Additionally, more than 100 researchers presented posters at the venue of the congress.

An encouraging and inspirational message sent by Dr. Kalaiselvi first female DG-CSIR in 80 years of its establishment was read in the inaugural session who was to come in person but could not make it due her ill health.

Prof. Vibha Tandon, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata,



in her keynote talk discussed "Women in Science: Past, Present, and Future." Her stirring talk gave the audience a powerful message: "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice." The leading physicist of the country, Prof. Prajval Shastri from Raman Research Institute, talked about "Giant Distant Black Holes," while Prof. Binita Phartiyal, Scientist-F at Birabal Sahni Institute of Palaeo-Sciences, Lucknow, gave a talk on the topic "Unwinding the Mysteries of Climate and Tectonic Interplay in Ladakh and Himalayas: Records Hidden in the Quaternary Sediments of Indus River Catchment," a study close to our hearts. Prof. Riddhi Shah from the School of Physical Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, spoke on applying mathematics to solve complex problems in engineering, physics, and mechanics.

Additionally, Prof. Jasdeep Dhanoa, Head, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technological University for Women, delivered an enlightening presentation on the topic "Spintronics and Magnetic Tunnel Junctions." Senior Prof. Bindu A. Bambah from the School of Physics, University of Hyderabad provided a detailed account of male domination in sciences and underlined the lack of diverse perspective. She deliberated on the status of females in physics, low presentation, lesser awards to females in comparison to their male peers. She also emphasized the need for more representation and advocated for the inclusion of females in all fields of sciences. She pointed out that these fields are often considered masculine, but they do not necessarily require physical strength, only mental ability, which is not the sole preserve of men.

Prof. Karoline Faust, Associate Professor from the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Transplantation, KU Leuven, Campus, Gasthuisberg, Belgium, spoke on gut community dynamics, accompanied by her Indian doctoral student, Ms. Pallabita Saha. The microbiome, as we know, drives everything on this earth, and day by day, its significance in the human body is increasing. This lecture was morally sponsored by the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), a very prestigious organization in life sciences. Additionally, Senior Prof. Paramjeet Khurana from the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi, gave a talk on omics techniques and their application in agriculture and food security. Prof. Khurana's team was associated with the sequencing of genomes of the two most important crops of India, rice and wheat, as a part of the global team. Prof. Neelu Jain Gupta, Head, Department of Zoology, and former Head, Department of Hospital Administration, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, spoke on "Molecular Underpinnings of Circadian Lifestyle Rooted in Indian Knowledge System." The 2017 Nobel Prize was shared by Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, and Michael W. Young on circadian rhythms. This lecture aimed to make the audience aware of how important it is to follow, a lifestyle compatible with the natural circadian rhythm, to live a disease-free wholesome life, something that is forgotten in the rat race of mindless consumerism.

Furthermore, Prof. Kanchan Kour, Surgeon and Senior Director at The Medicity, Gurugram, enlightened the audience about the difficult journey of women in medicine, including that of women surgeons. She elucidated the tale of women's evolution from saint to sinner, the birth of Ayurveda 500 years ago, and notable figures like the first female physician Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi and non-clinical gynaecologists. She opined, if a patient has to choose between a male and a female surgeon, he/she most probably will choose a male surgeon, due to mental bias. This bias needs to be addressed, as there is no data to suggest, that female surgeons perform poorer than male surgeons.

Dr. Vandana Singh, Head of Women in Science and Engineering- KIRAN at the De-

partment of Science and Technology, New Delhi, presented on "Women in Science and Engineering: Challenges and Opportunities." This was an important lecture on awareness for women and girl attendees as the government of India is providing many options and opportunities to women that correspond to their biological responsibilities, as it is only women who can procreate, so far. These initiatives have been taken by the governments world over to either retain or bring back the women who have fallen out due to the so-called "leaky pipeline."

The congress also featured presentations by Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Physical and Mathematical Sciences, University of Kashmir, who discussed "Science for Sustainable Development," shedding light on women's significant contributions to sustainability efforts. Prof. Farooq A. Masoodi, Professor of Food Science and Technology and Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, presented on "Production of Pullulan and Pectin from Apple Pomace," advocating for the valorisation of agro-industrial by-products as a sustainable approach. Additionally, Prof. Gautam Menon, Dean of Research and Professor of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University in Sonapat, addressed the audience on "Why Should We Think About Climate Change," emphasizing the importance of climate awareness. He also talked about the "Science for Women: A Technology and Innovation" Portal, an Initiative of the IAP (Inter Academy Panel of India), Govt of India aimed at bridging the gender gap in science.

University of Jammu proudly provided platform to the young faculty and researchers from the universities of the region, including Cluster University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu, SMVDU, and University of Kashmir, including the University of Jammu. These young researchers, predominantly females complemented these eminent speakers by presenting their work from the same stage, rubbing shoulders with great Indian women scientists. A panel discussion on the topic "Gender inequality: Glass ceiling and sticky floors" that included galaxy of eminent panellists. The panellists from the University of Jammu included Prof. Rajni Dhingra, Department of Home Science, who is former registrar & former DRS; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Department of physics, Dean faculty of Science & Dean Academic Affairs, former Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Prof. Meena Sharma, Department of Chemistry, Dean Planning and Development; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Professor in management and Dean Research Studies, former Director, IIM, Sirmaur; Prof. Seema Langer; HOD Zoology, Dean Life Science and Prof. Vishva Raksha, Department of Sociology and Director, Centre for Women Studies. Former faculty members of University of Jammu; Prof. Rekha Choudhary; former Dean Research Studies and Prof. Poonam Dhawan; former Dean Academic Affairs graced the panel. The panellists from other organizations included Dr. Yasmeen Ashai; Director Colleges, HED J&K, Advocate Seema Khajuria Shekhar; Senior Advocate, High-Court, J&K and former Senior Additional Advocate General and Dr. Nikhil Gupta; former consultant, Department of Psychiatry, ASCOMS, Jammu. The panellists belonged to diverse fields and were not restricted to science with a purpose, as individuals from other fields, particularly political science, law, psychiatry, management, and women's studies, brought their expertise and experiences to the table. This session proved to be very vibrant, as all the panellists shared their personal hurdles and how they overcame them setting an example for others to follow.

To our understanding, bridging the gap in STEM can be achieved by removing stereotypes, showcasing role models, and giving young female researchers a platform to present their ideas and work.

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HERITAGE A TOOL FOR PEACE: THE STORY OF THE BORDERLINE TEHSIL SUCHETGARH

POONAM CHAUDHARY & MONIKA CHOUDHARY

'Heritage for Peace' revolves around the concept of using cultural heritage as a tool for fostering peace, unity, and understanding across communities, especially in areas affected by conflict or social divisions. By preserving and promoting shared heritage—whether it's through historic sites, traditional practices, or cultural festivals—communities can find common ground, build trust, and work toward reconciliation.

Cultural heritage embodies the values, histories, and identities of societies. When promoted as a means for peace, it encourages communities to recognize and appreciate their interconnected pasts, despite differences. This approach aims to transform cultural assets from symbols of division into bridges for unity and understanding, underscoring the importance of shared cultural narratives in peacebuilding. 'Heritage for Peace' promotes the idea that shared heritage—language, art, rituals, and historic monuments—can unite people beyond national or ethnic identities. By focusing on heritage, communities are reminded of their shared values and histories, which can foster reconciliation and empathy. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention highlights how cultural heritage can support community dialogue and cooperation, especially in conflict-prone areas (UNESCO, 1972). Through this convention, UNESCO protects heritage sites embodying universal values, fostering global peace and cultural unity.

Cultural expressions such as music, dance, storytelling, and craft traditions often transcend political boundaries and are shared by neighboring communities. By preserving and promoting these intangible aspects of heritage, communities can celebrate their commonalities and support peaceful interaction. The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) underscores that cultural practices and expressions are vital to the social fabric and can foster inter-community dialogue. This convention has been key in preserving traditions that contribute to cultural identity and unity across diverse groups.

In this context, Suchetgarh tehsil has been chosen to understand the concept of 'Heritage for Peace', as it highlights how rural communities embody rich cultural heritage that can foster peace and unity. This borderline habitation falls in Jammu district which witnesses several disturbances concerning security but life never ends here which is reflected through the heritage of the people living there. The habitation is located in Ranbir Singh Pura (the first modern town of Jammu settled by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 19th c) belt of Jammu region which is not only known for its high-yielding Basmati rice production but is also famous for sharing the international border between India and Pakistan.

The tehsil of Suchetgarh is located at 32.630 North, 74.730 east and an altitude of 333m above sea level. It is nearly 35 km away from Jammu city and 10.3km from RS Pura. Sialkot is 11 km and Lahore is 141 km away from Suchetgarh Octroi post. Encompassing a network of 104 villages, this region forms a vibrant tapestry of interconnected communities. It always remains in the news for its borderline villages i.e. Nai Basti Gulabgarh, Gharana, Gharani, Satowali, Sai-Kalan, Abdullian, Shamka, Chanduchak, Kapoorpur, Korotana, Bega, Rangpur, etc. The communities residing here belong to diverse social backgrounds including locals of Duggar Desh and refugees of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The dominant population is refugees from Bhimber, Mirpur, Deva-Batala, and Chamb. This makes Suchetgarh a symbol of peaceful coexistence and communal harmony showcasing diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. The communities living in this belt are Megh, Chib, Chamyar, Jat, Brahmin, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and various Scheduled Castes (SCs). This blend of cultures has created a unique environment where diverse traditions, customs, and ways of life reflect centuries of shared history and cross-cultural interactions. The distinctive cultural fusion is evident in their attire, lifestyle, food, and language. The refugee population has brought in the language which is a blend of dialects of Punjabi, Pahari, and Dogri whereas the communities other than the refugees living in villages like Kapoorpur, Gharana, Taley, Tibba speak only Dogri. This mixture of communities has not only contributed to the vibrant social fabric of the Suchetgarh area but has created an environment of communal harmony where different cultures coexist. This has served as an inspiration for the younger generation to uphold their cultural identities while fostering unity in diversity.

The region thus, stands out as an ideal starting point for heritage-focused peace-building initiatives. It would not be out of place to mention that before 1947 the railway line between Jammu and Sialkot passed through Suchetgarh signifying the interconnectedness of the communities inhabiting the area. The theme 'Heritage for Peace' is an important tool to promote the idea that cultural heritage is not only about remembering the past but is also about shaping a future grounded in unity, understanding, and shared purpose. By safeguarding and celebrating their diverse cultural heritage, the communities can cultivate spaces for dialogue, respect, and reconciliation, transforming heritage into a cornerstone for lasting peace.

Key Assets of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Suchetgarh tehsil:

Natural Heritage Assets

The natural serene environment of Suchetgarh makes it a place for peacebuilding initiatives, fostering cooperation and resilience in communities facing tensions. The place is famous for 'Gharana Wetland,' a serene habitat for locals as well as for keen bird watchers. It is home to thousands of Siberian migratory birds which migrate to this place during winter from Oc-

tober to March. According to J&K Wildlife Department officials over 50 species of the bar-headed Geese, including some rare and endangered species, every year fly a distance of more than 1000 miles over the Himalayas in a single day to reach here from their breeding grounds in Central Asia and other parts of the World. It has been notified as a protected waterbody and declared an Important Bird Area (IBA). It is being promoted as a significant ecotourism destination.



A Glimpse of Bar-headed geese at Gharana Wetland and Basmati rice fields (Photo courtesy Monika Choudhary)

Cultural Heritage Assets

To demonstrate the harmony between cultural heritage and community engagement in Suchetgarh, we have taken both tangible and intangible elements. The tangible component is represented by the region's monumental heritage and the intangible attributes are showcased through the rich artistic traditions, traditional knowledge systems, lifestyles and folk beliefs of local communities.

• Monumental Heritage

Monumental heritage serves as a medium for peacebuilding as these are the symbols of local identity. Suchetgarh boasts of a rich historical and religious heritage in the form of historic temples, temples dedicated to local deities, Sufi shrines, a historic railway line between Jammu and Sialkot, Octroi Post, and a traditional living Dogra folk village.

