

ECHOES OF VALOR: Jammu University Brings Karna's Epic to Life Through Rashmirathi

ANY SUPPORT TO TERRORISM WILL BE MET WITH FIRM AND COMPREHENSIVE ACTION: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHUBHAM CHOUDHARY



Jammu: On a vibrant evening at the University of Jammu, the campus came alive with the thunder of ancient chariots and the fire of unyielding spirit as students staged a mesmerizing theatrical adaptation of Rashmirathi, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's monumental Hindi epic. The event drew a distinguished audience, including Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, who graced the occasion and shared profound reflections on the timeless power of Dinkar's poetry.

Rashmirathi—meaning "Charioteer of Rays of Light"—reimagines the Mahabharata through the eyes of Karna, the tragic yet indomitable warrior. Born to Kunti before her marriage and

abandoned at birth, Karna is raised as a charioteer's son, facing relentless humiliation for his perceived low caste. Blessed by the Sun God yet cursed by fate, he rises through sheer talent and courage, earning the unwavering friendship of Duryodhana, who crowns him king. Karna's life is a saga of loyalty, generosity, and defiance: he stands by his friend despite knowing the Kuravas' cause is doomed, rejects Kunti's plea to

switch sides even after learning she is his mother, and fights with ferocious valor until his tragic end. Dinkar's fiery verses celebrate Karna's unbreakable self-respect, his rebellion against injustice, and his embodiment of dharma in the face of overwhelming odds—themes of courage, sacrifice, and the triumph of the human spirit over destiny's cruelty.

As the young performers brought these elec-

trifying scenes to the stage—Karna's duels, his poignant confrontations, and his final battlefield glory—the audience was swept into a world where every line pulsed with raw emotion and national pride. The production was dedicated to the heroes of the Indian Armed Forces, whose bravery in defending the nation mirrors Karna's own resolute stand against adversity.

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Jammu University is Fuelling India's Dream @2047

Journey to becoming Viksit Bharat must begin right here, in our schools, colleges, and universities: Prof Umesh Rai

ALANKRIT PATYAL

Jammu: Imagine a classroom where students don't just memorize facts—they wrestle with real problems, dream up solutions, and dare to build something new. That vision is no longer a distant hope at the University of Jammu. It's the heartbeat of a growing movement to help India reclaim its place as a global leader by 2047.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, speaking with the calm conviction of someone who believes education is the single most powerful force for change, said "Infrastructure, agriculture, health-care, the digital economy—these are the pillars of a developed nation, but the engine that drives everything forward? That's edu-



cation." He reminded the room of a time, centuries ago, when India

contributed nearly a quarter of the world's economy. What made

that possible, he explained, was an education system deeply connected to the needs and aspirations of society. "We lost that alignment during colonial rule," Prof. Rai reflected. "Now, the journey to becoming Viksit Bharat—a developed India—must begin right here, in our schools, colleges, and universities."

The occasion was the curtain-raiser for the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, a four-day youth festival set to unfold at the University of Jammu from July 31 to August 3, 2025. More than an event, it's a living expression of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious vision for India in 2047—a vision Prof. Rai described not as a government policy, but as a national mission that university must lead.

He painted an inspiring picture of what that leadership could look like: moving away from rote learning toward problem-solving; shifting from chasing jobs to creating them; weaving skill development, creativity, and curiosity into every course. He spoke excitedly about the upcoming Innovation Tower on campus—a space designed for big ideas, start-up incubation, and partnerships with the wider community.

But for Prof. Rai, knowledge alone isn't enough. He made a passionate case for value-based education that shapes character as much as intellect. "We must teach emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, and social ethics," he urged. "If we fail to create

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Milestone in Inclusivity: Jammu University Academic Council Approves Supernumerary Seat for Transgender Candidates

HIMANI GUPTA

Jammu: In a historic first, the Academic Council of the University of Jammu convened its meeting at the scenic Bhandarwah Campus today, marking a bold step in decentralizing academic governance and bringing decision-making closer to remote regions. Chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, the landmark session approved a series of progressive measures, chief among them the

creation of one supernumerary seat for transgender candidates in every on-campus programme—a powerful affirmation of the University's commitment to social inclusion and equity.

This pioneering decision underscores the institution's resolve to fulfill its broader social responsibility, ensuring that higher education becomes truly accessible to all sections of society.

