



JAMMU UNIVERSITY Times

“Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent and original manner possible.” — Richard Feynman

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



‘The Pedagogical Journey’ released, opens discourse on classroom pedagogy, teacher training ... Pg 3



Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel hosts Vanmahotsav Plantation Drive with INTACH, PanchParivartan ...Pg 6

VC releases devotional bhajan ‘Chhari Yatra Amarnath-Tappe’...Pg 7



PLANTATION DRIVE HELD

Global warming reminder of nature needing urgent care: VC

Calls for “Ek Ped Vishwavidyalaya Ke Naam”

JAMMU:

Observing that ecological values were deeply rooted in the Indian tradition Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai has said that rising temperatures, depleting groundwater, and global warming are all reminders that nature needs urgent care.

“To save ourselves, we are left with no choice but to plant more and more trees,” the Vice Chancellor said while interacting with the participants during the green campus initiative ‘From Sips to Saplings’ organised in the Campus.

The Vice Chancellor said, “In our culture, ponds, wells, and gardens were once considered symbols of virtue. But as they gradually disappeared, so did the balance in our environment. When gardens disappear, childhood disappears too.”

He lauded the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s inspiring call for “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” and extended it with his own appeal to the campus community to dedicate “Ek Ped Vishwavidyalaya Ke Naam”, symbolizing a personal commitment to the environment.

Prof. Rai also acknowledged the commendable efforts of the University’s Arboriculture team, in particular Ajmer Singh. Arboriculturist, saying: “The visible transformation of the campus into a greener space



over the past three and a half years is the result of their dedication and consistent work. I may be the facilitator, but the credit truly belongs to them.”

Talking to media persons on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary Mr Shantmanu echoed the sentiment that humans are deeply connected to nature and have much to learn from it.

“As a child watches a tree grow,

and as an adult watches it mature and flourish, there is a powerful life lesson in every stage of that tree’s journey,” Mr Shantmanu added. He lauded the University’s leadership in championing sustainability, saying that such initiatives resonate with the larger vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, who has underscored the value of tree plantation through campaigns like ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’.

CONTD ON PG 8

JU launches 5 year integrated UG programme in Mathematical Sciences
Initiative a step toward creating future-ready, skilled graduates aligned with NEP 2020: VC



JAMMU:

Stressing the importance of skill-based education aligned with evolving market demands, the University has launched a pioneering Five-Year Integrated Undergraduate Programme in Mathematical Sciences, bringing together the core disciplines of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science under a single academic framework. Announcing the initiative at a press conference, Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai stated, “With this integrated programme, we are not just offering another academic pathway—we are equipping our students with the essential tools of the future: data literacy, analytical thinking, and computational skills, all grounded in an interdisciplinary framework envisioned by NEP 2020.”

Elaborating on the programme’s vision, Prof. Rai said the initiative reflects the University’s academic pledge of “Dissolving Boundaries, Evolving Education”.

“By bringing together Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science under a single, integrated academic framework, we are collapsing traditional subject boundaries and building a programme that reflects both academic depth and market relevance,” he said. Prof. Rai emphasised that the course goes beyond conventional teaching and aims to nurture innovation, creativity, and adaptability among students through training in problem-solving,

CONTD ON PG 8

Establishment of Drone Incubation Centre on anvil in JU

JAMMU:

To bridge gap between academic knowledge and entrepreneurial action, the University of Jammu has taken a bold step towards creating a vibrant startup culture on campus by aligning with global innovation networks and startup ecosystems.

In this regard, the Centre for IT Enabled Services and Management of JU had an intensive and forward looking interaction with Vikram Upadhyay, visionary entrepreneur and founder of GHV Accelerator (Greenhouse ventures Pvt Ltd), to explore a strategic partnership designed to offer exposure to incubation labs with cutting-edge technologies, and startup models—particularly with cross-border opportunities in India and Japan. The collaboration aims to cultivate entrepreneurial thinking and provide a platform to students of the University with skills for global success.



Chairing the interactive session, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai emphasised on the growing importance of industry-academia collaboration.

“This collaboration has the potential to transform the learning environment by linking our stu-

dents to global startup networks and innovation hubs. It is a vital step towards ensuring that education translates into enterprise,” he said.

Mr Upadhyay, who also heads M.A.I.L.™ (Mobility and Automobile Innovation Lab) and DXLab™,

shared the inspiring story behind GHV Accelerator, which he said was born out of sheer passion.

Reflecting on his experience of mentoring over 200 startups—including Druva, Loginext, Blue Tokai Coffee, Deeptek AI, Dave AI, and Supplynote—he emphasised

on thinking globally while building locally.

“Indians are thriving as entrepreneurs abroad. The question is—why not here? The challenge isn’t talent, it’s the absence of a nurturing ecosystem,” he said, calling upon institutions like the University of Jammu to help close that gap. Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan, Director of the Centre for IT Enabled Services and Management (CITES&M) gave a comprehensive overview of the Centre’s transformative initiatives aimed at driving digital innovation across the University ecosystem.

Dr. Sudan elaborated on the Centre’s long term vision, which includes the development of incubation centres, fostering startups, and establishing strategic collaborations with industry leaders to provide students with global exposure and hands-on experience.

Marking a significant milestone, Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan

CONTD ON PG 8

JU researchers meet Army Chief; dedicate rare Mushroom discovery to Kargil bravehearts

DELHI:

In a significant gesture of scientific achievement and national pride, Professor Yash Pal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, and Syed Azhar Jawad Hashmi from the Department of Botany called on General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) at New Delhi, to brief him on their recent discovery of a novel edible mushroom — *Pleurotus Shentelii*.

This rare specie, locally known as 'Shentilli' in the Sheena language, has been found to grow exclusively in the cold, arid Trans-Himalayan region of Drass and Mushkoh in Kargil, Ladakh.

During the meeting, the researchers highlighted the significance of the mushroom, not just as a scientific breakthrough, but also for its potential medicinal, wellness, and nutritional benefits.

The discussion emphasized sustainable uses of India's rich biodiversity to support the health and well-being of soldiers stationed in remote and extreme terrains.

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) expressed his appreciation for the pioneering research and assured the University team of the Army's full support in advancing this initiative, recognizing its po-



tential to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of troops and sustainable development in high-altitude regions.

This confluence of science, sustainability, and national service marks a symbolic and functional advancement, showing how biodiversity can be harnessed not only for academic and ecological significance but also to serve the nation's defenders. Recognizing the valour of Indian soldiers, who operate in some of the world's harshest environments, the Vice Chancellor deputed Prof. Sharma and Mr. Hashmi to dedicate this scientific discovery to the Kargil Bravehearts on the eve of 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas — a tribute to their unmatched courage and sacrifices in safeguarding the nation.

As *Pleurotus Shentelii* thrives in the harshest of climates, so does the Indian soldier—resilient, enduring, and life-sustaining in one of the world's most unforgiving frontiers", reads the message.

The highly nutritious mushroom was discovered as part of a research project sanctioned to Prof Yash Pal Sharma by the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

DHS partners with KKF, FDA to drive food literacy among children

JAMMU:

The Department of Home Science (DHS) in collaboration with the Kitab and Kalam Foundation (KKF) and the Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, organized a Nutrition Awareness Session, "Good Food = Good Mood" at the British International School, Jammu.

The event marked the first on-ground activity of the Ba Dekh Rahi Hai campaign — India's first people-driven initiative focused on food literacy, clean nutrition, and public health consciousness.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head of the Department of Home Science, Chief Guest at the event, underscored the importance of reaching out to children to ensure they develop the habit of eating nutritious meals early in life.

She also highlighted the department's commitment to sharing academic and research-based knowledge on child development and holistic well-being with stakeholders through various community-centric programmes.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Food Safety, J&K, Guest of Honour, spoke about the proactive role of the Food and Drug Authority in driving nutrition awareness.

He also shared details about child-friendly nutrition modules developed for different school grades to enhance food literacy in an age-appropriate manner.

Mr. Pankaj Anand (JKAS), District Program Officer, ICDS, emphasized the role of ICDS in tackling malnutrition, and outlined the importance of integrated community-level efforts in addressing



among children, families, and schools — where long-term, sustainable change begins.

