



JAMMU UNIVERSITY Times

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited." – Plutarch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Booklet on Disaster Risk Reduction released ... Pg 3



Research trip by Ramnagar Campus ...Pg 7

Media students oriented towards objective, balanced political Reporting ...Pg 9



JU showcases region's literary voices, cultural traditions at Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam



JAMMU:

The University of Jammu announced the organization of "Jammu Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam," a two-day literary and cultural festival on March 13-14 at the campus premises.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai announced the same at a presser in the presence of Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar; Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator, Jammu Vishwavidyalaya:

Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam; Prof Seema Rohmetra and Dr. Ginny Dogra, Director DIQA and others.

Prof. Rai said that the programme has been conceived to celebrate the rich literary and cultural heritage of the Jammu region and to present it on a wider stage.

He observed that Jammu region possesses immense cultural, linguistic, and artistic diversity. Through this initiative, the University seeks to bring together writers, artists, scholars,

CONTD ON PG 10

Engage with literature, culture: LG Sinha urges citizens, youth

JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called upon practitioners of literature and the arts to preserve the rich heritage of the Jammu division, promote its legacy, and connect younger generations with their cultural roots.

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day literary-cultural conclave, "Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam," organized by the University the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the enduring values embedded in the region's traditions.

He emphasized that Jammu's literary, cultural, and spiritual heritage inspires people to rise above divisions of caste, creed, and artificial boundaries, fostering an ideology that places humanity above all.

Commending the University for its commitment to preserving and promoting the region's cultural ethos, he noted that such efforts have helped the institution earn recognition among the country's leading universities.

"The society shaped by our rich literary and cultural heritage will determine who we are and what we



can become," he said, urging participants to reflect on the shared identity that binds communities together and instills a deep sense of belonging.

Describing the true confluence of culture and literature, he remarked, "It lies in engaging with the soil through diverse art forms, thereby infusing new resonance into the soul of society."

Paying tribute to eminent literary figures and cultural luminaries,

the Lieutenant Governor stressed that a region's identity is not defined solely by economic achievements but also by its stories, songs, and the vibrant expressions of its artisans.

He underlined the importance of recognizing folk arts and literature as the living essence of Jammu's cultural vitality.

"Our folk traditions do not merely reside in libraries; they thrive in the writings of authors, the

CONTD ON PG 10

'Jammu Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam': Day 1

JAMMU:

The first day of the two-day literary and cultural festival "Jammu Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam" witnessed vibrant literary discussions, student engagement, poetry recitations and folk performances at the University, bringing together eminent writers, scholars, artists and members of civil society in a celebration of the region's rich cultural and literary heritage.

The event was earlier inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Chancellor, University of Jammu Manoj Sinha.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon writers, artists and cultural practitioners to actively contribute towards preserving the rich cultural and literary heritage of the Jammu region, promoting its legacy and connecting the younger generation with their roots.

The Lieutenant Governor also complimented the University for organizing the literary-cultural conclave and for providing a meaningful platform to celebrate the region's languages, traditions and artistic expressions.

During the inaugural proceed-



ings, it was highlighted that the two-day literary-cultural conclave brings together a wide spectrum of activities reflecting the unique identity of the Jammu region.

The festival included cultural processions, stalls showcasing handicrafts, traditional cuisines, books and artworks, exhibitions, panel discussions and a series of literary and cultural engagements aimed at celebrating regional languages, folklore, customs, creativity and the literary heritage of Jammu.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai suggested that eminent literary figures should be closely associated with the University's Alumni Association as their presence enhances the intellectual and cultural prestige of the institution.

Highlighting the importance of language and culture in shaping

identity, the Vice Chancellor observed that pride in one's language and cultural heritage forms the foundation of a vibrant society.

Quoting the noted poet Maithili Sharan Gupta, he remarked that a person who does not take pride in his own language and cultural heritage loses a vital part of his identity.

He further reiterated that the University will continue to explore ways and resources to strengthen initiatives aimed at promoting regional languages and literary traditions.

A major highlight of the first day was the panel discussion titled "Jammu Ka Sahitya: Bimb-Pratibimb," which explored the reflection of Jammu's socio-cultural ethos in its literary traditions.

CONTD ON PG 10

DAY 2: Preserve Jammu region's cultural legacy: VC



JAMMU:

Lauding the rich cultural diversity of the Duggar region, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai said that Jammu's identity has been shaped by centuries of traditions, languages and community practices, making it imperative for academic institutions to document, preserve and promote this heritage for future generations.

The Vice Chancellor was addressing the concluding session of the second and concluding day of the Jammu Vishwavidyalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam which concluded with insightful panel discussions, vibrant cultural performances and enthusiastic participation from students, scholars and members of civil society.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the larger vision of reconnecting the younger generation with the rich literary and cultural traditions of the Jammu region.

He said that the idea behind organizing the Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam was to create a meaningful platform where literature, culture and public discourse could come together in a spirit of dialogue and reflection. He emphasized that universities must function not only as centres of academic learning but also as custodians of cultural memory and heritage. The Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of integrating regional literature, languages and

CONTD ON PG 10

Media students urged to stay curious, socially aware

JAMMU:

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies, under the supervision of Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies hosted a special interactive session titled "Past, Present and Future of Journalism."

The interaction aligns with the vision and commitment of Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai towards the holistic development of students in shaping the future of a developed India. According to him, "student interactions with eminent figures in the industry enhances the intellectual and cultural roots of the institution."

Prof. Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, emphasized the importance of such interactive sessions that broaden the horizon of the media students and prepare them skillfully for the industry.

"This will help the media students to explore opportunities both locally and nationally. Understand the importance of objectivity in reporting and brevity to create impactful news stories," she added.

Senior journalist Jai Prakash Pandey, Editor, Sahitya Tak/Sahitya Aaj Tak, India Group, was the special guest. Media students were encouraged to embrace journalism as a tool for cultural preservation and unity.

While addressing the students he emphasized, aspiring journalists must first clearly understand the topic or beat they are working on and strive to develop strong knowledge in that area.

He also highlighted the impor-



tance of language and communication skills, stating that clarity, accuracy, and effective storytelling are essential qualities for a successful journalist in 's competitive media environment.

Insights were shared on the evolving landscape of Journalism, the growing responsibilities of media professionals, and the critical role of ethical reporting.

He urged students to stay curious, socially aware, and proactive, emphasizing: "Journalism is one profession that demands integrity, courage, and empathy."

Drawing from their vast industry experience, the speaker inspired students to explore diverse storytelling formats, strengthen their research skills, and adapt to emerging platforms while uphold-

ing core journalistic values.

The session also featured a lively Q&A round, where students discussed career paths, academic growth, and challenges for young journalists in a competitive media landscape. Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai presented the formal vote of thanks and acknowledged the efforts of the resource person for sharing his media experience with

the students that will help them shape and plan their career.

He said such sessions provide practical exposure to the students and help bridge academia and industry gaps.

Other faculty members present during the workshop included Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj, Dr. Ravia Gupta and Dr. Kumerjit Chajgotra.

The Business School hosts FDP on "Future of Management Education"

JAMMU:

The Business School hosted a one-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on the theme "Future of Management Education". The Programme brought together faculty members from various colleges across the region, providing a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, academic dialogue, and capacity building in the field of management education.

In the backdrop of rapid transformations driven by globalization, technological advancements, and evolving industry expectations, the FDP was designed to sensitize and equip educators with contemporary insights into management education. The focus was on strengthening faculty understanding of admission processes, emerging specializations, institutional frameworks, and career pathways, thereby enabling them to effectively mentor students in making informed academic and professional choices.

The Programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the inaugural session.

Prof. Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School formally welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the FDP, emphasizing the critical role of teachers in shaping students' aspirations and career trajectories.

A key highlight of the inaugural session was the address by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies and former Director, Indian Institute of Management Sirmaur.

She shared her inspiring life journey, reflecting on her academic and professional experiences, and provided a clear roadmap for faculty members emphasizing the importance of continuous learning, adaptability and regular upskilling in dynamic academic environment.

The FDP featured three comprehensive technical sessions. Session I, titled "Step into the Future: Finding your Ideal B-School," was conducted by Prof. Amisha Gupta, Director, TBS, Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean Business Studies and Prof. Komal Nagar.

During her insightful address, Prof Amisha Gupta, resonated strongly with the participants, inspiring them to stay proactive, future-ready, and committed to their ongoing professional growth.

Prof. Alka Sharma highlighted the innovative approaches in curriculum design, flexibility in learning pathways, and the need to align academic programmes with student aspirations and industry demands.

Prof. Komal Nagar, highlighted the importance of such initiatives in strengthening faculty competencies and keeping educators aligned with the evolving landscape of man-



agement education.

Session II, "The Road to Top B-School: Admissions, Ranking and Strategy," was delivered by Prof. Sameer Gupta, Dr. Farah S Chaudhary, and Dr. Aubid Hussain Parrey.

The session provided detailed insights into admission strategies, entrance examinations, ranking parameters, and institutional positioning, enabling faculty to guide students more effectively in navigating competitive admission processes.

Session III, "Inside the B-School Metrics: Campus Life & Career Outcomes," featured Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Prof. Rachna, Dr. Saloni Devi, and Dr. Shelleka Gupta.

The speakers elaborated on campus life, skill development, placement trends, and long-term career outcomes, offering a holistic view of management education beyond the classroom with the help of self-assessment exercises, and peer interactions that encourage participants to identify their strengths and address their weaknesses.

The programme was organized under the leadership of Prof. Amisha Gupta (Convenor), with Prof. Komal Nagar as Coordinator, Prof. Rachna as Deputy Coordinator, and Dr. Saloni Devi as Co-Coordinator.

'Save Tawi Campaign' flagship event by Deptt of Environmental Sciences



JAMMU:

The Department of Environmental Sciences and the Green Campus Task Force (GCTF-JU), in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), organized a two-day flagship initiative titled "Save Tawi Campaign" along the banks of River Tawi during the concluding days of the Navratri. The campaign witnessed active participation from students, scholars, and faculty members, who pledged to contribute towards preserving the ecological integrity of River Tawi. The drive aimed to create public awareness about the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of the river, while also highlighting the causes and environmental impacts of immersing plastic and other non-biodegradable materials during the ritual of 'Saakh Visarjan'.

Prof. Deepika Slathia, Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Convener of GCTF-JU, called upon people to act responsibly towards water bodies, especially during festivals, while preserving the spiritual essence of traditions. She stressed that cleanliness is not only a civic responsibility but also a way of life, closely linked with our cultural and moral ethos. She emphasized that only through collective effort and mindful choices can we ensure the protection of our water bodies for future generations.

Dr. Vinodh Sharma, Health Officer, JMC, interacted with the volunteers and appreciated their dedicated efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of the river. Dr. Anshu Gupta, along with the volunteers, interacted with the devotees and sought their feedback on ways to further improve the campaign. Dr. Suresh Kumar expressed his gratitude to JMC for extending the necessary support and facilities for the event.

He also commended the JMC staff for their prompt and efficient collection and disposal of segregated waste. The devotees lauded the department's initiative and assured their wholehearted cooperation for the success of the campaign.