These places act as places of spirituality and tranquility promoting social cohesion among diverse communities.

a) Historic temples

Raghunath Ji Temple Complex: The temple is believed to have been constructed at Suchetgarh in 1836 by the Dogra ruler Gulab Singh. According to the priest of the temple Narendra Sharma, Raja Gulab Singh while taking a nap in the Sarai at Suchetgarh had a dream while on his way to Lahore Durbar. Lord Rama came in his dream and asked him to construct Raghunath Ji mandir at that spot. This event marked the construction of Raghunath Ji temple at the border post. The unique feature of this temple is that it has nine doors and according to a local myth, these doors are the way to heaven. The walls of the temple are decorated with miniature paintings of different scenes from Ramayan and Mahabharata. It is a popular tourist destination.



Images of the exterior and interior structure of the Raghunath Ji temple complex. (Photo courtesy Monika Choudhary)

Ancient Hanumanji temple: In front of the Raghunath ji temple complex is the ancient temple of Hanuman ji having a huge statue of the God Hanuman and a high bell.



Ancient Hanumanji temple

(Photo Courtesy: Monika Choudhary)

b) Community Temples

Community temple at village Gharani: Local villagers have constructed the temple for their Biradari (Community) and they organize Jag/tam (reunion of various subcastes from other villages) bi-annually. The locals of the Gharani village believe that their village will remain protected by the deity of this temple from shelling.

c) Temples Dedicated to the Local Deity/Kul Devta/ Kul Devi/ Clan Temple

One can find varied sub-castes of refugees Jats in the villages like Gharani, Sai, Baspur, Chakrohi, Birla, Hansa, Toka, Nikowali etc. The refugee Jat/choudhary community of PoJK is divided into many subcastes such as Randhawas, Dhillon, Bajwa, Heer, Gill, Smotras, Nathyal, Todas, Cheedhi, Bhatti, Sayal, Sandhu,



Smt Kailasho Devi a refugee Jat Biradari narrating the social significance of the community temple.

(Photo Courtesy: Monika Choudhary)

Chahal, etc. They consider their clan name as their sub-caste and they use their clan name as a suffix. They believe in worshipping their clan devta as their revered deity. These refugees have constructed their Kul Devta temples in their respective areas and every six months, they hold a Mel.

Discussed below are the traditional belief systems of local folk regarding their clan gods and goddesses.

Pajjal Devsthan: The term 'pajjal' refers to a local folk clan name of Jat refugees of PoJK. The temple is located at Gharani village. It is dedicated to three folk deities: Bua Mani, Baba Porakh and Baba Sona Shaheed ji. The beauty of this folk religious place is that people of every faith come and offer their prayers. Every Sunday, devotees organize Langar irrespective of caste. It stands as a fine example of harmony and peace between folk heritage and diverse communities.



Snapshot of Pajjal Kuldevi's temple structure's exterior façade and interior deity's sathan and a glimpse of talk with dayala/chela (believed to be deity's messenger among local folk)

Smotra Vansh Temple dedicated to a Smotra clan: The temple is dedicated to Baba Kalpir ji, Raja Mandlik ji, Baba Banka Shaheed Ji, Baba Ram Singh Ji, Mata Sati Ji and Mata Dhali ji. These deities are believed to be protectors of the Samotra clan. Mels are prominent features of the temple.



Smotra Vansh's clan temple and Kul Devta's moharas (stone sculptures meant to worship Kul Devta/ Kul Devi in Duggar land of Jammu region)

d) Sufi Shrines

Baba Neeli Tali Wala: It is believed that the Sufi shrine had its existence before Independence and is presently maintained by Dharmarth Trust Jammu. It is located on the Indo-Pak borderline in Suchetgarh village.



Mazar of Baba Neeli Tali Wala

(Photo Courtesy: Monika Choudhary)

e) Octroi Post: Suchetgarh- Octroi border post, has been developed as a tourism spot by the Tourism Department. The Suchetgarh Border post is approximately 28 km from the main Jammu city. The spot was used for inter-regional trade centers from Jammu to Sialkot and the Chungi (octroi/duty) was levied on items while entering other cities or towns). Since then it has been known as octroi post. Sialkot city is 11 km and Lahore is 141 km from Suchetgarh- Octroi post. The tourism department has developed it as a site for a retreat ceremony. It is a living example of cross-border harmony where the historic significance of the cross-cultural trade post is preserved in the form of cultural programs.



Images show the snapshot of the historic Octroi border post at the International border Suchetgarh (Photo Courtesy: Monika Choudhary)

f) Jammu- Sialkot Historic Railway Line: Prior to 1947, a road and rail link existed between

CONTD ON PG 14

VC congratulates JU contingent for excelling at Convoquer'24 Sports Fest

JAMMU

The prestigious Sports Fest, Convoquer'24, organized by IIT Jammu, successfully unfolded from October 18 to October 22, 2024, bringing together athletes from various educational institutions across the region. This year's fest showcased not only fierce competition but also a celebration of sportsmanship and teamwork, uniting participants in a shared passion for athletic excellence.

The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education participated in the event demonstrating its commitment to promote Sports and Physical fitness among its students. The athletes from the university displayed remarkable skills and dedication, leading to an impressive performance throughout the fest, ultimately securing the Overall Runner-Up Trophy.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor interacted with the university contingent and congratulated them along with coaches for this success. "This event not only showcased their talent but also fostered teamwork and friendship among institutions, promoting a culture of sportsmanship. The dedication displayed by our athletes is a reflection of our University's commitment to excellence in Sports."



During the interaction, Prof. Rai also announced a prize of Rs. 50,000 to the contingent as a token of appreciation for bringing laurels to the University.

Event Highlights, Achievements

The University of Jammu showcased its prowess across a diverse range of sporting events, achieving notable accolades:

- **Athletic Men:Runner-Up** The men's athletic team demonstrated exceptional talent and determination, securing a commendable second place.
- **Athletic Women:**

Winner The women's team excelled in various track and field events, earning the top spot and highlighting the university's strong commitment to female athletic participation.

- **Badminton Men: Winner** The men's badminton team clinched the championship, showcasing strategic play and exceptional teamwork.
- **Badminton Women:**

Winner Mirroring their male counterparts, the women's badminton team also triumphed, emphasizing the university's strength in racquet sports.

- **Basketball Men: Winner** The men's basketball team fought valiantly, earning a well-deserved second place in a highly competitive field.
- **Basketball Women:Winner** The women's basketball team dominated their matches, demonstrating agility and skill, and securing the top prize.

- **Cricket: Winner** The cricket team's outstanding performance led them to victory, reflecting the rich tradition of cricket at the university.
- **Football: Winner** The football team showcased exceptional strategy and athleticism, clinching the championship and proving their mettle on the field.

- **Volleyball Men: Winner** The men's volleyball team secured the top position, displaying remarkable coordination and resilience.
- **Volleyball Women:**

Winner The women's volleyball team also performed admirably, finishing as winners in a competitive bracket.

- **Chess Women:3rd Place** The women's chess team demonstrated tactical brilliance, earning third place in a challenging intellectual contest.
- **Table Tennis Men:Runner-Up** The table tennis

players displayed impressive skills, finishing in second place and contributing to the university's overall success.

Celebrating Sportsmanship and Community

Convoquer'24 was more than just a competitive event; it fostered a spirit of unity and sportsmanship among participants. Athletes had the opportunity to connect with peers from different institutions, share experiences, and build lasting friendships. The event also included workshops and interactive sessions aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental resilience, and healthy competition.

The success of Convoquer'24 underscored the importance of Sports in educational institutions and highlighted the University of Jammu's dedication to nurturing talent in various disciplines. The university aims to continue its legacy of excellence in Sports and engage in more competitions that challenge and inspire its athletes. "We are incredibly proud of our athletes and their remarkable achievements at Convoquer'24," said Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba Director, Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu.

JU employees' team participates in 20th Vice-Chancellors Tournament

JAMMU:

Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Sports and Physical Education, flagged off the University's employees' cricket team to Chandigarh for their participation in the prestigious 20th Vice-Chancellor's Cricket Tournament. The tournament was held from October 15 to October 22, 2024.

Wishing the team success, Dr.Daud Iqbal Baba expressed his confidence in

their abilities and extended his best wishes. He commended Raj Kumar, the team captain, for his leadership and hoped the team would bring laurels to the University with their performance.

On the occasion, Dr. Baba distributed uniforms, sweaters, shoes, and tracksuits to all the players and support staff.

Sumit Sharma, Sr. P.A. to the Vice-Chancellor, was also present during the flagging-off ceremony.



Psychology students perform Nukkad Natak for troops, their families

JAMMU:

The Department of Psychology, in collaboration with the Tiger Gunners, organized a Nukkad Natak (street play) as part of the World Mental Health Day celebrations, held annually on October 10. This year's theme was brought to life through a performance under the guidance of Prof. Sangita Gupta, Head, Department of Psychology and Dean Social Sciences.

The event commenced with an address by Dr. Sarita Sood, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, who stressed the need to shift the focus from mental illness to mental wellness in order to promote a healthier outlook on mental health.

Titled 'Jawaan', the play, written by Sanampreet, gave the troops and their families an insightful glimpse into the life of a soldier, addressing the psychological challenges they often face. Through their moving performance, the students of the Department of Psychology brought attention to everyday mental health struggles and highlighted the importance of timely support



to build mental resilience. The play also tackled the societal stigma surrounding psychological counselling, encouraging openness and understanding.

The performance was widely appreciated by the audience for its relevance and impact. The key takeaway emphasized the necessity of breaking barriers to seeking mental health support and reinforcing the idea that counselling can be instrumental in helping individuals thrive, even in challeng-

ing environments.

In recognition of their commendable efforts, the organizers presented the student team with a memento. This collaborative initiative between the Department of Psychology and the Tiger Gunners underscores the critical importance of mental well-being, particularly within the armed forces, and serves as a positive step towards promoting holistic well being for troops and their families.

EVS, GCTF-JU organises 'Save Tawi Campaign'

JAMMU:

Department of Environmental Sciences and Green Campus Task Force (GCTF-JU) organized the Save Tawi Campaign on the banks of River Tawi on the last day of the Navratri festival to raise awareness about the detrimental impacts of waste disposal, particularly non-biodegradable waste, in the river.

Over 50 students, faculty members, and volunteers participated in this initiative and educated the public and the devotees especially those engaging in the immersion of Khetri/Sakh and other religious items emphasizing the negative environmental consequences of immersing materials other than the sacred "Khetri" into the river and highlighting the important role of river conservation in sustaining life. The students collected the religious materials from the devotees at various entry points near the old Tawi Bridge and segregated them into chunaris, garlands, diyas, polythene bags, earthen pots, etc.

The devotees were encouraged to take away Chunaris and earthen pots for reuse and offer water to birds in their houses. It is pertinent to mention that the Save Tawi Campaign initiative was taken by the Department of Environmental Sciences in the year 2013 and since then the Department has been organizing this event twice a year every year during the culmination of the Navratri festival. Every year, individuals from diverse backgrounds enthusiastically join the campaign, offering strong support to the initiative. Over the past decade, members of civil society and various NGOs have increasingly recognized the significance of the "Save Tawi Campaign," and their participation has grown, reflecting widespread appreciation for the cause. The students of the department also conducted a study to assess the impact and effectiveness of the "Save Tawi Campaign". Feedback was gathered from the devotees to evaluate their awareness level and the campaign's success in promoting responsible behaviour towards the conservation of River Tawi. Dr. Deepika Slathia, was the teacher Incharge of the event and the event was coordinated by Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu. Among others who participated in the event included Dr. Rakesh Kumar Atri, Dr. Meenakshi Khajuria, and Dr. Ranjan Sharma.



Bhaderwah Campus holds introductory session for BCA students

BHADERWAH:

The Department of Computer Science, Bhaderwah Campus, organized an introductory session to welcome the fresher students of the Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) program.

The event was attended by faculty members of the department, along with students from MCA 1st and 3rd semesters and BCA 3rd and 5th semesters.

In a congratulatory message, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof. J P Singh Joorel, extended his warm welcome to the new students and exhorted them to excel in their academic journey to become ambassadors of computer science.

Prof. Joorel emphasized the importance of maintaining discipline within the campus to foster a productive learning environment.

Dr. Jatinder Manhas, former Head, MCA Department and Associate Director of the 'Design Your Course' Program, also shared his thoughts with the students. He encouraged them to take full advantage of the experienced faculty and resources at the department. He highlighted the Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Computer Science, Bhaderwah Campus, and IHub Divyasampark, IIT Roorkee, which aims to enhance collaborative opportunities in the field of technology and innovation.

Dr. Abid Sarwar, Incharge Head, Department of Computer Science, Bhaderwah Campus, provided an overview of the facilities available to the students, urging them to work hard and make both the department and the campus proud. His motivational speech resonated with the students, setting the tone for the academic year ahead.