The Council also formally endorsed the adoption of the Na-

tional Credit Framework (NCrF) along with its Standard Operating Procedures, paving the way for its seamless implementation across the University. In a marathon of deliberations, members reviewed and aligned existing guidelines and statutes with the latest UGC norms, while greenlighting several new and revised academic offerings.

Key approvals included the M.A. History programme and certificate courses in Basic Account-

ing, Goods and Services Tax (GST), and Filing of Income Tax Returns under the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE). The revised statutes for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme – Design Your Degree, fully aligned with NEP 2020, were also cleared. Adding to the momentum, the Council endorsed a new Postgraduate (M.A./M.Sc.) Degree Programme in Disaster Management under the Department of Geology.

In another student-centric move, the Council approved provisions allowing candidates to simultaneously pursue one academic programme through ODL/Online mode alongside a regular physical-mode programme at any UGC-recognized university, in line with updated national guidelines. Welcoming members—both present in person and virtually—Prof. Rai described the off-campus hosting as a transformative stride

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From Blueprint to Breakthrough: Jammu University shifts to vertical expansion

As the University of Jammu is achieving one after another milestone, its sprawling campus is undergoing a sweeping makeover — from cutting-edge innovation hubs to modern sports arenas and eco-conscious designs. Spearheading this ambitious wave of development is Er. Akash Bhola, Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil), whose 25 years of unwavering dedication have quietly shaped the university's physical landscape. In a crispy chat with JU Post, Er Akash Bhola shared insights about present, past and future of Jammu University's transformation.

JU Post: Er. Akash, the University of Jammu is undergoing a remarkable transformation with several new facilities set to be ready. As the Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) leading much of this work, how do you describe this phase of development?

Er. Akash Bhola: This is truly one of the most ambitious phases in the university's history. We are not just adding buildings; we are reimagining the entire campus to make it more student-centric, innovation-driven, and sustainable. Under the visionary guidance of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, every project is planned with a long-term perspective—spaces that will serve academic needs for the next 50 years or more.

JU Post: One of the most talked-about projects is the Innovation Tower. Can you tell us more about it?

Er. Akash Bhola: Absolutely. The foundation stone was laid in January 2024, and Phase I—a G+3 structure costing around ₹12.5 crore—is currently under construction. It will be a dedicated hub for entrepreneurship, startups, research incubation, and industry collaboration. What many don't realise is that we've designed the foundations and columns to support expansion up to seven storeys in the future. So, as needs grow, the tower can grow with them without major restructuring.

JU Post: The new building for the Department of Journalism and Media Studies also sounds exciting. What can students expect?

Er. Akash Bhola: It should be ready by early 2026. We're creat-



ing modern classrooms, digital newsrooms, fully equipped broadcast studios, and media labs—everything aligned with today's fast-evolving media industry. The idea is to give students hands-on, industry-relevant experience right on campus.

JU Post: Sports facilities are getting a major upgrade too, aren't they?

Er. Akash Bhola: Yes, and I'm particularly proud of this. We're building a multipurpose indoor

sports hall and a state-of-the-art 10-metre shooting range, which should be completed by late 2025. These will help our students train and compete at state and national levels. They complement the cricket stadium, which now has high-mast lighting for evening practice and matches.

JU Post: Land is a big constraint for the university. How are you tackling that challenge?

Er. Akash Bhola: The original land acquired in 1969 is almost

fully utilised. So, we've shifted to vertical expansion. Most new buildings are designed as G+3 with provisions to go up to G+7 later. This maximises space without disturbing the campus's green character and ecological balance.

JU Post: You've been with the university since 1998. Looking back, which projects stand out for you personally?

Er. Akash Bhola: So many! I started as a Junior Engineer supervising the Health Centre on the

North Campus. Later, I oversaw the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, the School of Biotechnology, the Law School building, extensions for the Department of Education, and the renovation of the Wadia Museum of Natural History. I also spent time developing the Bhaderwah Campus in 2005. Each project has been a milestone in the university's growth—and mine too.

JU Post: We're also hearing about new parking and plans for a centralised Lecture Hall Complex. Any updates?

Er. Akash Bhola: A new parking facility for around 200 vehicles is coming up behind the Zorawar Singh Auditorium to ease traffic and support our green campus initiative. The proposal for a centralised Lecture Hall Complex—shared classrooms for all departments—has been sent to the government for funding. And the revamping of the main university gate has already been approved; work should start soon. It will give the campus a welcoming, modern entrance.