The event also witnessed active participation from other faculty members of the department, including Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, and Dr. Neeraj Sharma, along with volunteers and research scholars from both the department and GCTF-JU.

Live mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' at JU

JAMMU:

In commemoration of the historic completion of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' – The National Song of India, a series of events are being organized throughout the Country in the Special Phase, March 23 to 30.

In the series, the University organized Live Mass Singing of 'Vande Mataram' – The National Song of India by the faculty and students of Institute of Music and Fine Arts at Padma Sachdev Sur Samvaad Rangsthal.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Other dignitaries present at the occasion included Prof. Meena Sharma, Chairperson Utsaah the Clubs, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus, Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Vikram Sahi, In-charge Librarian alongwith members of Campus Cultural Committee, students and scholars.

The team who rendered live



singing of the National Song included Mahi Sharma, Mamta Shan, Priyanshu Gupta, arav Nargotra, Laksh Dalotra, Tahyra Shamim, Navraj Singh and Anand Kumar under the guidance of Dr. Jasmeet Kaur who was also the lead singer.

Nitish Devseman, a student of Department of Dogri also recited a

self-composed poem in the honour of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

The programme was coordinated and conducted by Sumeet Sharma. The event also featured exhibition of Vande Mataram Paintings and Signature Campaign in the honour of the martyrs of Indian Freedom movement.

The events of DSW are conceived,



planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shallu Sharma and Dr A R Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr.

Harleen Kaur and Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer) and Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor).

The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul while the management was looked after by Sunny Singh, Sachin Sharma and R.P. Singh.

Booklet on Disaster Risk Reduction released

JAMMU:

A two-day workshop on "Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir" commenced. The workshop is being organized by the Disaster Management Centre, Department of Geology in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Snober Jameel, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), UT of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the event as the Guest of Honour.

On the occasion, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra released a special booklet titled "When Nature Strikes: Survive and Safeguard."

Addressing the participants, she remarked that Jammu & Kashmir is a region of extraordinary natural beauty and cultural richness; however, its unique geology, geography and climatic conditions make it vulnerable to various natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches, and extreme weather events.

She emphasized that disaster management is not merely about responding to emergencies but also about preparedness, resilience, and sustainable development. She highlighted that workshops of this nature play a vital role in strengthening collective capacity to anticipate risks, reduce vulnerabilities, and respond effectively when disasters occur. By sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices, institutions can build stronger coordination mechanisms and more resilient communities.

She appreciated the efforts of Prof. S. K. Pandita, Convener of the workshop, and acknowledged the cooperation and support extended by DMRRR, UT of Jammu and Kashmir.



Prof. Rohmetra lauded the academic contribution of the authors, noting that the booklet introduces various disasters and provides important dos and don'ts to be followed during emergency situations.

The booklet has compiled by Prof. S. K. Pandita, Director, Disaster Management Centre, Dr. Yudhbir Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, and Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology.

The booklet offers a concise introduction to several natural and human-induced disasters, including earthquakes, landslides, floods, avalanches, fires, snake bites, heat waves, road accidents, and acid attacks.

Speaking on the occasion, Snober Jameel emphasized that disaster management is no longer a choice but a necessity in the present time, as natural disasters are occurring with increasing frequency.

She noted that disaster management is not the responsibility of a single department or agency; rather, it requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving government institutions, disaster re-

sponse agencies, local communities, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

She further informed that the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) has formulated an annual calendar of capacity building programmes to train officers from different departments to effectively manage disaster like situations.

Referring to the devastating 2014 floods in Jammu and Kashmir, she highlighted the significant economic losses caused by the disaster and emphasized the importance of preparedness to mitigate such impacts in the future.

She added that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken proactive steps in recent years to raise awareness among the public and stakeholders regarding disaster risks in the region.

The programme aims to enhance awareness, preparedness, and capacity building in disaster risk reduction and management in the region.

The workshop also witnessed the participation of eminent ex-

perts and resource persons in the field of disaster management.

In his welcome address, Prof S K Pandita, Convener of the workshop and Director, Disaster Management Centre (DMC) emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts, scientific understanding, and community awareness in reducing disaster risks in the Himalayan region, which is highly vulnerable to multiple hazards.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Yudhbir Singh, Organizing Secretary of the workshop, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, distinguished speakers, collaborating departments, participants, and the organizing team for their support in making the event successful.

The session was followed by an expert lecture by Dr. B. K. Bansal on the topic "Towards an Earthquake-Resilient India: Scientific Advances for Risk Reduction."

Another lecture was delivered by Col. Prof. Sanjay Srivastava on "Building Resilience, Preventing Disasters: Challenges and Solutions."

Reasi Campus organizes field Research Trip

REASI:

The Reasi Campus successfully organized a four-day field research trip for the students of M.A Sociology semester 2nd, to Bhaderwah, District Doda.

This academic field trip was conducted under the themes "Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture" and "Exploring the Impact of Tourism on Local Employment Opportunities in Bhaderwah."

The primary objective of the trip was to provide students with first-hand experience of environmental related sociological fieldwork and research methodologies as part of their academic curriculum in the courses P2SOTC-202 and P2SOTC-203.

During the visit, students actively interviewed respondents which include local residents, workers and stakeholders associated with tourism related occupations.

They employed interview and survey methods for the collection of primary data. Students did their fieldwork in village Sunlgi near Bhaderwah town to understand the environmental challenges emerging there in present time and on the other hand, students also did fieldwork at Guldanda hill station of Bhaderwah to analyze and understand the dynamics in livelihood patterns at tourist destination.

Moreover, the field trip was organized as a part of campus's commitment to experiential learning and applied research in sociology. Flagging off the trip, Prof. Sushil K. Pandey, Director of Reasi Campus, reiterated the University's vision of promoting experiential learning among young students and emphasized the importance of field based-inquiry in developing critical sociological analysis.

EDITORIAL

Degrees and Skills: The New Balance

For a long time, a university degree has been seen as a mark of achievement and a gateway to opportunity. It still holds that value today. A degree reflects years of learning, discipline, and commitment, and continues to provide a strong academic foundation. At the same time, the world outside the classroom has been changing in quiet but important ways. Along with formal education, there is now a growing recognition that practical skills—how one applies knowledge, adapts to situations, and engages with real challenges—are just as important in shaping a meaningful path ahead.

This shift can be felt across different fields. Young graduates today are stepping into spaces that are more dynamic and less predictable than before. Work environments are evolving, expectations are expanding, and the ability to respond to real situations has become central. In such a setting, knowledge alone does not always speak for itself. It is strengthened when supported by skills like clear communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and the confidence to learn and relearn.

What makes this moment significant is not that degrees have lost their place, but that their role is being understood in a more complete way. A degree introduces a person to a field of study, gives structure to their learning, and builds a base of understanding. Skills, on the other hand, give that knowledge direction. They allow individuals to translate what they know into what they can do. It is this combination that often shapes how young people move forward.

There is also something familiar about this idea. In many traditional learning systems, knowledge and practice were never separate. Learning was closely tied to doing—whether in crafts, arts, or scholarship. The present shift, in many ways, feels like a return to that balance, though in a modern context where new forms of work and expression continue to emerge.

Across campuses, this understanding is slowly becoming part of everyday student life. Experiences beyond the classroom—projects, internships, creative pursuits, and peer collaborations—are quietly shaping how students engage with their learning. These experiences do not replace academic study; they deepen it. They help students see connections, build confidence, and understand the practical value of what they study.

The conversation around education, therefore, is not about choosing between degrees and skills. It is about recognising how both come together to shape a more complete learning experience. One provides depth, the other adds dimension. One builds knowledge, the other brings it to life.

In today's world, where change is constant and expectations continue to evolve, this balance becomes especially meaningful. A degree may mark the beginning of a journey, but it is the presence of skills that often defines how that journey unfolds.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Monika Chadha, Convener CRS, Prof. Garima Gupta, Head, DJ&MS, Prof. Dushyant Rai, DJ&MS, Dr. Vikram Sahi, I/c Librarian, JU, Vishal Bharti, Sr. Journalist, Sumeet Sharma, DI, Mansi Mantoo Media Officer, JU (*Executive Editor*)

Published by Media Cell, University of Jammu

DISCLAIMER: Views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily that of the University of Jammu.

Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Education at JU

In the rapidly evolving global knowledge economy, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative forces in higher education.

Universities now face a dual imperative: to integrate AI into teaching, learning, research, and administration, and to prepare students for a future where AI literacy will be fundamental.

At the forefront of this shift, Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, whose leadership is helping steer the university toward becoming a centre of excellence in AI education, awareness, and ethical use. The integration of AI into higher education goes beyond the use of technology as a mere tool; it reshapes the very fabric of curriculum design, pedagogy, and student engagement.

As institutions worldwide embrace AI for its ability to personalize learning and enhance administrative efficiency, educators are exploring ways to harness AI to support student success while navigating challenges such as equity, data privacy, and the ethical use of technology.

AI technologies—including adaptive learning systems, intelligent tutoring, data-driven insights, and automation—are seen as catalysts for inclusivity, innovation, and deeper learner engagement.

In India, National Education Policy reforms and the emphasis on future-ready skills have accelerated the adoption of AI across university programmes and initiatives. Whereas traditional coursework emphasized memorization and discipline-specific knowledge, the modern landscape prioritizes interdisciplinary learning, computational thinking, data literacy, and responsible use of emerging technologies.

Under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, the University of Jammu has actively embraced the AI transformation in education as part of broader academic reform.

Prof. Rai brings decades of academic and administrative experience to the role, including his prior tenure at prestigious institutions and his commitment to implementing innovative educational frameworks.

Prof. Rai has consistently emphasized that the university must not just adopt technology, but also educate students about AI's responsible and meaningful use. His vision aligns with the need to equip students not only with theoretical foundations but also with practical, real-world skills. This is evident in the university's focus on integrating AI awareness across departments, facilitating workshops, skill-based training, and interdisciplinary programmes that expose students to AI's latest developments.

The University of Jammu's curriculum reforms reflect a deep commitment to aligning academic programmes with industry trends. Recent announcements from university events reveal that programmes in data science, AI, robotics, data analytics, and related fields are being structured to meet both student demand and evolving workplace needs. Such initiatives underscore the institution's focus on enhancing employability and giving students hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies.

Workshops and skill development modules form a central part of this strategy.

