

# JU Marks 79th Independence Day with Patriotic Zeal and Ambitious Vision for Nation-Building

**HIMANI/ALANKRIT**

Jammu: The University of Jammu marked India's 79th Independence Day with a blend of patriotic zeal and forward-looking ambition, as Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai unfurled the national flag and outlined an inspiring roadmap for academic excellence and contributions to national development.

Amid the rhythmic strains of the national anthem echoing across the campus in Jammu on August 15, the ceremony captured the spirit of freedom and unity. Prof. Rai, addressing students, faculty, staff, and guests, reflected on the profound sacrifices that secured the nation's sovereignty, equality, and inclusiveness. "These are hard-earned treasures, safeguarded by the supreme sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the unwavering commitment of our armed forces," he said.

On the occasion, which also coincided with the birth anniversary of Maharishi Aurobindo, the Vice Chancellor paid rich tributes to the philo-



sopher and revolutionary's enduring legacy in India's freedom struggle and intellectual thought.

Linking education directly to nation-building, Prof. Rai emphasized that higher education institutions must bridge academic pursuits with real-world societal and national priorities. He aligned the university's efforts with the Prime Minister's ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, stressing the need for innovation, invention, and impactful research to propel India's growth.

Highlighting the University of Jammu's recent milestones, Prof. Rai proudly noted its historic achievement as the first institution in Jammu and Kashmir to earn the prestigious NAAC A++ grade with a CGPA of 3.72. The university also secured the 50th position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) overall and ranked 23rd among state public universities—testaments to its rising stature in Indian higher education.

Research momentum has been a key driver of this progress. The university rolled out its inaugural Re-

search Policy, was selected as a spoke institution under the esteemed ANRF-PAIR programme in collaboration with IIT Delhi, and attracted 52 research projects totaling nearly ₹23 crore. Additionally, 14 seed grants worth ₹13 lakh were approved to nurture emerging research talent.

In academics, fresh initiatives are expanding opportunities for students. New Ph.D. programmes were announced in Physical Education and Rural Studies, and Journalism & Media Studies. Aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the university introduced Four Year Integrated Undergraduate Programmes (FYUGP) in BCA and BBA, featuring Data Science as a major in BCA at the Kathua Campus. Other innovative offerings include the flexible Design Your Degree programme and integrated five-year M.Sc. programmes in Mathematical Sciences and Electronics.

Global and industry partnerships are strengthening the ecosystem, with recent MoUs signed with entities such

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## CULTURAL BONANZA LIGHTS UP JU: Three-Day Induction Programme Ends on High Note of Creativity and Unity

**SHUBHAM/SUHAIL**

Jammu: The three-day Induction Programme at the University of Jammu wrapped up in spectacular fashion, transforming the campus into a vibrant hub of creativity, rhythm, and youthful energy during a grand Cultural Bonanza hosted by Utsaah – The Clubs Consortium.

Held at the iconic General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, the valedictory event became a dazzling celebration of student talent, cultural diversity, and collaborative spirit. The auditorium came alive with an eclectic lineup of performances—energetic dance sequences, soulful musical renditions, captivating theatrical skits, poetic expressions, and striking visual art displays—that offered freshers a thrilling first taste of the university's rich co-curricular ecosystem.

What began as an orientation

for new students quickly evolved into a powerful showcase of how campus life extends far beyond classrooms. Through Utsaah, the university's umbrella body for its dynamic array of student clubs, participants demonstrated the boundless possibilities for self-expression, innovation, and community building.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest, delivered an inspiring address that resonated deeply with the young audience. Describing clubs as a "powerful force for unity, creativity, and personal development," he emphasized their role in breaking down silos and expanding horizons. "Clubs are not about drawing boundaries; they are about expanding possibilities," he said. "Creativity does not belong to any one domain. Our goal must be to nurture talent, encourage collabora-

tion, and create an inclusive en-



vironment where every student has the space to express and evolve."