JU Post: Sustainability seems to be a recurring theme. How is it being incorporated?

Er. Akash Bhola: It's at the core of everything we do. The university is already recognised as a green campus, and we're using eco-friendly construction practices across projects. But infrastructure is only as good as the care it receives. I always tell students and staff: these facilities belong to all of us. We must respect and preserve them.

JU Post: Finally, what does this transformation mean for the students and future generations?

Er. Akash Bhola: It means a campus ready for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century—spaces that inspire innovation, nurture talent, promote well-being, and foster pride. With the support of the administration, faculty, and students, we're building not just structures, but a stronger, more vibrant University of Jammu that will serve learners for generations to come.

JU Post: Thank you for sharing these insights.

Er. Akash Bhola: Thank you. It's an honour to contribute to an institution that has given me so much.

FROM PG 1

Echoes of Valor: Jammu

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor paid glowing tributes to Rashtrakavi Dinkar, calling his poetry "eternal" and a voice for the nation's soul. "Every line is devoted to life and existence," he said, emphasizing how Rashmirathi transcends ancient myth to symbolize enduring values of righteousness and justice—values as vital today amid shifting global challenges.

He saluted the Armed Forces for their decisive actions against terrorism, drawing a powerful parallel to the epic's warriors, and reiterated India's firm stance: any support for terror will meet unyielding resolve. Turning to the youth, he expressed pride in the new generation's commitment to democracy, sovereignty, and progress, urging students to mirror soldiers' border vigilance with innovation and economic drive.

Joined by Vice Chancellors, senior officials, literary luminaries, faculty, and enthusiastic students, the gathering was more than an event—it was a stirring reminder that great stories like Karna's, immortalized by Dinkar, continue to ignite courage and unity in every Indian heart.

Jammu University is

humane human beings, everything else we build will lose its meaning." He didn't shy away from the darker challenges either. Linking substance abuse to crime and even terrorism, he called for a genuine, sustained fight against drugs. "Nasha Mukta Bharat cannot be just a slogan," he said firmly. "Unless we free our youth from addiction, the dream of a developed India will remain incomplete."

Behind his words was quiet gratitude for the support that has made such bold ambitions possible. He specially acknowledged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the Chief Minister for their leadership in transforming infrastructure and agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir, and for standing by educational institutions as they tackle long-standing challenges.

Looking out at the young faces in the audience, Prof. Rai offered a direct invitation: "Register on the MY Bharat Portal. Choose your interests carefully. The Government of India is opening doors to internships, national projects, and real-world opportunities—your future starts with that one step."

The upcoming festival itself promises to be a celebration of youthful energy and national purpose. Over four days, students will dive into exhibitions by government departments, hear from inspiring leaders, test their skills in elocution and quiz contests, practise yoga, and join a powerful Nasha Mukta Bharat Rally that will see faculty, staff, research scholars, and students marching together for a drug-free India.

Milestone in Inclusivity: Jammu

in institutional outreach. "Empowering our off-site campuses and bringing core academic discussions to students, faculty, and civil society in remote areas is essential for inclusive growth," he emphasized. He highlighted recent strides in academics, research, infrastructure, digital transformation, and national rankings, including the prestigious A++ NAAC accreditation.

AI: Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow – Insights from Kathua Campus Expert Lecture



JU POST

Kathua: In an era where technology and environmental concerns increasingly intersect, the Kathua Campus of the University of Jammu took a meaningful step forward by hosting an enlightening expert lecture on the “Role of Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Future.” Organized by the Department of Computer Science & IT in collaboration with the University Institute of Engineering & Technology (UIET), the session drew students, faculty, and tech enthusiasts eager to explore how AI can become a powerful ally in building a greener planet.

The spotlight was on Dr. Yashwant Singh, Professor and Registrar at the Central University of Jammu, whose expertise and passion for the subject captivated the audience. Dr. Singh delved deep into the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, illustrating its real-world impact across critical domains. From advanced climate

modelling that helps predict and mitigate environmental disasters to optimizing renewable energy systems for greater efficiency, AI is already making strides. He highlighted precision agriculture—where AI-driven tools enable farmers to reduce waste, conserve water, and boost yields—and smart urban infrastructure that minimizes energy consumption in cities.