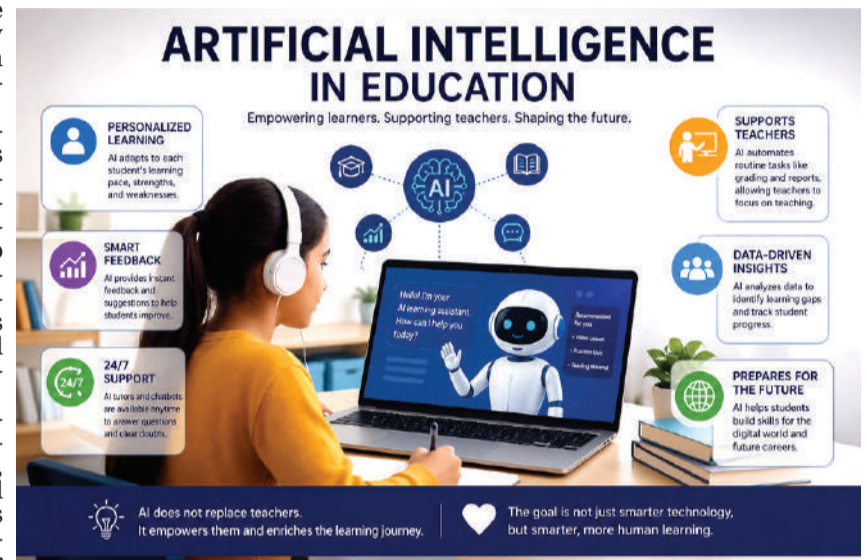
Industry collaborations are helping bridge the gap between academic learning and practical skills. Through partnerships with organizations like the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), the university has expanded AI proficiency training—such as courses on data annotation and data curation using Python—particularly benefiting distance learners and those enrolled through the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE). These collaborations are designed to boost job readiness and mettle in competitive, data-driven markets.

AI's role enables personalized learning, giving students tools that can adapt to individual strengths and challenges. Through adaptive learning interfaces, learners can access tailor-made content that supports deeper understand-

ing and mastery.

This supports a move away from one-size-fits-all pedagogies to more student-centric education—a change that aligns with modern educational philosophy emphasizing agency and life-long learning.

Beyond learning, AI integration is also improving administrative and academic processes. By automating routine tasks such as scheduling, assessment design, and data analysis, faculty members can redirect their expertise toward mentorship, collaborative research, and curriculum innovation. This not only improves efficiency, but also enriches the academic experi-



ence for students.

While AI offers vast potential, it also raises significant ethical considerations—especially around issues like privacy, algorithmic bias, academic integrity, and equitable access to learning resources.

The University of Jammu recognizes that preparing students for the AI-infused future necessitates not just technological fluency but also ethical literacy. Workshops and seminars emphasize the responsible use of AI tools, encouraging students to understand both capabilities and limits of AI systems.

Prof. Rai's emphasis on awareness extends to encouraging students and departments to engage with AI not as passive users, but as critical thinkers capable of judging, implementing, and shaping technology in ways that benefit society.

This aligns with broader dialogues in AI education that highlight the need for transparency, human oversight, and ethical design in educational AI systems.

Artificial Intelligence also has implications for research across disciplines. Machine learning, data analytics, and computational modeling are becoming indispensable in areas ranging from life sciences and engineering to social sciences and humanities.

The University of Jammu's support for research infrastructure and emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration equips scholars to leverage AI in their investigative work.

Faculty and students alike are encouraged to pursue research projects that utilize AI methodologies, preparing graduates to contribute to academic advancement and solve real-world problems.

Looking Ahead: Future Prospects at the University of Jammu

The adoption of AI at the University of Jammu reflects a broader institutional philosophy: education should evolve alongside societal and technological progress. By integrating AI not merely as a technical subject but as a catalyst for innovation across departments, the university is shaping a generation of learners equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

From AI training programmes and workshops to curriculum reforms and industry partnerships, the university's efforts demonstrate a comprehensive strategy that prepares students for a future where AI is woven into every professional domain.

With leadership that champions both innovation and ethical responsibility, the University of Jammu is positioning itself as a model for AI-integrated education in India—a place where students learn not only how to use technology, but how to think critically and act responsibly in an AI-driven world.

GLIMPSES OF JAMMU VISHWAVIDYALAYA: SAHITYA-SANSKRITI SAMAGAM'



India Innovates: DYD students excels at Bharat Mandapam

JAMMU:

In a landmark achievement for student-led innovation, a team from the Design Your Degree (DYD) program competing as Team Dupahar has secured a place among the Top 15 finalists at India Innovates 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam. Notably, it was the only team from Jammu and Kashmir making the achievement even more significant.

Recognized as one of the world's largest hackathons, the competition saw participation from over 1.26 crore applicants across the country, making this achievement a significant national milestone.

The team comprising Adil Mahajan, Tavishi Amla, Gourav Sharma and Narayan Choudhary has emerged as one of the most promising groups in a competition.

The team's journey reflects exceptional performance across a rigorous three-stage selection process. In Round 1, more than 28,000+ teams were shortlisted for evaluation from the massive applicant pool.

In Round 2, over 5,000+ teams advanced after detailed technical screening.

The final round conducted offline at Bharat Mandapam, only 15 teams selected at the national level, placing Team Dupahar among the top innovators in India.

At the hackathon, the team developed an advanced AI-powered infrastructure planning solution focused on digital terrain modeling,



waterlogging prediction, carbon mapping and drainage optimization.

A defining highlight of the event was the opportunity to present their innovation directly to senior

policymakers and government leaders, including the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, Cabinet

Minister, Govt. of Delhi, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister of Tourism, Art and Culture, Govt. of Delhi, Kapil Mishra, and Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly, Dr. Prem Kumar and Member of Parliament for North East Delhi, Manoj Tiwari, along with the Director of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, among other distinguished dignitaries.

Following their selection among the Top 15 teams, DYD students now advance to the final stage, the Ministry-Level Presentation, where they will pitch their solution directly to Government Ministries.

The achievement has been widely appreciated by the institution's leadership. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai commended the team for exemplifying how student innovation can contribute meaningfully to nation-building, highlighting the importance of combining technical excellence with societal impact.

Prof. Rai emphasized the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in promoting a culture of innovation and urged students to protect their ideas by filing patents, especially for projects developed during hackathons and also highlighted the DYD program as a transformative initiative under the Skill Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into technical education.

The Law School holds felicitation ceremony of J&K Judicial Services Achievers



JAMMU:

The Law School organized a prestigious felicitation ceremony to honour its alumni who have recently been selected as judicial officers. The event celebrated the achievements of Anshu Lal Sharma, Muskan Puri, Deeksha, Kritika Jain, Shazia Manzoor, Sahiba Banotra, Riju Gupta, and Aman Kumar, marking their successful transition from alumni to members of the judiciary.

The ceremony featured an interactive session wherein the newly appointed judicial officers, along with distinguished alumni guests, shared their professional journeys, offering valuable insights and inspiration to the students.

The programme was presided over by Raj Kamal Arya, AFHQCS, Deputy Registrar, Armed Forces Tribunal and a noted alumnus of the Law School, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In his address, the Chief Guest highlighted the importance of consistency, conviction, and dedication as the cornerstones of a successful legal career.

He also paid a heartfelt tribute to educators, acknowledging the significant role played by his teachers in shaping his professional journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Rohmetra stated that the ceremony stands as a testament to the strong academic foundation laid by the institution.

Advocate Deepak Gupta, who was the Special Guest on the occasion, encouraged the students to draw inspiration from the achievements of their predecessors and to steadfastly follow the path forged by the distinguished alumni of the department.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Shubha Vats, Convener of the Alumni Committee, under the guidance of Prof. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School.

ICccR-HRM organize industrial visit to Varun Beverages Ltd.



Jammu: The International Centre for Cross Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICccR & HRM) organized an industrial visit for the students of MBA (International Business) Semester II as part of their curriculum titled "Industrial Immersion Programme/Social Community Connect" to Varun Beverages Ltd. (PepsiCo Franchise Manufacturing Plant) located at Beradhani, Kathua.

The visit was arranged with the objective of providing students with insight into the internal working of industry and practical learning in a real working environment.

During the visit, the students were taken on a guided tour of the facilities of Varun Beverages Ltd., which is a key player in the beverage industry and one of the largest franchisees of PepsiCo in the world (outside the USA).

The students observed production

processes, supply chain management, and corporate operations. The management of the unit shared valuable insights into the functioning of the unit.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the students to interact with the employees of the unit. Through these discussions, the students gained a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by the industry at both national and international levels.

Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director, ICccR & HRM expressed satisfaction and reiterated the need for organizing such visits to provide real-time exposure and corporate understanding to the students, which will help them navigate their career paths effectively.

Dr. Parul Mahajan, Dr. Neha Gupta, and Dr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, faculty members at ICccR & HRM, accompanied the students and coordinated the event.

National Workshop at Bhaderwah Campus

BHADERWAH:

A two-day national workshop on "Human-Environment Interactions in the Indian Himalayas amid Climate Change" was organized by the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhaderwah Campus in collaboration with PGDAV College, University of Delhi, ARPA Opportunity Foundation (New Delhi), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (Regional Centre J&K), and EARTH.

The workshop deliberated on the growing environmental challenges and changing dynamics of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) in the backdrop of climate change and its impact on human livelihood, ecology, and sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion, Pyare Singh, senior citizen and social worker, the Chief Guest of the inaugural session, shared valuable insights on the changing landscape of the Himalayan region based on his 75 years of lived experience, highlighting the visible environmental transformations witnessed over the decades.



Dr Chhering Tandup, Coordinator of the workshop and In-charge Head, Department of Geography, welcomed the participants and highlighted the ongoing climate crisis in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Dr Pardeep, Organizing Secretary from PGDAV College, University of Delhi, elaborated on the significance of the workshop and introduced the major themes of the workshop, emphasizing the importance of academic discussions and community engagement in addressing climate challenges.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr Anwesha Borthakur, Humboldt Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, who spoke extensively on climate crises in the Indian Himalayan Region and across the globe. She pointed out that the region is currently facing four major

challenges—rapid urbanization, extreme weather events, deforestation, and unorganized tourism, all of which are intensifying environmental vulnerabilities.

Earlier, Rector Bhaderwah Campus Prof Rahul Gupta welcomed the distinguished guests and participants and congratulated the organizers for initiating deliberations on such a crucial and contemporary issue that is increasingly affecting human civilization across the globe.

The workshop is financially supported by ARPA Opportunity Foundation, New Delhi, and witnessed active participation from faculty members of the University of Delhi, Chintan Research Foundation (Delhi), SKUAST, various colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, students from SIED, and members of the local farming community.

The proceedings of the inaugural session concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr Angana of ARPA Opportunity Foundation, New Delhi, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and organizers for making the event meaningful and productive.

Kathua Campus hosts lecture on "Lifestyle Disorders and Ayurveda"

KATHUA:

The Department of English at Kathua Campus hosted an expert lecture on "Lifestyle Disorders and Ayurveda" by Dr. Deepak Sharma, MD (Ayurveda), Senior Medical Officer, GMC AYUSH Unit Kathua.

This event was organized by the Department under the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) initiative of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, promoting the integration of traditional wisdom into contemporary education while supporting multidisciplinary learning and holistic student development.

In his comprehensive presentation, Dr. Deepak Sharma delved into the root causes of prevalent lifestyle disorders, including diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and mental health challenges like anxiety and insomnia, often exacerbated by sedentary habits, processed diets, and chronic stress.

He highlighted Ayurveda's personalized approach through the Tridosha theory (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha), offering a range of practical solutions.

These included Dinacharya (daily routines), which emphasizes early rising, oil massage (abhyanga), and balanced meal timings to regulate circadian rhythms.

He also discussed herbal interventions, including the use of turmeric (haridra) for reducing inflammation, 'ashwagandha' for enhancing stress resilience, and 'triphala' for detoxification.