Faculty members Dr. Neeraj Kumar, Bablu Sharma, Shalu Kotwal and Waseem Akram also addressed the students, offering words of encouragement and guidance for their academic pursuits.

The event saw the presence of notable attendees, including Waseem Akram, Yasar Ali, Arham Saba, Chander Deep, and Parvesh Singh. The introductory session was a valuable opportunity for new students to familiarize themselves with the department, its faculty, and the resources available to them as they embark on their journey in computer science education.

Kishtwar Campus organises induction program

KISHTWAR:

The Information Technology and Kashmiri Department, Kishtwar Campus organized an induction program to welcome the newly admitted students. This event aimed at introducing the freshers to the campus environment and foster a sense of community among students and staff.

A notable highlight of the event was the distribution of laptop bags to the students by Prof. Jasbir Singh, Director, Kishtwar Campus. This gesture was warmly received by the students symbolizing the institution's commitment to supporting their academic journey.

The event commenced with an address by Prof. Jasbir Singh, who welcomed the students and highlighted the numerous opportunities and facilities available on campus. He encouraged the students to fully utilize the resources provided and to actively engage in their academic and personal development. He also expressed his appreciation for the IT Department's efforts in organizing the event and emphasized the importance of technology in today's educational landscape. He stressed the necessity of promoting the Kashmiri language, advocating for collective action to preserve and encourage its use in both academic and social contexts.

The induction program provided a platform for students to interact with faculty and peers, creating a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. Faculty members also shared words of encouragement, emphasizing the campus's commitment to provide a supportive learning environment.

The event concluded with an interactive session, during which students shared their aspirations and expectations for their time at Kishtwar Campus, marking the beginning of their academic journey.



Certificate course for jail inmates launched at Bhaderwah Campus



BHADERWAH:

In a significant step towards empowering incarcerated individuals, Bhaderwah Campus, held a two-month Computer Certificate Course for the inmates of District Jail Bhaderwah. The initiative, aimed at providing skill-based education to the inmates, was launched in an impressive function held at the jail premises.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, who formally inaugurated the course. Also present on the occasion were Superintendent of District Jail Bhaderwah, Hamiduillah Naik, I/C Head of Computer Science Bhaderwah Campus Dr. Abid Sarwar, along with other officials from the Campus and District Jail.

In his address, Prof. Joorel emphasized the significance of skill development program, like this, highlighting their potential to transform lives. "Such skill-based courses can become a source of livelihood for those who take advantage of them. This initiative is not just about learning computers, but about equipping individuals with skills that can lead to future employment opportunities or entrepreneurial ventures," he said and commended Superintendent Hamiduillah Naik for his dedication and efforts in organizing activities aimed at the welfare of inmates.

Superintendent, Hamiduillah Naik, expressed his gratitude to Prof. Joorel and Bhaderwah Campus for their continuous support and collaboration. He underscored the importance of such initiatives in rehabilitating inmates and helping them reintegrate into society post-release.

"District Jail Bhaderwah has undertaken several welfare initiatives recently, and this computer course is part of our ongoing efforts to provide inmates with opportunities that can help them build a better future," he added.

Dr. Abid Sarwar, I/C Head, Computer Science, delivered the welcome address and presented a detailed overview of the certificate course. He outlined the various components of the program, which will equip the participants with fundamental computer skills, offering them a foundation to build upon after their release.

It is pertinent to mention that last year, a batch of jail inmates successfully completed a similar certificate course, and they were awarded certificates by the Computer Science Department, Bhaderwah Campus. This program was led by the then I/C Head Dr. Jatinder Manhas, and it laid the groundwork for continued efforts to provide inmates with valuable skillsets.

Present on the occasion were, Bubl Sharma Coordinator of the course, Arif Haleem Khateeb ERO Bhaderwah, Wasim Akram besides students, jail inmates and officials of District Jail Bhaderwah.

Training workshop on "Gomaya Creation: A Vedic Fusion of Tradition and Innovation" held at Udhampur Campus



UDHAMPUR:

The Udhampur Campus (Garnai-Lotta) organized a one-day workshop titled "Gomaya Creation: A Vedic Fusion of Tradition and Innovation," promoting sustainable practices by blending traditional wisdom with modern innovation.

The workshop was organized under the concept of 'Indigenous Products' envisaged by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu. The workshop aligned with the Viksit Bharat Abhiyan 2047 and the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative, encouraging participants to adopt plastic-free lifestyles and incorporate eco-conscious practices rooted in Indian traditions and values.

Manohar Lal Sharma, a Master Trainer in low-cost indigenous technologies and Pandit Vijay Raina, Incharge Go Sewa Trust for Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, were the resource persons. During the workshop, the resource persons shared profound insights into the benefits of Indian cows highlighting qualities of their milk, ghee, curd, urine, and dung collectively serving multiple purposes for health, agriculture, and sustainability. Focusing on the concept of sustainable Goal 3 of promoting 'Good Health and Well-Being', Pandit Raina explained that Indian cow's milk, curd, and ghee are not only nutritious but also possess medicinal properties, contributing to a balanced diet and overall well-being.

"Cow urine and dung have significant agricultural, medicinal, and environmental uses, serving as natural fertilizers, pest repellents, and ingredients in Ayurvedic remedies", he informed the participants.

During the hands-on training session, Manohar Lal Sharma provided training to the students and faculty members of Udhampur Campus to craft various items, such as diyas, key-chains, decorative objects, doop sticks, incense holders, clock and mirror frames, shree chakra designs, door hangings, etc. out of the dough mixture containing cow dung, multi-



nimitti (fuller's earth), and a binder, enabling them to create various unique and artistic products. He also elaborated on the antimicrobial properties of cow dung and its usefulness in organic farming and pest control. He emphasized the biodegradable nature of cow dung-based products, which offer eco-friendly alternatives to plastic.

The participants also explored the role of cow dung in bio-energy projects and sustainable construction, showcasing its value in achieving environmental goals.

The products made during the workshop reflected how traditional materials can be effectively utilized in innovative sustainable solutions.

Earlier, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector, Udhampur Campus, virtually expressed his appreciation thanking the resource persons, participants, and organizing team for their enthusiastic involvement in the workshop. He reaffirmed the Udhampur Campus's commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and environmental consciousness, inspiring students and the community to contribute meaningfully towards a greener and more sustainable future.

Proceedings of the workshop were conducted by Dr. Ritika Sambyal, faculty, Udhampur Campus

Law School students gain valuable perspectives on cure, care and correction during jail visit

JAMMU:

The Students of The Law School recently had a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience of prison administration and issues surrounding crime, punishment and rehabilitation during a visit to District Jail Ambphalla, Jammu. The contingent, comprising eighty-two eager participants, was accompanied by faculty members Dr. Monica Narang Coordinator, Dr. Renu Jamwal, Dr. Upasana Sharma, and Dr. Vandita Sharma.

This visit aimed to provide budding lawyers with an authentic understanding of the criminal justice system. The students engaged enthusiastically with both prison officials and inmates. The liaison officers offered valuable insights into the history and significant aspects of prison administration, guiding the students through various facilities, including prison cells, the kitchen, bakery, and more.

A particularly impactful moment was when students visited the gallows, a poignant reminder of the gravity of capital punishment. The visit highlighted the prison's role not just as a place of confinement, but as an institution focused on reformation. The prison administrative authorities



have implemented vocational training programs, offering skills in carpentry, tailoring, book-binding, candle making, and embroidery. Students were also impressed by the artwork created by inmates, which reflected their concerns about the environment and local heritage.

Additionally, the group explored the prison hospital and counselling centre, observing the healthcare facilities available to inmates. The prison houses a legal aid clinic that provides free legal assistance to deserving cases. The students assured the authorities of their commitment to contribute to this initiative.

This visit proved to be an in-

valuable educational experience, igniting the spirits of students as they recognized the challenges faced by both officers and inmates. A memorable aspect of the day was a recreational program conducted by under trial prisoners, showcasing the prison's rehabilitative approach.

The entire visit was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School, with support from Superintendent Harish Kotwal and the dedicated staff of the jail. This initiative not only enriched the students' understanding but also reinforced the importance of compassion and reform in the justice system.

DLL organizes workshop on entrepreneurship, communication skills at GDC Sidhra



JAMMU:

The Department of Lifelong Learning, in collaboration with Government Degree College, Sidhra, organized a one-day workshop on entrepreneurship, self-employment, and communication skills. The initiative aligns with the vision of the Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, to enhance the employability skills of youth, equipping them to become job creators rather than job seekers. The workshop was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning and Prof. G.S. Rakwal, Principal, Government Degree College, Sidhra. In his welcome address, Prof. Rakwal emphasized the importance of skill development for students, stating that it lays a strong foundation, encourages independent thinking, and motivates them to plan for their future. He praised the DLL's efforts in organizing the workshop for the benefit of the students. Dr. Priyanka Sharma, in her address, highlighted the significance of self-employment and the vital role of communication skills in making students more proficient and confident. She stressed that strong communication skills are not only essential for career success but also play a crucial role in education and social interaction. Dr. Sharma also discussed changing global employment trends and the need for youth to be prepared to meet these challenges. Zahid Ali Dar, Incharge CIIBM, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Jammu, the special resource person, provided insights into start-ups and entrepreneurship, and Neetu Dhar, Chief Coordinator and Master Trainer JKDCUL, Jammu, who conducted interactive sessions on body language, postures, and communication techniques. She engaged students in activities aimed at improving their communication skills. Dr. Rewa Khajuria coordinated the workshop, highlighting its objectives, while Dr. Anu Sharma, Coordinator, Career Counselling Cell of the College managed the proceedings. Prof. Nisha delivered the vote of thanks. The workshop saw the participation of approximately 62 students.

Organ donation awareness session by NSS Unit, TLS

JAMMU:

The Law School NSS Unit-III, in collaboration with the Coordinator NSS Office, organized an impactful organ donation pledge event aimed at raising awareness about the critical need for organ donation to save lives and improve the quality of life for those suffering from life-threatening illnesses. The sensitization program featured key speakers, including RJ Juhee from Big 92.7 FM and Anshu Sharma from the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO).

The program began with a formal introduction by Dr. Mrinalini Atrey, who highlighted the importance of this collaboration for the noble cause of organ donation. RJ Juhee set an engaging tone for the event by involving students in a role-playing exercise that addressed common myths and facts about organ donation. She emphasized that while countries like Spain, USA, and China have made significant strides in organ donation, India has also achieved notable progress in recent years. Juhee passionately urged participants to pledge that no life in India should be lost due to shortage of organs. Anshu Sharma, Consultant, IEC/Media, SOTTO, J&K shared valuable insights about the national organ transplant programme under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. She encouraged attendees to actively participate in the organ donation pledge as part of the Ayushman Bhav initiative. Earlier Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School emphasised the importance of public sensitization and the development of a comprehensive support system to motivate individuals toward organ donation. The program saw enthusiastic participation from over 150 students from The Law School and the Directorate of Sports & Physical Education, University of Jammu, and was coordinated by Dr. Monika Bhardwaj, PO, NSS and Dr. Mrinalini Atrey. The event successfully raised awareness and encouraged a commitment to organ donation among the student community.



Gender sensitization workshop organised



JAMMU:

The Centre for Women's Studies organized Gender Sensitization workshop for the students and scholars of the Department of Botany. Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, was the resource person. She spoke on the theme: "Gender Sensitization and Gender Equality: An overview". Through her presentation she explained the concept of sex and gender and further elaborated on the concept of different gender roles and Stereotypes. She also explained the concept of patriarchy and said how patriarchy leads to various issues related to women's issues like: domestic violence, harassment, dowry, deaths, etc. While interacting with the participants, she also explained the

different forms of violence and harassment that women face in their day-to-day life.

Prof. Susheel Verma, Head, Department of Botany, spoke about the importance of such workshops and applauded the efforts of the Centre.

While explaining the importance of this workshop, he also shared his personal experiences to make the participants understand the importance of gender socialization and said how we can bring change in the patriarchal mindset with a small gesture of work sharing at home.

Dr. Saranjit Kaur, faculty, Centre for Women's Studies explained the workings of the Centre. Further, she described the importance of conducting such workshops and threw light

on the efforts taken by the Centre to create gender awareness among on-campus students and scholars of the University. Prof. Namrata Sharma, Faculty, Department of Botany, also shared her personal experiences.