Dr. Sonalika Jamwal, HMIS Manager, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (J&K), highlighted the digital innovations being adopted under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to improve public health outreach, particularly among school-going children.

Dr. Archana Bhat, Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, GCW Gandhi Nagar, focused her presentation on the importance of the food pyramid, urging students and parents alike to adopt structured and balanced dietary practices.

A team of dedicated research scholars from the Department of Home Science — Ms. Vinish Malik, Ms. Poorvi Verma, Ms. Raziya Farooq, and Ms. Meghna Sharma — added an interactive element to the session by conducting fun, child-friendly nutrition activities, making learning both engaging and meaningful for the students.

The session not only marked the beginning of an impactful campaign but also demonstrated the power of collaboration among academic institutions, government bodies, and civil society in bringing about a cultural shift in food and health consciousness.

The Principal and Trustee of British International School, Jammu, were also present and extended their full support to the initiative. They welcomed the opportunity to open their campus for such a critical dialogue and reaffirmed their commitment to holistic student development through awareness and education.

nutritional challenges.

Earlier, Mr. Guneet Singh, Founder of the Kitab and Kalam Foundation and the brain behind the Ba Dekh Rahi Hai campaign, shared its vision and objectives.

He stressed the need for community-led initiatives to promote nutrition awareness, especially

‘The Pedagogical Journey’ released, opens discourse on classroom pedagogy, teacher training

JAMMU:

As part of an enriching academic initiative, the Comparative Education Society of India (CESI), RIG-13 (Comparative Education), in collaboration with the University of Jammu organized a comprehensive deliberation and exploration of a thought-provoking book that seeks to enlighten, inspire, and inform educators, academicians, policymakers, and all those passionate about education.

The book titled, 'The Pedagogical Journey', authored by eminent educationists Prof. Shakuntala Nagpal and Dr. Dinesh Kumar, covers a wide spectrum of themes such as professional experience, the future roadmap for teachers, quality enhancement, and the paradigm shift in teaching-learning instruction.

The event was attended by distinguished academicians, senior professors, principals of schools and B.Ed. colleges, retired faculty, senior lecturers, faculty members of the P.G. Department of Education, research scholars, and students from various departments of the University.

The programme commenced



with a soulful invocation presented by Ms. Senorita, a student of the P.G. Department of Education, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Ms. Sheetu Meenia and Mrs. Anjali Sharma.

Ms. Kajal Kalsi, Co-Convenor (CESI, RIG-13) and faculty member from the Department of Sociology formally welcomed the dignitaries and participants. This was followed by a detailed presentation by Prof. Shakuntala Nagpal,

who provided deep insights into the book's conceptualization, rooted in real-life classroom challenges. She emphasized the need to shift focus from what to teach to how to teach, highlighting pedagogical interventions that can enhance teaching-learning transactions. Key themes discussed included Superhuman Intelligence, Pedagogical Content Knowledge, and the disconnect between theory and practice. Prof. Anju Bhasin,

Dean, Academic Affairs graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She commended Prof. Nagpal's scholarly contribution and described the book as a timely and empirically grounded work that offers actionable insights aligned with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

First part of the book focuses on Teachers at School, second part focuses on learning- instruction paradigm shift, third part lays

stress on Professional Experience Program, and lastly, fourth part emphasizes the future route path for quality improvement and realistic suggestions in resolving issues of national concerns related to classroom instructions. The program was further steered into action by discussing the components of the book into groups, whereby all the participants were divided into groups and were asked to deliberate on different parts of the groups. The discussion mostly revolved around the realistic suggestions put forward by the participants, and also their queries were answered by Dr. Shakuntala Nagpal.

Prof. (Dr.) Renu Nanda, Convenor (CESI, RIG-13), Dean, Faculty of Education, in the formal vote of thanks, expressed gratitude to the participants and thanked Dr. Shakuntala Nagpal, mentioning this book as a landmark in beginning and planning of conducting several workshops, whereby teachers will be at a forefront in bring a paradigm shift in teaching learning process.

The event was hosted by Ms. Aditi Sharma, Student, P.G. Department of Education.

National Webinar to mark 5th Anniversary of NEP 2020 held

JAMMU:

To mark the fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University of Jammu in collaboration with the Learners Ability Management Programme (LAMP), organized a vibrant national-level webinar 'By the Youth, For the Youth, and of the Youth'.

The event celebrated the spirit of NEP 2020 by foregrounding the voices, aspirations, and perspectives of young learners across the country.

In his keynote address, Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for authentic implementation of NEP 2020, particularly in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Drawing from Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Thoughts on Education (1959), the Vice Chancellor, who was the chief guest, underlined the enduring relevance of integrating traditional wisdom with modern innovation.

He also highlighted key initiatives launched at the University in alignment with the NEP, including the Gyanodaya Express, Design Your Degree, Five-Year Integrated PG Programme in Mathematical Sciences, Utsah Clubs, and the inclusion of local farmers and gardeners as knowledge contributors—reflecting the university's inclusive and community-driven educational model.

The event was anchored by Dr. Ana Bali, Lecturer, Department of Education, while Ms. Kajal Kalsi, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, delivered the welcome address.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, offered insightful reflections on NEP implementation at the institutional level.

A central highlight of the event was a dynamic youth-led panel discussion featuring postgraduate and B.Ed. students from the University's Department of Education and Bhaderwah Campus.



The discussion focused on three core areas of the NEP-School Education: Kuldeep, Khushi, Priyanshi, Ananya, Higher Education: Sneha Bharti, Iqra, Priya, Bindu, Rashi Sudan and Teacher Education: Staphy Graph, Sabiha Kousar, Sheetal, Tuyiba, Ahrar Ganai

The young panelists brought forward thoughtful, experience-based reflections, demonstrating their deep engagement with the policy's core principles of equity, quality, innovation, and lifelong learning. Their contributions embodied NEP 2020's vision of nurturing creative, critical, and independent thinkers prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Prof. (Dr.) Renu Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Education and Patron of the LAMP initiative at the University delivered the concluding remarks.

She applauded the collaborative spirit of the event and emphasized the importance of empowering

youth through active dialogue and engagement with transformative policies like the NEP.

The webinar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, scholars, and educational leaders from across the country. Institutions represented included GDC Bani, GDC Bhaderwah, GDC Anantnag, GDC Kunjwani, GDC Majalta, Shantiniketan Bal Bhavan, Vidyanjali Volunteers, Khalsa College of Education, Sai Sham College of Education, CRC Jammu, Central University of Ladakh, Central University of Arunachal Pradesh, Cluster University of Jammu, University of Jammu, GDC Kathua, as well as students and research scholars from various departments and colleges.

The session commenced with an invocation and a soulful rendition of a Gandhi Bhajan by Senorita, setting a reflective and participative tone for the proceedings.

JU selected under prestigious ANRF-PAIR Programme for collaborative cutting-edge research



JAMMU:

The University of Jammu has achieved yet another significant milestone in collaborative research domain by joining hands as one of the spoke institutions with IIT Delhi as the Hub Institution under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation-Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (ANRF-PAIR) programme, in thematic areas such as Sustainable Environment, Photonics and System Design for Clean Energy Transition. It may be mentioned that ANRF had identified 32 HUB institutions of national importance and over 200 SPOKE institutions from across the country, which were eligible for competing in this collaborative scheme. After a rigorous evaluation process, 18 HUB institutions and 106 SPOKE institutions were selected for research grants.

The JU is among the few State Universities across the country to make it into ANRF-PAIR grants.

This prestigious scheme was launched by the Government of India to foster accelerated innovation and research through strategic partnerships between leading institutions (HUBs) and collaborating academic institutions (SPOKES). This achievement will usher in several collaborative initiatives, including capacity-building activities that will significantly enhance the research ecosystem at University.

The University's participation and success in the ANRF-PAIR competition was made possible through the visionary guidance and continuous mentoring of Prof. Umesh Rai, Honble Vice Chancellor.