Furthermore, he elaborated on the role of yoga and pranayama, incorporating specific 'asanas' such as Surya Namaskar and breathing techniques like 'Anulom Vilom' to improve vitality and immunity.

In addition, he outlined dietary guidelines that promote the consumption of 'sattvic' foods, seasonal eating habits, and the avoidance of incompatible food combina-



tions (viruddhaahara) to ensure optimal digestion.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) remarked, "We are delighted to support such initiatives that bridge timeless Ayurvedic principles with everyday wellness.

In fast-paced world, these lectures equip students with practical tools to combat lifestyle disorders, fostering healthier lives and mindful living. Events like this embody NEP 2020's vision for inclusive, value-based education."

Research trip by Ramnagar Campus



UDHAMPUR:

Ramnagar Campus successfully organized a three-day field research for the students of M A Sociology Semester II to McLeod Ganj and Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

The academic visit was conducted under the theme "Occupation and Livelihood of People in Tourist Destinations; Environmental Issues."

The primary objective of the trip was to provide students with first-hand experience of sociological fieldwork and research methodologies as part of their academic curriculum in the courses P2SOTC202 and P2SOTC203.

During the visit, students actively engaged with local residents, workers, and stakeholders associated with tourism-related occupations.

They employed observation and interview methods to collect data, enabling them to understand the dynamics of livelihood patterns in tourist destinations and the environmental challenges emerging from rapid tourism growth.

The field trip was organized as part of the Campus's commitment to experiential learning and applied research in sociology.

Flagging off the trip, Prof. Vinod Sharma, Director of Ramnagar Campus, reiterated the University's vision of promoting experiential learning among young students and emphasized the importance of field-based inquiry in developing critical sociological perspectives.

The academic trip was coordinated by Dr. Bachitter Singh and Dr. Uma Prasher, faculty members of the Department of Sociology, Ramnagar Campus.

Department of Home Science celebrate “Milestone Day 2026”



JAMMU:

The Department of Home Science (Human Development) organized the graduation ceremony titled “Milestone Day” for the outgoing children of the Surabhi Nursery School and Day Care Centre, marking a significant developmental transition in the lives of young learners.

The event was conceptualized as a celebration of early childhood achievements, integrating academic insight with joyful engagement.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Science who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, commended the Department for maintaining high standards in early childhood care and education.

She emphasized that the Surabhi Nursery School represents one of the best practices within the University system and has, over the years, contributed significantly

to shaping the cognitive, social, and emotional development of hundreds of children.

Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Culture Committee the Guest of Honour, highlighted the critical importance of enriching early childhood experiences.

She underscored that a stimulating and nurturing environment during the formative years lays the foundation for lifelong learning, creativity, and resilience, and appreciated the Department’s sustained efforts in this direction.

Earlier, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head of the Department, Home Science, in her welcome address, reflected on the legacy of the Surabhi Nursery School, noting that since 1998, the Department has been successfully running this preschool as a pioneering initiative.

The programme featured a vibrant array of activities,

including dance and musical performances by the children, showcasing their emerging skills and confidence.

Interactive games were thoughtfully curated to encourage active participation from both children and parents, thereby strengthening parent-child engagement.

The competition was judged by Dr. Archana Bhatt, Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, GCW Gandhi Nagar, along with Prof. Monika Chadha.

The gathering was also addressed by Prof. Rajni Dhingra and Prof. Neeru Sharma, who appreciated the Department’s consistent efforts in fostering a supportive and enriching learning environment for young children.

The event was efficiently coordinated by the students of M.Sc. Human Development (2nd Semester), reflecting their academic training and organizational skills.

Department of Mathematics organizes one-day student conference



JAMMU:

The Department of Mathematics successfully organized the 33rd One-Day Student Conference in collaboration with the Jammu Mathematical Society (JMS).

The conference, a flagship academic activity of the department, provided a vibrant platform for students to present their ideas and research.

The conference was inaugurated by the Dean Academic Affairs, Professor J. P. Singh Joorel, who, in his inaugural address, highlighted the indispensable role of Mathematics in academics as well as in day-to-day life.

He motivated students to appreciate the subject not only as a discipline but also as a tool for solving real-world problems.

Dr. Tirth Ram, Secretary of the Jammu Mathematical Society, spoke about the activities and achievements of the JMS, underlining its continuous efforts to promote mathematical education and

research in the region.

Earlier, Professor Romesh Kumar, Head, Department of Mathematics and President, Jammu Mathematical Society, delivered the welcome address and emphasized the importance of such student-led initiatives in fostering academic growth and confidence among young learners.

The inaugural function was attended by distinguished faculty members, including Professor K. S. Charak, Dr. Shallu Sharma, Dr. Sarika Verma, Dr. Manish Kumar, and Dr. Tarun Kumar Chuhan, along with faculty from affiliated colleges and research scholars.

As part of the conference, prizes will be awarded for the three best presentations in both Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) categories.

The winners will be felicitated during the inaugural function of the upcoming National Seminar on “Topological Algebraic Analysis and Applications,” to be organized by the Department of Mathematics.

“Veerta Ka Sankalp”: Kathua Campus honours National Heroes

KATHUA:

The University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus under the aegis of Yuva Bharat and in collaboration with the Indian Army’s 401 (Independent) Artillery Brigade, successfully organized a commemorative event titled “Veerta Ka Sankalp”. The program was dedicated to honoring the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering spirit of the nation’s heroes.

The event was organized to mark Trimurti Balidan Diwas, paying homage to the eternal sacrifices of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

The distinguished Guest of Honour for the occasion was Colonel Suhaas Pal Singh, Commanding Officer, 134 SATA Regiment, who was accompanied by Lieutenant Gyan Prakash Gautam of the same regiment. Their presence added immense value and inspiration to the program.

The program commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Reemani Verma, Assistant Professor, Communication Skills, UIET, followed by the presentation of a planter to the Guest of Honour by Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Head, Department of Computer Science & IT, Kathua Campus, as a token of respect and gratitude.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector/Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus, in his address, emphasised the relevance of



the martyr’s sacrifices in time, inspiring students to adopt values such as discipline, integrity and responsibility towards the nation.

He also appreciated the collaborative efforts of Yuva Bharat and the Indian Army in organizing such a meaningful program that connects youth with the spirit of national service.

Dr. Rocky Gupta, Incharge Principal, UIET, in his address, appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of instilling patriotism among students.

A student of CSE 2nd semester, Mahir Gautam, delivered a heartfelt speech reflecting on the lives, sacrifices, and valor of the revered martyrs.

Colonel Suhaas Pal Singh addressed the gathering and enlightened students about career opportunities in the Indian Army.

He also delivered an insightful presentation on “The Legacy of 401 (Independent Artillery Brigade)” and elaborated on the significance of Operation Sindoor, inspiring students with real-life experiences and national service values.

As a mark of appreciation, shield of gratitude was presented to the Guest of Honour by the respected Heads of Departments of UIET and Kathua Campus. Dr. Sourabh Shastri also shared his thoughts, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in nurturing patriotism and awareness among youth.

Interactive Session on Women's Rights, Legal Protection held

JAMMU:

The P G Department of Home Science (Human Development) organized an interactive awareness session on "Women's Rights and Legal Protection:

Awareness, Prevention and Justice". The programme was attended by students, research scholars and faculty members of the department.

The session featured Advocate Uma Kapahi, Legal Expert at the High Court of J&K, as the resource person. In her address, she provided valuable insights into important legal safeguards available for the protection of women.

She elaborated on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), highlighting the need to create safe and respectful work and academic environments and explaining the mechanisms available for redressal of complaints. She also discussed the Protection of



Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, outlining the legal remedies available to women facing different forms of domestic abuse.

Advocate Kapahi further emphasized the significant role of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in providing free legal aid

and support to individuals who may not have access to legal resources.

She also touched upon men-

strual hygiene as a matter linked to dignity and fundamental rights, stressing the importance of awareness, access to resources and the need to break the social stigma surrounding menstruation.

Earlier, Head of the Department, Prof. Sarika Manhas, in her welcome address emphasized that legal awareness is an essential component of true empowerment.

She highlighted that the department is committed to the holistic development of its students by equipping them not only with academic knowledge but also with critical legal awareness that enables them to understand their rights and responsibilities.

Prof. Manhas also underlined the important role of Human Development experts in spreading legal awareness within communities, as professionals working closely with families, children and communities can play a significant role in promoting awareness about rights, justice and gender equality.

Media students oriented towards objective, balanced political Reporting



JAMMU:

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies organized a special interaction 'Mastering Political Reporting Skills', wherein renowned journalist, Raj Kishore was keynote speaker.

The session aimed to familiarize the media students with the nuances of political reporting, its practical significance, and the contemporary challenges associated with it.

The interaction was organized in alignment with the visionary initiative of Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, which emphasizes nurturing a strong professional outlook, ethical commitment in journalism, and the holistic development of students. The initiative sought to prepare students to become responsible and credible custodians of journalism in challenging times.

On the occasion, Prof. Garima Gupta highlighted the importance of political reporting and urged media students to remain socially aware and committed to

responsible journalism. She noted that objective and fact-based reporting helps shape media students into effective storytellers who safeguard truth and counter the spread of fake news, particularly in Political reporting.

The keynote speaker for the session encouraged students to develop a deeper understanding of contemporary issues and to embrace journalism as a powerful instrument for cultural preservation and national unity.

"Political reporting is the oxygen of democracy. It goes beyond merely covering news; it plays a vital role in keeping those in power accountable and the public well informed," he said.

During his address, Raj Kishore also discussed the current state of journalism and the challenges faced by journalists.

He spoke about the pressures associated with political reporting, the rapid spread of misinformation and propaganda in the digital age, and the importance of maintaining credibility and ethi-

cal standards in news writing.

He advised students to remain conscious of their social responsibilities while reporting on sensitive issues and to uphold the fundamental ethical principles of journalism.

The programme also featured an engaging question-and-answer session where students discussed career prospects in the media industry, academic growth, and the challenges faced by young journalists in an increasingly competitive media landscape.

At the end of the session, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai presented the formal vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to Raj Kishore for sharing his valuable experiences and insights, which will help media students better understand career choices and prepare for the demands of the media industry.

Other faculty members present during the workshop included Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj, Dr. Ravia Gupta, and Dr. Kumerjit Chajgotra.

TBS hosts alumni connect lecture on investment management



JAMMU:

The Business School (TBS) organised an insightful lecture under its Alumni Connect Lecture Series on the theme "Investment Management in the Current Market Scenario".

The lecture was delivered by Navneet Sharma, a SEBI-certified Investment Advisor and entrepreneur, who shared his expertise on contemporary trends and strategies in investment management.

During his address, Sharma highlighted the dynamics of the current financial markets, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making, risk assessment, and long-term investment planning.

He also discussed emerging opportunities in the investment landscape and encouraged students to develop the financial literacy and analytical skills needed to navigate the evolving market environment.

The session offered valuable practical insights and helped students understand real-world perspectives of investment management.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School, reiterated that the Alumni Connect Lecture Series aims to provide students with opportunities to interact with accomplished professionals and alumni who can share their industry experience and insights.