“AI is not just a technological advancement; it’s a tool for resilience,” Dr. Singh emphasized, urging the integration of intelligent systems to create a more sustainable and equitable future.

The event received strong endorsement from campus leadership. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector of Kathua Campus, commended the faculty’s initiative in his message, noting that academic institutions bear a vital responsibility to raise awareness about cutting-edge technologies. “By fostering innova-

tion and research among students, we prepare them to tackle tomorrow’s challenges today,” he said.

Dr. Rocky Gupta, Principal of UIET, inspired the young audience to dive deeper into AI. He encouraged students to view the technology not merely as a career path but as a means to address pressing environmental issues. “AI-driven solutions have the power to enhance societal well-being and sustainability,” he remarked. “This is your opportunity to be part of a transformative journey.”

As conversations around climate change and resource scarcity intensify, events like this serve as a reminder that the next generation of innovators—equipped with knowledge and enthusiasm—holds the key to a sustainable future. The lecture at Kathua Campus not only informed but also inspired, planting seeds for AI-powered solutions that could one day help heal our planet.

Reasi Campus Hosts Inspiring Induction Programme for Fresh Students



JU POST

Reasi: The Reasi Campus of the University of Jammu warmly welcomed its newest cohort with a vibrant one-day Induction Programme on August 7, 2025, designed to immerse first-semester students of the MDP Sociology programme (Academic Session 2025-26) in the institution’s rich academic culture and curriculum.

The event, graced by eminent academicians, set an uplifting tone for the students’ journey ahead. Prof. Vishav Raksha, Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, attended as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, while Prof. Baljit Singh Mann, Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Jammu, joined as Guest of Honour and invited speaker.

Prof. S.K. Pandey, Director of Reasi Campus, extended a heartfelt welcome to the dignitaries and new entrants. In his insightful presentation, he introduced the students to the legacy of the University of Jammu and the unique strengths of the Reasi Campus. Interacting closely with the freshers, Prof. Pandey assured them of top-notch facilities for teaching, learning, and comfortable hostel stays. He encouraged active participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities alongside academic excellence, emphasizing the development of both hard and soft

skills as key to future success.

“This campus is not just about education and training,” Prof. Pandey remarked passionately. “It’s about building personality, attitude, character, and transforming you into versatile individuals.” He urged the students to approach every opportunity with enthusiasm and dedication.

Prof. Vishav Raksha captivated the audience with an elaborate discourse on human values and professional ethics. She underscored the indispensable role of universal values such as honesty, respect, integrity, cooperation, and empathy in leading a successful and meaningful life. Motivating the new batch, she invited them to fully appreciate the campus’s sprawling beauty, state-of-the-art technological facilities, and well-stocked library.

Prof. Baljit Singh Mann delivered a thought-provoking session on the dynamics of state-society relationships. Highlighting civil society as the crucial space where these interactions take shape, he described the organic bond between state and civil society, united in their aim to serve the people. He called for constructive evolution in this relationship, stressing the state’s responsibility to support genuine mobilizations while curbing hegemonic ones for the greater good. Prof. Mann also engaged personally with each student, offering encouragement for their academic and personal growth.

Harmonies of Heritage: Baderwah Campus Launches Certificate Course in Music



JU POST

Baderwah: In the serene valleys of Baderwah, where the air resonates with the echoes of rich cultural traditions, the Baderwah Campus of the University of Jammu has struck a new chord by launching a Six-Month Certificate Course in Music. Introduced under the School of Education, this innovative program opens doors for aspiring musicians, offering a structured space to nurture talent, deepen appreciation, and celebrate the vibrant musical legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural ceremony, held on the picturesque campus, was a celebration of creativity and culture. Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of Baderwah Campus, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and set an inspiring tone for the event. Addressing an enthusiastic gathering of students, faculty, and staff, he hailed the course as a vital addition to the campus’s academic offerings.

“Music elevates the soul and bridges communities,” Prof. Gupta said passionately. “Through this certificate course,

we are providing a platform that not only nurtures hidden talent but also strengthens the cultural ethos of our region.” He described the initiative as a significant stride toward transforming Baderwah Campus into a vibrant hub of interdisciplinary learning, where artistic pursuits seamlessly complement academic excellence. Prof. Gupta expressed optimism that the program would empower young learners to chase their creative dreams while preserving the diverse musical heritage that defines Jammu and Kashmir.

