

IIT Jammu's 5th convocation marks milestone: Over 271 degrees awarded

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu proudly celebrated its 5th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, a momentous occasion that underscored the institution's unwavering commitment to nurturing innovation, academic excellence, and leadership. Held on the picturesque campus, the event brought together a distinguished gathering of esteemed guests, faculty, proud family members, and graduating students, creating an atmosphere of shared pride and joyful commemoration that will be cherished for years to come.

This year, IIT Jammu conferred degrees upon a distinguished cohort of 271, spanning 178 B.Tech, 63 M.Tech, 14 M.Sc., and 16 Doctorates of Philosophy. The grand ceremony was presided over by Srikanth Nadhamuni, Founder CTO Aadhaar, CEO Khosla Labs, Managing Trustee eGov Foundation, whose compelling and inspiring address



IITians during the convocation in Jammu on Saturday.

resonated deeply with the graduates.

Srikanth Nadhamuni encouraged the new graduates to boldly embrace the challenges of the future, cultivate a spirit of lifelong learning, and dedicate themselves to the advancement of the nation.

Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu addressed the residing with his inspiring and uplifting words congratulating the Class of 2024 on their marvelous achievements, "As they embark on their next journeys, I wish them all the best for their future endeavors, knowing that they will continue to illuminate the name of IIT Jammu and make us proud." said Sh. Manoj.

IIT Jammu proudly unveiled a magnificent new sculpture, titled 'Artha: Ascent towards Excellence' dedicated to the graduating class of 2024. This awe-inspiring work of art signifies the transformative power of education, guiding students to rise above limitations, embrace challenges as opportunities and shine with intellectual curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. It teaches students to pursue excellence with unrelenting passion, dedication, and discipline and become beacons of inspiration, illuminating the path for others.

In recognition of exceptional academic achievements and dedication, the President Gold Medal was awarded to Rinkhim Agarwal from the Department of Chemical Engineering, while the Director Gold Medal was conferred upon Devin from the Department of Mechanical Engineering for his remarkable contributions. The Institute Gold Medal was awarded to Soham Naik for the interdisciplinary program offered jointly by Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

The Institute Silver Medals

celebrated students with the highest CGPA in their respective programs, acknowledging their outstanding academic performance. Recipients included Ravnish Jandial for Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering, Aryan for Computer Science & Engineering, Rajyavardhan Singh for Electrical Engineering, Prakriti Gupta for Materials Engineering, and Devin for Mechanical Engineering. Additionally, Paras Gandotra received the silver medal for the Master of Technology in Civil Engineering, Arunav Arya for Electrical Engineering, and Sovan Sundar Dhauria for the Master of Science in Chemistry.

These prestigious accolades highlighted the dedication, intellectual rigor, and drive for excellence of these distinguished graduates, who have set exemplary standards in their fields and are poised to make meaningful contributions as they embark on their professional journeys.

GGM Science College hosts HIV/AIDS Sensitization and Awareness Programme

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Red Ribbon Club at Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS), organized a comprehensive Sensitization and Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS.



Faculty members along with students during the event.

The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College, and the guidance of Dr. Seema Rani Minhas, convener of the Red Ribbon Club, with the aim of intensifying efforts in HIV/AIDS control and education with the Intensified IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) Campaign to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence, dispel myths, address stigma, and emphasize prevention, voluntary testing, and counseling.

The seminar opened with a formal welcome address by Prof. Sunita Kumari, followed by impactful presentations from students that include Ruby Sharma, Anjali Sharma, Simran Jamwal,

Maithly, Rashi Dogra, Manvi Sharma, and Mannat. Through their speeches, the participants raised awareness about HIV/AIDS, dispelled misconceptions, and underscored the pressing need for empathy and understanding.

Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta lauded the efforts of the Red Ribbon Club for organizing the event swiftly and commended the students for their insightful contributions. Emphasizing the importance of combating stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, he reminded the gathering that supporting those affected and fostering a culture of education is essential in curbing the spread of this preventable disease.

Dr. Seema Rani Minhas, the program's convener, encouraged attendees to carry forward the knowledge acquired during the session. She urged everyone to promote safer behaviors, advocate for those affected by HIV, and work towards creating a more informed and supportive community. Among those in attendance were Dr. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Sheraz Kousser and Dr. Arti Sharma. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof. Sunita Kumari, while Dr. Arti Sharma offered the formal vote of thanks.

Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust hosts ten-day spiritual activity during Navratra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To promote moral and spiritual values among the masses, the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust organized a ten-day spiritual event at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram in Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu, coinciding with the auspicious days of Navratra. From October 3 to October 12, 2024, hundreds of devotees visited the Ashram daily, participating in the activities with true devotion and humility.