She emphasized that such engagements strengthen the bond between alumni and the institution while enriching students' understanding of contemporary business practices.

Prof Sameer Gupta, Professor in the area of Finance, presented the formal vote of thanks and appreciated the valuable insights shared by the speaker.

The event was coordinated by Dr Farah Choudhary, Associate Professor at The Business School.

FROM PG 1

JU showcases region's literary

and cultural practitioners so that the many voices and traditions of the region can be presented collectively.

He added that in many ways the Jammu region represents a living example of unity within diversity, and the festival seeks to celebrate and present that spirit.

Prof. Rai further said that such initiatives resonate with the broader vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor JK UT Manoj Sinha, which places strong emphasis on promoting regional studies, local languages, and cultural traditions while empowering youth through meaningful engagement with their heritage.

He observed that this vision seeks to transform Jammu region into a vibrant knowledge hub, where education connects with local strengths such as handicrafts, tourism, literature, and cultural creativity.

Prof. Rai added that such initiatives also reflect the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," which celebrates India's cultural diversity while strengthening the bonds of unity among different regions of the country. He said the cultural ethos of the region has always been guided by the values of humanity, compassion, and mutual respect, deeply reflected in its languages, literature, and traditions. By bringing literature, art, and community knowledge onto a shared platform, the University is contributing to an approach that blends traditional Indian values with contemporary learning while encouraging youth participation in the journey towards "Viksit Bharat @2047."

Prof. Rai also emphasized the importance of cultural roots in shaping society.

Drawing a simple analogy, he said that just as a tree cannot withstand storms if its roots are not deep, societies too must remain connected with their cultural foundations.

He further informed that the Samagam will bring together writers, artists, and scholars representing several languages spoken across the Jammu region, including Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri, Pahari, Siraji, Bhaderwahi, Pogli, Padri, Hindi, and Urdu.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, said that the programme has been thoughtfully designed to bring together prominent cultural personalities, writers, and artists from the region on one platform.

She noted that several distinguished personalities, including Padma Shri awardees, have been invited to participate and interact with the audience through discussions, performances, and literary engagements.

Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator of the event said that the festival aims to reconnect young people with their cultural roots while showcasing the artistic richness of the Jammu region.

She further shared that the programme will include around 54 exhibition stalls displaying traditional crafts such as pottery, handloom, calico printing, artifacts, and Basohli painting, along with 20 book stalls showcasing the literary heritage of the region.

Prof. Shah also acknowledged the support extended by the J&K Tourism Department, J&K Bank, the Cultural Academy of Jammu, the Department of Industries and Commerce, affiliated colleges of the University, and the civil administration in organising the festival.

Elaborating on the programme schedule, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Director DIQA, briefly shared the highlights of the programmes planned during the two-day event. She informed that the event will include a series of panel discussions, literary interactions, cultural performances, a multilingual Mushaira, and various student competitions involving schools, colleges, and university students.

'Jammu Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya—

The session was moderated by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra.

The panel discussion featured eminent speakers including Khalid Hussain, Shailender Singh, Dr. Fulail Singh Paddari, Aseer Kishtwari, K D Maini, Dr. Javaid Rahi and Manzoor Katoch.

The discussion highlighted the rich and diverse literary traditions of the Jammu region, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote its regional languages and literary expressions.

Speakers reflected on the contributions of languages such as Dogri, Punjabi, Pahari, Gojri, Kishtwari, Pogli, Bhadarwahi, Sarazi and Padri, noting that while these languages possess deep historical and cultural roots, much of their literature still remains confined to regional circles.

The panelists stressed the need to translate regional literary works into Hindi and English so that Jammu's literary heritage can reach wider national and international audiences.

They also underscored the important role of academic institutions, particularly the University, in encouraging research, documentation and publication in regional languages to ensure that the region's vibrant linguistic and cultural diversity continues to flourish for future generations.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Prof. Neeru Rohmetra, who distributed certificates and awards to the participants.

The literary engagements were followed by a Multilingual Mushaira, conducted by Irfan Arif, which brought together poets reciting in different languages and reflecting the region's rich linguistic diversity.

The vibrant and passionate Mushaira was followed by folk performances by renowned artists including Padma Romalo Ram and Asha Kesar, whose performances captivated the audience and highlighted the rich folk traditions of the Jammu region.

Engage with literature, culture:

melodies of singers, the movements of folk dancers, and the creativity of artists," he said.

Calling upon citizens—especially the youth—to actively engage with literature and culture, he described this heritage as both an inheritance and a responsibility.

"It upholds the living legacy of values passed down through generations and entrusts us with preserving and enriching this cultural-literary tradition," he added, highlighting its role in promoting inclusivity.

The Lieutenant Governor further observed that safeguarding languages helps preserve collective memory, while nurturing regional art forms fosters self-confidence.

He encouraged a renewed focus on local narratives, dialects, and artistic traditions, noting that identity is deeply rooted in these elements.

"When generations come together to exchange experiences, cultural and literary heritage

transcends time and becomes a living dialogue," he said.

The two-day conclave features cultural processions, exhibitions of indigenous attire and handicrafts, traditional cuisines, book displays, panel discussions, and a range of activities celebrating the region's unique identity, languages, folklore, customs, and creative expressions. On the occasion, the inaugural edition of the University's multilingual magazine, "The Litzine," was also released.

The event was attended by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu; eminent journalists Rajkishor (Consulting Editor, Amar Ujala) and Jai Prakash Pandey (Editor, Sahitya Tak, India Group); Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean of Research Studies; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar; Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator of the conclave; along with faculty members, senior officials, prominent citizens, and a large number of students.

DAY 2: Preserve Jammu

cultural traditions into academic curricula so that students remain connected with their roots even while engaging with global knowledge systems.

Referring to the Arvind Gyan Kendra, Prof Rai reiterated the University's commitment to preserving and making accessible valuable cultural literature and intellectual traditions related to the Duggar region.

He also expressed satisfaction that the Samagam had successfully brought together scholars, writers, artists, journalists and students on a common platform, encouraging dialogue across generations and strengthening awareness about Jammu's cultural heritage.

A panel discussion on "Jammu Sanskriti Ki Baati: Vyapakata Dikhati" was organized, highlighting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Jammu region.

The session featured eminent speakers including Padma Shri Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, Prof M K Waqar, Dr. Harsimran Singh, Dr. Farooq Anwar Mirza, Chander Kant and Dharmender Singh, while the discussion was moderated by Gulaab Safi.

The speakers elaborated on the deep historical roots of Duggar culture, tracing its connections with ancient traditions and references in Vedic literature and regional folklore.

The discussion also emphasized how traditional festivals, agricultural practices, community participation and folk traditions continue to preserve the values of unity, harmony and cultural continuity among the people of the region.

The afternoon session included another panel discussion moderated by Arun Manhas.

Parul Thakur from the Department of Journalism, secured the first prize, followed by Nitish Kumar from the Department of Dogi, who secured the second position.

Akash Rathore from IIMC Jammu won the third prize, while Komal Devi from the Department of English, Central University of Jammu, and Samiksha Mishra from IIMC Jammu received consolation prizes.

The programme also included a Students' Elocution Contest held at Padma Sachdev Sur Samvad, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from 43 students representing various colleges and universities.

The audience was also treated to captivating folk performances by Master Kartar Chand, Khajoor Singh, Mohinder Soni and Sohan Kumar, whose presentations reflected the vibrant folk traditions and musical heritage of the Duggar region.

Adding further vibrancy to the programme, the audience enjoyed lively folk performances by Darshan Patakha, the Slathia Brothers and Bishan Dass, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and musical traditions of Jammu.

The valedictory session, included an engaging panel discussion by eminent journalists Neha Jalali, Nishikant Khajuria, Naveen Nawaz and Daya Sagar, moderated by Pradeep Dutta.

Initiating the discussion, the moderator reflected on the rich cultural ethos of Jammu and observed that despite the region's long tradition of inclusivity and harmonious coexistence of diverse communities, its literary and cultural heritage had not always received the prominence it deserved in wider discourse.

The speakers emphasized that Jammu's identity is deeply rooted in its diversity and cannot be confined to a single district or community.

Describing the region as a "bouquet of cultures," the panelists highlighted the contributions of Dogra, Pahari, Gujjar-Bakarwal and other hill communities from areas such as Doda, Bhaderwah, Rajouri and Poonch, which together shape the composite cultural identity of Jammu.

The panelists also stressed the importance of actively involving the younger generation in preserving and promoting cultural traditions.

They suggested that digital platforms, social media and contemporary communication tools can be effectively used to document and disseminate Jammu's literature, folklore and artistic traditions to a wider audience.

The valedictory function was enriched by vibrant cultural presentations that reflected the living traditions of the Duggar region. Artists showcased traditional folk dances, while the audience was enthralled by performances from the BSF Band and Pipe Band, whose musical renditions added ceremonial grandeur to the occasion.

Over the course of two days, the Jammu Vishwavidyalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam transformed the University into a vibrant hub of literary dialogue, cultural reflection and artistic expression.

Mansar Lake educational tour

KATHUA:

The Department of English, Kathua Campus successfully conducted an educational tour to Mansar Lake near Samba engaging a group of undergraduate students in an immersive exploration of the site's cultural, geographical, and ecological importance.

Mansar Lake, known for its serene beauty and historical importance, has been a site of great cultural and natural significance.

"This hands-on experience bridged classroom learning with real-world applications, deepening students' appreciation for environmental science and cultural heritage," stated Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus in his message to participants.

Accompanied by Dr Pankaj Khajuria, Assistant Registrar, Dr. Nomita Sharma and Dr. Meenakshi Thakur, Faculty Members, Department of English, Kathua Campus, the students gained invaluable insights into the Lake's serene environment, surrounding forests, and historical significance.

Dept of Political Science organizes special lecture

JAMMU:

A Special Lecture on the topic "India-South Africa Relations: The Global South in times of Geo-Political Crises" delivered by Professor Anil Sookhlal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India, was organized by the Department of Political Science.

At the outset of the event Prof. Baljit Singh Mann, Head, Department of Political Science, formally welcomed the distinguished guests Professor Anil Sookhlal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India, Dr. Nelista Sookhlal Singh spouse of the High Commissioner and Cedrick Charles Crowley, Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa to India, Professor Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies and Founder Director, Indian Institute of Management, Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh and the participants in this special lecture.

While introducing the theme of the lecture to the audience Professor Mann shed light on the evolution of the India-South Africa relations by stating that both countries have civilizational linkages.

He said that their relationships can be understood in three broad phases mainly; colonial period, post-colonial period and contemporary period. Both have been colonies of Great Britain, and experienced institutionalized discrimination.

He said that Mahatma Gandhi acted as the main link between these two civilizations apart from the Indian diaspora in South Africa. While discussing the trajectory of India and South Africa rela-



tions, he analyzed that how the mechanism of these relations have matured with passage of time from bilateral to trilateral and multilateral overtimes due to the evolving convergence on the interests on the global commons such as international political economy, fair

trade, security of sea lanes and climate change.