The ANRF-PAIR project proposal was meticulously prepared by a dedicated team led by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean of Research Studies, and Prof. Satya Paul as the Principal Investigator from the Department of Chemistry, along with 14 Co-PIs/faculty members as contributors from varied University departments as Botany, Physics, Electronics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Environmental Science and The Business School. The Vice Chancellor congratulated the faculty members for their team effort in submission of the institutional project in the ANRF-PAIR programme and hoped that the collaboration with IIT Delhi will open up new innovative vistas in cutting edge research. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, also thanked the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), IIT Delhi and the entire team at University for supporting the agenda of capacity building to fructify the envisaged innovative research goals of researchers, who shall now be associating and utilizing the expertise available at IIT Delhi and other spoke institutions such as Delhi Technical University, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University H.P, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, and Netaji Subhas University of Technology, New Delhi.

EDITORIAL

Universities as Architects of Viksit Bharat

As the calendar turns to July, we arrive at the midpoint of both our academic year and the nation’s unfolding journey toward Viksit Bharat @ 2047. It is a moment that calls for reflection—not only on what we have accomplished, but on what remains to be done if we are to prepare our youth to meet the demands of a rapidly changing India.

Universities today are no longer just repositories of knowledge; they are engines of innovation, entrepreneurship, and social change. At the University of Jammu, the spirit of inquiry and experimentation is evident in classrooms, research projects, cultural activities, and outreach initiatives. Each effort, however small, is a step toward nurturing students who are not merely degree-holders but problem-solvers, creators, and nation-builders. The vision of Viksit Bharat asks us to align education with aspiration. It urges us to move beyond traditional boundaries—between disciplines, between theory and practice, between the university and society. As India sets its sights on becoming a developed nation by its centenary of independence, institutions like ours carry the responsibility of shaping minds that can lead with integrity, innovate with courage, and serve with compassion.

This is also a time to acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead: bridging the digital divide, ensuring inclusive access, and making higher education both relevant and transformative. These are not obstacles but opportunities—challenges that invite us to reimagine curricula, strengthen research ecosystems, and create platforms where students can collaborate across disciplines and communities. July, then, is not just a month of monsoon showers. It is a reminder that growth comes from renewal. Just as the rains replenish the soil, let us replenish our academic culture with fresh ideas, renewed commitment, and the resolve to play our part in building a Viksit Bharat.

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Climate Change and Heritage in Jammu and Kashmir: Water Bodies, Nomadic Communities, and the Role of Museums

PROF. POONAM CHAUDHARY

Climate change today stands as one of the most debated issues of our time. While the Earth has always experienced natural cycles of warming and cooling, the scale and speed of contemporary climate change are unprecedented and largely anthropogenic. Human activities, driven by consumerism, rapid industrialization, and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, have pushed ecological systems to their limits. The modern era of scientific advancement and technological innovation has often been marked by disregard for ecological balance, resulting in large-scale environmental degradation.

The effects of climate change are not limited to rising global temperatures but extend to increasing sea levels, changes in precipitation, erratic weather events, melting glaciers, and the subsequent stress on biodiversity and human life. The consequences of this crisis are so far-reaching that climate change has moved beyond being merely an environmental issue—it now encompasses social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions.

Global concern over the issue was formally recognized in 1988 when the United Nations established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Its assessment reports, beginning in 1990, sounded consistent warnings. The Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 categorically declared that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal,” supported by evidence of melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and increasing global average temperatures. The implications for human societies were equally alarming, with increased flooding, glacial lake outburst threats, and the displacement of communities due to loss of land and resources.

International frameworks like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol were created to respond to this global challenge. Likewise, UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee have emphasized the vulnerability of world heritage—both natural and cultural—to climate change. This recognition links climate change not only to ecosystems but also to human civilization and heritage, since communities are increasingly forced to alter their lifestyles, rituals, and built heritage in response to changing ecological conditions.

Against this backdrop, this article examines the effects of climate change on the cultural and natural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, focusing particularly on water-related heritage such as springs, lakes, baolis, and talabs. It also considers its impacts on the lives of nomadic communities like the Gujjar-Bakarwal and Gaddi, who are intimately tied to the rhythms of nature. Finally, it evaluates the role of museums as institutions that can educate, preserve, and create awareness about both tangible and intangible heritage in the face of global environmental change.

Water Bodies of Jammu and Kashmir: Sacred Natural Heritage

The state of Jammu and Kashmir, located in the northernmost part of India, has been historically celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty and cultural richness. Its landscape is dotted with natural springs, glacial lakes, baolis (step wells), and talabs (ponds), which serve not only as life-sustaining water sources but also as repositories of spiritual and cultural meaning.

Springs and Lakes of Kashmir: The Kashmir Valley has been deeply associated with water heritage. According to mythological traditions preserved in the Nilamata Purana, Kashmir itself was once a vast lake that was drained by divine intervention, after which the land was entrusted to the Nagas (serpent deities). These Nagas became guardians of the region’s springs and lakes, and numerous sites still bear their names. For example, Verinag, an octagonal spring, is considered the source of the river Jhelum (Vitasta), which has historically been the valley’s lifeline. Anantnag, literally meaning the “infinite spring,” is associated with the deity Anant Naga, while Kukarnag, with its gushing waters from limestone rocks, is renowned for both its purity and spiritual significance. Sheshnag lake, located en route to the sacred Amar-nath cave, is revered as the abode of the serpent king Shesh Naga and attracts thousands of pilgrims annually.

These springs and lakes are not merely hydrological features but sacred sites woven into the cultural and religious life of Kashmir. Pilgrims bathe in them, rituals are performed at their banks, and myths associate them with fertility, protection, and divine power. Their ecological health is therefore directly tied to the cultural identity of the valley.

Baolis and Talabs of Jammu: While Kashmir is known for its springs, the Jammu region is characterized by baolis (step wells fed by underground springs) and talabs (community ponds). These water bodies served as crucial lifelines, especially in semi-arid plains where perennial water sources were scarce.

Baolis were ingeniously constructed with stone enclosures to ensure a constant supply of fresh water. They also became important social and religious centers. Many baolis feature carvings of Nagas, coiled serpents, or deities like Vishnu, Shiva, and Lakshmi, elevating them to the status of sacred shrines. Communities gathered around them for rituals, last rites, and festivals, making them integral to both daily life and spiritual practices.

Talabs such as Rani ka Talab, Khadika da Talab, and Daate da Talab were once bustling community hubs, offering cool respite during summers. However, many of these water bodies have either vanished due to urbanization or been reduced to garbage dumps, reflecting the ecological neglect and pressures of modernization.

The cultural value of these water bodies, whether in Kashmir or Jammu, lies not only in their ecological function but also in their role as sacred and social spaces. Their degradation due to deforestation, urban expansion, and now climate change signifies a double loss, ecological and cultural.

Climate Change and Tribal Communities: Gujjar-Bakarwal and Gaddi

In addition to its water heritage, Jammu and Kashmir is home to nomadic and semi-nomadic communities whose livelihoods are intricately linked to the natural environment. Among them, the Gujjar-Bakarwals and Gaddis stand out.

Gujjar-Bakarwals: The Gujjars and Bakarwals, officially recognized as Scheduled Tribes, constitute nearly 20 percent of the state’s population. Traditionally pastoralists, they prac-

tice transhumance, migrating with their herds from lowlands in winter to high mountain pastures in summer. This seasonal movement ensures access to grazing lands for their livestock and has shaped their cultural identity for centuries.

However, climate change has disrupted these age-old rhythms. For instance, the unusually warm March of 2011 forced Bakarwals to migrate earlier than usual due to water and fodder shortages. The extreme heat even caused the death of newborn livestock, undermining their economic stability. In addition, shrinking pastures due to deforestation, urban encroachment, and erratic weather patterns have made their livelihoods increasingly precarious.

Gradually, many Gujjars have shifted toward agriculture or wage labour, abandoning their traditional pastoral life. The Bakarwals, though more resilient, are also moving toward sedentarization under the pressures of climate and modern development policies. This transition signifies not only an economic shift but also the erosion of cultural practices tied to mobility, grazing rituals, and symbiotic relationships with nature.

