

PMDDKY-A Unified programme to revolutionize Indian agriculture: VC SKUAST-J

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) organized a live webcasting cum screening of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura.

This landmark initiative, launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to transform Indian agriculture into a more productive, sustainable, and financially rewarding sector. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, was the Chief Guest and addressed a gathering of over 600 farmers, students, faculty members, and stakeholders.



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi addressing a gathering at Jammu on Saturday.

He explained that PMDDKY consolidates 36 existing agricultural schemes under 11 ministries, including PM-KISAN, PMFBY, PMKSY, and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, into a unified framework. With an annual budget of Rs 24,000 crore for six years (2025-26 to 2030-31), the scheme totals Rs 1.44 lakh crore and targets 1.7 crore small and marginal farmers

owning less than two hectares of land. Prof. Tripathi also highlighted the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), which transformed 112 underdeveloped districts. He noted that PMDDKY focuses on regions with low crop yields, such as Kishtwar district, by providing irrigation, storage, credit, training, and modern technologies to enhance productivity and sup-

port the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Dr. Amrisha Vaid, Director Extension, welcomed the participants and briefed them on SKUAST-Jammu's various farmer-centric initiatives. During the technical session, key scientists and officials, including Dr. S.K. Gupta, Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Dr. J.S. Soodan, Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Er. Kewal Raina, and

Dr. Punit Choudhary, interacted with stakeholders. A Kisan Ghoshti, organized by KVK Jammu, featured experts like Dr. Ashraf Malik, Dr. Ashok Kumar, and others, who spoke on dairy health, pest surveillance, GoI schemes, GST benefits, and provided on-the-spot solutions to farmer queries.

The programme was smoothly conducted by Dr. Prem Kumar, with support from Dr. Vijay Sharma, Dr. Poonam Abrol, Dr. Raju Gupta, Dr. Sudhir Singh Janwal, Satbir Singh, and Sahil Talgotra. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Punit Choudhary. Similar programmes were simultaneously held across other Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under SKUAST-Jammu's jurisdiction.

Health Camp organized at Kheer Bhawani Temple



Doctors with others at a health camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A free multi-specialty health camp was organized on Saturday at Kheer Bhawani Temple, Bhawani Nagar, Janipur, by the Brahman Maha Mandal, Kashmir and Shree Ardha Ratree Maharagenaya Seva Samsthan, Janipur.

Renowned doctors including Dr. R.K. Saproo (Physician), Dr. I.K. Wangnoo (Orthopedic), Dr. Suresh Saraf (Urologist), and Dr. S.L. Kaehroo (Surgeon) examined nearly 70 patients.

Various tests such as blood pressure, sugar, pulse rate, and oxygen lev-

els were conducted. The doctors generously contributed their time for this noble cause. Office bearers of both organizations actively participated, ensuring smooth conduct. The camp aimed at promoting community well-being and was appreciated by all for its service to society.

Western Railway to operate Festival Special Trains for Diwali and Chhath Puja

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To accommodate the increased travel demand during the upcoming Diwali and Chhath Puja festivals, Western Railway has announced the operation of multiple Festival Special Trains on special fares. These trains will operate between Mumbai Central-Shakur Basti, Bandra Terminus-Gandhidham, and Sabarmati-Haridwar, ensuring better connectivity for passengers travelling during the festive season.

According to a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Train No. 09471/09472 Bandra Terminus-Gandhidham Weekly SuperFast Special will make 10 trips. Train 09471 will depart Bandra Terminus every Tuesday at 12:30 PM and reach Gandhidham at 1:30 AM the next day, running from October 14 to November 11, 2025. In return, Train 09472 will depart Gandhidham every Monday at 8:20 PM, arriving at Bandra Terminus at 9:45 AM the following day, from October 13 to November 10, 2025. The train will halt at major stations like Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Halvad, and Samakhiali, and will consist of AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class, and General Class coaches.

Another major service, Train No. 09425/09426 Sabarmati-Haridwar Bi-Weekly AC Special, will run 28 trips. Train 09425 will depart Sabarmati

every Wednesday and Saturday at 8:50 AM, reaching Haridwar at 5:30 AM the next day from October 15 to November 29, 2025. In the return direction, Train 09426 will leave Haridwar every Thursday and Sunday at 9:40 PM, arriving in Sabarmati at 9:30 PM the following day, from October 16 to November 30, 2025. Key halts include Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Ajmer, Jaipur, Delhi, Meerut, Roorkee, and more. This train will have AC 3-Tier coaches.