Ms. Kunzang Angmo conducted the program and Dr. Saranjit Kaur presented the formal vote of thanks. Dr. Skarma Nonzom, faculty, Department of Botany coordinated the program.

A large number of students, scholars and faculty members from the Department of Botany very enthusiastically participated in the workshop. Among others who were present included Prof. Venu Kaul, Dr. Geeta, Associate Professor and Dr. Skarma Nonzom.

Rubroo: A literary interaction, felicitation, and book release event organised

JAMMU:

The Department of Punjabi in collaboration with the Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Jammu, hosted "Rubroo," a special literary event to honor the acclaimed Punjabi poet, fiction writer, and filmmaker, Dr. Baljit Singh Raina. The event also marked the release of his latest novel, "Muhabbat."

The gathering was graced by several distinguished guests, with Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar as the Chief Guest.

The event was presided over by Amarjit Singh Grewal, a well-known Punjabi author and intellectual. Guests of Honour included Dr. Manmohan, an IPS Officer and respected poet and professor at Guru Nanak Dev Univer-



sity, Amritsar, along with Sawarnjeet Singh Savi, Chairman Punjab Art Council. Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Head, Department of Punjabi, welcomed the audience and dignitaries, highlighting the department's various academic and literary initiatives. She also acknowledged the collaborative

efforts with other prominent literary organizations that made the event possible. Dr. Harsimran Singh provided an insightful overview of "Muhabbat," Dr. Raina's novel, emphasizing its themes of love, separation, and the ideological differences between India and Pakistan. The



novel also explores the impact of the 1947 partition on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Literary figures praised Dr. Raina's work for its deeply emotional and thought-provoking narrative. The event concluded with a strong sense of accomplishment, celebrating Dr. Raina's vast contribu-

tions to Punjabi literature while sparking meaningful discussions around love, identity, and the human experience.

Prof. Baljeet Kour coordinated the event, with Dr. Harjinder Singh co-coordinating and hosting the proceedings. The event drew participation from university faculty, officers, scholars, students, and notable literary personalities from various languages, making "Rubroo" and the book release a resounding success.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. Pritam Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to the guests and participants for their valuable contributions to the promotion of Punjabi literature.

DLL holds workshop on communication skills, self-employment at GDC, Purmandal

JAMMU:

In alignment with the vision of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, the Department of Lifelong Learning organized one-day workshop on "Communication skills and Self employment" in Govt. Degree College, Purmandal, Jammu.

The workshop was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning and Prof. C.K. Khajuria, Principal, GDC Purmandal.

In her inaugural address, Dr. Priyanka apprised the students about the importance of communication skills in both formal and informal life settings. She explained that the journey to be self-employed is the best path to transform your passion into a source of income. She also explained about the mandate and range of activities undertaken by the Department of Lifelong Learning.

The main objectives of the workshop were to enable the students to learn skills of communication so that they can communicate with precision and clarity and also to enable them to learn the skills that help in becoming self employed.



The special resource person of the workshop was Neetu Dhar, Chief Coordinator and Master Trainer JKDCUL, Jammu. She detailed the students about components of formal and informal communication skills. She also involved the students in various activities for enhancing their communication skills.

The second resource person, Pankaj, Sasan, Assistant Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Jammu apprised the students about Self employment opportunities, start ups and Govt. Schemes and loans. He also apprised the youth about dynamics

of our UT like Entrepreneur avenues. The workshop was co-ordinated by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, Department of Lifelong Learning.

About 52 students of the college very enthusiastically participated in the workshop.

Prof. Shahima Akhter, Convener Career Counselling Cell of the college conducted the programme. Among others presented were Dr Sunita Devi, Prof. Lakshmi Sohan, Prof. Pallavi, Prof. Preeti Rachna and Dr. Jatinder Kour. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Shahima Akhter.

Science Club 'Utsaah' spreads awareness about mental health at workplaces



JAMMU:

The Science Club 'Utsaah', in collaboration with the Skill Innovation Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), University of Jammu, hosted a special event to commemorate World Mental Health Day. The theme for this year was, "Mental Health at the Workplace". Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean, Business Studies and Director, SIIEDC encouraged the organisers for such programs and its need in today's fast-paced work environments. World Health Organization is joining forces with partners to emphasize the critical link between mental health and employment on this World Mental Health Day. Workplaces that are safe and healthful can also protect mental wellness. Unhealthy environments can have serious consequences, impacting mental health, general quality of life, and ultimately participation or productivity at work. These include stigma, discrimination, exposure to hazards like harassment, and other unfavourable working conditions. The event was conducted by Dr Chinmoyee Maharana, Coordinator, Science Club, Utsaah, University of Jammu for spreading awareness among youth who are the future of tomorrow regarding importance of mental health and holistic growth. She gave examples from diverse fields, shared insights on the impact of mental health on workplace dynamics. She further emphasized the need for building resilience, encouraging open conversations about mental health challenges, and implementing workplace policies that promote well-being and prevent burnout. Event was well perceived by the participants, who took part enthusiastically in the discussion, and understood the need to prioritize mental health in their professional and personal lives, fostering a more empathetic and supportive workplace culture.

Students stage Nukkad Natak at MCH Gandhi Nagar



JAMMU:

In observance of World Mental Health Day, celebrated annually on October 10, the Department of Psychology under the guidance of Prof. Sangita Gupta, Head Department of Psychology and Dean Social Sciences, hosted Mental Health Week. The initiative aimed to educate the public about the importance of mental health and the value of counselling services. This year's theme for World Mental Health Day, 'Mental Health at Work,' highlighted how the workplace can profoundly affect mental well-being. While work can offer a sense of purpose, self-worth, and social connection, it can also be a source of stress and anxiety, contributing to mental health issues.

As part of this awareness campaign, the students of the Department of Psychology performed a compelling Nukkad Natak at the Maternity and Child Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, and at the Outpatient Department of Govt. Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The event was coordinated by Dr. Sarita Sood, Assistant Professor, and supervised by faculty members of the department, centered on the theme 'Open Minds, Open Hearts.' It aimed to educate hospital staff, patients, and the public about mental health, the prevention of mental health disorders, and the importance of seeking professional help.

Through their powerful performance, the students emphasized the need to prioritize mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding it. They conveyed how open conversations about mental well-being can dispel myths, encourage individuals to seek support, and build a sense of community. The engaging mix of entertainment and education attracted a large audience, successfully highlighting the shared responsibility of maintaining mental health.

On the occasion, Dr. Arun Sharma, Medical Superintendent of Maternity & Child Hospital, Gandhi Nagar; Dr. Hamid Zargar, Medical Superintendent of Govt. Hospital, Gandhi Nagar; Dr. Balvinder Singh, Deputy Medical Superintendent; Dr. Megha Sharma, Medical Officer; Ms. Bhanupriya, Counselor; and Dr. Ruchi Sasan, Psychiatric Social Worker were also present.

DSRS organizes special lecture on "Indus Water Treaty: Emerging India's Concerns"

JAMMU:

The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies organized a special lecture on "Indus Water Treaty (: Emerging India's Concerns."

Former Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir Dr S P Vaid (IPS) was the Chief Guest on the occasion while eminent journalist Sant Kumar Sharma gave a detailed presentation on the Indus Water Treaty. Prof VirenderKoundal, Director Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS) dwelt on the theme of the special lecture.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Dr. S.P. Vaid stressed on the challenges India faces due to Pakistan's actions, including terrorism, counterfeit currency, and narco-terrorism, alongside hindrances in modifying the Indus Water Treaty. He emphasized the need for a timely review of the treaty in India's national interest.

In a detailed presentation, the Resource Person Sant Kumar Sharma shared his insights on India's recent notices under Article XII (3) of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960, the latest of which was issued to Pakistan on August 31, 2024. He said that Article XII of the treaty allows for modifications, though none have been made since its signing in 1960.

He said Article XII, the last article of the Treaty, is called Final Provisions and it envisages 'modification of the Treaty from time to time'. It reads: The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments." So far, after its signing in September 1960, the Treaty has not been modified even once in last 64 years. Despite hiccups, the two sides were carrying on with it and never sought any changes or modification. Due to Pakistan's repeated attempts to stall hydel power projects, mostly on the Chenab, India has decided to invoke the relevant article for



modification of the Treaty. This is not something outside the Treaty and well within its ambit as the provision for its modification lies within, he added.

He further said: "Why was India forced to invoke Article XII of the Treaty when things were proceeding all right with Pakistan? No, this is a wrong impression that things were moving smoothly between the two sides all these years. Around a decade back, India intimated Pakistan about Kishen ganga hydel project in Gurez and Ratle project on Chenab in Kishtwar. Pakistan object to both these projects and issues escalated from there onwards." "Incidentally, the Treaty provides for a dispute resolution mechanism under Article IX. There is a three-stepped approach that has to be followed. At the first level, Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) tries to address 'questions' by mutual consultations. At the second level, a Neutral Expert resolves 'differences' by his intervention and hearing both sides. At the third level, a Court of Arbitration (CoA) is appointed which gives its verdict." "In Kishenganga and Ratle cases, Pakistan has initiated both step 2 and step 3 of the dispute resolution mechanism. India has taken this as a breakdown of the Treaty saying hearings in two forums simultaneously cannot be undertaken.

What if Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration (step 2 and step 3) give different verdicts? Whose verdict will have to be implemented?" "India is participating in the proceedings before the Neutral Expert but boycotted the actions taken by the Court of Arbitration (CoA). These actions by Pakistan of simultaneously starting step 2 and step 3 of the dispute resolution mechanism have been termed violative of the Treaty by India."

The lecture was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where scholars and students raised questions about the treaty and its implications for India. Prof. Virender Koundal presented mementos to the Chief Guest and the speaker in appreciation of their contributions.

Earlier, the event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and tributes to Bharat Mata and Saraswati Mata by Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS), Prof. Virender Koundal and Sant Kumar Sharma, among other dignitaries.

The event was attended by faculty members, including Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Dr. Surinder Mohan, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra, and Dr. Ranjan Sharma, as well as non-teaching staff, postgraduate students, and research scholars from DSRS. Dr. Ganesh Malhotra gracefully conducted the proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks to conclude the session.

FROM PG 1

Our research, creation

Department of Zoology, University of Jammu and Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology to explore cutting-edge advancements in Endocrinology and other crucial fields. Referring to India's emergence as a global leader in healthcare, the Lt Governor said, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has seen tremendous improvement in healthcare research and development. The way India handled Covid Pandemic and also helped the world through "Vaccine Maitri" is exemplary, he added. Today the superior research capabilities of India in various sectors are now acknowledged and appreciated across the world. Scientists in both traditional systems and modern medicine are working together to meet the challenges of lifestyle diseases, mental and reproductive health, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor shared the socio-economic reforms introduced in various sectors over the past few years in J&K UT. In the last 5 years, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with his commitment to peace, job creation, entrepreneurship, sustainable growth and a relentless push for infrastructure development, changed J&K's destiny. The Lt Governor also lauded the University of Jammu for leading the change in the education sector in the UT of Jammu Kashmir. On the occasion, the Lt Governor unveiled the bust of saviour of Jammu Kashmir, Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC (Posthumous). He also released the abstract book of the Conference. Around 150 participants from across India and abroad participating in the 4-day Conference includes faculty, researchers, and students from leading universities and research institutes of India representing Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Northern states Punjab, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Bengal, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and other states of India while 06 international delegates are representing Canada, Portugal, Japan, Belgium, United States and Germany. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Bechan Lal, President Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology, Prof. Suraj Unniappan, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Prof. Seema Langer, HoD Zoology (Convener of the Conference); former Vice Chancellors, Scientists, Researchers, HoDs, faculty members and students were present.