Gaddis: The Gaddis, another semi-nomadic community, traditionally grazed large flocks of sheep and goats in high-altitude pastures. Like the Bakarwals, they migrate seasonally across altitudinal zones. However, shrinking pasturelands, combined with increasing dependence on agriculture, labour work, or small businesses, reveal the pressures exerted by both climate variability and modernization.

For these communities, climate change represents more than environmental disruption—it is a cultural challenge. Their songs, folklore, and seasonal rituals tied to pastoral cycles are increasingly at risk of being forgotten. In this sense, the loss is intangible as much as it is material.

Climate Change and the Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir: Jammu and Kashmir’s diverse geography—ranging from the subtropical Jammu plains to the temperate Kashmir valley and the cold desert of Ladakh—makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, reduced snowfall, and erratic rainfall patterns have accelerated glacial retreat, which in turn threatens rivers, lakes, and springs that form the backbone of the region’s ecology.

Between 1911 and 2004, the state witnessed a significant reduction in glacial areas. The Kolhai Glacier, for instance, shrank from 112 km² to 94 km², while many smaller glaciers virtually disappeared. This has led to decreased water flows in rivers and the drying up of numerous springs that once sustained villages.

The ecological decline has direct consequences for heritage. Lakes like Dal and Wular, once symbols of Kashmir’s beauty, are shrinking due to both climate change and human encroachment. Wular, despite being designated a Ramsar site and a protected wetland, is heavily silted and polluted by urban and agricultural waste. Similarly, Dal Lake has been reduced by urban encroachment and pollution, threatening not just its biodiversity but also the livelihoods of communities dependent on its waters. In Ladakh, climate change has damaged fragile heritage such as monastery wall paintings, as temperature fluctuations and increased rainfall deteriorate traditional structures. The impacts thus extend from natural water systems to build and intangible heritage.

Museums and the Protection of Heritage: In the face of such widespread threats, museums have a crucial role to play as custodians of heritage and centers of public education. Unlike formal institutions, museums reach diverse audiences—children, educators, laypersons, and researchers—through engaging and accessible methods.

Museums as Educational Institutions: Natural history museums, for example, use dioramas to depict biodiversity and ecosystems. By comparing records with current conditions, these displays highlight the transformations caused by climate change. Museums can design exhibitions on Jammu and Kashmir’s ecology, showcasing its rivers, springs, nomadic cultures, and the threats they face from global warming. Exhibitions on events like the Ladakh cloudburst could help visitors connect local disasters to broader climate issues.

Collaborations with schools, universities, and environmental organizations can amplify this impact. Workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns with slogans like “Right Choices Make the Difference” can instill ecological responsibility at multiple levels of society.

Eco-Museums and Community Involvement: One innovative approach is the concept of eco-museums, which focus on community involvement in preserving heritage. Unlike traditional museums, eco-museums are not confined to buildings but encompass entire landscapes and communities. They enable local populations to interpret, conserve, and manage their own cultural and natural heritage for sustainable development.

In Jammu and Kashmir, eco-museums could be developed to preserve the lifestyles of Gujjars, Bakarwals, and Gaddis. By integrating pastoral practices, water heritage, and ecological knowledge, these museums could ensure that communities remain at the center of heritage preservation, even as climate change challenges their existence. Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a lived reality, especially in ecologically fragile and culturally rich regions like Jammu and Kashmir. Its impacts are visible in the retreat of glaciers, the drying of springs, the pollution of lakes, and the disruption of pastoral nomadic traditions. The loss of water heritage and the erosion of cultural practices reveal how climate change affects not just the environment but also the identity and continuity of communities. Museums, as informal institutions of education and preservation, hold immense potential to raise awareness and inspire action. Through exhibitions, eco-museums, and collaborations with communities, they can help safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage.

Ultimately, addressing climate change requires a holistic vision that integrates ecological preservation with cultural continuity. For Jammu and Kashmir, this means protecting its sacred water bodies, supporting its nomadic tribes, and mobilizing institutions like museums to act as mediators between past traditions and future sustainability. In this way, heritage preservation becomes inseparable from the fight against climate change, and the resilience of communities becomes the cornerstone of ecological balance.

Curtains Rise on Creativity: JU's Theatre Course Inspires and Transforms



From self-expression to social awareness, the University of Jammu's theatre programme turned the stage into a classroom for empathy, creativity, and courage.

The curtain may have fallen on the final act, but the spirit of the University of Jammu's Certificate Course in Theatre continues to shine brightly in the hearts of its participants. For them, this wasn't just a short-term programme—it was a powerful journey of self-discovery, imagination, and empathy.

Guided by Sumeet Sharma, Drama Instructor at the Department of Students Welfare, the participants stepped into the world of theatre with fresh eyes and open minds. Sharma, with his rich professional background and years of stage experience, went far beyond teaching performance skills. He invited the students to see theatre as a mirror to society, a lens to understand human emotions, and above all, a medium to express compassion.

"Theatre refines us not only as artists but as human beings."

— Sumeet Sharma, Course Coordinator

The course brought together an inspiring mix of learners. One of the most heartening stories came from Pratibha Devi, an NRI from Australia, who travelled across continents to be a part of the programme.

"It was worth every step of the journey."

— Pratibha Devi, Participant from Australia

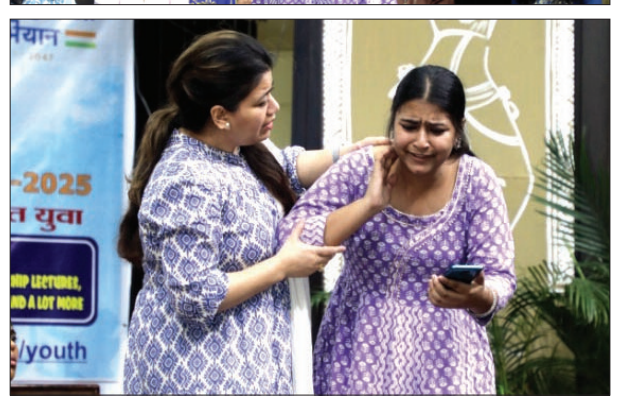
She was joined by young voices like Riya Jandial, Malvika Kalra, Ruhaani Gulati, and many others, who each discovered hidden layers of creativity and self-expression through the process.

But what made the course truly transformative was its focus on values beyond the stage. It wasn't simply about perfecting dialogue delivery, stage presence, or dramatic flair. Each rehearsal became a workshop in empathy, each performance a lesson in compassion. The students began to see theatre not only as an art but as a way of understanding their role in a larger social fabric.

By its conclusion, the course had achieved what theatre does best—it touched lives and reshaped perspectives. While the applause of the final showcase has long faded, the lessons in courage, creativity, and humanity will echo in the lives of these participants for years to come.

"Theatre didn't just teach me how to act—it taught me how to feel, how to listen, and how to see the world differently."

— Ruhaani Gulati, Participant



Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys Hostel hosts Vanmahotsav Plantation Drive with INTACH, PanchParivartan

JAMMU:

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys' Hostel in collaboration with INTACH Jammu Chapter and PanchParivartan NGO, conducted a plantation drive as part of the Vanmahotsav celebrations at the hostel premises. The Urban Forestry Division, Jammu, along with the Sanitation, Floriculture, and Health Divisions of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, actively collaborated in organizing the event. Various species of tree saplings were planted, including Sita Ashok, Tecoma, Panjtara, Chinese Rose, Mango, Chinara, Silver Oak, and Temple Tree, among others. Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS Retd.), former Director General of Police, J&K, who was the Chief Guest, planted a sapling of the Ginkgo biloba, also known as the "living fossil", regarded as the oldest surviving tree species in the world. In his address, Dr. Vaid underscored the importance of planting more trees to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of rapid development.

"If every citizen planted at least five trees, it would result in crores of new trees, significantly benefiting the environment", he added.

Sh. O.P. Sharma (IFS Retd.) spoke about the therapeutic value of trees and their importance in our lives and culture. Prof.



Anil Raina elaborated on the deteriorating state of the environment due to forest degradation.

Mrs. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.) called upon all citizens to make environment conservation and plantation drives a mass movement. Sh. S.M. Sahni (JKAS Retd.), Convenor, INTACH Jammu Chapter, spoke about the sweeping changes that Jammu city has undergone over the past few decades, often at the expense of green cover.