Additionally, the Train No. 09003/09004 Mumbai Central-Shakur Basti AC SuperFast Special will operate daily for 92 trips. Train 09003 will leave Mumbai Central at 10:30 AM, reaching Shakur Basti at 8:00 AM the next day. The return Train 09004 will depart Shakur Basti at 10:15 AM, arriving at Mumbai Central at 10:30 AM the next day. This service will run from October 15 to November 30, 2025, halting at important stations like Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Mathura, and Delhi Sadarjunga, and will consist of AC 3-Tier coaches. Bookings for Train No. 09003, 09471, 09472, and 09425 will open on October 12, 2025, at all Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters and on the IRCTC website. For further information on schedules, halts, and seat availability, passengers are advised to visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Vande Bharat Express trains enhanced facilities for Divyangjan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards fostering inclusive and accessible transportation, Indian Railways has introduced a wide range of state-of-the-art facilities for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) aboard the Vande Bharat Express trains. These enhancements are aimed at ensuring a safe, dignified, and comfortable travel experience for all passengers, reaffirming Indian Railways' unwavering commitment to universal accessibility and passenger convenience.

According to press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Vande Bharat Express running between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar exemplifies these thoughtful measures to facilitate smooth boarding and deboarding for divyangjan passenger.



matic doors that opens and closes seamlessly to aid divyangjan passengers. A

gentle incline has been integrated to ensure ease of access and comfort for wheelchair users. To make access easier, portable ramps are available in designated coaches ensuring effortless wheelchair movement.

In addition, special seating areas with extra surrounding space have been created, identified by the Divyangjan logo on the coach side wall. Wheelchair parking spaces with handrails is available for stability and safety during travel. Stickers and signage are marked clearly for easy identification and convenience.

Vineet further added that, to assist visually impaired passengers, Braille signage has been installed at vital points such as seat numbers, coach entrance and lavato-

ries facilitating independent mobility and comfort.

With these comprehensive upgrades, Indian Railways is not only advancing accessibility but also reinforcing its vision of a barrier-free inclusive and dignified travel for all. The Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express stands as a proud achievement of Western Railway. It serves as a shining example of progress, innovation, and inclusivity on the national rail network.

Through such initiatives, Indian Railways continues to redefine standards in modern rail travel by integrating speed, comfort and inclusivity ensuring that every journey is not just efficient, but also equitable and respectful of the needs of all passengers.

Dir Health visits DH Ramban to review healthcare services



Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar on Saturday visited District Hospital Ramban to review the functioning of the hospital and assess the quality of healthcare services being provided to the patients.

During the visit, the Director took a detailed tour of various sections of the hospital including the OPD, Emergency, IPD, Labour Room, Operation Theatre and Diagnostic Units. He interacted with the medical, paramedical and administrative staff and took firsthand feedback regarding the availability of medicines, manpower and patient care facilities.

DHS also took a review meeting on the status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and overall

work done under the concerned officers to ensure punctuality, proper record keeping and cleanliness in and around the hospital premises. He stressed on improving emergency and referral services and emphasized the importance of implementing all national health programmes in letter and spirit. Dr. Zargar appreciated the dedication of the healthcare staff working in difficult terrain and assured them of full support from the Directorate in strengthening health services across Ramban district.

The visit concluded with an interactive session with hospital authorities and local health officers where Dr. Zargar directed for regular monitoring of health services, optimal utilization of available resources and prompt redressal of public grievances.

J&K retired police pensioners hold protest

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A protest was held on Saturday at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Ajit Singh, representing the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum.

The gathering highlighted the long-pending demands and grievances of retired police personnel and members of the Fire Services Department regarding the issue of pay anomalies and other pension-related disparities. Addressing the gathering, Ajit Singh expressed deep concern over the continued discrimination faced by the retired police pensioners. He said that Government Order No. 229-F of 2014 dated 17-10-2014, pertaining to the pay anomaly issue, was implemented prospectively, which means its



Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners raising slogans during a protest.

effect was given only from the date of the order. However, he stressed that the benefit should have been granted retrospectively from 1996, the year when the 5th Pay Commission was implemented across the State.

"The Police Department was unfairly left out of that imple-

mentation, and many of our colleagues who struggled for justice are no longer alive. The surviving pensioners deserve to be compensated for their service and patience," he said.