Professor Anil Sookhlal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India while delivering his lecture started with a historical perspective, mentioning the Berlin Conference of 1844, which determined

how Africa would be shared amongst Europe, US and the Ottoman, without involvement of African nations.

He said that when slavery got abolished in 1834, the policy of indentured labour started which resulted in the first wave of migra-

tion from India especially from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, UP, Bihar and later from Gujrat as well.

He discussed the formation of Natal Indian Congress by Mahatma Gandhi in 1894 and on similar lines the formation of African National Congress (ANC) by Nelson Mandella in 1912.

He articulated that Gandhi influenced African politics and his methods got influenced by his stay in Africa. He stated that 'Gandhi transformed South Africa and South Africa transformed Gandhi'.

He summed up his lecture by stating that just like India's 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' (the whole world is a family) South Africa is having 'Ubuntu' (I am because of you). He further stated that our collective responsibility is to protect the interest of the Global South in the New Global Order.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies presided over the event. While delivering her presidential remarks she stated that Professor Anil Sookhlal spoke from his heart as he is emotionally connected with India and South Africa. She saluted him for connecting both diplomatically and academically with India.

This special lecture was attended by faculty members of the different departments of the University. The proceedings of the events were successfully conducted by Khushi Verma, student of MA Semester IV of the Department.

Awareness session on "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life-Drug Free India" held

JAMMU:

In a significant initiative aimed at spreading awareness against the growing menace of substance abuse among the youth, the Department of Students Welfare in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, organized a special awareness session on the theme "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life-Drug Free India" at the University campus.

The programme was held to mark the 41st Raising Day of the Narcotics Control Bureau.

The program was organized under the overall supervision of Dean DSW, Prof. Prakash Anthal.

Among others present on the occasion included Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee Prof. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School and faculty members from various departments.

Special Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, UT of J&K, Nagenda Singh Jamwal, Col Dheeraj Singh Jamwal of Ramachandra Mission, Dr. Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu, graced the occasion as Guest Speakers.

The session was conceived as an awareness-building initiative to sensitise young minds to the harmful physical, psychological, social and national consequences of narcotics and to encourage them to become active stakeholders in building a drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, Nagenda Singh Jamwal, said that the youth of India stand at the heart of India's journey towards 2047, as



they will emerge as the country's future decision-makers, policy planners and nation-builders.

He observed that while India is moving ahead with the confidence of a growing economy and the strength of its demographic advantage, there are also disruptive forces that attempt to divert young minds from their constructive path.

Referring to the changing social environment marked by shrinking attention spans, rapid lifestyle shifts and growing experimenta-

tion, he noted that drug abuse often enters the lives of young people in subtle forms, appearing as curiosity, fashion or temporary indulgence.

Drawing from his experience in the field of higher education, Jamwal underlined that the issue of substance abuse cannot be addressed through lectures alone and that universities must adopt more meaningful and engaging ways of connecting with students.

He urged educational institutions to create interactive and ex-

periential platforms through youth festivals, adventure activities, cultural programmes, heritage visits and wider student participation so that the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of the younger generation can be channeled in a positive direction.

He said that awareness against drug abuse must be sustained and repeated with the same seriousness with which society has addressed other major public health concerns over time.

Addressing the gathering, Dr.

Ajay Sharma, SP South, extended greetings to the Narcotics Control Bureau on its 41st Raising Day and said that the fight against drug abuse has emerged as a major priority under a coordinated whole-of-government approach at both the national and Union Territory levels.

He noted that the campaign against narcotics is being pursued with seriousness through the concerted efforts of the J&K Police, Narcotics Control Bureau, Anti-Narcotics Task Force and other enforcement agencies working at multiple levels to dismantle the entire chain of drug trafficking, from supply and smuggling to local distribution networks.

Adding a spiritual and mental wellness perspective to the programme, Col. Dheeraj Singh Jamwal of Ramachandra Mission conducted a calming meditation session for the students and participants.

He introduced them to simple practices for managing stress, anxiety and inner restlessness, which often become underlying factors leading individuals towards unhealthy coping mechanisms, including substance abuse.

The book titled "Startup From Small Town", authored by Karuna Nanda, was also released by the dignitaries on the occasion.

Earlier in his welcome address, Kumar Manohar Manjul, SP, NCB Jammu underlined the significance of observing the 41st Raising Day of the Narcotics Control Bureau through direct engagement with students and educational institutions.

I'ntl Women's Day

Centre for Women's Studies, GHRT, organise Conference

JAMMU:

To commemorate International Women's Day 2026, the Centre for Women's Studies in collaboration with GHRT, successfully organized a landmark conference themed "Closing the Digital Divide: Women in the Age of AI".

The event brought together academicians, policymakers, professionals, and community leaders to deliberate on the critical need for inclusive digital transformation and women's empowerment in the rapidly evolving age of Artificial Intelligence.

The highlight of the programme was the felicitation of 30 visionary women and 17 guest awardees from Jammu and Kashmir, representing diverse sectors including education, entrepreneurship, social work, healthcare, technology, arts, and public service.

These distinguished women were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the society and for breaking barriers in their respective fields.

The program was graced by eminent dignitaries including Chief Guest Ravinder Raina, National Executive Member BJP, former MLA Nowshera and State President BJP J&K, the Guests of Honour Arjun Singh Raju, Former, MLA Ramban, Khurshid



Ahmed, MLA Mahore, and Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies and H. R. Rahman, Chairman and CEO of Global Human Rights Trust.

The dignitaries applauded the efforts of the Centre for Women's Studies and GHRT in creating a platform that recognizes women leaders while addressing the pressing issue of digital inequity.

In their addresses, they emphasized the importance of policy support, digital literacy initiatives, and institutional frameworks that enable women to actively participate in and shape the AI-driven future.

The programme was presided over by Prof. Savita Nayyar, who on behalf of the University and Centre for Women's Studies congratulated all on International Women's Day and welcomed the guests and participants. In her address she highlighted the transformative power of education and research in bridging gender gaps in technology.

She underscored the role of universities in fostering innovation, mentorship, and skill development opportunities tailored to women and marginalized communities.

During the ceremony, several distinguished women were felicitated for their outstanding achievements and contributions to society.

In the second half, the conference featured thought-provoking sessions on digital access, ethical AI, women-led innovation, and strategies to ensure equitable participation in emerging technologies.

The Speakers and Panelists stressed the urgency of collaborative efforts among academia, civil society, and government bodies to close the digital divide.

CWS hosts awareness workshop



JAMMU:

The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and NSS Unit-1, PSPS GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, organized an awareness workshop titled "Gender-based Cyber Violence: Emerging Threats and Legal Solutions" at GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The workshop aimed to sensitize young girls and faculty members to the growing threat of cybercrimes targeting women and to enhance understanding of the existing legal mechanisms to address such challenges.

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, was the key resource person for the workshop. In her address, she thanked Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal, PSPS GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, for providing the platform to interact with the students and faculty members.

Prof. Nayyar elaborated on the evolving nature of cybercrimes against women, including online harassment, cyberstalking, identity theft, and misuse of digital platforms.

She stated that while digital technologies have opened up new avenues for expression and empowerment, they have also given rise to cybercrimes that disproportionately target women.

She further stressed that

cybercrimes against women represent a serious and growing concern, as they often combine technological abuse with deep-rooted gender inequalities.

She also highlighted the legal provisions designed to deal with cyber offences, such as the Information Technology Act, 2000, and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

She concluded by emphasizing that safeguarding women in digital spaces is crucial for achieving gender justice and inclusive digital growth.

Dr. Saranjit Kaur, faculty, Centre for Women's Studies presented the introductory context of the theme.

Earlier, Dr. Suraj Mohani, Head, Department of Sociology, in her welcome address, emphasized the growing relevance of addressing cybercrimes against women in digital era. A large number of students and faculty members actively participated in the discussion on contemporary cyber threats. The students also shared their personal experiences and raised various queries, which were answered by the resource person to their satisfaction. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Disha Sharma, faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, who thanked the keynote speaker, organizers, participants, and the collaborating department for their valuable contributions.

NSS organizes workshop on "Give to Gain"

JAMMU:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) organised a two-day workshop to commemorate International Women's Day on the theme "Give to Gain."

The workshop aimed to promote awareness about women's empowerment, gender equality and the role of youth in building an inclusive and progressive society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers, students and scholars who actively engaged in discussions and interactive sessions.

The inaugural session was formally inaugurated by Prof. Suman Jamwal, Dean Social Sciences who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In her inaugural address, Prof. Jamwal emphasized the significance of the theme "Give to Gain," highlighting how sharing knowledge, opportunities and support can lead to collective growth and empowerment.

She also reflected on the historical struggles of women and highlighted their strength, power and capabilities. She encouraged participants to actively engage in the sessions and reflect on ways to uplift and mentor others in their communities and workplaces.

Earlier, Prof. Vishav Raksha, Convener NSS Campus Units and Head, Department of Sociology, formally welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of such workshops for NSS volunteers.

She also spoke on the theme "Give to Gain," emphasizing the need to enhance the capability and capacity of women.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, NSS Programme Coordinator, presented the vote of thanks and highlighted the role of the NSS Office in organizing programmes that commemorate important occasions and sensitize volunteers on themes of social relevance.

During the workshop, several expert sessions were conducted.



On the first day, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head, Department of Home Science, delivered a lecture on the topic "Empathy, Inclusion, and Empowerment: The Spirit of Give to Gain."

She explained how empathy helps in understanding others' perspectives while inclusion ensures that everyone feels valued and respected.

Another session was conducted by Dr. Suraj Mohini Jamwal, Assistant Professor, Cluster University, who spoke on the theme "Empower Her, Gain a Better Tomorrow." In her lecture, she highlighted several pressing social concerns and stressed the importance of awareness and education in addressing these challenges.

The second day began with a session by Dr. Ellora Puri from the Department of Political Science, who spoke on "Give to Gain: Universalizing the Spirit of Care." She encouraged participants to

critically engage with contemporary political and social challenges.

Another session was conducted by Dr. Vikram Gulati, Vice Principal, Happy Model School, Udhampur, who emphasized the importance of happiness and personal values while highlighting the relevance of yoga in managing stress.

The valedictory session was attended by Prof. Jasbir Singh, Head, Department of Philosophy, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He appreciated the initiative taken by the NSS in organising such a meaningful workshop and encouraged students and volunteers to continue working for the welfare of society while upholding the values of equality and service.

The workshop concluded with an interactive discussion in which participants shared their reflections and experiences from the sessions.

International conference concludes

JAMMU:

The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) concluded its two-day International Conference organized as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Centre with a valedictory session held.

The conference was organized on the theme "Reimagining Open, Distance, Online, Blended and Self-Directed Learning: Innovations, Equity, and Impact in the Digital Era" and witnessed participation from eminent academicians, researchers, policy-makers and scholars from across the country and abroad.

Prof. T Ramesh, former Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University, Warangal, was the Chief Guest at the valedictory session, while Dr. Sunita Siwach, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, joined the programme online as the Guest of Honour.

The session began with a floral welcome of the Chief Guest



by Prof. Pankaj K Srivastava, Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education and Convener of the conference.

Prof. Srivastava also presented a memento to the Chief Guest as a token of appreciation.