In his welcome address, Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma, Provost, Boys' Hostels, emphasized the need for environmental conservation and highlighted the vital role of flora.

Sh. C.M. Seth (IFS Retd.), in his vote of thanks, emphasized the pressing need for afforestation, given the alarming environmental changes being witnessed today.

Other dignitaries present at the event included Sh. Ashwini Kumar, DFO Urban Forestry; Er. Ashok Kapoor; Sh. Ajay Gandotra, Senior Advocate; Dr. Sudarshan Sharma, DG, DRDO (Retd.); Sh. Arvind Kotwal (JKAS Retd.); Prof. Rajeshwar Verma; Sh. H.R. Dogra, Advocate; Dr. Divya Sharma, MVO & I/C IEC, JMC; and Ms. Rabia Khan, AFO, JMC.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Warden, SBSBH (Assistant Professor, Department of Buddhist Studies), coordinated the programme.

CDOE hosts lecture on topic "Various Approaches of Teaching Practice"



Jammu The Centre for Distance and Online organized a Guest Lecture on the topic "Various Approaches of Teaching Practice" (Herbartian, RCEM, and Constructivism) in the old building of CDOE.

The programme started with the welcome address by Dr Anuradha Goswami, Co-ordinator of the M.A Education program, who introduced Resource person Dr. Madhu Singh (former Principal Khalsa College of Education).

The session was designed to equip Students of M.A Education with useful knowledge and skills to effectively undertake teaching practice and prepare

appropriate lesson planning.

Dr. Madhu Singh shared a valuable insights on how various approaches to lesson planning act as a bridge between theoretical knowledge and practical Teaching experience.

The lecture provided a detailed about Herbartian, RCEM and Constructivism approach and its importance in laying a strong foundation for enhancing their teaching skills. The students were guided on the structure of the lesson, types of activities, assessments used and how learning outcomes are defined and achieved.

Interactive sessions, live demonstrations and group activities were also conducted

during the session

Prof. Pankaj Shrivastava, Director CDOE, while presiding over the function, focused on providing students practical strategies for classroom organizations, time management, student engagements besides more focused and productive learning environment, thereby preparing them both for academic and professional challenges in education.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Anuradha Goswami acknowledging the support given by Prof. Anupama Vohra, Dr Ankita sharma and Ms Anjela Gadroo and others to make the program, a grand success.

3- month Basic Course in Computers for Army wives concludes



Jammu: The 3-month Basic Course in Computers for the wives of Army jawans organized by the Department of Lifelong Learning JU concluded at Military Station, Ratnuchak.

The course is an initiative of the JU to connect with the community, as also an effort to take forward vision of the leader of the University, Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to expand educational opportunities to all the sections of the society.

The Department of Lifelong Learning undertakes community outreach and extension activities as a commitment of the institution of higher learning to fulfill the educational needs of the different sections of the society as opined by the Director, Department of Lifelong Learning.

The certificate distribution function was graced by Prog. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean, Planning and Development.

She appreciated the efforts and contribution of the Director, Department of Lifelong Learning in taking initiatives in this regard and assured continual support in this regard in future as well. She also applauded the commitment and continual efforts of Brigadier Sumeet Sharma and Col. Sandeep Takhar not only in the service of nation but also taking painstaking efforts in the upliftment of the army personnel and their families.

On the occasion, Prof. Priyanka Sharma, Director Department of Lifelong Learning also announced the commencement of Personality Development course for the wives of the jawans.

The Director also appreciated the efforts of Mrs. Monika Sharma, Chairperson Army Wives Welfare Association for her unprecedented support and thought of helping and looking after the welfare of the families of army people.

A total of 17 women passed the Basic course in Computers and 16 women are enrolled in the course of personality development.

The University and Indian Army shall also explore the possibilities of signing the MoU for exploring range of welfare and educational activities for both army men and their families.

VC releases devotional bhajan 'Chhari Yatra Amarnath-Tappe'

JAMMU:

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor released devotional Bhajan titled 'Chhari Yatra Amarnath-Tappe', dedicated to Baba Barfani Amarnath, at a special event organized by NanKesVri Productions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Umesh Rai commended the efforts of NanKesVri Productions and lauded Mr. Sooraj Sharma for his soulful rendition and commitment to cultural preservation. He said that devotional music has the power to uplift the spirit and create a deep emotional connection with our traditions. He emphasized that the Bhajan not only enriches our spiritual landscape but also showcases the vibrant cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Vice Chancellor said that such creative works must be encouraged and supported as they serve as a bridge between generations—instilling pride, reverence, and awareness among the youth about the region's sacred traditions.

The programme was graced by Dr. Neeraj Sharma as Guest of Honour and Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Development and Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies as the Special Guests.

The Bhajan has been melodiously sung by Mr. Sooraj Sharma, a noted All India Radio artist. While the music has been com-



posed by ASH K, the videography has been done by Rahul Dutta. The song narrates the spiritual journey of the Amarnath Yatra, vividly portraying the major halts along the route from Pahalgam to the Holy Cave, capturing both the

sanctity and the majestic beauty of the pilgrimage.

Mr. Sooraj Sharma, known for his versatile singing in Hindi, Dogri, Punjabi, Kashmiri, and Kishtwari languages, expressed his gratitude and explained the inspi-

ration behind the Bhajan. He described it as a heartfelt tribute to the journey of faith and devotion undertaken by pilgrims each year.

Renowned Ghazal singer Dharmesh Nargotra, who also attended the event, praised the pro-

duction quality and the artistic depth of the Bhajan.

Other who attended the release function included Pandit Sanjay Shastri, Suresh Sharma, Sumit Sharma, Rahul Dutta, and Keshav Veer.

Summer Camp for Children culminated at DSW

JAMMU:

Summer Camp for Children, organized by the Department of Students Welfare culminated with spectacular presentations by children at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

During the camp, children were imparted training of Theatre & Dance by the experts.

Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean Planning & Development, Chief Guest, appreciated the endeavours of the Department of Students Welfare in shaping the personalities of children.

Prof. Sangita hailed the children and their trainers for presenting wonderful presentations. She also highlighted the importance of such activities which infuse confidence and creativity in children and they may take advantage of this in shaping their personalities.

She complemented Dean Students Welfare for making the Campus culturally vibrant.

In her welcome address, Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee said that the idea behind conducting this workshop is to chisel the innate capabilities of children and enhance their talent with experienced cultural intervention.

She also shared that it was glad to see children exploring their creativity rather than sticking their attention to mobile screens.

Resource Persons of the workshop were Mr. Sumeet Sharma (Theatre) Mr. Sunny Muju



(Dance) and Mr. Nikhil Singh (Fine Arts). While children presented their acting skills in a confident manner, they also exhibited the fine art works and presented dance performances.

The workshop was coordinated by Sumeet Sharma, Drama Instructor, Department of Students Welfare.

It is pertinent to mention here that under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, the Department of Students Welfare has devised a vibrant

calendar of events which features a series of events of cultural and literary importance for the stakeholders of the university which are being executed by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, CCC) Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, CCC) Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shailu Sharma and Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur and Dr. Ripu-

daman Parihar (Assistant Deans, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee & Students Cultural Representatives, Mansi Mantoo (Officer Incharge SW) & Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor).

Children who participated in the summer camp included Abhaya Sharma, Nitya Sharma, Prajwal Antahal, Rishit Gupta, Khushi Shavotra, Laesha Sharma, Pranya Sharma, Hamza, Aadhya Mahajan, Ridhul, Prisha Verma, Jhanvi

Thakur, Kritya Gupta, Ashvika Verma, Meeshita Mahajan, Varun Thakur, Vedika Sharma, Arya Sharma, Harleen Kaur, Ahil Sharma, Aradhya Sharma, Yakshita Singh, Rajshivay Singh, Sargun Sharma, Kavya Jandial, Nayra Gandotra, Aadhya Thukral, Shambhavi Rakesh, Bhavyashree Daksh Padma and Iknoor kaur.

The sound was looked after by Arif Paul while the workshop was assisted by Sachin Sharma and R.P. Singh.