VC inaugurates Virtual Herbarium

botanical resources, noting that this advancement enhances the University of Jammu's reputation on the global stage. He highlighted that the Virtual Herbarium is a significant step forward in preserving and sharing plant knowledge, particularly in light of the earlier digitization of campus flora through QR codes. Prof. Rai expressed pride in the University's recent achievement of ranking 50th in 2024 and voiced confidence that, with initiatives like this, the university will soon be among the top 20 institutions nationwide. Additionally, he announced financial assistance to the tune of INR 10 lakh from the University's internal resources for the development of Botanical Garden and herbarium. Prof. Rai formally inaugurated the digital herbarium, exploring its database of plant names and families.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma discussed the significance of botanical gardens and herbariums, mentioning the department's affiliations with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), UK, and the Index Herbariorum, New York. He commended the university's commitment to achieving this feat despite limited resources. Prof. Meena Sharma praised the department's forward-thinking approach, stating that it positions the University as a leader in accessible, knowledge-based resources, while Prof. Anju Bhasin highlighted the urgent need for plant conservation and applauded the department's globally accessible plant collections within the Botanical Garden and herbarium. Earlier, Prof. Verma in his welcome address introduced the distinguished guests to the principles behind the automated scanning facility, underscoring the global importance of virtual herbaria in spreading knowledge of regional flora. Prof. Verma highlighted that only a select number of herbaria worldwide are digitized and available online, and noted that the University of Jammu is the first institution in Jammu and Kashmir to fully digitize its herbarium—a milestone enabled by Prof. Rai's visionary leadership. He also referenced the Indian Virtual Herbarium initiative launched by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav in 2022 and supported by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Mann Ki Baat, which has encouraged nationwide digitization efforts. On the occasion, certificates of appreciation were also awarded to the contributors involved in the digitization and QR code development. Dr. Harish Chander Dutt delivered the vote of thanks, and Dr. Romica Verma conducted the event proceedings. The ceremony was attended by faculty members, including Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Veenu Kaul, Dr. Sikander Pal, Dr. Geeta, Dr. Abhishek Dutta, Prof. Sanjana Kaul, Director, School of Biotechnology, Ravi Kant Verma, Computer Programmer, Examination Wing, as well as non-teaching staff, research scholars, and students.

2-day Int'l Conference on

empirical research, focusing on India's international engagements, particularly with Central Asia. He underscored the importance of academic dialogues in enhancing India's strategic, cultural, and economic ties with the region.

The inaugural session of the International Conference, organised by the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, was held at the seminar hall of the Department of Environment Sciences. The conference aimed to encourage dialogue and revitalize the longstanding connections between India and Central Asia, strengthening bonds that span centuries. On the occasion, a message from Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, who is the Chancellor of the University of Jammu, expressing his support for the conference and highlighting the significance of India's ties with Central Asia, was read out by Dr. Surinder Mohan, Assistant Professor, DSRS. Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, in his address, stressed on promoting collaborative research and policy-oriented dialogue to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation between India and Central Asia. Padma Shree Prof. K.N. Pandita, a renowned scholar, in his Keynote address spoke on the historical connections between India and Central Asia. He observed that in the ancient period, India was not connected with Central Asia only through its trade and economic activities, but also, through its linguistic, cultural and religious interactions and cooperation. The impact of India's civilization on Central Asia can be seen in the languages of these countries as their vocabulary is influenced by India's Sanskrit language, symbols, artefacts and monuments, he added. Prof. Pandita said that after 1947, India's connectivity and cooperation comparatively declined. However, now in the present times, efforts are being made to reinvigorate these ties with India joining the SCO and India organising International Buddhist Conference to remind the country's Buddhist connections with the Central Asian countries. Prof. Pandita suggested how these relationships can be further leveraged in the current global context. The Guest of Honour of the event Ashutosh Bhatnagar, Director, Jammu Kashmir Study Centre, New Delhi talked about the contemporary economic, strategic and security imperatives prevailing at regional and global level which necessitate closer collaboration between India and Central Asia. Prof. Virender Koundal, Director, DSRS, University of Jammu, in his welcome address emphasized the importance of India's relations with Central Asia, in the historical, cultural and strategic contexts. Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Organizing Secretary of the Conference and a faculty member of the DSRS, University of Jammu, while introducing the theme and objectives of the conference, highlighted the evolving geopolitical landscape and the renewed focus on India-Central Asia cooperation in areas like trade, security, and cultural exchange. Dr. Suneel Kumar from the Department of Strategic and Regional Studies, University of Jammu, delivered a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and organizing teams for their contributions to the conference. This two-day conference was organised in the hybrid mode in which various scholars from different Indian academic institutions and Central Asian countries especially from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will participate in the different academic sessions, panel discussions, and paper presentations to explore the historical and contemporary aspects of India-Central Asia relations. Eminent academicians, research scholars and students of Jammu University including Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Prof. Pawan Kumar, Prof. Prakash Chand Antahal, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Prof. Sunita Sharma, Prof. Anil Gupta, Prof. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Madhulika Singh, Dr. Suman, Dr. Tarsem Lal, Dr. Jivan Jyoti, Dr. Saya Priya, Dr. Vikram Sahi, Dr. Tarsem Singh, Dr. Tilak Sharma, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Dr. Anu Mankotia, Dr. Anju Bala also attended the inaugural session of the conference. Apart from this, Brig. S. S. Katoch and Col. Manish Sharma, 16 Corps, Indian Army, Nagrota also attended the conference and extended their best wishes to the DSRS for organising such productive academic events having huge relevance for India's national strategic and security interests.

Festival embodies light,

of organizing this event under "Jamburiyat," underscoring the need for cultural pride and connection. Quoting Maithili Sharan Gupta's verse, "Jisko na nij kul ka na desh ka abhiman hai, wo nar nahi, nar pashu nira hai, aur mritak saman hai", he said taking pride in one's heritage enriches both the individual and community.

The Vice Chancellor announced that throughout the year, various events will be organized by Utsah-the clubs consortium under the 'Jamburiyat' theme to celebrate and promote the vibrant culture of the Jammu region.

The celebration was marked by the lighting of 2,100 Diyas, a symbol of the triumph of light over darkness, and by soulful musical performances by talented students, which added a rich cultural vibrancy to the festival of lights. Those who performed included Guneet Singh and Nandani Kapoor alumni of the University of Jammu, Arpana Kumari and Shivani, students of Institute of Music and Fine Arts under the guidance of Sh. Suraj Singh. Music accompanists were Andrew, Sahil Sandhu, Sagar Katoch and Kain Sotra. Special performances featured singing by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Dr. Neeraj Shama, Gurmed Singh Sandhu, Swati Vijay, Tushar and a poem recital by Madan Magotra. Earlier, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, warmly welcomed the participants and shared Diwali's message of reflection and unity. Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Commit-

tee, extended a vote of thanks, appreciating the organizing team, especially the students, for their efforts in making the event memorable. Swati Vijay conducted the proceedings while sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. Among others present on the occasion included Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Prof. Sarika Manhas, co-Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, Prof. Parmil Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Jitender Khajuria, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Dr. A. R. Manhas, Dr. Shalu Sharma, Suraj Singh, Rajesh Sharma members of the Campus Cultural Committee, officers, teachers, staff, scholars and students.

Two-day national seminar on

and political contributions of the Dogra dynasty have often been side-lined and called for more concerted scholarly efforts to bring these stories to the forefront. In an exciting announcement, Dr. Singh revealed plans to organize a national seminar next year focusing on Raja Amar Singh, furthering the initiative to explore and celebrate the rich history of the Dogra rulers. In his presidential remarks, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, commended the organizers for hosting such a significant event, while extending a warm welcome to Dr. Karan Singh and the esteemed members of the royal family. He emphasized the importance of revisiting history to reclaim the cultural heritage and identity of the Jammu region. Prof. Rai also stressed the need to restructure the academic curriculum to reflect this renewed focus. Furthermore, he called upon civil society to actively participate in this important endeavour, highlighting that collective efforts are crucial for preserving and promoting the region's rich legacy.

Earlier, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Head, Department of History delivered a welcome address. Prof. Jamwal, highlighted how the life and contributions of Maharaja Pratap Singh have been historically overlooked and marginalized. She also addressed the negative portrayal of Maharaja Pratap Singh in western historiography, calling for a re-evaluation of his legacy. She emphasized that this seminar aims to restore Maharaja Pratap Singh to his rightful place in history, shedding light on his significant yet underappreciated role in shaping the region's socio-political and cultural landscape.

Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Seminar Director, while speaking on the occasion, underscored the importance of scholarly discourse in re-evaluating Maharaja Pratap Singh's legacy within the broader framework of India's national history. He called for a critical re-examination of the Maharaja's reign, highlighting the need to recognize his pivotal contributions to the socio-economic, political, and cultural transformation of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Lal emphasized that understanding the true impact of Maharaja Pratap Singh's leadership is essential for appreciating his enduring influence on the region's historical narrative.

In his keynote address, Ashutosh Bhatnagar urged the need to challenge entrenched colonial narratives and restore a more balanced historical perspective, emphasizing the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir's rightful place in Indian history. He elaborated on the significant contributions of the Dogra dynasty in shaping the nation, stressing that their role has often been overlooked or misrepresented. Bhatnagar called for a fresh rewriting of Jammu and Kashmir's history, free from colonial biases, to ensure that the region's rich heritage and the legacy of its rulers are accurately portrayed and appreciated.

A key highlight of the event was the release of the book "Life and Legacy of Maharaja Ranbir Singh", co-edited by Prof. Suman Jamwal, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, and Dr. Sushma Jamwal. The book was officially unveiled by Dr. Karan Singh, alongside members of the royal family and the editors. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Madhulika Singh, Senior Assistant Prof, Department of History, expressing gratitude to the distinguished delegates and participants. The first session, chaired by Rajkumari Dr. Jyotsana, included presentations by prominent scholars. Padma Shri Prof. K.N. Pandita, Brigadier (Retd.) Dr. Vijay Sagar Dhemman, and Harbans Sambyal each contributed insights into various facets of the historical narrative.

The second session, chaired by Retd. Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, offered a series of diverse papers. Dr. Younus Rashid, Assistant Professor, discussed socio-religious reforms in Kashmir with a focus on the Nusrat-ul-Islam movement (1889-1930). Nidhi Bahuguna provided an in-depth analysis of Maharaja Pratap Singh's geo-political legacy, while Dr. Madhulika Singh, explored mechanisms of cultural transformation in Kashmir during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The third session, chaired by Padma Shri Prof. K.N. Pandita, further expanded on these themes. Prof. Daljit Ahluwalia, Punjabi University, Patiala, presented a paper on the life and legacy of Maharaja Pratap Singh. Dr. Siraz Ahmad, Assistant Professor, University of Kashmir, examined the sericulture and silk industry in Kashmir from 1885 to 1925. Alaknanda Mahajan, a research scholar from the University, discussed the influence of the Great Game on the frontiers of the state during Maharaja Pratap Singh's reign. Puneet Sharma, a research scholar from Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar, elaborated on the modernization and progress seen in Jammu and Kashmir during the Maharaja's rule.

The sessions collectively offered fresh perspectives and scholarly depth, promising to continue the vibrant exploration of Maharaja Pratap Singh's enduring contributions to the region's history.

Int'l Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring new frontiers

LG lauds JU for innovative programs ● Scholars across world deliberate over key research issues

JAMMU -

The Executive Council of the Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology emphasized the crucial need of collaborative efforts by scholars across the world for advancing research in endocrinology, metabolism, and reproduction.

The scholars held exhaustive deliberations with vivid Power-Point presentations on day-two of the International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers held at the University of Jammu.

The 4-day conference was inaugurated yesterday by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Hon'ble Mr



Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Jammu here.

In his inaugural address, the

Lieutenant Governor lauded the University of Jammu for its visionary leadership and innovative programs aimed at setting new

benchmarks for academic institutions across the Union Territory.

He appreciated the initiatives 'Design Your Degree' pro-

gram, 'College on Wheels', and the Skill Innovation Incubation Entrepreneurship Development Center (SIIEDC), expressing the hope that these will immensely contribute towards a dynamic, interdisciplinary educational experience that promotes inclusivity, creativity, and social responsibility. The Lt Governor exuded confidence that these innovative programs will continue to shape the educational landscape of the region. The highlight of the second-day of the Conference remained insightful discussions and key presentations by leading scholars in five important sessions spread over the day.

DLL organizes interactive session on personality development, leadership skills



JAMMU:

The Department of Lifelong Learning organized an interactive session on Personality development and Leadership skills for the students of Masters of Rural Studies.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning. While introducing the guest, she elaborated the extensive experience of the resource person in the field. She also gave an overview of value added programmes being offered by the department aimed at enhancing employability skills of the youth. Dr. Rashmi Singh Roy, Associate Professor, Atria Institute of Technology, Bangalore was the special resource person. She is a certified service culture trainer having around 15 years of cross-functional experience in the field of Academics, Human re-

source Management, Learning and development and general administration.