Leading the course is Dr. Kuljit Singh, Academic Coordinator and In-Charge of the Music Program, who shared an insightful overview during the ceremony. Designed for accessibility, the course welcomes anyone who has completed matriculation (Class 10), with admissions opening twice a year—in April and October. The curriculum strikes a thoughtful balance between theory and practice, blending classical traditions with contemporary styles to appeal to varied musical tastes.

Proposals for New Academic Programs Tailored to Regional Needs, National Priorities in pipeline: Vice Chancellor

JU POST

Poonch: In a powerful affirmation of inclusive higher education, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, visited the University’s Poonch Campus reviewing academic progress, inspecting ongoing infrastructure projects, and exploring new avenues for defence-academia collaboration and community engagement. The visit underscored the University’s resolute commitment to bringing quality education closer to border and remote areas, transforming what were once seen as “last villages” into the nation’s “first villages”—a vision championed by the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

The visit gains added significance against the backdrop of a historic milestone for the University: for the first time ever, the Academic Council meeting—one of its highest decision-making bodies—will be held at the Baderwah Campus on June 15, 2025. This move aligns seamlessly with the visionary guidance of the Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chancellor of the University, who has consistently advocated for comprehensive youth development through expanded academic, cultural, and sporting opportunities across the Union Territory.

Baderwah Campus will buzz with a vibrant series of academic, literary, and sports events designed to celebrate regional heritage, foster student participation,



and promote communal harmony. These initiatives highlight the University’s dedication to preserving local languages, cultural identity, and inclusive practices. By hosting flagship events like the Academic Council meeting at off-site campuses, the University aims to weave these locations into its core fabric, fostering a profound sense of belonging and shared purpose among all stakeholders.

During his interactions at Poonch, Prof. Rai revealed that proposals for new academic programs tailored to regional needs and national priorities are in the pipeline. These will be formally discussed at the upcoming Baderwah meeting, signaling an exciting expansion of course offerings.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari, In-charge of the Department of Sericulture, delivered a detailed briefing on the campus’s academic vibrancy and developmental strides.

A highlight of the visit was a fruitful discussion between Prof.

Rai and Brig Mudit Mahajan on strengthening ties between the University and the armed forces. The University plans to roll out customized certificate, diploma, and degree programs for personnel stationed in Poonch and Baderwah, accommodating their unique operational demands while promoting lifelong learning. Faculty expertise will extend to practical, technology-driven solutions for defence needs, complemented by internship opportunities for students.

Earlier in the day, Prof. Rai and accompanying officials paid respectful obeisance at Gurdwara Nangali Sahib, adding a spiritual dimension to the visit.

In heartfelt exchanges with local social organizations, the Vice Chancellor lauded their tireless work in youth empowerment, education, and community welfare in border areas. He pledged the University’s readiness to collaborate on meaningful initiatives that uplift young minds and strengthen societal bonds.

Bridging Classroom and Newsroom: Journalism Department Launches 10-Day Internship for GCW Students

PRITIKA/TANNU

Jammu: In a vibrant push towards experiential learning, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu inaugurated a 10-day internship program today for nearly 140 students from Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar. The initiative offers hands-on training in media and communication, empowering young women to master practical skills essential for thriving in the fast-evolving world of journalism.

The program kicked off with insightful sessions by prominent industry experts who delved into the transforming role of journalists in the digital era.

Roshan Kishore, Data & Political Economy Editor at Hindustan Times, captivated the audience with his emphasis on adaptability, ethical reporting, and the art of storytelling. "Journalism is not just about reporting facts; it's about crafting narratives that inform and inspire," he said. "This internship will help students hone these skills through real-world assignments."

Sumit Chaturvedi, Delhi Bureau Chief and Senior News Editor at ET Now, shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive experience. He underscored the critical need for practical exposure in journalism education.



"The media landscape is changing rapidly, and initiatives like this equip students to tackle real challenges while aligning their skills with industry expectations," Chaturvedi remarked.

The inauguration featured a warm welcome address by Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media

Studies. Inspired by the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, she highlighted how such programs bridge the gap between theory and practice. "This internship is a powerful platform for students to explore the nuances of media, foster critical thinking, and unleash creativity," Prof. Gupta stated.

