

IIM Jammu hosts Gurugram Roundtable Conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
GURUGRAM: IIM Jammu hosted a landmark Roundtable Conference at Crowne Plaza, Gurugram, bringing together policy-makers, academics, and industry leaders to address key issues in workforce evolution, academic-industry collaboration, and leveraging technology for future employment.

The event began with participant registration, a lamp lighting ceremony, and an introductory video showcasing IIM Jammu's mission and vision.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, in the presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and Soma Mondal, Member, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, and former Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited.

In his address, Dr. Kamble emphasized the importance of events like the Roundtable in shaping the future of education and industry.

He stressed the need for impactful academic-indus-



Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu and other dignitaries at a conference.

try collaborations, particularly in addressing global challenges like climate change. He encouraged academic institutions to continue organizing such platforms to drive innovation and tackle pressing global issues. Prof. B.S. Sahay discussed IIM Jammu's rapid growth and its commitment to bridging academic knowledge with industry practices. He highlighted initiatives like Project YUVA, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and employment in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, aligning with India's goal to become a developed nation by

2047. Soma Mondal praised the initiative and shared her extensive experience, stressing IIM Jammu's role in fostering a culture of excellence and preparing students to lead industries with innovative solutions.

The conference featured three dynamic panel discussions. The first, "Creating a Future-Ready Workforce: Strategies for Adaptation and Resilience," focused on preparing employees for digital transformation, agility, and resilience, with inputs from HR and industry leaders such as Nagendra Kumar (Max Healthcare) and Shveta

Verma (PwC India).

The second panel, "Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Strategies for Inclusive Leadership," moderated by Prof. Sahay, explored the importance of diversity and inclusive leadership for organizational success. Panelists included leaders from Teleperformance, Philips, and Boston Scientific.

The final panel, "Leadership in Digital Transformation," moderated by Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, examined leadership in the context of digitalization, with insights from experts at Eriasson, Siemens, and Zomato. Each panel provided actionable strategies for navigating the evolving corporate landscape.

The conference concluded with a networking session, a vote of thanks by Dr. Baljeet Singh, Co-Chairperson, IIM Jammu, and the National Anthem. This event further strengthened the collaboration between academia and industry, fostering innovation and preparing students for future challenges.

NC should forget 370, focus on dev, public welfare: Sat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The National Conference (NC) must shift its focus from the abrogation of Article 370 to more important issues of development and public welfare for Jammu and Kashmir and its citizens. Five years have passed since the abrogation of Article 370 and it has become part of history now. Sat Sharma, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this while addressing a gathering of party activists from Akhnoor and Khour at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Priya Sethi, National Executive Member & Headquarter Incharge and Rajeev Sharma, former MLA and Akhnoor district president, also graced the meeting.

These party activists had reached the party headquarter to discuss certain issues for strengthening party base in their areas.

Sat Sharma said that the NC and other Kashmir-centric political parties have used Article 370 as emotional tool to mislead the people of J&K, Kashmir in particular, for decades together for political gains. The reality is that it harmed the interests of various sections of the society, who were even deprived of basic rights.



President, J&K BJP, Sat Sharma addressing party workers meeting.

He said that it is the same NC, which, also played politics on the name of Autonomy and fate of this much hyped slogan is known to all and the Article 370 too has met same. Sharma said that the needles of clock cannot be reversed.

Much water has flown down from river Jehlum and no force on earth can bring back the flown waters. It would be better for NC to accept the ground reality related to the abrogation of Article 370, as it has been abrogated constitutionally and legally. "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed massive development and progress in road, rail and air connectivity, communi-

cation, health and education sectors, during the last over ten years as it received number of prestigious projects and social welfare schemes, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370, from the union government.

Grievances of different sections of society, have been resolved and today they are leading dignified lives", Sat said, adding that the NC government should take inspiration from the good governance model of PM Narendra Modi and take pledge to make Jammu and Kashmir a place of peace, progress and prosperity. He advised that the NC govern-

ment should continue to work on the line of zero tolerance against terrorism, which was initiated by PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, and very effectively implemented in J&K by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, as a result of which peace and normalcy has been restored to great extent in the UT. Priya Sethi, while addressing the meeting, said that the party activists should educate the people on the disadvantages of Article 370 and create a public opinion against the attempts to revive it. She also questioned Congress to clear its stand on the abrogation / revival of Article 370. Rajeev Sharma said that every region and section has been benefitted by the development projects and welfare schemes of the Modi government during the last over ten years.

The border people are happy and carrying on their day-to-day activities without any fear, as a sense of security has developed among them under Modi government.

KP leaders appeal for special employment package for migrant youth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prominent Kashmiri Pandit (KP) leaders and social activists on Friday called on the Government of India and Jammu & Kashmir administration to provide a special employment package for the educated, unemployed youth of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

Following the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 due to terrorism, many families have lived in exile under dire conditions in camps across Jammu, Udhampur, and other regions, they said.