Prof. Rai reaffirmed the uni-

versity administration's unwavering commitment to student-led initiatives, noting their immense value in sharpening critical

thinking, alleviating academic stress, and instilling confidence. He paid special tribute to the legacy of Utsaah, crediting the strong foundation built under the earlier convenorship of Prof. Satnam and calling on all clubs to reignite that momentum. Creative freedom, he stressed, remains the lifeblood of a truly vibrant campus.

The Vice-Chancellor also extended warm appreciation to Prof. Meena Sharma, current Convenor of Utsaah, and the dedicated club coordinators. "They are not just classroom educators; they are nurturing a thriving ecosystem of co-curricular excellence with passion and vision," he remarked.

In her welcome address, Prof. Meena Sharma eloquently introduced Utsaah as a dedicated platform for fostering student leadership, self-expression, and meaningful societal engagement. She

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## A Free Ride Toward Freedom: How Jammu's E-Buses Are Empowering Women

**CHETNA KOUL**

Jammu: Every morning in Jammu begins with movement—of shutters rising, schoolbags swinging, and women stepping into their day. Among these everyday scenes, one quiet change stands out: women boarding electric buses with ease, confidence and dignity — without counting coins or worrying about fares.



For many women in the city, the e-bus has become more than public transport. It has become freedom on wheels.

A university student who travels daily from Jagti via Nagrota and Panjgraiye says the free ride has changed her routine and her mindset. "Earlier, I had to think twice before spending on bus fare. Now I save that money for books and studies," she says. What once

felt like a financial burden is now a source of relief and confidence.

At bus stops across Jammu, similar stories unfold quietly. College girls discuss exams and dreams. Office-going women clutch files, mentally preparing for the day ahead. An elderly woman adjusts her dupatta before boarding. And every morning, a familiar figure arrives — a policewoman in

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# Future of libraries is secure because their core role evolves: Dr Vikram Sahi

PARUL/HIMANI

**JU Post: Sir, thank you for taking the time to speak with JU Post. You've had a remarkable journey from software engineering to leading one of the University's key knowledge hubs. Could you walk us through how you found your way into librarianship?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: Thank you for having me. My journey has been quite unconventional. After completing my Master's in Computer Applications, I worked as a software engineer in Ahmedabad. Family circumstances brought me back home, and I joined GGM Science College as a lecturer. When the opportunity arose to join the University of Jammu's library in 1999, it was a deliberate choice.

On my very first day, surrounded by books, information, and knowledge, I realised, "I was at the right place." Sometimes you join a job, and slowly you grow into it. That's exactly what happened. My entire service since 1999 has been dedicated to this library. Over the years, my interest deepened—I pursued a Bachelor's and Master's in Library and Information Science, along with ongoing academic and professional development. Today, as In-charge Librarian, my aim is to take the library to more people and elevate it to a level where everyone knows about its resources and services.

**JU Post: Libraries have transformed dramatically over the decades. How do you see their evolution, and why do you believe they remain relevant in the digital age?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: Libraries are a growing organism—they adapt with time. We moved from manuscripts to printed books after the advent of paper and printing technology. Now, much of the material is digital.

The future of libraries is secure because their core role evolves rather than disappears. At the University of Jammu, our library system connects departments and

off-site campuses through digital access, enabling users to reach resources anytime, anywhere. Earlier, success was measured by how many people visited physically. Today, virtual visits are equally—if not more—important. The question is no longer about footfall; it's about accessibility and reach. We are trying to work differently: the library should reach the user, not the other way around.

**JU Post: What are some of the innovative services the Dhanvantri Library has introduced to meet the changing needs of students and researchers?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: We've focused on practical, user-centric innovations. One standout initiative is our daily newspaper editorial service, where we compile editorials from multiple newspapers and share them with students preparing for competitive examinations. This has been especially helpful for those gearing up for civil services, banking, or other entrance tests.

We've also expanded information services through online platforms, virtual communication channels, and digital tools. The emphasis is on making resources more accessible, whether users are on campus or off-site. Our goal is to support academic success in ways that fit modern lifestyles.