Dr. Roy, in her presentation, apprised the students that Personality development skills are the specific qualities and abilities that enable the students to grow both personally and professionally. These skills can increase the potential of the students and help them to navigate difficult situations and achieve career goals. She also explained that leadership skills are the abilities and strengths that help guide and motivate a group of people to achieve a common goal. She also gave insight of the factors that boost their confidence.

The faculty members present included Dr. Vivek Sharma, Associate Professor, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Assistant Professor and Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB along with the students of both the semesters.

JUNGEU organises felicitation function

JAMMU:

In a first of its kind, the Non Gazetted Employees Union organized a felicitation function to encourage the wards of the Non Gazetted Employees who have secured 90% and above marks in 10th and 12th class. The ceremony was organized at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium in which luminous prodigy were felicitated by Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare.

In his address, Prof. Antahal appreciated this noble initiative of the union which will provide a significant encouragement to the children to achieve more in life. Such gestures leave a deep impact and thus union deserves praise for this initiative.

Children who were felicitated on the occasion included Bhumika Rajput D/o Surinder Singh, Mannet Bandral & Manik Bandral wards of Swarn Singh, Ananya Mahajan D/o Meenakshi Gupta, Tania Mathur D/o Naresh Kumar, Vikrant Singh Katoch S/o Surjeet Singh, Rajnandani D/o



Sushil Kumar, Rajinder Singh S/o Ramesh Singh and Surya Dev Singh S/o Ranjeet Singh. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Shehnaz Akhtar.

Among other present included Dr. Shailu Sharma, Deputy Chief Proctor, Dr. Rakesh Chib President JUNTEU, Vijay Bhat President

JUNGEU, Balbir Singh Vice - President, Suraj Prakash, Gen. Secretary, Dev Raj, Joint Secretary, Vidya Lal Organising Secretary, Ram Paul Publicity Secretary and Manik Sharma, Cashier, Mohinder Kumar, Gulshan Kumar, Susheel Sharma, Kuldeep Raj, Abdul Gabor, Tajinder Singh.

Valedictory function of International Conference on 'Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers'

JAMMU:

The International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New Frontiers, organised by the University of Jammu, concluded with a grand valedictory function, marking the successful and rich scientific discussions and collaborations. Organized by the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Indian Society for Comparative Endocrinology (ISCE), the event attracted around 150 researchers from across India and abroad. The International Conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble LG JKUT and Chancellor, University of Jammu Sh. Manoj Sinha on October 22, 2024.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor expressed immense satisfaction with the successful organization of the



International Conference on Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Reproduction.

He hoped that the in-depth deliberations, expert discussions, and knowledge-sharing sessions that took place during the conference would prove to be highly fruitful, driving advancements in the field and inspiring further research and collaboration among scholars and practitioners worldwide. Prof. Bechan Lal, President of Indian Society for Comparative

Endocrinology (ISCE), delivered an inspiring address highlighting the society's contributions to the field of comparative endocrinology and encouraged young researchers to advance the legacy. Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences presided over the function, emphasizing the critical importance of endocrinology as a field where scientific advancements are progressing rapidly. He highlighted that while it is essential to stay updated with the latest

developments, we must also remember and respect the foundations laid by traditional science. Prof. Sharma noted that such conferences play a vital role in nurturing scientific dialogue and building meaningful research collaborations that bridge contemporary advancements with traditional insights, paving the way for a more comprehensive understanding in the field.

The event saw the presence of esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Prof. C. M. Chaturvedi, Professor Emeritus from Banaras Hindu University, and Guest of Honour Prof. Vinod Kumar, INSA Senior Scientist. Prof. Kumar praised the diversity of topics covered during the conference and emphasized the importance of collaborative research in endocrinology. Prof. Seema Langer, Convener of

the conference in her welcome address extended her gratitude to Prof. Bechan Lal, President of ISCE, and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor for their unwavering support in ensuring the event's success. Prof. Langer also recognized the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee. The achievements of young researchers were also recognised during the valedictory function with prizes awarded for the best oral and poster presentations, motivating the next generation of scientists.

Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Organizing Secretary of the conference, presented a detailed summary of the three-day proceedings, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Parvinder Kumar, acknowledging the collective efforts of all participants, speakers, and the organizing team.

Expert lecture for MBA students at Kathua Campus

KATHUA:

The Management School, Kathua Campus successfully organized an expert lecture on the topic "Export-Import Market and Business Development Strategies". The lecture was delivered by Shubam Bassan, CEO at Maya Health Sciences and Senior Consultant at Panicle Worldwide Pvt. Ltd. The session aimed to provide students with practical insights into formation of a company, getting legal and regulatory frameworks, global trade dynamics, export-import procedures, attracting the clients and strategies for developing sustainable business models in competitive international markets.

Bassan shared his rich industry experience, focusing on real-world challenges faced by businesses in cross-border transactions and elaborated upon the tactics to overcome them effectively.

During the lecture, Bassan discussed various significant topics such as market analysis, regulatory frameworks, trade financing options, certifications and the importance of building strong business networks to thrive in the trading sector. He also shared execution of an export order involving complex procedure wherein, the exporter has to come across a number of regulatory and trade agencies. More-



over, in the process of executing an export order, an exporter needs to interact with the exporting country's

principal agency governing international trade i.e., generally the Ministry of Commerce and Trade or its body.

Such an interactive session encouraged students to explore career opportunities in international trade and gained deeper understanding of global business trends.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus in his message highlighted the value of such interactions in enhancing students' industry-oriented knowledge. He said such lectures help in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications, equipping the students with essential skillsets for global business.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Incharge Head, MCA, Kathua Campus welcomed the esteemed guest and appreciated the team effort of MBA department for organizing the activity.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment wherein students actively interacted with the expert, seeking advice on establishing businesses in the export-import domain and identifying novel growth opportunities.

The event was anchored by Tarandeep Kour, student of MBA whereas Princee Verma, faculty of MBA delivered vote of thanks.

Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dr. Surekha Phakwrya, Gaurav Sharma, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Bharti Rana, Pranav Ratta and Dr. Shivani Sharma were also present during the session.

Bhaderwah Campus organizes career counselling session for school students



BHADERWAH:

The School of Management Studies, Bhaderwah Campus, successfully conducted a comprehensive career counselling session for 11th and 12th-grade students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bhaderwah. This initiative aimed at informing students about diverse career pathways available across various fields, including Medical, Non-Medical, Arts, Commerce, IT, and Tourism.

Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Rector Bhaderwah Campus in his message, commended the efforts of the School of Management Studies and expressed his commitment to making Bhaderwah Campus a transformative force in society.

"Bhaderwah Campus will continue to strive for the betterment of society, guiding and empowering students to realize their full potential," said Prof. Joorel, highlighting the campus's dedication to not only academic excellence but also to fostering skills and values that benefit the broader community.

The session commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Atif Javed Qazi, Lecturer, setting the tone for an informative and engaging experience. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Umesh Choudhary, Incharge Head of Department, who introduced students to a wide range of career opportunities across multiple streams. He emphasized the vast potential within the Commerce stream, highlighting the department's commitment to integrating theoretical knowledge with practical skill development.

Utilizing modern educational methods such as management games, case studies, brainstorming sessions, and group discussions, department aims to equip students for real-world challenges. Dr. Umesh provided a detailed overview of specialized career paths in fields like Retail Management, Information Technology, Project Management, Process Flow, Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Marketing Management. An engaging interactive session, which included a creativity-enhancing game, provided students an opportunity to actively participate and broaden their perspectives on various career possibilities.

The students expressed appreciation for the session, as it offered clarity on career options through an engaging question-and-answer session.

To further enrich their experience, students were divided into three groups to tour the campus, gaining a hands-on understanding of university life and management practices in the modern business world. Practical insights into time management and other essential skills were also provided, laying a strong foundation for their future academic and career success. Several faculty members, including Dr. Atif Javed Qazi, Rajinder Kumar, Dr. Raashidah Qazi, Sonia Sharma, Dr. Alias, Amit, Umar Sadeeq, and Surbhi Langleh, engaged closely with the students, offering tailored guidance throughout the session. Accompanying staff members from the school. Shahnawaz Khan from the IT Department and Ranjeet Parihar from the Retail Department further enhanced the collaborative spirit of the event through their interactions with faculty and students.

UIET, Kathua Campus organizes expert lectures

KATHUA:

University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus held two expert lectures to inspire and inform students about significant advancements in Computer Science and Civil Engineering.

These lectures featured distinguished speakers: Rakesh Singh Sambyal, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Department of Information Technology Engineering, BGSB University, Rajouri and Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Former Chief Engineer (Civil), J&K and Technical Advisor to UIET, Kathua Campus, who shared insights into the realms of social software robotics and the future of civil engineering, respectively.

In the morning session, Sambyal, an expert in Computer Engineering, delivered an engaging presentation on the topic "Social Software Robotics Endangering the Online Ecosystem". He provided an in-depth look at the complex intersection of robotics, social media, and cybersecurity. He explored the implications of social software robotics on the online ecosystem, discussing the challenges and potential risks posed by evolving technologies. Through comprehensive explanations, he examined both the technological mechanisms, and ethical dilemmas surrounding social software robotics, leaving students inspired and motivated to engage with these critical issues.

In the evening session, Gupta gave a captivating lecture on the topic "The Future of Civil Engineering." The session provided students with a comprehensive view of different types of engineering and innovations that are shaping the future of the civil engineering field. His lecture covered the emerging trends, and challenges in civil engineering, emphasizing on sustainable development, smart infrastructure, and the role of technology in reshaping traditional practices. He discussed about the use of innovative materials to the integration of technol-



ogy in construction, offering students an in-depth perspective on the evolving landscape of civil engineering. He also provided an in-depth view of the industry's future, inspiring students to explore novel approaches and consider the broader impact of civil engineering on society.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus commended the holding of these expert lectures and emphasized the critical role such sessions play in enriching the educational experience for students. He acknowledged the speakers for their invaluable contributions and encouraged the students to utilize such opportunities to stay informed about advancements in their fields. He asked students to remain informed and consider the potential impacts of technology on society as they pursue their academic and career aspirations. He also highlighted the role of these expert lectures in bridging academic theory with real-

world applications, stressing the need for more such initiatives that prepare students for the demands of today's technology-driven world.

Dr. Rockey Gupta, I/c Principal, UIET, Kathua Campus warmly welcomed the speakers and expressed deep gratitude for their valuable insights. He highlighted how these sessions play a vital role in connecting academic knowledge with practical expertise, thereby preparing students to excel in their careers. He also emphasized the importance of addressing the issues as discussed in the lecture, noting the relevance of these conversations to the evolving landscape of digital technologies.

Er. Puneet Kour and Er. Sushant Galgal coordinated the program and Er. Pallvi Verma presented vote of thanks. Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/c Head, MCA along with faculty members of UIET were present during the lectures.

Gender Sensitisation workshop held at JU



JAMMU:

The Centre for Women's Studies organized a Gender Sensitization Workshop for the P.G students and scholars of the Department of Dogri.

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, who was the resource person, spoke on the theme: "Gender Sensitization and development of youth for an equitable society" In her presentation, she elaborated on the importance of gender sensitization and said that these workshops will nurture the culture of respect and equality which is prerequisite for just and equitable society. She elaborated how patriarchy is used as a mechanism to subor-

ordinate the status of women in the society and contributes to a number of problems affecting women, such as harassment, domestic violence, dowry deaths, acid attacks etc.

She also gave details regarding the fundamental rights under articles 14, 15,16,19,21 and different other provisions of the Constitution of India dealing with gender equality. She discussed different laws for the protection of women.

Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Head, Department of Dogri, emphasized on the importance of such workshops and shared her personal experiences regarding gender construction and societal expectations. While emphasizing the im-

portance of the workshop she mentioned that lack of awareness and non-implementation of laws lead to inequality in the society.

Large number of students, scholars and faculty members from the Department of Dogri enthusiastically participated in the workshop.

Among others present on the occasion included Dr. Padam Dev Singh, Dr. Sandeep Dubey, Dr. Radha Devi Sharma, Dr. Shalu Sharma, and Dr. Anu Sharma. Earlier, Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the participants and Ms. Kunzang Angmo, Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies presented the formal vote of thanks.