In 2008, the Government granted a Special Prime Minister's Employment Package with 6,000 posts to address unemployment among the community, but there has been no follow-up package or recruitment since then, they said adding that as a result, the unemployment rate among educated Kashmiri Pandit youth has risen dramatically, leading to frustration, despair, and mental health challenges.

Vinod Pandita, a prominent social activist, appealed to the Government of India and the J&K administration to create and advertise at least 10,000 new posts for the educated youth of the displaced community.

He emphasized that such a measure would not only alleviate unemployment but also pave the way for their honourable rehabilitation back in Kashmir.

Anita Chandpuri, another community leader, urged for a special recruitment drive in migrant camps and non-camp areas to fast-track employment and ensure the community's participation in nation-building activities. She also called for the implementation of central government schemes in migrant camps to uplift the community.

Natrang presents two shows of Bawa Jitto in Jhiri Mela-2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The globally acclaimed Dogri play "Bawa Jitto" captivated audiences for the second consecutive day at the Jhiri Mela, where it was performed on the main stage. Written by the late Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, the play is a presentation by Natrang Jammu, innovatively devised, designed, and directed by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur. The play is a cultural masterpiece that continues to mesmerize audiences, shedding light on the region's rich historical and cultural heritage.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was the Principal Secretary, Education (School) and Culture UT of J&K, Suresh Kumar Sharma, who commended the efforts of Natrang Jammu and its director Balwant Thakur for their dedication to preserving and promoting the cultural wealth of Jammu & Kashmir. He acknowledged that "Bawa Jitto" has not only brought recognition to the region but also gave it a new cultural identity on both



Natrang artists performing in Dogri play "Bawa Jitto" at Jhiri Mela.

national and international platforms. He assured his full support for such initiatives, which contribute to a cultural renaissance and long-lasting impact.

The play transported thousands of devotees and pilgrims to the 15th century, recounting the poignant saga of Bawa Jitto, a farmer who sacrificed his life in a fight against the exploitation of landless farmers by oppressive landlords. What made the presentation even more impactful was that it was per-

formed at Shamachak village, the very location where the real events unfolded over six centuries ago. This immersive experience allowed the audience to relive the historical tragedy of Bawa Jitto's ultimate sacrifice, a powerful symbol of resistance against injustice.

Balwant Thakur, the Director of Natrang, expressed his gratitude to the District Administration, especially Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar and Athar

Amin Zargar, SDM Marh, for their unwavering support.

He emphasized that such cultural events, if made a permanent feature, could transform the area into a global cultural destination, offering a unique opportunity for people to witness a historical saga come to life.

The performance was marked by exceptional acting. Arvind Anand as Bawa Jitto gave an electrifying portrayal that left the audience spellbound. Kananpreet Kaur and Meenakshi Bhagat as Jojan, Subash Jamwal as Mehta Beer Singh, and Neeraj Kant as Raja were highly praised for their professional performances. Young Prial Gupta, playing Bua Gauri, also received widespread acclaim for her powerful performance.

The production was meticulously coordinated by Sartaj Singh, with Suraj Ganjoo, Pankaj Sharma, and Shivam Singh handling the lighting design, while the sound was expertly managed by Sumeet Sharma, Tilak Raj, and Anshul Mahajan.

Shiv Sena protests against inflation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The prices of fruits, vegetables and food items are on fire, inflation is tearing the sky and touching it, Indian rupee is continuously falling into the abyss.

At the same time, in Jammu and Kashmir, due to the combination of inflation and black marketing, it is becoming difficult for the common man to even eat two meals a day, stated by Manish Sahni, president, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Sainiks gathered at Indira Chowk in Jammu under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni and protested vigorously holding placards.

The kitchen budget of the common man has collapsed due to the prices of almost all essential commodities including vegetables and fruits going out of reach. Along with nutritious food, normal dal-roti has also



President, Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K Manish Sahni leading protest.

started disappearing from the plate of the common man.

At the same time, in Jammu and Kashmir due to the combination of inflation and black marketing, the inflation rate has remained at the highest level as compared to other states.

Sahni further said that, Inflation has not been curbed even during the 10.5 years of BJP's rule which came to power in 2014 by giving slogans like 'Enough of inflation. Now the slogan of 'Bantenge-Katenge' has been raised, if this

trend of inflation and unemployment continues then it is almost certain that the common people will definitely die of hunger and malnutrition.

Sahni also extended his greetings on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima and 555th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber, Jai Bharti, Vikas Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh, Geeta Lakhotra, Pawan Singh, Dimple, Viney Singh Jamwal, Ajay Kumar and many others were present.