**JU Post: Research has changed significantly. How does the library support scholars today, particularly in areas like access to past work and academic integrity?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: In the past, scholars had to travel to different universities just to consult previous theses or dissertations. Now, digital repositories make that effortless.

One of our key responsibilities is plagiarism checking. When we issue a plagiarism report for a thesis or research paper, it serves as a guarantee of originality. Years later, no one can question the work's

authenticity. We also empower faculty by providing direct access to advanced research tools, reducing dependency on intermediaries and improving efficiency for everyone involved.

**JU Post: You've gone beyond traditional books by creating unique spaces in the library. Could you tell us about the Aurobindo Gyan Kendra and Aurobindo Dhayan Kendra?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: The library is much more than a place for textbooks or exam preparation—it's a space for holistic growth. We created the Aurobindo Gyan Kendra for knowledge and reflection, housing curated books, reference works, archival material, and digital resources inspired by Shri Aurobindo's philosophy. Adjacent to it is the Aurobindo Dhayan Kendra, a quiet meditation area.

We read literature

and gather information, but ultimately, a person must turn inward. That inner journey happens only when you sit quietly and reflect on yourself—who you are, where you're going. The library supports that deeper journey as well.

**JU Post: Finally, what message do you have for the youth about reading and its impact?**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: If even one good book is read sincerely and its message applied in life, it can transform a person's vision entirely.

Books that deeply influenced me include Rashmirathi by Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' and literature rooted in Mahatma Gandhi's ideas, especially the principle of truthfulness. In an age of information overload, sincere engagement with meaningful reading remains powerful. It shapes character, perspective, and purpose.

**JU Post: Thank you for this insightful conversation. Your passion for evolving the library while preserving its timeless essence is truly inspiring.**

Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi: Thank you. The Dhanvantri Library is here for the entire University community—students, faculty, researchers, and beyond. We invite everyone to explore what we offer, physically or virtually.



## FROM PG 1

### JU Marks 79th Independence

as GHV Accelerator, University of Aberdeen (UK), Agrinnovate India Ltd., Blue Planet Environmental Solutions, and University of Life (MSME) to boost research, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Infrastructure development continues apace, with ₹35.23 crore sanctioned for 41 projects. These include the upcoming Innovation Tower, a dedicated building for the Journalism Department, a modern shooting range, a new Sewage Treatment Plant, C-type staff quarters, smart classrooms, and a state-of-the-art main gate—enhancing both learning and campus life.

As the tricolour fluttered proudly against the Jammu sky, the celebrations served as a powerful reminder that true independence thrives through continuous progress, knowledge creation, and collective resolve toward a developed India. The University of Jammu stands poised to play a pivotal role in that journey.

### Cultural Bonanza Lights Up JU:

explained how the consortium empowers students to step beyond academics, discover hidden talents, articulate bold ideas, and contribute positively to the community—laying the groundwork for well-rounded, confident individuals ready to shape the future.

As the curtains fell on the three-day induction with thunderous applause and beaming

smiles, the event left an indelible impression on newcomers: the University of Jammu is not merely an academic institution but a living, breathing space where intellect meets imagination, tradition blends with innovation, and every student finds a stage to shine.

With Utsaah leading the way, the campus promises endless opportunities for growth, connection, and celebration—setting the tone for an exciting academic journey ahead.

### A Free Ride Toward Freedom:

uniform, boarding the same e-bus at the same time.

"She comes every day," says a commuter. "Same bus. Same smile."

For working women, the free e-bus service means dignity and independence. Many no longer walk long distances or depend on costly auto rides. For students, it means regular attendance, saved pocket money and small joys—a book, a cup of tea with friends.

Beyond convenience, the initiative also serves the environment. Each electric bus reduces pollution, making the city's air cleaner and its roads quieter.

From Jagti to Nagrota and Panjgraiye, women now travel with less fear and more freedom. Parents worry less. Daughters walk taller. "I feel lighter now—not just in money, but in heart," the student says. As Jammu expands in roads and buildings, its real progress moves quietly—on electric wheels—carrying dignity, empowerment and change, one journey at a time.