In his address, Chief Guest Prof. T. Ramesh congratulated the Centre for Distance and Online Education for successfully organising the international conference.

He described the event as an

important academic initiative and highlighted the relevance of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, particularly the goal of expanding the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and the role of the UGC-Distance Education Bureau in strengthening distance and online education in the country.

Prof. Ramesh observed that the concept of openness in education has acquired new significance in the age of technology and innovation, enabling learners to access education anytime and anywhere.

He emphasized that open learning systems offer freedom and flexibility, allowing students to pursue subjects of their interest and learn at their own pace.

He also highlighted the importance of government support in adopting flexible educational practices to expand access to higher education.

Addressing the gathering online, Dr. Sunita Siwach congratulated the organisers for

successfully conducting the international conference. She reflected on the growth of distance education in India and the innovations that have shaped the learning landscape over the years.

Referring to the transformative impact of the digital era and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, she said that online education stands at par with conventional modes of learning in terms of reach and accessibility.

The presidential remarks were delivered by Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, speakers, delegates and members of the organizing committee for their support in making the conference a success.

He highlighted self-directed learning as a powerful tool in modern education, particularly in the context of flexible and technology-enabled learning environments.

International Conference on Open-Distance Learning inaugurated

JAMMU:

A two-day International Conference on the theme "Reimagining Open, Distance, Online Blended and Self-directed Learning: Innovations, Equity, and Impact in the Digital Era" was inaugurated.

The conference is being organized by the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

Eminent academicians, researchers and scholars from India and abroad, including participants from Canada, the United States of America, Italy and Sri Lanka, are participating in the conference, reflecting growing international engagement on contemporary developments in higher education and distance learning.

Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Vinoba Bhave Open University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Presiding over the event, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai congratulated the CDOE team on the occasion of the Centre's 50th anniversary and appreciated its significant contribution in expanding educational access and academic outreach.

In his address, Chief Guest Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma highlighted the transformative potential of distance and online education in democratizing access to higher education and strengthening knowledge dissemination.



Special Guest Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies spoke about the multidimensional learning avenues offered by distance and online education and emphasized that such modes expand opportunities for students through flexible and inclusive educational pathways.

Guest of Honour Dr. Basheer Ahmad Shadrach, Director, CEMCA, New Delhi, observed that the world is increasingly becoming learner-centric and stressed the need for teachers to effectively co-exist with emerging technologies

to enhance teaching and learning processes.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Tony Mayes, Director (Education), Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, who highlighted the concept and evolution of open and blended learning.

He also discussed various initiatives and projects of the Commonwealth of Learning aimed at promoting accessibility, openness and inclusivity in education across countries.

Earlier, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director CDOE, in his wel-

come address highlighted the significance of the conference and the growing role of distance and online education in expanding access to quality higher education.

He also expressed gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai for his constant guidance and support in strengthening CDOE initiatives.

Prof. Anupama Vohra, Organising Secretary of the conference, presented an overview of the event, outlining its objectives, thematic focus and the importance of academic dialogue and collabora-

tion among scholars and practitioners.

The inaugural session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Anju Thappa, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants and members of the organising committee for their support in making the event successful.

The inaugural programme was followed by three plenary sessions featuring expert deliberations on contemporary issues in education. The first plenary session was chaired by Vishaka Nanayakkara, Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Lanka, and co-chaired by Dr. Hina Abrol, CDOE, focusing on themes such as Artificial Intelligence in education, blended learning and quality assurance mechanisms in digital education systems.

The second plenary session was chaired by Dr. Basheer Ahmad Shadrach and focused on transformative pedagogies and evolving learning ecosystems in higher education.

The third plenary session was chaired by Dr. Minakshi Kilam, Former Director, CDOE, and co-chaired by Dr. Neelam Choudhary, where scholars deliberated on academic accountability and innovative assessment mechanisms for distance and online learners.

The event was moderated by Dr. Jasleen Kour, Assistant Professor, CDOE.

The academic sessions were followed by a multilingual poetry meet that added a cultural dimension to the conference.

Department of Economics participate in "Viksit Bharat - Post Budget Webinar 2026-27"

JAMMU:

The Department of Economics participated in a webinar on the theme "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas - Fulfilling Aspirations of People", as part of the Viksit Bharat Post Budget Webinar Series initiated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The session aimed to discuss and disseminate the key announcements and policy directions highlighted in the Union Budget 2026-27, particularly in the areas of education, innovation, and skill development.

The webinar was attended by

faculty members, research scholars, and students of the department. The objective of the session was to provide an understanding of how the recent budgetary provisions in the education sector contribute towards achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047."

During the session, participants discussed the significance of strengthening India's education ecosystem by creating stronger linkages between education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

The deliberations emphasized the need to translate budget announcements into practical and

collaborative initiatives that can enhance workforce capabilities and promote sustainable national development.

The webinar also highlighted several key initiatives proposed in the budget, including the Education to Employment and Enterprise framework, the establishment of AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) Content Creator Labs, the development of University Townships, the construction of girls' hostels to encourage participation in STEM education, the National Telescope Scheme, and Divyang Kaushal Yojana aimed at

promoting inclusive skill development.

These initiatives are expected to strengthen human capital, foster innovation, and promote inclusivity within the education system. The webinar enlightened the students in areas of education, innovation and overall skill enhancement.

The discussions further underscored the importance of aligning academic curricula with emerging economic sectors, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship among youth, and building stronger collaboration between academia, industry, and govern-

ment institutions.

Such efforts are essential to prepare students with future-ready skills and contribute effectively to the country's development goals.

The session concluded with a collective reflection on the role of educational institutions in supporting national policy initiatives and nurturing a knowledge-driven economy.

The webinar successfully provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on the transformative role of education in achieving the vision of a developed and self-reliant India by 2047.

Pre-conference workshop on NEP-2020 implementation organized

JAMMU:

The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) organized a Pre-Conference Workshop on "Implementation of NEP-2020 in ODL and Online Learning: Issues and Challenges" as a curtain raiser to the upcoming two-day International Conference being held as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of CDOE.

The conference is centred on the theme "Reimagining Open, Distance, Online, Blended and Self-Directed Learning: Innovations, Equity, and Impact in the Digital Era."

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment.

The inaugural session was graced by Chief Guest Prof. K S Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Guest of Honour Prof. Srilatha Chepure, Vice Chancellor, Aurora Deemed University, Hyderabad; and Special Guest Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean Business Studies and Director, SIIEDC.

In his address, Prof. Chandrasekar, informed the audience about the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and emphasized the need for its implementation in letter and spirit to infuse academic freedom, institutional innovation, and a forward-looking vision.

He highlighted that universities should not restrict themselves within rigid regulatory frameworks but should actively design flexible academic programmes that respond to the evolving needs of learners.

Prof. Chandrasekar further



noted the rapidly growing demand for online and distance education and observed that the future of higher education will increasingly be shaped by technology-enabled learning platforms.

Guest of Honour Prof. Srilatha Chepure spoke about the evolving landscape of the Indian education system in the global context.

Reflecting on the rich legacy of India's ancient education traditions, including the Gurukul system, she noted that the reforms introduced through NEP-2020 seek to harmonize traditional strengths with contemporary educational needs.

Special Guest Prof. Alka Sharma deliberated on the changes being introduced in university departments in accordance with the spirit of NEP-

2020.

She emphasized the importance of inclusive education and remarked that institutions must make sustained efforts to retain students and create an environment that nurtures diversity and equal opportunity.

Prof. Sharma also underscored the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and multidisciplinary learning, noting that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are transforming how knowledge is created and disseminated.

Earlier, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava welcomed the dignitaries and participants, highlighted the significance of the workshop in CDOE's Golden Jubilee celebrations and emphasized the crucial role of ODL and online learning in democratizing education and

reaching learners across diverse geographical and socio-economic contexts.

The Organising Secretary of the workshop, Prof. Anupama Vohra, from the Department of English, CDOE, introduced the objectives of the programme and stated that the workshop was conceptualized to deliberate on the effective implementation of NEP-2020 within the framework of Open and Distance Learning and online education systems.

Dr. Hina Abrol, Associate Professor, Department of History, CDOE, conducted the programme and also presented the vote of thanks.

The first session was headed by Prof. Renu Nanda, Dean Faculty of Education and Head, Department of Education, who highlighted the

concept of 360-degree education as envisioned in NEP-2020.

Prof. Nanda also discussed the Vidyanjali initiative, underscoring its role in fostering creativity, experiential learning, and active learner participation in the educational process.

In the second session, Dr. Amit Gautam from the Department of School and Non-Formal Education, NIEPA, New Delhi, addressed the integration of digital technology in NEP-2020 and discussed the challenges posed by the digital divide.

The workshop provided a valuable platform for meaningful deliberations on policy implementation, technological integration, and institutional preparedness required for strengthening Open and Distance Learning in the digital age.

UIET, Kathua Campus celebrate International Women's Day

KATHUA:

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at UIET, Kathua Campus.

The program was organized in collaboration with the District Administration and Social Welfare Department, Kathua, under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Varun Kumar Choudhary (JKAS) to honour the strength, achievements, and contributions of women in society.

The program witnessed the gracious presence of Rector/Co-ordinator, UIET, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, In-Charge Principal, UIET, Dr Rocky Gupta, faculty members, teaching and non-teaching staff, and students of the institution.

Muskan Kesar and Jyoti Gupta from the Social Welfare Department, Kathua, were the resource persons for the program.

In his address, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia emphasized the need to create an inclusive environment where women can lead, innovate, and inspire. He re-



marked that educational institutions play a crucial role in nurturing confidence and leadership among young women.

Dr. Rocky Gupta, while addressing the gathering, encouraged students to uphold the values of equality and respect. He stated that empowering women ultimately strengthens families, communities, and the nation.

Muskan Kesar and Jyoti Gupta highlighted the importance of promoting equality, dignity, and empowerment for women through education and collective action.

Dr. Rajani Sarangal and Shamli Jasrotia, in their respective speeches, appreciated the initiative taken by the institution to celebrate and recognise women's contributions in society, education, families, and workplaces.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, UIET.

The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Reemani Verma, Assistant Professor, Communication Skills, UIET.

The Business School organizes industrial visit

JAMMU:

The Business School under the leadership of its Director, Prof. Amisha Gupta, organized an informative industrial visit to Advantec Wheels Pvt. Ltd. for the students of MBA Semester IV.

The visit was arranged with the objective of giving students practical exposure to the process and functioning of manufacturing industry and to connect classroom learning with real industrial practices.

During the visit, the students were taken on a guided tour of the manufacturing facilities of Advantec Wheels Pvt. Ltd., located at SIDCO Industrial Complex, Bari Brahmana which is among the prominent alloy wheel manufacturers in the region.

They observed different stages of the production process, beginning from raw material processing to the final finishing of alloy wheels.



The management of the unit shared valuable insights about the functioning of the alloy wheel industry, highlighting technological developments, global market trends, and sustainable manufacturing practices.

The visit also provided an opportunity for students to interact

with the employees of the unit. Through these discussions, students gained a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by the industry at both national and international levels.