FROM PG 1

Global warming reminder

Mr Shantmanu remarked that it is not enough to simply plant a tree — nurturing and protecting it is equally important. “Every sapling planted must be seen as a life — it needs fencing, regular care, and protection from pests or animals. Just like a child in a nursery, it must be tended to with patience and responsibility,” he said.

He suggested updating the traditional slogan ‘Plant Trees, Save the Future’ to ‘Plant Trees, Save the Present’, and called for action now, not just for tomorrow but for immediate environmental impact.

Speaking on the occasion, Padam Shree Prof. Lalit Magotra highlighted the transformative power of plantation drives, calling today’s initiative not just an act of environmental responsibility but a cultural and emotional investment in the future. He noted that the trees planted today — gulmohar, neem, champa, and many others — will shape the landscape and soul of the University for generations to come. “Greenery is not just physical; it has a deep psychological impact. It brings peace, clarity, and joy — essential ingredients for true education,” he said. Applauding the vision of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Magotra added that such efforts are turning the campus into a model of ecological harmony. Urging the youth to actively participate, he proposed a meaningful slogan: “Plant a tree so that both the present and the future are elevated.”

The plantation drive marked yet another step in the University’s broader commitment to environmental stewardship and campus sustainability.

The plantation drive, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and ecological awareness, was held in presence of Prof Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Development, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof Naresh Padha, Mr. Iftikar Hussain Chauhan, Director Finance, Dept of IT, J&K Department, S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee, Sh Tariq Hussain, Sh Arun Joshi, Mrs Vijya Thakur, S. Harpyas Singh, Prof. Piyush Malviya, Convener Arboriculture and Landscaping Unit. Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan, Director IT, Rectors of offsite campuses, Heads and Directors of teaching departments, faculty members, officers, staff, students, other prominent members of the civil society, and representatives of various associations of the University who enthusiastically participated in planting saplings across the campus.

Initiative a step toward

coding, AI, and domain-specific data analysis.

He further highlighted the academic flexibility built into the programme, which allows students to explore a broad spectrum of disciplines in the initial phase and choose their specialisation in the fourth semester (second year) whether in Mathematical Sciences or in Humanities, Social Sciences, or Commerce. “This freedom to design one’s own academic journey is at the heart of NEP 2020—and this programme reflects that spirit fully,” he noted. Students who have passed Class 12 in Arts, Commerce, or Science streams are eligible for admission to the program, he added.

The new programme is structured with multiple entry and exit options, offering students the flexibility to personalise their academic journey. It focuses on building strong foundations in AI, machine learning, data analytics, scientific computing, and algorithmic thinking, while also enabling exposure to subjects across disciplines through elective baskets. Co-curricular and sports activities will also carry credit weightage under the NEP model, ensuring a well-rounded and holistic academic experience. Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, while interacting with media persons called the programme a forward-looking response to evolving industry needs. “Mathematics is no longer limited to traditional fields—it is becoming central to law, humanities, social sciences, and business, especially with the rise of AI and data,” she said. Prof. Bhasin described the programme as a rigorous yet flexible learning model that empowers students to think critically and apply skills across contexts. “It’s not just about knowledge. It’s about developing the capacity to adapt, solve problems, and lead in an interdisciplinary world,” she added.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, said the programme was conceived in response to the mismatch between higher education outcomes and employability. “This course brings together computation, data, and mathematical logic in a way that directly responds to market demands,” she said. Prof. Rohmetra pointed out that many students,

even at the postgraduate level, struggle in the job market because of a lack of real-world, certifiable skills. “By starting early—right after Class 12—we are building students’ confidence and competence with tools like data modelling, forecasting, and web design,” she noted. She praised the voluntary collaboration of the three departments and called it a landmark in J&K’s academic landscape.

Providing structural details of the programme, Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Head, Department of Statistics, shared that the course will be delivered by the faculty members from all the three departments, ensuring that each subject is taught by experts. “This is not a symbolic merger. The academic integrity of each discipline will be maintained, while creating meaningful crossovers for students,” he said. The intake for the first batch is limited to 60 seats, and the online application portal is live. “This is the first time such a programme is being offered in Jammu and Kashmir, and we hope it becomes a model for integrated, future-ready education in India,” he added.

Also present at the press briefing were Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Development Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Prof. Vibhakar Mansotra, Head Department of Computer Science and IT, Prof. Romesh Kumar, Head Department of Mathematics, Prof. Rahul Gupta and Prof. Parmil Kumar.

Establishment of Drone

and Vikram Upadhyay announced the successful collaboration of Centre for IT Enabled Services & Management with GHV Accelerator to establish the Drone Incubation Centre—an initiative that has taken shape after four months of rigorous discussions and planning. This collaborative venture is one of the first major steps toward realizing the Centre’s broader vision of technological advancement and entrepreneurship. The Centre for IT’s Drone Incubation will serve as a dedicated R&D Lab, focused on the design and development of cutting-edge drone technologies.

Dr. Sudan, would be signing an MoU with GHV Accelerator, for building a startup company, to nurture early-stage ventures and student-led innovations.

Dr Sudan said this initiative would help to develop a structured framework for collaboration, focusing on startup, incubation, mentorship, innovation exchange, and hands-on industry exposure for students.

Mr. Upadhyay shared his startup philosophy—the “3 P’s”: People, Product, and Popularity—explaining that passionate teams, robust ideas, and real market validation are the building blocks of any successful enterprise. He encouraged the University fraternity to tap into this framework to create solutions that are not just innovative, but scalable and impactful.

During the interaction, Mr Upadhyay highlighted that collaboration with Centre for IT would help the centre to emerge as a centre of innovation and entrepreneurial growth. Emphasizing the importance of empowering students through experiential learning, he proposed deeper collaboration to bridge academia with real-world startup ecosystems and invited the University students and employees for global exposures, particularly at universities in Japan, Singapore, and Scotland.

He particularly praised the University’s flagship Design Your Degree programme, calling it a pioneering, ready-made model with immense incubation potential. Emphasising the importance of experiential learning, he proposed deeper collaboration to bridge academia with real-world startup ecosystems and cross-border innovation labs.

He also underscored the importance of ecosystem-building in regions like Jammu, which are often overlooked despite having rich talent and intent. By fostering a strong culture of incubation and mentorship within academic institutions, he said, the University can position itself as a model for grassroots innovation with global relevance.

The session also included a presentation by Prof. Sadaf Shah on the University’s Design Your Degree programme, which encourages flexible, interdisciplinary learning and supports student autonomy in academic planning.

Among others present included senior officials including Prof. Anju Bhasin Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Development, Prof Naresh Padha, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director CDOE, Prof. Alka Sharma, Director SIIEDC, Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director SIIEDC, Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Dr. Sandeep Arya, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Ms. Jaswinder Kour, Ms. Satakshi Gupta and Mr. Tanv Sharma.

Dept of Law Signs MoU with Surana & Surana Int'l Attorneys, Chennai

Jammu: The Department of Law has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Surana & Surana International Attorneys, a leading law firm based in Chennai.

The MOU was inked in a virtual ceremony, marking the beginning of a collaborative partnership between the two institutions. It aims to foster academic and research collaboration between the Department of Law and Surana & Surana International Attorneys.

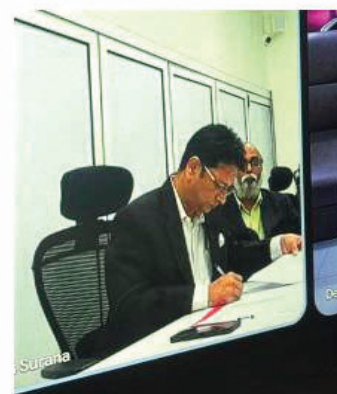
The partnership will focus on moot court competitions, among other initiatives. As part of this collaboration, Surana & Surana and the Department of Law would conduct "Surana & Surana and Department of Law Trial Advocacy Moot Court Competition - North Rounds, 2025-26". This moot court competition will provide a platform for law students to showcase their skills in trial advocacy and moot court proceedings.

Prof. Manju Jamwal, Head of the Department of Law and Preetam Surana, Partner & Head of Academic Initiatives at Surana & Surana International Attorneys, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective institutions.