# Bridging Continents: Journalism Department Hosts Eye-Opening Lecture on Media Parallels Between India and Tanzania

RIZWAN/NIYATI

Jammu: In an enriching step toward global media literacy, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu welcomed an international voice from East Africa for a thought-provoking guest lecture on “A Comparative Analysis of Media in Tanzania and India”.

The session, held under the supervision of Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department, and guided by Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, featured Dr. Angel Kasonta, Assistant Professor at the University of Dodoma, Tanzania. With more than nine years of teaching experience complemented by an equal tenure as a Communication Officer in the Tanzanian government, Dr. Kasonta brought a rare blend of academic insight and practical expertise to the Jammu campus.

Her presentation offered a nuanced side-by-side examination of media landscapes in the two diverse nations. Key themes included press freedom, media ethics, digital transformation, and the vital socio-political function of journalism in nurturing democratic dialogue. Despite stark differences in historical trajectories, cultural fabrics, and governance structures, Dr. Kasonta highlighted striking common ground: both countries grapple with safeguarding journalistic independence, upholding ethical standards



amid rapid change, and navigating the disruptive force of digital platforms.

“While our contexts vary,” she noted, “the core challenges of responsible reporting, media autonomy, and adapting to technological shifts unite media practitioners across borders.”

The department’s ongoing ini-

tiative to expose students to international perspectives was evident throughout. As one of its regular efforts to broaden horizons, such events underscore how media functions as a critical bridge between governance, society, and citizens in varied global settings.

Dr. Pardeep Bali set an engaging tone with a warm welcome ad-

dress, stressing the rising value of cross-cultural dialogue in modern media education. He praised the department’s dedication to building platforms for international collaboration and the free flow of ideas.

The auditorium buzzed with active participation from students, who engaged keenly in the

Q&A, probing deeper into shared dilemmas and unique solutions in Tanzanian and Indian journalism. Faculty members—including Dr. Ravia Gupta, Dr. Kumerjit Chajotra—were present, while Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj deftly managed the proceedings.

Concluding the session, Dr. Ravia Gupta delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing deep appreciation to Dr. Kasonta for her illuminating contributions. She also recognized the collaborative spirit of faculty colleagues and the lively involvement of students, affirming that initiatives like this invigorate the academic atmosphere and cultivate truly global outlooks in aspiring journalists.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Students described the lecture as “enlightening,” “globally relevant,” and “intellectually stimulating”—words that captured the session’s success in sparking curiosity and cross-continental awareness.

Through events like this, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu continues to reaffirm its vision: equipping future media professionals not just with local knowledge, but with the broader understanding needed to thrive in an interconnected world. As digital boundaries blur and democratic challenges evolve universally, such intercultural exchanges prove more essential than ever.

## Rooted in Gratitude: University of Jammu’s CDOE Sparks Green Movement with ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ Plantation Drive



RAMNEEK/ISRAN

Jammu: In a heartfelt tribute to both nature and motherhood, the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) at the University of Jammu transformed a corner of the campus into a living symbol of environmental commitment during a vibrant plantation drive.

The event unfolded in the serene Citrus Vatika, where dignitaries, faculty, staff, and enthusiastic NSS volunteers came together to plant citrus saplings—each one a small but meaningful step toward a greener, healthier tomorrow. The drive served as more than an eco-activity; it was a collective reaffirmation of the bond between humanity and the earth, inspired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s poignant campaign, “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”. Jointly inaugurated by Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar of the University of Jammu; Prof. Rajeev Rattan, Director, CDC; and Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Head, Department of Statistics, the ceremony began symbolically as the leaders planted three distinct citrus saplings. Their act set an inspiring tone, urging NSS volunteers to reconnect with nature and nurture it for future generations.

Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director of CDOE, extended a warm welcome to the guests and volunteers. In his ad-

dress, he spotlighted the emotional depth of the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative, encouraging participants to dedicate each planted tree to their mother or a cherished maternal figure. “This simple act fosters a deeper, personal connection to conservation,” he said, turning environmental action into an expression of love and gratitude. Prof. Srivastava also took a moment to commend the university’s dedicated Arboriculture team, particularly Convenor Prof. Payush Malaviya and Arboriculturist Mr. Ajmer Singh, for their tireless work in preserving and enhancing the campus’s green cover. Their ongoing efforts ensure that every sapling has the best chance to thrive.

The drive was meticulously organized by Dr. Rajber Singh Sodhi, Program Officer of NSS Unit V, who concluded the event with a sincere vote of thanks to all participants for their presence and passion. As saplings took root under the Jammu sky, the message was clear: conservation is personal, collective, and urgent. By linking tree-planting to maternal love through “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,” the University of Jammu’s CDOE not only enriched its campus but also planted seeds of awareness, responsibility, and affection for the environment—promising a greener legacy for generations to come.

## Frontline Lessons from the Field: Kundan Singh Inspires Media Students with Raw Stories of Broadcast Journalism

RIGZIN/PRITIKA

Jammu: The Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu brought the raw pulse of frontline journalism straight to its students through an engaging interactive session with Kundan Singh, a seasoned senior journalist from New Delhi with deep roots in broadcast media.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, the event drew an eager crowd of media students, alongside faculty members Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali and Dr. Ravia Gupta. The session transformed into a masterclass in resilience, ethics, and the unfiltered realities of reporting from the ground.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, extended his strong endorsement, describing such direct engagements with industry veterans as “invaluable.” He emphasized how these interactions not only inspire budding journalists but also arm them with the practical wisdom and skills essential for upholding truth in a fast-changing, high-stakes media landscape.

Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai warmly welcomed Kundan Singh, praising his outstanding contributions to broadcast journalism and his generosity in sharing decades of multifaceted experience—from high-pressure newsrooms to diverse roles across the media ecosystem.

Kundan Singh held the audience spellbound as he recounted gripping chapters from his career, be-



ginning as a field reporter and cameraman thrust into the chaos of natural disasters. He vividly described covering devastating floods and other emergencies, painting a stark picture of the physical and emotional demands placed on journalists, anchors, and camera teams. Under relentless pressure, he explained, the mission remains unchanged: to capture and convey the unvarnished ground reality to the world.

The heart of the session lay in its lively, back-and-forth dialogue. Students dove in with enthusiasm, firing questions about the adrenaline of live reporting, the intricate workings of newsrooms, the ethical tightropes journalists navigate daily, and the teamwork that turns raw footage into impactful stories. Kundan’s responses were candid and grounded, urging aspiring reporters to approach every assignment with humility, courage, and an unwavering commitment to facts.

The takeaway resonated deeply: journalism demands more than

technical prowess—it requires the moral fortitude to seek truth amid adversity, the collaboration to tell stories responsibly, and the empathy to let facts speak without distortion.

Students emerged buzzing with inspiration, calling the session both “motivating” and “practically enriching.” Many reflected on how it reshaped their mindset—encouraging them to view subjects through a lens of humility while ethically crafting narratives that matter.

As Dr. Ravia Gupta delivered a gracious vote of thanks, the room carried a palpable sense of renewed purpose. Events like this reaffirm the department’s mission: to nurture not just skilled communicators, but principled storytellers ready to serve democracy with integrity in an evolving media world.

For the students of Jammu University’s Journalism and Media Studies, this wasn’t merely a lecture—it was a living blueprint for what it truly means to chase the story, no matter the storm.

## AI, Ethics, and the Evolving Newsroom: Media Students at JU Get a Forward-Looking Masterclass from Veteran Neha Pushkarna

NEHA/KASHISH

Jammu: Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Jammu turned its classroom into a window on tomorrow's newsrooms, hosting an invigorating guest lecture titled "The Future of Indian Media: Emerging Trends and Technologies".