TBS pays heartfelt tribute to Padma Vibhushan Rattan Tata

JAMMU:

The Business School University of Jammu today paid heartfelt tribute to the country's prominent industrialist and philanthropist, Padma Vibhushan Sh. Ratan Naval Tata who passed away at the age of 86. Ratan Tata, was a towering figure in Indian industry and a global icon of leadership, generosity, and ethical business practices. His tenure as the head of the Tata Group, one of India's largest and most respected conglomerates, transformed the group into a global powerhouse, while maintaining its steadfast commitment to corporate responsibility. Under his leadership the group expanded its global footprints with landmark acquisitions, such as Jaguar Land Rover and Corus Steel, Tetley, making India proud on the international stage. Also his deep commitment to society, especially through Tata Trusts, revolutionized philanthropy in India. His initiatives in healthcare, education, rural development, and environmental sustainability im-



proved the lives of millions and cemented his legacy as a true servant of the nation.

The Director TBS, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, while paying his tribute said that Rattan Tata was more than a business magnate. He was a compassionate visionary leader who believed in using business as a force for good.

He further said that his legacy will continue to inspire us as we strive to uphold the principles he so passionately championed. He urged the students to learn from his leadership style by following his compassion, his sense of duty to the nation, and his unwavering princi-

ples. He added that success is not defined solely by wealth but by the positive impact we leave on society.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean Business Studies highlighted that through his career, he always conducted business by focussing on both economic & societal progress. She added that his actions have impacted lives and industries far beyond the financial metrics. She further highlighted Ratan Tata's role in shaping India's current economy position which stands on the cusp of a historic leap forward. The faculty, students and staff members of TBS also paid floral tribute to the legendary con-

DLL, BDO Nagrota organize field immersion programme for students

JAMMU:

The Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), in collaboration with the Block Development Office (BDO) Nagrota, has launched a month-long field immersion programme for first-semester students of the Masters in Rural Studies at Panchayat Dhok Wazeera, Block Nagrota. This initiative, a key part of the rural studies curriculum, aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of rural life by bridging the gap between classroom instruction and practical, on-the-ground experiences. The field immersion programme enables students to integrate theoretical knowledge with the realities of rural settings, offering a holistic learning experience. The relevance of such experiential learning has been emphasized by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor who advocates



the importance of field-based education in creating a well-rounded academic experience. Led by Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director of DLL, and supported by faculty members Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, and Dr. Sandeep Singh, the programme provides students with hands-on exposure to rural governance and community life. The collaboration with the Block Development Office Nagrota is central to this initiative, facilitat-

ing student visits to key local institutions. During the inaugural visit, students and faculty engaged with Sarpanch Raman Wazir and Panchayat Secretary Chowdhary at Panchayat Dhok Wazeera, who provided insights into the workings of the Panchayat. The Panchayat office will serve as a focal point for the students' activities over the next month, with the full support of local authorities to further their field exploration.

Outreach programme "Ek Pyari Mulakat Bacchon Ke Saath" organized by SHTM



JAMMU:

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) organized a heart-warming outreach programme, "Ek Pyari Mulakat Baachon Ke Saath," at Ved Mandir Bal Niketan, Amphalla. Inspired by the theme "Together, Let's Make Every Heart Glow," the event, organized by SHTM's MBA (TTM) 3rd semester students, aimed to bring joy and learning to young minds.

The day began with an inauguration ceremony attended by Prof. Anil Gupta, Director of School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Jammu alongside faculty members Dr. Suvidha Khanna, Dr. Poonam Sharma, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Nikita Dogra, Dr. Honeyka Mahajan, and Tapas Tandon. They expressed their enthusiasm and support for the programme and their presence underscored the School's dedication to fostering social responsibility through education. The event also saw the active participation of Ved Mandir children in a series of interactive games designed to inspire creativity and foster joy, facilitated by the MBA (TTM) 3rd semester students. These engaging activities infused the day with vibrant energy, as young participants showcased their talents.

Reflecting on the event, Prof. Gupta remarked, "This programme exemplifies our commitment to holistic education, encouraging our students to engage empathetically with the community and to make a positive impact on young lives." The president, vice president, and secretary of Ved Mandir Bal Niketan expressed heartfelt appreciation for SHTM's thoughtful efforts, acknowledging the meaningful impact it made on the lives of the children. Coordinated by Dr. Suvidha Khanna and her team, with the dedicated support of staff and students of the department, the event concluded with a session of heartfelt reflections. Both children and students expressed gratitude for the memorable experience, parting with smiles and a deeper understanding of the value of community service.

IIC holds series of interactive sessions



JAMMU:

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), University of Jammu, in collaboration with various Departments, Centres, and Schools of University of Jammu, organized a series of interactive sessions, reaching out to 1000 students. These sessions, held on August 12, 2024, broke through departmental boundaries, engaging a diverse range of students.

As outlined by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, the role of IICs is to involve a large number of students and faculty in innovation-related activities, with the goal of promoting the creation of incubators, start-ups, and entrepreneurship units in colleges and universities nationwide. In line with this vision, the IIC at the University of Jammu initiated this effort to introduce both new and returning students to the council's mandate. The primary objective was to encourage students to share their innovative ideas, especially those addressing societal challenges, and to harness their creative potential. The initiative proved successful, as students engaged openly with IIC members, offering novel ideas, and the council assured them of full support in turning their ideas into reality.

These sessions were led by active IIC members at the University of Jammu, including Prof. Veenu Kaul and Prof. Parmil Kumar, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Attri, Dr. Ripu Dhaman Parihar, Dr. Romica Verma, and Dr. Sajan Thakur, along with Syed Azhar. The events were made possible through the dedicated support of the Heads and Directors of the various Departments, Centres, and Schools involved.

Poonch Campus hosts awareness program on sericulture focusing on new and upgraded techniques



POONCH:

The Poonch Campus, organized a day long awareness program on sericulture, highlighting new and upgraded techniques for local farmers at village Gulpur Poonch. The event was aimed at empowering farmers with advanced knowledge and practices to enhance productivity and sustainability in sericulture.

Director, Poonch Campus, Prof. Rakesh Vaid, was the Chief Guest, while Circle Officer of the State Sericulture Development Department, Poonch, Avinder Kour, was the Guest of Honour. The program saw enthusiastic participation from farmers across Poonch and neighbouring areas, along with students and faculty from the Department of Sericulture.

In his address, Prof. Vaid briefed the participants on the significance of adopting modern techniques in sericulture to stay competitive in the evolving agricultural landscape. He emphasized the campus's commitment to supporting the local farming commu-

nity through knowledge dissemination and skill enhancement programs.

Avinder Kour delivered an insightful session and elaborated on the latest sericulture schemes and techniques being implemented in the field, encouraging farmers to adopt these schemes and innovations to boost their yields and improve overall efficiency.

The event commenced with a welcome address by the incharge, Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus Dr Rubia Bukhari, who outlined the objectives of the awareness program and stressed the importance of continuous learning for farmers in the region. Her lecture provided valuable information on the latest developments in the field, offering practical solutions to boost productivity and enhance the economic well-being of sericulture farmers.

Dr. Ravi Kant, faculty Poonch Campus delivered an insightful lecture on recent innovations and techniques in sericulture sector,

highlighting how these advancements are helping farmers increase profits and improve their livelihoods.

The program concluded with a Q&A session, providing an interactive platform for farmers to discuss their concerns and seek expert advice on sericulture practices. Students from the Department of Sericulture also shared their views and experiences, discussing the ongoing research and how it has benefited them. They emphasized how this research is shaping them into entrepreneurs, contributing to cocoon production and playing a role in uplifting the nation's economy.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by the students of the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus. The event was attended by a large number of local farmers, faculty members and non-teaching staff of Poonch Campus along with the members of the State Sericulture Development Department.

'Display Your Talent' in new format inaugurated at GPGC Rajouri



JAMMU:

The University of Jammu's Display Your Talent-Zone Wise, a new format of the flagship Display Your Talent program, was inaugurated at Government P.G. College, Rajouri. This new initiative, envisioned by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, and approved by the Academic Council, aims to increase participation from colleges in remote areas in cultural and literary activities while promoting regional culture. The Department of Students Welfare, as the nodal office, will organize this event across five zones of Jammu Province - PirPanjal Zone (Rajouri-Poonch, GPGC Rajouri), Tawi Zone (Jammu - MIER College of Education), Chenab Zone (Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban- Bhaderwah Campus, JU), Devika Zone (Udhampur, Reasi - Udhampur Campus, JU), and Raavi Zone (Kathua-Samba, - Kathua Campus, JU).

The inaugural event for the Pir-Panjal Zone, being hosted by GPGCRajouri under the supervision of Dr. K.K. Sharma, Principal of the college, was held. Dignitaries present at the inaugural event included Dr. A.R. Manhas, Dr. Mohd. Iqbal Raina, Dr. Vimal Kishore, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, and Dr. Sanjay Kalotra, along with faculty members, cultural committee members, and students from participating colleges. This mega event offers around 27 competitions in music, dance, literary, fine arts,

and theatrical activities. Winners from these zonal events will qualify to participate in the Display Your Talent (Inter-Zonal) competition at the University campus.

The success of this new format is evident, with participation from approximately 175 students from 10 colleges, including GPGC Rajouri, GDC Surankote, GDC Nowshera, GDC Kalakote, GDC Thannamandi, GDC Mendhar, GDC Kotranka, GDC Budhal, GDC Darhal, and GDC Poonch. In previous years, participation from the PirPanjal Zone was limited to just 3-4 students.

All zonal-level Display Your Talent events are being organized under the stewardship of Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, and overseen by Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, with collaboration from the rectors and principals of the host institutions. The events are coordinated by Dr. Pritam Singh, Associate Dean SW, Dr. Shailu Sharma, Dr. A.R. Manhas, Deputy Chief Proctors, Dr. Harleen Kaur, Dr. Ripudaman-Parihar, Assistant Deans SW, Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer, Sumeet Sharma, Drama Instructor, IfraKak, Cultural Officer, Kulbhushan Thakur, and Arif Paul.

SHTM releases first edition of TRAVANAMA



JAMMU:

School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) launched the first edition of its annual newsletter - TRAVANAMA. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu released the newsletter at a special ceremony held in his office.

The Vice Chancellor lauded the efforts put in by the faculty and students of the SHTM in creating a comprehensive and informative newsletter that highlights the significant achievements, novel initiatives, and various academic activities conducted by the department. He further encouraged the team to explore various entrepreneurial and industry oriented initiatives which benefit the students as the tourism sector has immense national and regional opportunities.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies shared that SHTM through its student centric activities and practices has been able to make a significant

impact. She further emphasized that with the introduction of travel and tourism courses at the UG level, which has already been approved by the Academic Council and Syndicate of University, students will be able to leverage the opportunities in the sector.

Prof. Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM, while expressing gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and University administration said that SHTM is committed to strengthen industry - academia linkages, upgrade curriculum as per industry expectations and also focus on experiential learning in the spirit of NEP-2020.

The event was attended by Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Prof. Garima Gupta, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Suvidha Khanna. In addition, faculty members including Dr. Nikita Dogra, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Honeyka Mahajan, Tapas Tandon, Taniya Sharma and staff including Charu Magotra, Pawan Sharma and Sachin Thapa were also present.

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Jammu and Sialkot. Along the 38-kilometer (24 miles) narrow gauge rail track, Jammu (present Vikram Chowk), Miran Sahib R.S.Pura, Suchetgarh and Sialkot were the main railway stations. The need of the hour is to bring the historic structure under state protected list of heritage structures and to bring it on the cultural heritage map of the Jammu region.

g) The Kapoorpur Village - a living example of traditional Dogra folk settlement

The skills of natural buildings, crafts, and handicrafts which traditionally were handed down from generation to generation have almost disappeared. However traditional living of the locals at the Kapoorpur village of Suchetgarh tehsil has been preserved. This borderline village is a living example of traditional Dogra rural folk of the Jammu region. The local folk are still promoting a unique way of traditional living in the era of globalization. Here we still find glimpses of vernacular mud houses, traditional cooking manners, their cultural belief systems, and artifacts like portable stoves, khat, tokris, shattis etc. This village comprises of several sub-castes of Dogra culture like meghs. The people here have developed their sense of belongingness which has taken the shape of deities in their own houses individually, popularly known among them as hatya.