The signing was coordinated by A.D. Johnson Christy, Manager - Special Projects, Academic Initiatives at Surana & Surana International Attorneys.

Dr. Navdeep Kour Sasan conducted the proceedings of the virtual signing ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Prof. Satinder Kumar, Dean, Department of Law, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Prof. Savita Nayyar, Dr. Mohd Arif, Dr. Aarti Sharma, Dr. Vijay Sehgal, and Dr. Raj Kumar, Sunny Singh Rajput, LLM scholar, and staff members from the Department of Law.



International Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking observed

JAMMU

In a significant collaborative effort to combat the menace of drug abuse, the Legal Aid and Legal Literacy Committee, The Law School and the Amity Legal Literacy and Outreach Committee, Amity Law School, Noida, in association with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, J&K, organized a thought-provoking online colloquium to observe the International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking.

The event, held under the theme "Nasha Mukh Bharat: Building a Stronger India", brought together eminent speakers from the judiciary, legal fraternity, law enforcement, and civil society to address the multifaceted challenges of drug addiction and illicit trafficking.

The thematic session featured insightful deliberations from distinguished speakers, each offering a unique perspective on tackling drug abuse.

Justice Rajesh Tandon (Retd.), Former Judge, Uttarakhand High Court, emphasized the role of the judiciary in stringent enforcement of narcotics laws and the need for rehabilitative justice to reintegrate victims into society.

He highlighted landmark judgments and the importance of fast-track courts in drug-related cases.

Shri Harish Kumar, Assistant Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, provided an overview of India's narcotics control framework and operational challenges in border regions like Jammu & Kashmir. He also introduced the MANAS Helpline (1933), a critical resource for reporting drug-related crimes and seeking assistance.

Shri Ajay Sharma, SP South, Jammu, reinforced the police's proactive role in drug prevention and community policing initiatives.

Emphasising the Legal Community's Role, Advocate Meenakshi Slathia and Advocate Nitin Parihar

(Founder, Meridian Law Chambers) discussed the legal remedies available to victims, the importance of public awareness campaigns, and the ethical responsibility of lawyers in fighting drug-related cases.

In the second session, representatives from leading NGOs, including Nations Development Association, Global Peace Organisation, National Progressive Youth Organisation, PARIVARTAN, The Daffodils Project, VOICE, Border Welfare Organisation J&K, SSEM JK- SOCH INDIA, Society For Human Welfare Empowerment & Fundamental Freedoms, and IHDF, shared ground-level experiences.

Sushil Singh Charak, Sheikh Altaf Hussain, Dr. Sarfraz Mir, and Avinash Choudhary specifically underscored the need for community engagement, rehabilitation programs, and youth sensitization to curb drug abuse.

Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School in her address, said,

"The fight against drug abuse requires a multi-dimensional approach—legal, social, and psychological. As an academic institution, we are committed to fostering legal literacy and community outreach to create a drug-free society."

The session was coordinated by Dr. Monica Narang, Coordinator, Legal Aid & Legal Literacy Committee, The Law School and Dr. Sumitra Singh, Convenor, Amity Legal Literacy and Outreach Committee, Amity Law School, Noida, and skillfully moderated by Dr. Monika Bhardwaj, Faculty Member, The Law School, and Ms. Harmannat Kour, a dedicated law student, ensuring an engaging and interactive discussion.

The event concluded with an open forum, where participants raised pertinent questions on legal reforms, enforcement strategies, and societal interventions to combat drug abuse.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Nitin Sharma.

Two-Week Int'l Summer School on Climate Change in Ladakh concludes

KARGIL:

The two-week-long International Summer School on Climate Change in the Indian Himalayan Region concluded successfully in Ladakh, with significant insights and actionable recommendations shared by academicians and international collaborators. The programme was jointly organized by PGDAV College (University of Delhi), the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Mountain and Hill Environment (CISHME), University of Delhi, the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhaderwah Campus and HSE University (St. Petersburg, Russia).

The summer school featured ten days of intensive fieldwork and interdisciplinary academic exchange, involving students, researchers, and faculty from all four institutions. Participants engaged closely with local communities, government representatives, and ecological experts across various regions of Leh and Kargil, assessing the direct impact of climate change on vulnerable mountain ecosystems and rural livelihoods.



Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of Bhaderwah Campus emphasized, "Cross-community analysis across the Indian Himalayan Region provides deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between climate change, rural livelihoods, and community resilience. This international academic partnership has added valuable perspective to the global climate discourse."

The participants visited multiple climate-sensitive areas, including

Upper and Lower Likier, Alchi Hydro Project, Saspol, Hanu Gogma, Hanu Yokma, and Daa (Leh district) and Salma, Chamba, Hanu Gogma (Kargil district).

They also interacted with faculty and students of GDC Kargil, members of LAHDC, and representatives from Islamia School Trust and local communities.

Dr. Pardeep Singh, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, PGDAV College and Convener of

the Summer School, stated, "Merging scientific assessments with grassroots wisdom is key to crafting long-term climate solutions in fragile mountain ecosystems."

Prof. Alexander Sorokin, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, HSE University, St. Petersburg, Russia, presented a comparative analysis between Ladakh and the Altai Highlands in Russia.

He proposed expanding comparative research to other BRICS+ na-

tions to strengthen global climate resilience frameworks.

Dr. Chhering Tandup, Organizing Secretary, raised serious concerns about youth migration from agriculture, leading to increased barren land and altered food habits. He advocated for organic branding, promotion of cash crops, and leveraging the Nimo-Padum-Darcha road to connect Ladakh's produce with mainland markets.

Dr. Chetan Chhoidub, Associate Professor, PGDAV College, observed stark disparities in income, employment, education, and landholding, attributed largely to altitude-related access issues and low scheme awareness. He recommended awareness campaigns, soft loan schemes, and support for agro-based entrepreneurship to counter youth migration and ensure long-term sustainability. Dr. Chander Pal Singh, Historian, PGDAV College, suggested bolstering agro-processing, cultural tourism, and ecotourism to diversify the region's economy beyond tourism.

Dr. Richa Agarwal Malik, Environmental Biotechnologist, PGDAV College, emphasized climate-smart innovations.

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Centre for IT Enabled Services and Management



UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

(NAAC Accredited "A++" Grade University)

SHORT ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited on the prescribed Application Form for the **temporary positions of Young Professionals (YPs)** to be engaged on contract basis with emolument of **Rs. 70,000/-** per month in the **Centre for IT Enabled Services and Management, University of Jammu** for a period of **1 year** extendable by two more years (maximum up-to three years) on satisfactory performance that is required to be appraised every year. The Young Professionals (YPs) are required in the following areas :

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Senior Project Engineer | Software Development | 01 (one) |
| 2. Senior Project Engineer | ICT Infrastructure Administration | 01 (one) |

The opening date of downloading the application form from the University website shall be **14th August, 2025** and the application form alongwith all relevant documents should reach the office of Director, Centre for IT Enabled Services and Management, University of Jammu, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Road, Jammu Tawi, Jammu & Kashmir, 180006 by Registered /Speed Post on or before **2nd September, 2025** by 5:00 PM.

The prescribed application form and other necessary details are available on the Jammu University website

www.jammuuniversity.ac.in

Sd/-

Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan
(DIRECTOR)

No: CIT/JU/2025/1713
Dated : 11-08-2025

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Bhaderwah Campus unites global experts in Ladakh to address climate crisis in Himalayas

LADAKH:

The 3rd International Expedition to the Western Himalayas kicked off with International Summer School on "Confronting the Climate Challenge in the Indian Himalayas: Pathways to Resilience"

In a pioneering step towards addressing climate change in fragile mountain ecosystems, the Department of Environmental Studies, PGDAV (M) College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Mountain and Hill Environment (CISMHE), University of Delhi, and the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhaderwah Campus, launched the 3rd International Summer School and Expedition from July 5-15, 2025, in the Western Himalayas, with a dedicated focus on Ladakh.

This on-field academic initiative, supported by international scholars including a delegation from HSE University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, aimed at developing robust, community-led climate resilience models.

Participants included eminent professors, climate researchers, and policy experts from India and Russia who worked closely with local communities to examine first-hand the cascading impacts of climate change in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)—one of the most ecologically sensitive zones in the world.