The spotlight fell on Neha Pushkarna, former Metro Editor at Hindustan Times, New Delhi—a journalist with more than two decades of high-impact experience across legacy and digital platforms. Under the guidance of Head of Department Prof. Garima Gupta and Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, the session drew an energetic gathering of faculty—Dr. Kumerjeet Chajgotra, Dr. Ravia Gupta, Dr. Ramiyan Bharadwaj, and Dr. Pardeep Bali—alongside a keenly attentive group of media students eager to decode the industry's next chapter.

Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai opened the programme with a warm welcome, praising Neha Pushkarna for generously sharing her vast expertise. Dr. Ravia Gupta then introduced the speaker, spotlighting her distinguished track record with marquee names like The Times of India and Hindustan Times, and her proven command over news writing, new media, blogging, business journalism, and content strategy.

Neha Pushkarna took the floor and immediately commanded attention. She painted a clear, balanced picture of Indian media's present and near-future: print holding steady relevance even as



digital surges ahead, the relentless pace of technological disruption, and—most crucially—the growing centrality of artificial intelligence in content creation, audience targeting, fact-checking automation, and personalized news delivery.

Yet her message carried a powerful anchor: no algorithm can replace the bedrock of great journalism. She urged students to fiercely protect and sharpen timeless skills—strong, clear writing, uncompromising passion, strict neutrality, rigorous fact-verification, and ethical storytelling—no matter how sophisticated the tools become.

"Technology will change how we tell stories," she emphasized, "but it must never change why we tell them."

The lecture seamlessly flowed into a lively interactive Q&A. Students fired thoughtful questions about surviving and thriving in digital-first newsrooms, the opportunities and pitfalls of AI-driven journalism, the influence of social media on public discourse, and how to balance speed with accuracy in an era of instant news

cycles. Neha answered with candor and practicality, offering real-world anecdotes and actionable advice that bridged classroom theory with newsroom reality.

The response from students was electric. Many described the session as "inspiring," "eye-opening," and "practically enriching." Several noted that the speaker's insights had re-energized their commitment to the profession, pushing them to embrace emerging tools like AI while staying grounded in the values that define credible journalism.

Dr. Pardeep Bali delivered a gracious vote of thanks, encapsulating the day's spirit of learning and forward momentum. Dr. Kumerjeet Chajgotra expertly anchored the proceedings.

For the media students of Jammu University, the lecture was more than an academic exercise—it was a timely reminder that the journalists who will shape India's information future are those who master both the cutting-edge technologies of today and the enduring ethical principles that will always matter tomorrow.

## Pride, Passion, and Play: Vice-Chancellor Flags Off JU Cricket Team for Prestigious All India Vice-Chancellors' T20 Tournament



RAJESH/MUKHTAAR

Jammu: In a moment brimming with institutional pride and sporting spirit, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, ceremonially flagged off the university's cricket team on November 5, sending them on their journey to represent JU at the 21st All India Vice-Chancellors' Cricket T20 Tournament.

The high-octane national event is set to unfold from November 6 to 15, 2025, at the Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (LUVAS) in Hisar, Haryana. The JU squad, accompanied by support staff, will be on tour from November 4 to 16, accounting for travel days.

Leading the team with confidence and experience is Raj Kumar Bakshi, serving as both Captain and Coach, supported by Niranjana Singh as Vice-Captain. The contingent is ably managed by Mohit Sharma (Manager) and Kamal Nain (Assistant Manager), ensuring every detail—from strat-

egy on the field to logistics off it—is handled with precision.

Addressing the players before the departure, Prof. Rai delivered words of inspiration that echoed far beyond the campus ground. "Approach every match with determination, discipline, and the true spirit of sportsmanship," he urged. "You carry not just your bats and balls, but the name and reputation of the University of Jammu at a national stage." He reminded the young athletes that these tournaments transcend mere competition—they forge unbreakable teamwork, ignite healthy rivalry, and instill deep institutional pride.

As the team departed amid applause and raised flags, the atmosphere was charged with optimism and unity. For these players, the tournament in Hisar represents more than T20 cricket—it's an opportunity to showcase talent, resilience, and the values that define JU: discipline on the field, camaraderie off it, and unwavering pride in wearing the university colours.