The forum also demanded that the government extend the facility of the ECH Card to all retirees who retired before 2019, pointing out that those

who retired after 2019 have already been provided this facility. "Equality should be maintained among all retirees irrespective of the year of retirement," Ajit Singh added.

Another key issue raised was related to Article 242 of the Civil Services Rules, under which the pension process is to be handled by the Drawing

and Disbursing Officers (DDOs). The pensioners urged the authorities to release the pending gratuity and finalize pension cases in accordance with the provisions of Article 242, as has been done in other departments.

The forum also reminded the government that the Tribunal Court has already passed a judgment in their favour, bringing justice to their long-standing demands.

The pensioners now expect the government to implement the court's order without further delay and to end the prolonged discrimination against the retired police and fire services personnel.

Ajit Singh urged the Lieutenant Governor's Administration to take immediate action to resolve the grievances, ensuring justice and dignity for those who dedicated their lives to public safety and service.

GMC Jammu's Psychiatry Deptt observes World Mental Health Day 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, observed World Mental Health Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and purpose, aligning with this year's global theme "Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies."

The event highlighted the importance of strengthening mental health support systems and ensuring timely access to psychological care during disasters, conflicts, pandemics, and other crises.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal, GMC Jammu, in the presence of the Medical Superintendent, senior faculty members, resident doctors, interns, and paramedical staff. A poster-making competition was organized as part of the celebration, providing students and healthcare professionals a creative platform to express ideas around the 2025 theme. The posters depicted key concepts such as psychological first aid, resilience building, and community-based mental health support during emergencies. In his address, Dr. Gupta lauded the Department of Psychiatry for its dedicated initiatives to promote mental health awareness and emphasized the need for preparedness in managing psychological challenges during crises. The Medical Superintendent also appreciated the participants and stressed integrating mental health services into broader disaster management plans.

The event concluded with the announcement of poster competition winners and a vote of thanks from the organizing committee. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to advancing mental well-being and ensuring that quality mental health services remain accessible and responsive, even in times of catastrophe and crisis.



Principal, GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta presenting certificate to a participant.

Shooting wraps up for "Pixie in Wonderland Part-2: Prisoners of the Phone" in Jammu



Children with other artists posing for a photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The vibrant gardens of Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu turned into a fantasy land this week as the final scenes of the much-anticipated Bollywood children's film "Pixie in Wonderland Part-2: Prisoners of the Phone" were shot, marking the wrap-up of its production.

The day concluded with a colorful, message-driven song titled "Lalach ko chhod de, gusse ko thook de, ego ko kick maar de", performed with great enthusiasm by local school children and cast mem-

bers, turning the set into a celebration of creativity and community.

The sequel to the widely appreciated first part, this film focuses on the impact of mobile phone addiction on children while delivering strong life lessons wrapped in a fun-filled, magical narrative. The film explores the theme through fantasy characters and vibrant visuals, resonating with both children and parents alike.

Directed by Aprajita Pixie Mahajan, Jammu's first female director in main-

stream cinema, the film has been shot extensively across Jammu's scenic locales - from the Patnitop Gondola and Jammu Ropeway to the lush Bagh-e-Bahu Garden and Bahu Fort Fish Aquarium. The movie aims to promote Jammu as a film tourism destination and give a platform to local talent.

National Conference Senior Leader Rajesh Gupta appears in a playful role as Professor Pumpkin. Speaking to the media, he said, "Acting is my hobby. This role gave me a chance to engage with chil-

dren and send out a powerful message in an entertaining way." Actor-producer Arjun Mahajan plays Mr. Whoopee, while Aprajita Pixie herself portrays a dual role - a whimsical fairy and a mysterious Shadow Collector.

Young lead actor Alyan Khan expressed, "Every child and parent must watch this film. It's not just about entertainment, but also teaches valuable lessons that matter in today's digital age."

The film is produced under Hare Rama Hare Krishna Productions and has involved participation from numerous children from different Jammu schools.

The shoot became a community event, with parents expressing joy over the platform provided to their children. Siyah Randhawa, mother of child actor Sahiba, said, "This is a fantastic initiative to highlight local talent and create meaningful content for children."

"Pixie in Wonderland Part-2: Prisoners of the Phone" promises a magical blend of fantasy, music, and social awareness, while celebrating Jammu's vibrant culture and picturesque beauty.