

S&T Deptt sponsors educational trip to Asia's Largest Trout Farm in Kokernag

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its initiative to bolster scientific curiosity and career awareness, the J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council (J&KSTIC), Department of Science and Technology, arranged yet another educational tour for students of Government Girls High School, Narwara, Srinagar.

On 5 October, the students visited Asia's largest trout fish farm at Kokernag, sponsored by the Science and Technology Department.

Dr. Ubaid Qayoom, Fisheries Inspector, welcomed the students on behalf of Director Fisheries Abdul Majid Tak and Chief Project Officer Sajjad Hussain Dar. He provided an insightful tour around the farm, explaining the life cycle of trout from eggs to adulthood.

"Trout were introduced to Kashmir's pristine waters by the British in the early 20th



J&KSTIC, Department of Science and Technology arranging educational tour for students of Government Girls High School, Narwara, Srinagar.

century, and since then, this delicate species has flourished here, contributing to the region's biodiversity and economy," he said. The visit aimed to provide hands-on learning, and the students were captivated by the trout fish in various phases of development, particularly awed by one trout that weighed over five kilograms.

Dr. Qayoom said Kashmir is home to a vast network of fish farms, with several smaller

trout farms operating in different parts of the Valley. These farms, located in regions like Mamar, Dachigam and Pahalgam, play a significant role in both preserving the region's aquatic biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods. "The Fisheries Department actively manages these farms, ensuring the sustainability of the trout population while promoting aquaculture as a viable economic activity," he said.

Dr. Nasir Shah, Additional Director of J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, reiterated the importance of outdoor learning in enhancing students' conceptual understanding. "Excursions like these expose students to real-world applications of what they study in classrooms, he said. "Such scientific explorations are essential for broadening their perspectives and inspiring innova-

tion." The students expressed their deep appreciation to both the Science and Technology Department and the Fisheries Department for making the excursion possible.

The visit to the trout fish farm provided an enriching experience, blending scientific learning with practical exposure, leaving the students inspired to explore careers in fields related to science and agriculture. Previously, the Science Technology Department had organized an educational tour for the same students to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). "The Department's continued dedication to arranging such educational tours is commendable, as it plays a pivotal role in nurturing the scientific temper and career aspirations of young students," Headmistress Kousar Jan said.

New Land Immigration inaugurated its second branch in Miran Sahib

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JAMMU: New Land Immigration inaugurated its second branch in Miran Sahib, Jammu, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to facilitating international travel and educational experiences.

The inauguration was graced by renowned journalist Ravinder Singh, who served as the Chief Guest, and Vikram Singh Chib, President, Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) alongside Sushil Singh Charak, Founder of Nations Development Association (NDA) and Former Secretary of the International Human Rights Organisation J&K, as the Guest of Honour. Patrons Satish Katoch and Rekha Katoch also attended to support this momentous occasion.

In his address, Sushil Singh Charak emphasized the importance of New Land Immigration's expansion, which aims to meet the increasing demands of students and travelers in the region.

The management of New Land Immigration expressed sincere gratitude to Chief Guest Ravinder Singh for his inspiring words and invaluable presence, highlighting his guidance as pivotal to the event's success.

"We are excited to expand our presence in Jammu and remain committed to delivering personalized services to our clients," said Rahat Katoch, Founder cum Director and Danish Katoch Managing Director. "Our goal is to empower individuals to

achieve their global aspirations."

The new branch offers specialized services tailored to the unique needs of clients, including Study Visa guidance for students, hassle-free Tourist Visa processing, and Work Visa support for professionals seeking international opportunities. Under the leadership of Rahat Katoch and Danish Katoch, the New Land Immigration team is dedicated to providing exceptional support.

Parmjeet Singh, Anikat Singh Chib New Land Immigration Team Members, Er. Ashu Kumar Member of Nations Development Association (NDA), Mohinder Singh and Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) Teams, were also present on the occasion.

Capacity Building Program on Mission YUVA organized at Govt Women Polytechnic



Director, Skill Development Department, J&K, O.P. Bhagat chairing a programme.