The spiritual programs were held each day from 4:30 AM to 7:30 AM, focusing on invoking the blessings of the Mother Goddess. During this time, over three crore mantras were recited, creating a profound spiritual atmosphere.

The 'Hawan' ceremony commenced on October 3, 2024, at 5:00 AM, culminating with the Puran



Trust members performing Pooja.

Alhuti offered on Saturday at 1:00 PM.

Following the ceremony, Prasad was distributed to all attendees. The gathering of devotees paid homage at the feet of Bhagawaan Gopinathji, collectively praying for peace and universal well-being. The atmosphere was filled with spirituality, peace, and ecstasy.

In addition to the activities at the Jammu Ashram, similar Hawan ceremonies were conducted at Ashrams in Srinagar and Delhi, as well as in Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Vikasपुरi, and various Satsang Mandals across the country. All participating Ashrams and Satsang Mandals are dedicated to disseminating Bhagawaanji's ideals of spirituality and universal brotherhood.

Basohli Utsav concludes with cultural, sporting events

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: The 3 days Basohli Utsav, which was a celebration of culture, tradition, and community, concluded on Saturday with great success, leaving visitors captivated by a diverse array of events.



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar visiting a stall.

Organized under the supervision of Divisional Administration, the festival took place in the scenic town of Basohli, also known as Vishwasthali, highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage.

On the concluding day of Basohli Utsav, Principal Secretary Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta appealed youth to be passionate about the glorious heritage and play ambassador role in highlighting the cultural legacy of the area. He said efforts will be made to make Basohli Utsav a grand event in coming times.

Encouraging the local community to take pride in their

heritage, he urged the residents of Basohli to become ambassadors of Basohli art by incorporating traditional Basohli art forms at the front of their homes, thus preserving and promoting the region's cultural legacy.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, in his address emphasized that the festival was organized to restore the town's historical significance as Vishwasthali, a title that reflects Basohli's past as a flourishing hub of trade, renowned for its Pashmina, Basohli paintings, and its strategic location.

He highlighted that the mention of Basohli Utsav by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Mann Ki Baat last year serves as an inspiration to intensify efforts to preserve and promote the region's rich cultural heritage. He added that Basohli holds immense potential to feature prominently on India's cultural and tourism map due to its unique heritage assets.

The Divisional

Commissioner expressed confidence that with the continued support of the Department of Culture, Archaeology, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and the District Administration, the Utsav will gain further momentum and expand in scope with each passing year.

He also directed the Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, to prepare a year-round activity calendar showcasing live demonstrations of Basohli paintings and Pashmina weaving to attract tourists.

Director ACB, Shakti Pathak in his welcome address, highlighted the rich legacy of Vishwasthali, once a thriving center of culture, tradition, art, and craft. He noted that Basohli was not only renowned for its artistic and cultural heritage but also served as a hub for financial trade and commercial activities due to its strategic importance. He emphasized the significance of reviving this legacy through events like Basohli Utsav and reinforcing the town's historical stature.

The festival featuring world famous Basohli Ramila in the evening times besides multi-discipline sporting events, which saw enthusiastic participation from local schools.

Later, the prizes were distributed among the top three winners of Paintings, Story Telling, Shaloka Vyakhya and Sports disciplines viz Kabaddi, Santolia, Tug of war etc.

DC Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas, Secretary Academy of Art & Culture Harvinder Kour, Director Handicraft and Handloom Suraj Rakwal, Regional Director IGNCA Shrutu Awasthi, ADC Basohli Anil Kumar Thakur, CEO BBDA Ajeet Singh were also present on the occasion.

SKUAST-J implements 6th Dean Committee Curriculum aligning NEP-2020

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu has officially adopted the recommendations of the 6th Deans' Committee for implementation starting from the 2024-25 academic session. This significant move aligns SKUAST-Jammu's curriculum with the latest advancements in agricultural education as outlined by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to ensure academic excellence and innovation in agricultural sciences.

The ICAR 6th Deans

Committee's report on orienting agri-education to NEP-2020 was adopted which introduces several key changes to the educational framework. These include a greater emphasis on experiential learning, skill development, rural attachment programs and entrepreneurship development.

The revised curriculum aims to equip students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for addressing contemporary agricultural challenges. Furthermore, the new system focuses on enhancing soft skills and interdisciplinary learning to better prepare students for future leadership roles in agricultural and allied sectors.

Key features of the revised structure include curriculum revision, modification of academic structure of degrees/diplomas/certificates, the introduction of an academic banking system (ABC), a multiple entry-and-exit system, flexible course selection, introduction of skill enhancement courses, making internship as part of UG-certificate, UG-diploma and degree requirements and the incorporation of industry-oriented internships as part of UG requirements.

Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice

Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu lauded the adoption of the 6th Deans' Committee recommendations as a pivotal moment for the university. Prof. Tripathi expressed his commitment to delivering world-class education and nurturing innovation in the agricultural sector.