GGM Science College triumphs at Yuvtarang Youth Festival 2024-25

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the leadership of the Principal, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, and the expert guidance of Convenors for the Cultural and Literary Committees, Dr. Seema Rani Minhas and Dr. Jitendra Kaur, GGM Science College has delivered an exceptional performance at the Yuvtarang Youth Festival 2024-25, which concluded today. The college won an impressive 10 positions across various categories, showcasing its talent and dedication in academics and extra-curricular activities.

The highlight of the festival was the remarkable achievement of Mohd Zaigham Salaria, who was awarded the title of *Overall Best Performer in the Rachmakar Fine Arts category. Salaria also clinched the prestigious overall Vijeyata Yuvtarang 2024 award, a testament to



his outstanding artistic prowess. In addition to Salaria's achievements, the college brought laurels in other categories as well. In the Debate competition, participants Manmeet Kour and Nitesh Choudhary secured top positions, while in Elocution, Maithly and Anirudh shone brightly with their performances. Other notable accomplishments include success in Quiz, Photography, Collage Making, Cartooning, Installation, Western Group

Song, Indian Group Song, Mime, and Western Vocal Solo.

Principal Dr. Romesh Gupta congratulated all the participants for their hard work and dedication, commending their performances that brought pride to the institution. He also extended special congratulations to Dr. Seema Rani Minhas and Dr. Ashaq Hussain and other members of Cultural team for their tire-

less efforts in guiding and managing the students during the festival. The contributions of Prof. Jatinder Kaur and her literary team were also praised for their meticulous coordination and support.

With this stellar performance, GGM Science College has once again proven its commitment to fostering holistic development and nurturing young talent in the field of arts, culture, and academics.

Shubham, Musaif, Mujtaba among JKCA's 15 cricketers selected for mega IPL auction

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K senior team's batting mainstay, Shubham Khajuria, talented top-order batsman Musaif Ajaz and promising left-arm seamer Mujtaba Yousuf are among record number of 15 cricketers selected for the upcoming mega Indian Premier League (IPL) auction to be held at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25, 2024.

Those who have been picked for the auction include Abdul Samad, Atif Bin Mushtaq, Avinash Singh, Nasir Lone, Mujtaba Yousuf, Abid

Mushtaq, Vivrant Sharma, Shubham Khajuria, Musaif Ajaz, Kunal Chib, Umran Malik, Murgan Ashwin, Yudhveer Singh Charak, Rasikh Salam and Aqib Nabi.

This is the highest number of JKCA players ever included in the IPL auction. Out of 366 Indian players 134 will be up for grabs during the auction.

JKCA has wished the best of luck to all its players who will be going under the hammer.

"For those who missed the cut, there is always a next," tweeted Brig Anil Gupta.

CBP on Mission YUVA held at Jammu Polytechnic



Pawan Parihar, Special Secretary, Labour and Employment Department with other dignitaries at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: One-day Capacity-Building Program (CBP) on Mission YUVA (Yuva Udhyaami Vikas Abhiyaan) was organized at Government Polytechnic Bikram Chowk Jammu on

Friday. The program was organized by the Labour and Employment department to sensitise all Principals and Nodal Officers of Government Degree Colleges of Jammu Division on the purpose,

components, and monitoring of Mission YUVA in the UT of J&K.

As many as 130 participants including Principals and Nodal Officers of Government Degree Colleges of Jammu Division attend-

ed the program.

The key resource persons of the event were Pawan Parihar, Special Secretary, Labour and Employment Department; Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor at Central University Jammu and Kanav Sharma, AGM, NABARD, who offered valuable insights into different facets of the YUVA Mission.

The key speakers elucidated the various components of Mission YUVA - Eco-System Creation, Institutional Business Support Mechanism, Enterprise Development, Creating Business Plans, DPR, and Credit Enabling Easy Access to Entrepreneurs.

Bukhari urges authorities to impose strict traffic rules

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday urged authorities, particularly the traffic department, to implement stringent traffic rules to prevent the frequent road accidents caused by reckless driving, stunts by young bikers, and underage driving.

In his statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed deep concern over recent accidents involving reckless driving on highways by underage boys, and called for strict action to prevent such incidents.

He said, "We frequently hear about young boys engaging in bike stunts and reckless driving, causing accidents or posing a threat to road safety. Unfortunately, reckless driving

often results in tragic incidents, such as the recent accident on the highway in Lavaypora, where a class 8 student died and two of his friends sustained critical injuries after the speeding SUV they were in overturned. Similarly, the accident near Tengpora Bypass on Thursday claimed the lives of two young students. Their deaths have devastated their families, especially their parents, who will mourn this tragedy for a lifetime."

"I humbly request the authorities to implement effective strategies to prevent frequent accidents. These should include strict action against those who violate traffic rules, a complete ban on underage driving, a widespread awareness campaign, and so on," he added.