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JAMMU: Directorate of Skill Development Department, J&K under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, J&K organized Capacity Building Program on Mission YUVA (Yuva Udhyaami Vikas Abhiyaan) at Govt. Polytechnic for women, Jammu. This program aims at sensitising all Nodal/Coordinating officers on purpose, components and monitoring of Mission YUVA in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. All the HoIs/Principals/Superintendents of various Polytechnics/TITs of Jammu Division participated in this program. O.P. Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, J&K gave an overview of Mission YUVA explaining its Mission and vision statement. He emphasized on creating a conducive environment where the youth can feel confident to take risks, innovate and build businesses. The key resource persons of the event were Narendar Abrol, from SIBDI, Ajay Thapa from Govt. Polytechnic, Jammu, Dr. Vinod Kumar from JKEDI and Sh. Kanav Sharma from NABARD. They elucidated the various components of Mission YUVA - Eco-System Creation, Institutional Business support Mechanism, Enterprise Development, Creating Business Plans, DPR and Credit Enabling for easy access to Entrepreneurs. Er. Suket Gupta presented vote of thanks to all the participants.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes lecture-cum-workshop on "Self-Defence and Domestic Violence Awareness"

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JAMMU: In an effort to raise awareness about safety and to empower students, Department of Commerce and IQAC of GCW Bhagwati Nagar in collaboration with Mission Shakti SANKALP Hub for empowerment of women Jammu, Social Welfare Department organised a lecture-cum-workshop on the topic "Self-Defence and Domestic Violence Awareness" under the patronage of Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college.

The workshop was inaugurated by Sunil Kumar, specialist in financial literacy, Mission Shakti, who emphasized the importance of self-defence techniques and the need for awareness about domestic violence, particularly in educational institutions. The session on self-defence

was conducted by Nikhil Jaral and Neha Jaral, a self defence technique coach. Participants were taught basic self-defence techniques to protect themselves in threatening situations. The interactive session allowed students to practice the techniques and learn how to stay calm under pressure.

The second half of the workshop focused on raising awareness about domestic violence. Sonali Rana, Gender specialist, Social Welfare Department, shared insights into recognizing the signs of domestic violence and provided guidance on seeking help. Students were also informed about the legal rights available to victims of domestic violence and the support systems they can access.

Dr. Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College, highlighted the



GCW Bhagwati Nagar students and faculty at a workshop.

importance of such workshops in fostering a safe and inclusive environment within the college.

"Workshops like this equip

our students with knowledge and skills to not only protect themselves but also support those in need. It is our responsibility to promote a culture of

safety and awareness," she remarked. The workshop aimed to create a safe space for discussion and encouraged students to openly address issues related to personal safety and domestic abuse. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the practical skills and valuable information provided. The event concluded with a Q&A session, where students had the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns. The entire program was organised by Prof Gagan Jyoti, Head of the Commerce Department.

Tap water reaches 78.58% of rural households under JJM

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JAMMU: The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, with the ambitious goal of providing tap water supply to every rural household by 2024. At the time of its inception, only 3.23 crore (17%) of rural households had tap water connections. The mission aims to bridge this gap by providing nearly 16 crore additional households with tap water by 2024, ensuring the functionality of existing water supply systems, and directly benefiting over 19 crore rural families.

This initiative is intended to reduce the rural-urban divide and enhance public health. Jal Jeevan Mission also strives for the freedom of mothers and sisters from centuries old drudgery of fetching water for the household, and improving their health, education and socio-economic condition.

The Mission is bringing 'ease of living' and adding pride and dignity to rural families. Jal Jeevan Mission also implements source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through

greywater management, water conservation and rain-water harvesting.

The Mission is based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) as a key component. JJM looks to create a janandolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

As of October 6, 2024, Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully provided tap water connections to 11.95 crore additional rural households, bringing the total coverage to more than 15.19 crore households, which accounts for

78.58% of all rural households in India.

The mission has reached a significant milestone, profoundly impacting the lives of rural people by providing them with reliable access to potable water in their homes. In conclusion, the Jal Jeevan Mission has made remarkable strides toward achieving its ambitious goal of providing every rural household in India with a functional tap water connection.

With over 15.19 crore households, numerous schools, and Anganwadi centres now benefitting from reli-

able access to clean water, the mission is significantly improving the quality of life in rural areas.

This initiative not only addresses water scarcity but also empowers communities, particularly women, by alleviating the burden of water collection and enhancing public health outcomes.

The mission's emphasis on community participation, sustainability, and technological innovation underscores its long-term vision. As the mission progresses, it continues to transform lives and foster a healthier, more equitable future for rural India.

Bridal Masterclass organized by ZNS NIST in collaboration with Recode Studio

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UDHAMPUR: ZNS NIST is committed to delivering high-quality, hands-on training, and this masterclass will include live demonstrations, interactive sessions, and personalized feedback from industry experts.