This experience helped students to enhance their practical knowledge in areas such as Project management, Supply chain management, Global business operations etc.

Earlier, Prof. Amisha Gupta, Director, TBS, formally flagged-off the students from University. In her address, she appreciated the initiative and thanked the Director, Advantec Wheels Pvt, Anil Suri and Bhaskar Suri with the message, for facilitating such a meaningful learning experience for the students.

The industrial visit was coordinated by Dr. Saloni Devi and Dr. Shelleka Gupta, faculty members of The Business School.

SMVDU Exhibition: Design Your Degree students bag second prize

JAMMU:

The students from the Design Your Degree programme, brought laurels to the institution by securing the second prize in the "Present a Model" category at the Smart Solution Exhibition 2.0 – Ekavta 2026 organised at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

Around 70 teams participated in the exhibition and presented innovative technological solutions.

The University's team showcased their project "Anubhav-X", an immersive Virtual Reality (VR)-based temple experience that digitally recreates cultural and spiritual environments.

The project enables users to virtually explore temple spaces and interact with various elements such as ringing the temple bell, thereby combining technology with cultural and interactive learning.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai congratulated the students for bringing pride to the institution and appreciated their efforts in integrating Virtual Reality with cultural heritage.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, Skill Incubation and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC) appreciated



the creativity and innovative approach of the students.

Prof. Jatinder Manhas, Associate Director, SIIEDC, extended his best wishes to the team and commended their hard work and innovative thinking.

He encouraged them to continue developing impactful technological solutions that contribute meaningfully to society.

The winning team comprised Diya Rani, Kashvi Vaid, Vidhita Arora and Paridhi Mahajan, stu-

dents of Design Your Degree Batch-2023, currently in Semester VI and pursuing B.Tech in Information Technology.

The team has also participated in an International Hackathon organized by Canadian University, Dubai, where they cleared the first round and secured the 79th rank among more than 2,000 teams worldwide in the second round.

The team will next present their project Anubhav-X at AI Craft 3.1 to be hosted by Amity University.

ICccR-HRM organizes workshop on Global Business Communication

JAMMU:

The International Centre for Cross Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICccR & HRM) organised a one-day workshop on "Global Business Communication and Executive Image Management" for the students of MBA (International Business).

The workshop was organized with the objective of strengthening communication competencies, executive presence and professional etiquette among future managers, which are considered essential for success in the contemporary corporate environment.

The session was conducted by Chitrakshi Vij, a Delhi-based CEO Image Consultant and Executive Presence Coach with over 12 years of professional experience.

She has trained more than 6,000 professionals across India and has worked with reputed organisations including the Government of India, UNDP India, Dale Carnegie, NIIT Technologies and UpGrad.

During the workshop, Vij interacted with the students through practical demonstrations, interactive discussions and real-life examples.

She focused on key aspects such as effective communication, presentation skills, professional etiquette, executive presence and personal branding. The session helped students understand the importance of confidence, clarity and a professional image in corporate environments.

Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director, ICccR & HRM, appreciated the initiative and emphasized that such workshops play a significant role in enhancing students' professional competencies and preparing them for the evolving corporate landscape.



TBS organizes seminar to mark International Women's Day

JAMMU:

The Business School (TBS) organised a one-day seminar to celebrate International Women's Day 2026. The seminar was held on the theme "Give to Gain: Empowering Women, Enriching Society", highlighting that societal investment in women's education, leadership and mentorship is a key catalyst for sustainable development and collective progress.

The event featured a panel discussion comprising experts from diverse fields who shared their perspectives on the role of women in shaping a more equitable and progressive society.

Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, Director General, Local Funds Audit and Pensions, J&K, spoke about various women-oriented government schemes that provide opportunities for women's empowerment.

She urged women to be proactive and unapologetic in pursuing their goals, describing them as the "unsung heroes" of society.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean Faculty of Business Studies and Director, SIIEDC introduced the theme of the seminar and described empowerment as an essential institutional framework rather than merely a social goal.



She noted that many modern societies still fail to treat women as equals and stressed that men also have a crucial role to play in promoting women's empowerment. She further emphasized that women must be given opportunities to study and pursue their chosen paths.

Senior Advocate Meenakshi Slathia, partner at Slathia Law Firm, highlighted the gap between constitutional rights and social realities and stressed the need to bridge this societal divide.

Dr. Saima Sadiq, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Government Medical College Jammu, underscored the importance of women's health and spoke about creating awareness regarding menstrual health and the HPV vaccine.

Asha Sarmal, journalist with Gulistan News and JK Media, emphasized the accountability of the government in empowering women by addressing issues such as literacy, crime and social justice.

Geetika Kohli, founder of the startup Thinksta, shared her views on how women's struggles are often overlooked and highlighted the need to dismantle unequal systems while encouraging women to grow beyond the identities imposed upon them.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Prof. Amisha Gupta, Director, The Business School, highlighted the transformational role of women and described them as agents of change in society. She also emphasized the role of TBS in educating and mentoring women leaders who have excelled in diverse fields including business, academics and administration.

The panelists were formally felicitated by the faculty members of The Business School.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Aubid Hussain Parrey, Assistant Professor, TBS.

The programme concluded with an interactive open house session that allowed students and scholars to engage directly with the panelists.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Komal Nagar, who expressed gratitude to the University administration, resource persons, scholars and students for making the event successful.

THE BUSINESS SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU
EXECUTIVE MBA

Innovative Academic Initiative in Blended Mode

ADMISSION NOTICE (2026-28)

Applications as per the prescribed format are invited from working professionals with minimum two (02) years experience after obtaining minimum qualification (Graduation).

SALIENT FEATURES & VALUE PROPOSITIONS

- Two years degree program in blended mode.
- Based on strategic approach for professional development.
- Case and project based teaching learning pedagogy.
- Entrepreneurial development and business transformation.
- Multiple Entry-Exit System (MEES) in sync with NEP 2020.

IMPORTANT DATES

Online Application Opens : April 14, 2026 Last Date to Apply : May 15, 2026

Interested candidates desirous of seeking admission to EMBA program (2026-28) need to submit the completely filled application form along with requisite documents (download form through the website tbs.jammuuniversity.ac.in, under orders & notifications) along with the application fee of Rs. 1000/-; on or before the last date at tbsadmissions@jammuuniversity.ac.in. The application fee to be submitted through NEFT/RTGS as per the following details.

Account No. : 0345040520000044 (Director, The Business School, JU)
Bank Name & Branch : J&K Bank Ltd. (New University Campus, Jammu)
IFSC : JAKA0CANAAL

For queries please contact :
Email:- tbsadmissions@jammuuniversity.ac.in | Mobile:- 8803010608, 9419110199

No. : TBS/JU/26/525
Dated : 07-04-2026

Sd/-
Director, TBS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU, JAMMU
(NAAC Accredited A++ Grade University)

JUET-2026
Date of Conduct: 25th APRIL, 2026

SCHEDULE FOR JUET-2026

S.No.	PARTICULARS	Date
1.	DOWNLOADING of the JUET-2026 ADMIT CARD from the University Website Link: https://jammuuniversity.ac.in/PG/2026-27	April 21, 2026 10.00 AM onwards
2.	CONDUCT OF JAMMU UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST (JUET-2026)	April 25, 2026 (Saturday) (10:30 am to 1:00 pm)
3.	DISPLAY of JUET-2026 PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY on University Website Link: https://jammuuniversity.ac.in/PG/2026-27	April 25, 2026 (5:00 pm)
4.	Dates for filing of any grievance pertaining to the Question/ Answer Key of JUET-2026 (Only Online on the University website with the supporting documents/evidence) <i>NOTE: No grievance shall be accepted without receipt of non-refundable processing charges @ Rs. 200/- for each question, with supporting documents/ evidence after the due date.</i>	April 26, 2026 & April 27, 2026 (Upto 04:00 PM)

For other details and updates regularly visit University of Jammu admission website: <https://jammuuniversity.ac.in/PG/2026-27>

No: DAA/26/148
Dated : 13-04-2026

Sd/-
JOINT REGISTRAR
(ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

JUET-2026 JUET-2026 JUET-2026 JUET-2026 JUET-2026

School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU
(NAAC Accredited "A++" Grade University)

MBA (TTM) ADMISSIONS: 2026-28

The candidates who have appeared in CAT-2025 or AIMA-MAT (September 2025, December 2025 and March 2026) and are desirous of seeking admission in MBA (Tourism and Travel Management) programme of the University of Jammu for the session 2026-28 in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Main Campus, University of Jammu are advised to fill the admission form available at University of Jammu website <https://jammuuniversity.ac.in> and deposit the same in the SHTM office along with the Demand Draft of Rs. 800/- drawn in the name of Director, SHTM.

Last Date to Apply: 30th April, 2026

Candidates are advised to regularly check the website and for further information regarding admission please contact on 9796698963, 7889702902.

No: SHTM/JU/26/395
Dated : 24-03-2026

Sd/-
DIRECTOR (SHTM)

EXAMINATION WING
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU
(NAAC Accredited A++ University)

NOTICE

Finalization of Merit Lists for the Year 2024 and 2025

All the concerned are hereby called upon/ requested to visit the website www.coeju.com or www.jammuuniversity.ac.in and check the merit list of Non-Professional courses (Under Graduate) and Masters Degree Programmes (CBCS & Non-CBCS) uploaded for the award of University Gold Medals, Endowment Gold Medals etc. (Convocation being scheduled shortly) for the said years. Any objection, etc. Can be submitted by April 30, 2026 (details available in the notification uploaded on the said website).

No: Eval/NP/26/3136-3286
Dated : 20-04-2026

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU
(NAAC Accredited A++ Grade University)

Admissions 2026-27

DESIGN YOUR DEGREE

An Innovative Four Year Undergraduate Program

Designed in consultation with leading experts from Academia, Industry, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Startups, Art and Design

Key features

- Freedom to choose courses across the disciplines
- Project based inter-disciplinary/trans-disciplinary skill oriented curriculum
- Builds strong skill set in communication, mathematical ability, artificial intelligence, coding, data handling and problem solving through collaborative teamwork
- Continuous assessment and credit based flexibility
- Internships, community engagement and research exposure
- Multiple exit/entry options with recognized certifications
- Equally suitable for students of Humanities/ Science/ Commerce/ Social Science, etc.

Important Dates	Timeline
Entrance Exam Registration	Open from 12-04-2026
Open House Interaction	Dates: 08-05-2026 & 22-05-2026 Venue: New Building of Design Your Degree (Pre-fab), University of Jammu Time: 11:30 AM
Last Date to Apply	31-05-2026
Details of Entrance Examination	Date: 03-06-2026 Venue: Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu Time: 11:30 AM
Program Begins	August 2026

For admission click: <https://forms.gle/AKVVZAXDiNHWHcYKA>
For queries visit : <https://www.jammuuniversity.ac.in/dyd/Introduction>
Email id: siiedc@jammuuniversity.ac.in
Contact number: 9419173793, 9419207383, 9419140828, 9419143987, 9419137241
EMPOWER YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY: UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

No: SIIEDC/26/4284
Dated : 07-04-2026

Sd/-
Director, SIIEDC