## Display Your Talent-2025 Ends on a High: Three Days of Creativity, Competition, and Cultural Celebration Culminate in Grand Valedictory



GURLEEN/JYOTI

Jammu: For three unforgettable days, the University of Jammu's Tawi Zone became a pulsating canvas of youthful imagination, rhythm, debate, and visual storytelling as Display Your Talent 2025 drew to a triumphant close on November 8. Conceived under the visionary guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, this flagship cultural extravaganza once again proved to be a cornerstone of the university's calendar—offering students from affiliated colleges, teaching departments, and offsite campuses a vibrant platform to shine, connect, and celebrate their artistic selves.

The final day erupted with high-energy competitions that showcased everything from graceful classical movements to sharp-witted oratory and powerful visual commentary.

Winners emerged across six diverse categories, each performance and creation a testament to the talent, confidence, and cultural pride thriving among Jammu's young generation.

The crescendo arrived with the Valedictory Function at the packed auditorium of Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu. The atmosphere buzzed with pride, applause, and emotion as participants, mentors, and guests gathered to honour the festival's brightest stars.

Following a warm welcome by the Principal and a comprehensive event report by Dr. Ravender Tickoo and Dr. Seema Malpotra, the stage welcomed Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, as Chief Guest. An alumna of the college, she reflected fondly on her roots while praising the institution's growth and the indispensable role of cultural engagement in holistic educa-

### Standout Results from the Final Day:

**Classical Dance (Solo):** Ajay Agarwal (IMFA) took the top spot, with Akshita Lamba (IMFA) and Neelakshi Anand (GCW Parade Ground) securing second and third. Judged by Ms. Nitika Agarwal and Dr. Hitin Khurana.

**Creative Choreography:** GCW Parade Ground, Jammu claimed first, followed by KC Law College. Adjudicated by Ms. Nitika Agarwal, Dr. Hitin Khurana, and Sh. Satish Chander.

**Group Folk Dance:** GCW Parade Ground again led the pack, with the Department of Law and Centre for Distance and Online Education finishing second and third. Same esteemed judging panel.

**Debate ("Social media contributes more to awareness than to distraction"):** Centre for Dis-

tance and Online Learning (JU) emerged victorious, followed by GCW Parade Ground (second) and The Law School, JU (third). Judges: Dr. Aekta Gupta, Dr. Revika Arora, and Dr. Bindu Chib.

**Cartooning ("Swachh Bharat and Wrong Parking"):** Sahreen (GDC Paloura) won gold, with Tanish Kumari (GDC R.S. Pura) and Sachan Dev (IMFA) in second and third. Judged by Sh. Chander Shekhar, Sh. Vikas Khajuria, and Sh. Yogesh Manhas.

**Poster Making ("Viksit Bharat and Operation Sindoore"):** Rupinder Singh (GDC R.S. Pura) topped the category, followed by Vanshika Rajput (CDOE) and Abuzar Ali (IMFA). Judging panel: same as Cartooning.

tion. "Teachers here don't just impart knowledge—they shape complete human beings," she said.

Padma Shri Sh. Rajendra Tiku, Guest of Honour, lauded the initiative for unearthing authentic artistic talent and instilling discipline, imagination, and cultural identity in the youth. Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Student Welfare, echoed the appreciation for the seamless collaboration that powered the event's success.

A dazzling cultural showcase by students brought the evening to life—blending tradition with contemporary flair in performances that left the audience spellbound and reaffirmed the unifying power of art.

The ceremony reached its emotional peak with the felicitation of dignitaries and winners, culminat-

ing in the collective singing of the National Anthem—a poignant, unifying finale to three days of brilliance, bonding, and boundless creativity.

Dr. Gurpreet Kaur delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, bringing the curtain down on yet another memorable edition of Display Your Talent.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**CHIEF EDITOR:** Prof. Garima Gupta  
**MANAGING EDITOR:** Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai  
**NEWS EDITOR:** Dr Pardeep Singh Bali  
**SENIOR ASSISTANT EDITORS:** Himani, Rigzin  
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