Image of folk bunk bed- Khat/manji/manja (Photo courtesy: Monika Choudhary)



Image of historic Jammu-Sialkot Railway line track at Suchetgarh station that is now under its encroached status (Photo courtesy: Monika Choudhary)



Portable Chulhas(stove) and traditional cooking ways demonstrated by local folks and at right side a view of traditional wooden door at Kapoorpur village (Photo courtesy : Monika Choudhary)



Images from left to right are of a megh family of Kapoorpur who are a living example of traditional folk lifestyle. They have survived their cultural heritage in the form of their tangible assets as well as intangible attributes. (Photo courtesy: Monika Choudhary)

The cultural as well as natural heritage of Suchetgarh thus, serves as a powerful tool for peacebuilding by fostering community engagement, promoting resilience through shared narratives, and facilitating educational initiatives that encourage dialogue and understanding among diverse groups. 'Heritage for peace' is a call to action to see cultural heritage not just as a relic, but as a vital resource for fostering connection and well-being. Embracing this mission, and peace is woven into the very fabric of our shared history. Recently the University of Jammu organized a community outreach program on the occasion of 'World Tourism Day' on the theme 'Tourism and Peace' aimed at fostering community engagement and raising awareness on the role of tourism and promoting peace.

Tourism Entrepreneurship Competition: SHTM students bag first prize

JAMMU:

The team of School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) represented by Bhavna Gupta, Tanishka Singh Kotwal and Arinut Sharma, MBA (TTM) 3rd semester students bagged the first prize in the prestigious National Level Event 'Venture Voice - Tourism Entrepreneurship Development' competition held at Chandigarh University. A total of 93 teams from across the country participated in the event.

Prof Alka Sharma, Director, SIIEDC and Dean, Faculty of Business Studies congratulated the students who took an initiative to showcase their talent and represented University of Jammu at the National Level. She urged stu-



dents to think out of the box and leverage the business opportunities to become entrepreneurs.

Prof Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM in his address shared that SHTM is committed to promote entrepreneur-

ship among its students. He further informed that many of the alumni of the department are first generation entrepreneurs and have made a mark at national level.

The team showcased "Duggar

Darshan" with a business proposition to empower local women, use sustainable infrastructure and processes, promote local culture, cuisine, art & craft and music. Their idea was highly ap-

preciated by the judges and organizers of the event. In recognition of their outstanding efforts and innovation, they were awarded a cash prize of INR 25,000.

The team was mentored under the guidance of Dr. Suvidha Khanna and other faculty members including Dr. Poonam Sharma, Dr. Nikita Dogra, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Honeyka Mahajan, Tapas Tandon and Taniya Sharma. During the ceremony, Mehak Choudhary, MBA (TTM) 3rd semester student who recently secured Gold in team event and Silver in individual event at the Inter Collegiate Fencing Tournament was also felicitated.

Internship program for MLIB students held

JAMMU:

The Dhanvantri Library successfully concluded a month-long internship program designed for Master of Library and Information Science (MLIB) students from the Department of Library and Information Science. This intensive program aimed to provide participants with hands-on experience in key areas of library operations.

The training focused on various essential modules, including Acquisition Module, Circulation Module, Periodical Module, Database Creation and Weeding Process.

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi in-charge Librarian, distributed certificates to the interns at the closing ceremony.

Expressing his satisfaction with the program's outcome, Dr. Sahi commended the library staff for imparting invaluable knowledge to the students, enabling them to deliver effective user services in today's digital landscape.



The event was attended by senior functionaries of the Jammu University Library system, including Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Librarian, Nimmi Suri, Azmit Begum, Jasjeet Singh, Neelam Bhagat, Babita Jamwal, Venu, and. Diksha, all of whom contributed to the successful execution of the program.

The internship was organized under the supervision of Dr. Anita Sachar, Senior Assistant Librarian and Convenor, Department Liaison Committee.

This initiative demonstrates the Dhanvantri Library's commitment to nurturing future library professionals and promoting excellence in library services.

Law School hosts lecture on role of youth in nation building

JAMMU:

The Law School held an engaging expert lecture and interactive session titled "Role of Youth in Nation Building." The session featured Nitin Hangloo, District Youth Officer for District Jammu, representing the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Hangloo provided an in-depth overview of the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiative, which aims to foster experiential learning, volunteerism, and community transformation among young people.

During his address, he highlighted several successful collaborations between NYKS and local government departments, including the Transport, Traffic Police, and Health departments. These initiatives aim to engage youth in meaningful volunteer activities that contribute to community welfare. Hangloo stressed upon the critical role of law students as "social engineers" in promoting constitutional values and encouraging their peers to participate in nation-building efforts. He called for an increased focus on fundamental duties and the need for youth to become informed and responsible citizens. The session commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School, who emphasized the significance of youth engagement in national development. Faculty member Dr. Nitan Sharma coordinated the event, ensuring an interactive environment. Students actively participated by posing questions about various opportunities available through NYKS initiatives. Hangloo provided comprehensive answers, addressing their queries about volunteer programs and leadership training. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Kasak Gupta, acknowledging the insights shared and the importance of youth involvement in shaping the nation's future.

Home Science Deptt. hosts "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" plantation drive, inaugurates "Maa Prithvi Ka Sneh Udyan"

JAMMU

The Department of Home Science in collaboration with the Arboriculture and Landscaping unit, JU organized a unique plantation drive, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", alongside the inauguration of "Maa Prithvi Ka Sneh Udyan" on campus.

This meaningful event celebrates the nurturing spirit of mothers and nature, promoting sustainability and ecological awareness within the community. It symbolizes a shared dedication to environmental preservation, enhances campus beauty, and creates a tranquil green space for students and faculty to experience peace, inspiration, and the wonders of nature. The udyan inauguration ceremony was marked by plantation of saplings by the faculty, scholars, students, and young children and mothers of the Surabhi nursery school and day care centre, who came together to dedicate this green space as a tribute to the compassion and selflessness symbolized by both mothers and Mother Earth.

Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. She commended the Department's efforts to blend environmental consciousness with cultural values, noting that the udyan serves as a tribute to



both our planet and the nurturing spirit that sustains us. Prof. Chadha expressed her hope that the lessons in environmental stewardship imparted to the young children would stay with them throughout their lives.

Prof. Piyush Malviya, Convener, GCTF-JU and Head, Department of Environment Science was the guest of honor. He shared his aspiration for the "Maa Prithvi Ka Sneh Udyan" to become a serene, eco-friendly

space on campus, providing students a place for reflection and reconnection with nature. He also highlighted that, under the university's green campus initiatives, more than 300 trees have been planted across the campus.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head, Department of Home Science, shared the vision behind the garden and plantation drive. She emphasized that, as an academic institution, the university's mission is not only to

impart knowledge but also to instil respect and responsibility toward the planet. She further remarked that the creation of this udyan is more than just beautifying the campus, it stands as a commitment to a sustainable future and a green legacy for generations to come. Adding a delightful element to the event, the toddlers from the university's nursery school performed a lively song and dance routine with an environmental theme, leaving the audience touched and inspired.

The children and their mothers eagerly participated in planting saplings on the department's lawns, promising to nurture both the plants and the garden. Prominent attendees included Prof. Neeru Sharma, Prof. Shashi Manhas, Prof. Lalit Sen, Prof. Samridhi Arora, Ajmer Singh, Dr. Sarabjeet Kaur, Dr. Priyanka Arya, Dr. Chinmoye Maharana, Dr. Shelly, Dr. Charu Mohan, and Pawan Sharma.

The children's performance was beautifully coordinated under the guidance of nursery school teachers. Mamta Singh, Puja Saraf, and Seema Sharma, and support staff Neelam, Suman and Anu. The event was skillfully conducted by Vinish Malik, a research scholar from the department.

Deepawali celebrations at Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel



JAMMU:

Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel radiated warmth and joy as it celebrated Deepawali, an evening of togetherness and gratitude. Under the guidance of Prof. Lalitsen Sharma, Provost Boys Hostel, the hostel family came together to kindle the spirit of Deepawali.

The program commenced with the lighting of candles, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness. Sweet distribution followed, spreading sweetness and warmth among boarders and staff. Dr. Joginder Singh and Dr. PP Singh from Nehru Hall Boys Hostel, joined in, sharing valuable insights and well-wishes.

Prof. Lalitsen Sharma underscored the significance of festivals like Deepawali, urging everyone to comprehend their underlying essence. "Deepawali is a celebration of knowledge over ignorance, hope over despair," he remarked.

Dr. Satyapriya Arya, Warden, Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel, encouraged the gathering to embody the university's noble vision,

"Tamsa Ma Jyotorgamya" (From Darkness to Light). He highlighted the celebration's alignment with this vision, inspiring all to strive for enlightenment.

The highlight of the event was the heartfelt gesture of handing over gifts to staff mem-

bers as a token of appreciation for their dedication. This thoughtful act touched the hearts of all present.

Dr. Nitin Sharma, Resident Warden, skillfully coordinated the program's proceedings, ensuring a memorable experience for all.



UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

Clearance of Degree of Regular Students Upto 2022

It is notified for the information of all regular students of UG, PG (NCBCS), B.ED and BE for the session 2017 to 2022 that their degree certificates have been sent to their respective colleges/ DD&OE. The same be collected within a period of 30 days positively, if not already obtained. The private candidates have to apply online for the same, as per procedure invoke.

No: Cert/24/494
Dated : 24-10-2024

Sd/-
Controller of Examination

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & ONLINE EDUCATION (CDOE) UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN M.Com & M.A. English (UGC-DEB recognized) (Academic Session: 2024-26)

Applications are invited from the eligible national and international candidates, desirous of seeking admission to the Online 2 years Post Graduate Programmes, **Master's in Commerce (M.Com.) and Master's in English (M.A.English)**, for the Academic Year 2024-26. The programmes shall be delivered in online mode as per the UGC-DEB Regulations, 2020 at the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu.

The interested candidates who fulfill the eligibility conditions may apply through Website www.distanceeducationju.in, w.e.f. 23/10/2024 upto 12/11/2024 against application fee of Rs. 500/- for Indian nationals & USD 10 for International candidates.

Applicants considering to pursue 'dual degree' may like to refer the dual degree norms/ guidelines of University of Jammu available on University Website: www.jammuuniversity.ac.in.

For details of eligibility for respective programmes, the delivery mechanism, fees, curriculum etc., please refer detailed Notification on Website/s : www.jammuuniversity.ac.in, www.distanceeducationju.in.

No: CDOE/PG/online/24/269
Dated: 21-10-2024

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

Gender sensitization workshop organized by CWS



JAMMU:

The Centre for Women's Studies organized Gender Sensitization workshop for the students and scholars of the Department of Commerce. Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies was the resource person. She spoke on the theme: "Gender Sensitization and Gender Justice: Legal Perspective". She began her presentation by explaining the difference between Sex and Gender. Further she elaborated on the idea of patriarchy and how it contributes to number of problems affecting women, such as harassment, domestic violence, dowry deaths, etc. She also discussed the various types of harassment and assault that women encounter on a daily basis. While engaging with the participants she gave few examples to illustrate the causes of gender inequality in society and also discussed the equality guaranteed to all by the Constitution of India. Prof. Gurjeet Kaur, Head, Department of Commerce, emphasized on the importance of such workshop and also congratulated and applauded the efforts of the Centre for providing the opportunity to be part of it. Large number of students, scholars and faculty members from the Department of Commerce very enthusiastically participated in the workshop. Other among who were present were Prof. Jeevan Jyoti, Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Dr. Rupa Mahajan. Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Faculty, Centre for Women's studies conducted the program and Dr. Jyoti Sharma, faculty, Department of Commerce, presented the formal vote of thanks. Kunzang Angmo, Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies coordinated the program.



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the **one position (01)** of **Junior Research Fellow (JRF)** in an ongoing **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** sponsored research project for a period of one year initially (extendable as per the terms of the project). The details of the advertisement can be viewed from University of Jammu website i.e. www.jammuuniversity.ac.in Last date for receiving the application is **15 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement in the newspaper.

No: PGD/Chem/SERB/24/44
Dated : 23-10-2024

Sd/-
Prof. Kamal K. Kapoor (PI)

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & ONLINE EDUCATION (CD&OE) UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU (UGC-DEB approved)

Post Graduate 1st Semester Admission Notification (SESSION 2024-26)

It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates, desirous of seeking admission in **PG 1st Semester** in the Subjects **English, Hindi, Urdu, Political Science, Sociology, Dogri, Punjabi & Commerce (M.Com.)** being offered by the **Centre for Distance & Online Education, University of Jammu, Jammu** that the admission shall start w.e.f. **27-10-2024**.

Eligible Candidates can fill the online application form through Website: www.distanceeducationju.in

For details please refer
Websites: www.jammuuniversity.ac.in,
www.distanceeducationju.in

No: CD&OE/PG/2024-25/291
Dated: 25-10-2024

Sd/-
DIRECTOR