Key concerns addressed included rising temperatures, accelerated glacial melt, erratic precipitation, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

The summer school is particularly focusing on water insecurity, threats to traditional livelihoods, and the tensions between unregulated development and environmental preservation in the region.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of Bhaderwah Campus lauded the joint initiative, emphasizing the urgency of research-based policymaking in ecologically fragile zones like Ladakh.

"Such collaborative outreach programmes are essential to inform governance frameworks and develop adaptive responses to climate challenges in mountainous areas," he said.

Prof. Darvinder Kumar, Princi-



pal of PGDAV College, has provided vital guidance in shaping the research component of the workshop. His focus on grassroots data collection and statistical rigor ensures that the findings have both practical value and academic depth.

Prof. Vandana Mishra, Director of CISMHE, underlined three major gains of this Indo-Russian collaboration, real-world research on resilience, sustainable farming and traditional governance; field-based data for improved strategies in climate adaptation, biodiversity, and water management; and a strengthened academic bridge between India and Russia through joint research, student exchanges, and collaborative funding.

Prof. Alexander, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, HSE University, Russia, reiterated the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge with scientific methodologies to formulate sustainable policy interventions in climate-vulnerable regions like Ladakh.

Dr. Pardeep Singh, Convener of the workshop, emphasized the

need to integrate indigenous practices with modern policy to build

resilient mountain communities, while also promoting cross-disci-

plinary dialogue among academia, civil society, and policymakers.

Dr. Chhering Tandup, the Organizing Secretary, stressed the significance of holding such events on-site in Ladakh, ensuring that climate discussions are community-driven and grounded in the lived realities of the region.

Dr. Richa Agarwal Malik shared the key investigations during the expedition include, local awareness on climate change impacts, community coping mechanisms, solutions being adopted and expectations from administrative support

Given Ladakh's delicate ecosystem and resource constraints, she emphasized the urgency of developing economically viable and ecologically sound adaptation strategies.

Other distinguished contributors included Dr. Chander Pal Singh, Dr. Chhetan Chhoidub, and Dr. Dimitri Omelchenko, all of whom bring valuable insights to this significant collaborative mission.

This International Summer School marks a vital step in building sustainable pathways for resilience in the Himalayas and serves as a model for global-local partnerships in the face of the climate emergency.

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE & ONLINE EDUCATION (CD&OE) UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU (NAAC Accredited A++ University)



(UGC-DEB approved)

Admission Notification No. CDOE/PG/25/666-690 dated. 30/07/2025, Session 2025-2027

Applications are invited from all eligible candidates seeking admission to Post Graduate Programme in **English, Hindi, Urdu, Political Science, Sociology, Dogri, Punjabi & M.Com.** through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode for the **session 2025-2027**, being offered by the **Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, Jammu.**

Eligible Candidates can fill the online application form through Website: **www.distanceeducationju.in** from **5th of August 2025.**

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

No: CDOE/PG/2025/691
Dated: 31-07-2025

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

J&K STATE ELIGIBILITY TEST AGENCY UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

A nodal agency for SET for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh
(Accredited by University Grant Commission, New Delhi)

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all the concerned that the **JKSET/LASET Examination 2024-25** earlier scheduled on **11.05.2025**, now shall be held on **07.09.2025 (Sunday).**

The candidates are advised to visit the JKSET website **www.jukset.in** regularly for further updates.

No. : JU/SET/25/286
Date : 04-07-2025

Sd/-
Member Secretary (SET)

Udhampur Campus, IGNCA celebrate Dogra Festival of “Rutt Raade”

UDHAMPUR:

The Udhampur Campus (Garnai-Lotta) in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Regional Centre Jammu, marked the grand celebration of the month-long Dogra heritage festival Rutt Raade, which began on the auspicious occasion of Aashaad Sankranti.

The chief guest for the occasion was Ms Anuradha, a renowned visual and folk artist, accompanied by Prof. Suman Jamwal, Historian and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Ms. Shruti Awasthi, Director, IGNCA, Regional Centre Jammu, as Guests of Honour; and Sh. O. P. Sharma, IFS (Retd. PCCF) and noted environmentalist, as the Special Guest.

The event began with the ceremonial inauguration by the chief guest, who joined local women, men, students, and children in creating vibrant Rangolis around the Raade using natural, plant-based colours, showcasing the unique aesthetic and ecological dimensions of the festival.

In her address, Ms. Anuradha highlighted the cultural richness of India, emphasizing the need to preserve and celebrate indigenous traditions.

She drew parallels between Raade and Rajasthan's Gujwar festival, dedicated to Goddess Gauri (Parvati), underlining how such



traditions promote community bonding, feminine energy, and familial well-being.

“Festivals like these serve as the social glue that binds communities and add vibrancy to the cultural fabric of our country,” she said.

Prof. Suman Jamwal lauded the efforts of the Udhampur Campus, UoJ to revive Raade, saying, “Reconnecting with our traditional festivals is akin to rediscovering our roots and realigning ourselves with nature. The Raade festival is a beautiful example of gender balance and cultural resilience within Dogra society.”

She stressed the need to contextualize such traditions in the

contemporary world and called for decolonizing mindsets to better appreciate indigenous knowledge systems. Ms. Shruti Awasthi, Director of IGNCA, expressed her deep appreciation for the efforts made by the Udhampur Campus and its surrounding communities.

“The Raade festival reflects the Indian philosophical concept of Panch Bhoota (five elements), emphasizing harmony with nature. IGNCA is committed to preserving such environment-centric traditions and will support efforts to restore the festival's prominence across the region.” opined the Director.

Sh. O. P. Sharma emphasized the symbolic essence of the

Raade—the germination of seeds as a metaphor for growth, fertility, and progress. He encouraged the community to recognize and revere nature's generosity and urged active participation in ecological and cultural preservation.

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector of the Udhampur Campus, UoJ passionately outlined the festival's multifaceted significance—spiritual, cultural, historical, socio-economic, philosophical, and ecological. Drawing from personal experiences, he expressed concern about the waning awareness among the younger generation and underscored the importance of cultural education. “Commemo-

rating the Raade festival fosters curiosity, strengthens our connection to nature, and deepens appreciation for our Dogra heritage,” he said. Throughout the month, women and young girls from nearby villages beautify the Raade every Sunday with colourful, organic rangolis, reviving age-old practices. The festival will conclude on the following Shravan Sankranti i.e 16 July 2025, with vibrant community participation and cultural celebration, reviving a fading tradition deeply rooted in Dogra heritage. It is pertinent to mention here that the celebration of Rutt Raade at Udhampur Campus not only reaffirms the community's deep-rooted traditions but also signals a promising movement toward cultural revival and sustainable heritage practices.

Under the continued patronage of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor and the dedicated involvement of the community, the Raade festival stands poised to reclaim its place in the cultural landscape of Jammu and beyond.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Jyoti Sharma, with month-long organizational efforts led by Mrs. Taruna Dubey, Mr. Pradeep, Mr. Nikhil Khajuria, Dr. Sunita Kumari, Dr. Jyotishna, Dr. Ritika, Dr. Kamini, Dr. Prerna, along with the students, non-teaching staff of Udhampur Campus, and residents of Garnai-Lotta village



UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

(NAAC Accredited by A++ Grade University)

ADMISSION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the admissions to **Semester-7th (Honors/Honors with Research)** of Four Year Under Graduate Programme under National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020 in all Govt. and Non-Govt. colleges affiliated to the University of Jammu shall be made as per schedule given as under:-

- 20-08-2025 to 08-09-2025 (without late fee)**
- 09-09-2025 to 18-09-2025 (with late of Rs. 420/-)**

All the candidates desirous of seeking admission to the above mentioned Semesters of their course are accordingly advised to approach the Principals(s) of the respective Degree Colleges (Govt. and Non-Govt. affiliated by the University of Jammu). The admission will be granted subject to the availability of seats and eligibility.

For further details regarding eligibility conditions etc., kindly refer to the notification uploaded on the University website (www.jammuuniversity.ac.in).

No: Admission/25/874
Dated : 18-08-2025

Sd/-
Asstt. Registrar (Admissions)