

University of Jammu Launches E-Vehicle Initiative to Promote Sustainability



JAMMU

As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, the University of Jammu has introduced electric vehicles (e-vehicles) on its campus, marking a significant step in reducing its carbon footprint. This initiative was launched during a green

campus event organized by the Green Campus Task Force (GCTF) and the Department of Environmental Sciences.

The Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, inaugurated the e-vehicles, emphasizing their role in achieving a cleaner, eco-friendly campus. In his address, Prof. Rai stated, "The adoption of e-

vehicles is a practical measure to address the pressing challenges of air pollution and climate change. These vehicles not only reduce emissions but also serve as an educational model for sustainable practices on campus."

The e-vehicles, sponsored by JK Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR) program, will be utilized for internal campus transportation, enhancing the university's commitment to green energy solutions. Mr. Sunit Kumar Gupta, General Manager of JK Bank, praised the initiative, saying, "By introducing e-vehicles, the University of Jammu sets a benchmark for integrating sustainability into institutional operations. JK Bank is proud to support such forward-thinking projects."

Dr. P. K. Dhar, CEO of JKEDA, also lauded the university's efforts, highlighting the broader significance of e-vehicles in the region's push toward sustainable energy solutions. He assured continued support for related initiatives, including solar power projects on campus, to complement the e-vehicle program.

Mr. Sunit Kumar Gupta, General Manager of JK Bank, also praised the university's initiatives. "The launch of these initiatives marks a significant milestone in promoting sustainability and addressing environmental challenges. These green initiatives are crucial in our collective fight against global warming. As a responsible corporate partner, JK Bank has provided two e-vehicles to the university campus under our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program and will continue to support the university's green initiatives," he said.

This initiative not only reflects the university's commitment to combating climate change but also inspires students and faculty to adopt environmentally responsible practices in their daily lives.

JU has achieved the remarkable milestone of securing a prestigious 50th rank (NIRF) among the top Indian Universities

SHUBHAM CHOUDHARY

Jammu: The University of Jammu on Tuesday, August 13 celebrated with fervor and enthusiasm the significant milestone of securing 50th rank among the top Indian universities, as announced by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024. This remarkable achievement marks a huge step forward in the University's pursuit of academic excellence and institutional growth.

The University campus hosted a celebratory event that brought together Deans, Directors, Rectors, Heads of Teaching Departments, Faculty members, Officers, and Representatives from all University associations. This gathering emphasized the collaborative spirit that contributed to the success of the event.

On the sidelines of the celebration event, Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, along with senior colleagues, in an informal media interaction, dwelt in detail about the initiatives taken by the University to attain academic excellence. Prof Rai credits Hon'ble LG and University fraternity for the historic achievement and the mo-



mentous accomplishment. He also mentioned several groundbreaking advancements and innovative initiatives implemented in specific areas in recent years, which also contributed to the University's accomplishment.

"We feel honoured in acknowledging the continued support and

guidance of our Hon'ble Chancellor and Lieutenant Governor J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha in shaping the academic journey of the University in consonance with fast changing trends and innovations", Prof Rai said.

The Vice-Chancellor also reflected on the Hon'ble LG's vision,

which focuses on the holistic development of students by nurturing their personalities and transforming them into job providers rather than job seekers, highlighting the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP). He pointed out that the NEP places a strong emphasis on fostering stu-

dents' creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, with the goal of delivering a more comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and adaptable education.

While speaking at the celebration event, the Vice Chancellor complimented the University fraternity for their dedication and hardwork, attributing this unprecedented success to the unwavering support and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chancellor and Lieutenant Governor JKUT. "This accomplishment reflects the tireless efforts of the entire University, made possible through the guidance and encouragement of the Hon'ble LG", he added. Professor Rai expressed his gratitude to the entire university community for their unwavering commitment, highlighting that this momentous accomplishment was the result of the collaborative efforts of every stakeholder. It serves as a testament to our collective dedication and diligent work.

The Vice Chancellor also urged faculty members to revisit areas identified for improvement, encouraging continued pursuit of excellence. He informed the gathering that

CONTD ON PG 2

University of Jammu Hosts Induction Programme for New Students

JANA VI AND IBRAR

Jammu: The University of Jammu recently held a vibrant induction programme for newly admitted students at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, organized by the Department of Students Welfare. The event, aimed at welcoming students and introducing them to university life, was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, along with distinguished alumni Padma Shri Balwant Thakur and Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JK Rural Livelihood Mission.

Addressing the students, Prof. Rai emphasized the critical role of skills and knowledge in career advancement and national growth. He stressed the need for experiential learning that combines theoretical concepts with practical application. Encouraging students to follow their passions, he highlighted how both skills and knowledge are essential for facing real-world challenges with confidence. Padma Shri Balwant Thakur shared fond memories of his time at the university and urged students to use their campus years to grow personally and academically. Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib outlined key areas for student development, including inner leadership, time management, and the importance of building meaningful connections.

The event also featured engaging cultural performances, includ-



ing a theatre act on the theme of 'Navras' and a musical presentation by Andrew and his band,

which enthralled the audience. Senior faculty members provided insights into university facilities,

resources, and academic opportunities. The induction programme set the tone for an enriching aca-

demical journey for the new students, marking the beginning of a promising chapter in their lives.

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU CELEBRATES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

JAVED

Jammu: The University of Jammu celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotism. A large number of faculty, staff, students, and scholars participated in the event. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, hoisted the National Flag and released tricolor balloons at the Fountain Plaza. In his speech, Prof. Rai praised the vibrant cultural performances by the university's students and staff and congratulated the Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Anthal, for organizing the program. Prof. Anthal highlighted various initiatives taken by the university for this occasion, including new programs aimed at benefiting all stakeholders.