Pioneering Digital Detectives: Jammu University Hosts First-Ever Hands-On Cyber Forensics Workshop for DYD Students



RIZWAN

Jammu: In a groundbreaking move to infuse real-world skills into undergraduate education, the University of Jammu, in partnership with iHub DivyaSampark at IIT Roorkee and Cyber Intelligence Global LLP, successfully organized its inaugural two-day Hands-On Cyber Forensics Workshop exclusively for students of the innovative Design Your Degree (DYD) programme. Held at the Skill, Incubation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), this pioneering event brought advanced digital forensics training to the undergraduate level for the first time.

The workshop embodies the visionary academic reforms championed by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, who has long advocated for skill-oriented, experiential learning to equip students for the challenges of the digital era. By prioritizing fields like cybersecurity and forensics, Prof. Rai's leadership is steering higher education toward greater relevance in an increasingly tech-driven world.

Convened under the guidance of Prof. Alka Sharma, Director of SIIEDC, and expertly coordinated by Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Associate Director of SIIEDC, the sessions were led by Mr. Vishu Datt, Director of Cyber Intelligence Global LLP, New Delhi. A veteran in cyber forensics and intelligence, Mr. Datt demystified key topics through engaging lectures and live demonstrations, covering digital evidence collection, cutting-edge forensic tools, cybercrime investigation protocols, and essential cyber law principles.

University of Jammu's Plantation Drive Echoes Urgent Call for Environmental Care

RIGZIN/ADHITI

Jammu: Amid rising global temperatures and depleting natural resources, the University of Jammu transformed into a sea of green today with the inspiring plantation drive 'From Sips to Saplings', a poignant reminder that nature demands immediate attention and action.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, while planting saplings and interacting with enthusiastic participants, rooted the initiative in India's deep ecological traditions. "Rising temperatures, depleting groundwater, and global warming are stark reminders that nature needs urgent care," he observed. "To save ourselves, we have no choice but to plant more and more trees."

Reflecting on cultural shifts, Prof. Rai lamented how the disap-



pearance of ponds, wells, and gardens has disrupted environmental balance—and even childhood innocence. "When gardens disappear, childhood disappears too," he said poetically.

Building on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's heartfelt campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', the Vice Chancellor issued a campus-specific appeal: "Ek Ped Vishwavidyalaya Ke Naam"—urging everyone to

dedicate a tree to the University as a symbol of personal environmental commitment.

Prof. Rai generously credited the campus's lush transformation over the past three-and-a-half years to the dedicated Arboriculture team, singling out Arboriculturist Ajmer Singh. "I may be the facilitator, but the real credit goes to their consistent hard work," he acknowledged.

Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Shantmanu, speaking to the media, emphasized humanity's profound connection to nature. "As a child watches a tree grow and an adult sees it mature, there are life lessons in every stage," he reflected. Praising the University's sustainability leadership, he stressed that planting is only the beginning: "Every sapling is a life—it needs fencing, care, and protection, just like a child in a

nursery."

He proposed refreshing the classic slogan to 'Plant Trees, Save the Present', calling for immediate action over deferred hopes.

Padma Shree Prof. Lalit Magotra hailed the drive as a cultural and emotional investment, with saplings of gulmohar, neem, champa, and more destined to enrich the campus for generations. "Greenery brings peace, clarity, and joy—vital for true education," he said, applauding Prof. Rai's vision and urging youth participation with the slogan: "Plant a tree so that both the present and the future are elevated."

This plantation drive reinforces the University of Jammu's steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship, turning words into roots and aspirations into thriving greenery for a sustainable tomorrow.

Pedaling Towards Fitness: University of Jammu Hosts Vibrant 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' Rally



SUHAIL AHMED

Jammu: In a spirited celebration of health and sustainability, the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education at the University of Jammu organized the "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" rally today, in collaboration with the Fit India Mission and under the

aegis of the University Grants Commission (UGC). This energetic event is part of a nationwide campaign to inspire citizens to weave physical activity seamlessly into their daily lives, fostering a fitter and more active India.

The cycling rally kicked off bright and early from the bustling University campus, drawing en-

thusiastic crowds of students, faculty members, and local residents who pedaled together in a display of unity and vitality. Aligning perfectly with the Government of India's flagship Fit India Movement, the initiative promotes a holistic culture of well-being, encouraging everyone to prioritize fitness amid busy routines.

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