More than 100 students participated in this Masterclass. The session is open to beginners, beauty professionals, and anyone with a passion for bridal makeup. Each attendee will receive a Certificate of Participation & Goodies Bag from ZNS NIST and Recode Studio, further adding to their professional credentials. Participants will have the unique opportunity to learn and refine their skills in areas such as Traditional



and Contemporary Bridal Makeup Techniques. Mastering Flawless Base Makeup, Long-Lasting Bridal Looks for Different Occasions, Latest Trends in Eye Makeup and Lip Artistry, Working with

Diverse Skin Types and Complexions. Masterclass Bridal look created by Celebrity Makeup Artist Neerat Malik & Centre Head Shivangi Dogra (ZNS NIST Udhampur) also present there.

GDC Sidhra organises Induction Program for fresher students



GDC Sidhra faculty during a programme.

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JAMMU: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of GDC Sidhra conducted Deeksharambh - Students Induction Programme (SIP) for the fresher students of B.A./B.Com Sem-I for the session 2024-25 as directed by University Grants Commission (UGC). The event was meticulously designed to help new students acclimate to their academic and social environment.

The program started with formal welcome address by Dr. Anshu Gupta, Convener IQAC and HOD of Environmental Sciences of the college. The event commenced with the traditional ceremony of Lamp Lighting by Principal of the College, Dr. G S Rakwal accompanied by all the faculty members. It was followed by formal welcome of the Principal of the College by

presenting a memento. After this, the Induction Program formally began with making the students aware about what is DEEKSHARAMBH and why it is organised, focussing on the need and importance of it. It was discussed what role an institution plays in making the students familiar with the functioning of the college and helping them overcome the challenges they face as they enter higher education from school education.

After this, Dr. Harpreet Kour, HOD Political Science addressed the freshers and shared how college can help them in adapting to the new environment of the college. It was followed by introduction to NEP and Four-Year Undergraduate Degree Program (FYUGP) by Dr. Anshu Gupta. She introduced the students to the FYUGP course structure and told the

students about structure and courses they will be studying in their undergraduate degree program. Heads of different departments and faculty members were introduced to the students.

Moving further in the program, students were made aware of functioning of the college through various committees. Convenors of different committees familiarized the functions of various committees/cells and clubs. Fresher students also introduced themselves to the faculty members and their peers.

The main aim of the SIP is to educate the new entrants about the environment in the college and connect them with the stakeholders in it and to make them conversant of the college's campus, facilities, support services and its Virtual learning environment in the campus. The main aim of Deeksharambh is

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KARGIL: Consumer durables brand Usha in collaboration with the Ladakhi Craft & Design Skill Centre and the Department of Physical Education and Sports, Govt Degree College Kargil, Ladakh, organised Dah-Fangs, a traditional archery event at the College premises at Kargil. The event witnessed 80 male and female participants compete across teams, with an enthusiastic local audience comprising students and community members cheering them on. Govt Degree College, Kargil emerged as the champion in boys category while Govt Polytechnic College, Kargil stood second. In the girls section, Govt Degree College, Kargil won the title while Govt Polytechnic College, Kargil placed runner up. The Guests of Honour at the event included Tahir Hussain, Director, Youth Service & Sports, UT Ladakh; Mohd Ishaq, Zonal Physical Education Officer Taisuru/Traditional Archery Expert, and Mohd Sadiq Shalti, Former National Archery Coach, felicitated the winning and runners-up teams. All winners received certificates and



Participants receiving runner up trophy.

traditional tokens of appreciation.

Dah-fangs is the Ladakhi word for archery and is distinct in its style and equipment. The bows are typically made from locally sourced willow wood, while arrows are crafted using bamboo and tipped with metal points. The competition is characterised by unique rules and formats, with archers aiming at small, brightly coloured targets. This form of archery dates back many centuries and originally served as a crucial skill for hunting and self-defence and has since been an integral part of the lives of Ladakhi people. Speaking on the

occasion, Komal Mehra, Head, Sports Initiatives & Associations at Usha International, said, "Every traditional sporting event brings us closer to the rich traditions and cultural commitment at Usha to preserve and support these practices. The enthusiastic significance that shapes local communities. Today's Dah-Fangs event has deepened our understanding of its importance in Ladakhi culture and has further encouraged response from the local community and inspires us to continue connecting people to their roots while promoting the importance of following a healthy lifestyle through the power of sport."

Usha has been a fervent supporter and promoter of a wide range of inclusive sporting initiatives across the country. This includes its affiliation with the Mumbai Indians; Ultimate Flying Disc; Football; Ladies amateur and junior golf; Cricket for the deaf; and Sports for the visually challenged, including athletics, kabaddi, judo, and powerlifting. The brand is deeply committed to reviving long-forgotten sports and supporting indigenous Indian regional sports such as Kalaripayattu, Mallakhamb, Siat Khnam, Thang-Ta, Turai Kabaddi, Saz-Loung, Mardani Khel, Satoliya, Yoga, and Silambam.