Some of the main highlights of the event was when 'The Guard of Honor' was presented by the University Security Team, led by Capt. S.R. Dubey. Cultural performances were held by children and students, showcasing patriotic spirit. A 'Tiranga Rally' was organized, featuring students and scholars of the university. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Monika Chadha, acknowledging the efforts of faculty, staff, and students who contributed to the success of event.





“KUD DANCE: A vibrant expression of Local Heritage”

JOGINDER SINGH

Jammu: Kud dance is one of the most famous folk dance mainly performed in villages during nights around a bonfire during harvest season to pay obeisance to the kul-devi-devtas. The kud dance is still performed in panchari, Lander, Mounгри, Lali, Galiote, Badhota and Sadota

areas of District Udhampur. Traditional musical instruments used for kud dance like Dhol (Drum), Murli (Flute), Jular (Narishingas) and Chhaina (Trumpets). Costumes of dances like white color chaga (Long kurta), Safa (Turban), Parna (piece of cloth tied near the hip) and shoes. All of these have the same color which may be white

or orange.

It is a kind of ritual performed by people in villages. They believe that by performing kud dance they please their Devi-Devtas. So, it is performed as a gratitude to the Kul Devtas for protecting and taking care of their crops, cattle, children from all sorts of natural calamities. The beauty of the dance is that

people of all ages, men and women can participate in the dance. People of all ages take part in it with enthusiasm.

In the earlier days, people used to call the night of kud dance "yatra". Kud dance performed by local popular prominent dancers of the particular areas. The dancers were usually from the local community and

mostly belonged to the farmer class. They were not professional dancers but they danced like professionals with spontaneous moves and matching steps with the same rhythm directed by the traditional music. So, in this way kud dance reflects the culture of villages that are located in the middle mountain ranges of Jammu region.

FROM PG 1

JU has achieved the remarkable

the University has secured a grant of INR 19.78 crore for the construction of a lecture hall complex, further enhancing the University's infrastructure and capacity for growth.

In opinion on the University's accomplishments, Dean of Planning and Development, Professor Meena Sharma, emphasized the significance of strategic planning and ongoing development. "Sustaining and building upon our successes requires strategic planning and continuous development. This achievement reflects our shared commitment to excellence," she astutely observed.

Dr. Ginny Dogra, Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), expressed profound gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai for his steadfast support and leadership. She also acknowledged the contributions of all stakeholders who played an instrumental role in this achievement. Dr. Dogra delivered an enlightening presentation that highlighted the University's significant progress in various areas. She also discussed further improvements to ensure the University continues to advance in future rankings. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare.

University of Jammu celebrated National Sports Day 2024

JAMMU

Every year National Sports Day is observed on 29th August to commemorate the birthday of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. Born on 29 August 1905 in present-day Prayagraj, UP, Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Gold medal-winning Indian hockey team at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu celebrated National Sports Day 2024 at the University Campus. Prof. Rajnikant, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest whereas Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar University of Jammu, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra Director DD & OE, Prof. Prakash C. Anthal, Dean Student Welfare were the Guests of honour on this occasion. Sh. Rashid Ahmed Choudhary, DySP International Fencer, Sh. Abhishek Jain, Secy. J&K Kick Boxing Association, Sh. Lal Sharma Fencing Coach, Guljinder Singh Grappling Association, Gourav Arora Pencak-Silat Association and Pranav Bhandral Director Pir Panjal Adventures were special invitees.

Prof. Rajnikant, in his address, enlightened the gathering with the message that "We celebrate National Sports Day to embrace sportsmanship and brotherhood that comes with sports. National sports day is celebrated graciously all over the world to honor national sports teams for their outstanding performance for the respective countries. It is pertinent to embrace sports traditions as it encourages sportsmanship among people and keeps their hardships that they bring to the country in the form of achievements. Sports day is all about motivating and encouraging sportsmen with their efforts that they put forward and commendable teamwork." The impressive demonstrations of Yoga, Fencing, Pencak-Silat Wushu were performed during the



function.

At last, the award ceremony was held in which the prominent personalities of J&K in Sports, players along with Coaches & Managers who won medals for the University In All India Inter University / Na-

tional/ International competitions for the session 2022-23 were felicitated with Certificate of Appreciation, souvenir Blazer along with University Crest & an award of excellence in the form of memento. In addition to the above felicitation, the employees and

Students of various PG Departments of University of Jammu who had won medals in Jammu University Employees tournaments and Inter-Departmental (M&W) tournaments were also awarded with Mementoes.

India's Golden Gem: Guchoi Mushrooms Found in J&K



SUHANI GUPTA

Deep within the lush forests of Jammu Kashmir, a prized delicacy has been hiding in plain sight. Guchoi mushrooms, also known as Morel mushrooms, are one of the most expensive mushrooms in the world, costing up to Rs 30,000 per kilogram.

These rare and precious fungi have a distinctive honeycomb-like appearance, with a pale yellow or orange color. Each season, thousands of people across Kashmir embark on a treasure hunt to collect these valuable Guchoi mushrooms.

The high price tag associated with Guchoi mushrooms can be attributed to the challenges faced during their cultivation. They cannot be commercially cultivated and instead thrive in conifer forests across temperate regions.

Guchoi mushrooms are not only a delicacy but also a superfood, rich in antioxidants, protein, fiber, vitamin D, and B vitamins. They have been found to have numerous health benefits, including anti-can-

cerous, bone-strengthening, and immunity-boosting properties.

India is the only place where Guchoi mushrooms are found, and they are exported to the United States and Europe. The top ports for mushroom exports

in India include Delhi Air Cargo, Mundra Nhava Sheva Seaport, and Pune (JNPT).

With their unique flavor and numerous health benefits, Guchoi mushrooms are a true gem of India's natural wealth.

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