He said that by implementing the recommendations of the 6th Deans' Committee, SKUAST-Jammu aims to provide students with the best educational opportunities bridging the gap between academia and industry.

This will enable graduates to be well-prepared for both national and global challenges in agriculture. He lauded the Directorate of Education for restructuring the undergraduate curriculum as per the 6th Deans' Committee recommendations.

The University has restructured

its degree programs to align with global standards ensuring that students benefit from exposure to the latest research, technological advancements and field-based learning. The new curriculum also aims to strengthen collaboration with agricultural industries, research institutions and government bodies ensuring that students benefit from internships, mentorship programs and job placements in leading organizations.

The 6th Deans' Committee recommendations reflect the ongoing evolution in agricultural education emphasizing the need for greater integration of modern technology, sustainability practices and hands-on fieldwork.

The new curriculum promises to make SKUAST-Jammu a leading institution in nurturing future-ready agricultural professionals.

Sant Nirankari Mission organises Samagam

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: With the grace of Satguru Mata Sudhiksha ji Maharaj an English Medium Samagam was organised at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Jammu where Large number of saints irrespective of age from every nook and corner of Jammu, participated and had Divine Blessings.



The Samagam was presided over by Rev Saint Narpal Singh Gyan Pracharak from Chandigarh.

While addressing the congregation he said that the language of love is most powerful language.

But in the modern age English being most adopted language world over

and all the modern gadgets are synchronised with English language.

As such the Satguru wants that saints of mission specially youth should be adept in speaking and writing English to compete in the world scenario and enabling them to spread the spiritual message of the Sant Nirankari Mission world over effectively. Amongst others the congregation was also addressed and thanked all the participating branches of Jammu by Rev Ajit Singh Ji Zonal Incharge Jammu.

Yuva Rajput Sabha celebrates Dussehra with Shastar Pooja



Sabha members performing Shastar Pooja.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) celebrated the festival in a traditional manner by organizing a Shastar Pooja, symbolizing the victory of good over evil. The event was led by YRS President Vikram Singh Vicky and Chairman Raghuvir Singh, alongside Core Committee members including Rajinder Singh, Mohan Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Balbir Singh, Rajveer Singh, Rajan

Singh (former president), and other stakeholders.

The celebrations commenced with a sacred hawaan, followed by the Shastar Pooja, conducted with great reverence. Participants enthusiastically raised slogans of "Jai Shri Ram," "Satya Ki Jai Ho," "Sanatan Dharm Ki Jai Ho," and "YRS Zindabad," while praying to Lord Rama for peace and brotherhood in the nation.

Addressing the media, Vikram Singh emphasized the importance of remembering traditional holy festivals to ensure that future generations honor their glorious past. He encouraged the youth to actively participate in cultural celebrations, fostering an understanding of their heritage and traditions.

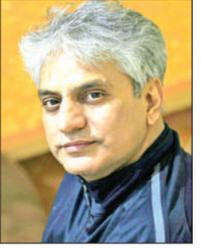
The entire YRS team extended their best wishes to the nation on this holy festival, urging everyone to unite and combat anti-national activities for the betterment of the country.

KK Gandhi to attend Nation Art Camp at Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Hina Bhatt Art Ventured (HBAV) is a dream project of Hina Bhatt, an art collector based in Pune keeping the core agenda of promoting art, and the artists are organizing a Nation Art Camp from 19th November to 23rd November 2024 at Srinagar.

The art camp is a regular feature of the HBAV and invites selective artists who have excelled in their field of art in

India. Acknowledging the journey of KK Gandhi, the organizers have specially invited him to the art camp as his presence will create an informal atmosphere for freedom to express and absorb ideas which can bring about a continuous state of action amongst all the artists present in the camp. The organizers have expressed that his presence will make the event more lively and fruitful.



Councillor Cha & Senior Pharmacist call on LG Mishra

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Councillor, Cha, Stanzin Lakpa called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Advisor to the HLG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, was present in the meeting.

Lakpa informed the LG about the delay in the implementation of the work on the Dharma Centre-cum-Community Hall at Lungnak and requested the HLG's intervention in the matter.

The LG asked Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, to look into the matter.

Senior Pharmacist, Farida Batool, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at the Lieutenant Governor's



Councillor, Cha, Stanzin Lakpa calling on LG Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

Secretariat. Advisor to the HLG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS and Director, Health Services, Dr Tashi Thinles were present in the meeting.

Farida apprised the LG of the condition of her son, who is suffering from Cerebral Palsy and needs regular physiotherapy and medical assistance regularly.

She requested the LG's intervention in transferring her to Kargil House in Jammu on medical grounds to enable her to provide regular physiotherapy and medal assistance to her son.

The LG asked the Advisor to the LG and the Director of Health Services to look into the issue.