

# Technology takes us closer to gadgets & away from humans: Principal JKPS Kunjwani



Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore and students addressing morning assembly on Thursday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Technology, as we know, is the application of scientific ideas to develop a machine or a device for serving the needs of humans". With such thought provoking statement Jaiveer Singh from Grade 5th Falcon alongwith his classmates conducted the morning Assembly at JK Public School Kunjwani.

Pushing the audience into the bygone era, Awantika added, "In the past, life was simple. People used to sit down and write letters, meet each other in person, spend time with their family and children played outdoors. There were

no mobile phones or computers, so people entertained themselves by reading books or enjoying nature. Work was done by hand and tasks took longer to complete. Everything moved at a slower pace and life was more focused on personal connections".

Finally pitched in Aryaveer, reflecting the prevalent scenario and concluded the topic by stating, "Technology brought in a complete paradigm shift. It is rightly said that necessity is the mother of inventions; all technologies that have emerged and thrived so far have been invented to meet the needs of society. Now

people tend to rely on technology for everything. Technology is the exploration of scientific knowledge to develop tools & techniques to transform the world by improving efficiency in almost everything we do. Today, it has become unimaginable to be in a world without technology. Vritika Sharma made students brood over, while she quoted Lawrie Anderson, "Technology is the campfire around which we tell our stories".

Ridha Choudhary broadened the perception of the audience by quoting Daniel Bill, "Technology like art is a soaring exercise of the human

imagination". Saatvik highlighted the importance of existing virtual world, while he quoted Matt Mullenueg, "Technology is best when it brings people together".

Principal JKPS Kunjwani Rajesh Rathore appreciated the presenters of the morning Assembly for enlightening the audience and shared his perspective by saying, "Although technology has revolutionized the world and we can't imagine human existence in its absence. However, excessive use of smartphones, tablets, and other devices has resulted into less meaningful in-person communication. Social Media

platforms often give us the impression of connection while fostering shallow interactions, such as likes and comments, rather than deep conversations".

"Technology blurs the boundaries between work and personal time, reducing opportunities for quality human interaction. Streaming services, gaming, and other digital entertainment have compelled individuals to spend more time alone. Indeed, modern technology impacts interpersonal relationships and human connection. Technology takes us closer to gadgets and away from humans", he concluded.

# Three-day National Workshop on Ethnobotany inaugurated at JU

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter of Society of Ethnobotanists, Department of Botany, University of Jammu, inaugurated a three-day National Workshop on Ethnobotany titled "Exploring the Cultural Connections to Plant Life" today. The event brings together academicians, researchers, and students from various institutes to delve into the profound connections between traditional knowledge systems and plant resources.

Dr. Anil K. Goel, Vice President, Society of Ethnobotanists, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Namrata Sharma, Dean Life Sciences, University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour. The inaugural ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation and set an inspiring tone for the workshop.

Dr. Anil K. Goel, in his inaugural address, emphasized the importance of preserving and integrating traditional knowledge systems into modern-day biodiversity conservation strategies. He lauded the University of Jammu for taking the initiative to organize such an event and urged participants to actively engage in discussions and hands-on sessions. He also deliberated upon the functioning of the Society



A dignitary speaking at a workshop in JU.

of Ethnobotanists.

Earlier in his welcome address, Prof. Sushel Verma, Head Department of Botany, expressed the department's commitment to promoting interdisciplinary research and dialogue in the field of ethnobotany. "This workshop aims to bridge the gap between traditional ecological knowledge and contemporary scientific approaches, creating avenues for sustainable development," he remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Namrata Sharma highlighted the role of ethnobotany in understanding the interdependence of human beings and plants. She stressed the need for collaboration between academia and local communities to ensure the conservation of indigenous knowledge systems.

Dr. Harish Chander Dutt, Coordinator of the chapter and Organizing Secretary of the workshop, highlighted that the event will include technical ses-

sions, hands-on training, and a field tour, offering participants an in-depth understanding of ethnobotany's role in tackling contemporary ecological challenges. He added that the workshop aims to inspire innovative strategies for sustainable development while celebrating the rich cultural heritage rooted in traditional knowledge systems.

Resource persons, Dr. Goel, Dr. Wagh and Dr. Arvind Saklani emphasized on the methodology of the ethnobotanical studies and also stressed upon the relevance of the subject in the current era.

Others who were present on the occasion include, Prof. Venu Kaul, Dr. Sikander Pal, Dr. Geeta, Dr. Skarna Nonzom, Dr. Romica, Dr. Komal Verma. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Abhishek Dutta and proceedings of the inaugural ceremony were conducted by Bharti Sharma.

# Rehana Batul assesses functioning of DIPR

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary Information Department, Rehana Batul on Thursday chaired a meeting to have a detailed review of the functioning of the Department in the UT.

The meeting, besides Director Information, Jatin Kishore, was attended by the Special Secretary, Information; Director Finance, Joint Director, Information (Hq); Deputy Director Information (AV); Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary Information and Accounts Officer, DIPR.

The Secretary reviewed the different day to day activities performed by the Department and impressed upon the concerned officers to be focused and professional in the discharge of their duties.

She said that the Information Department serves as a vital link between the Public and the Government in keeping them abreast or informed about the welfare policies and programs meant for their welfare. Considering this critical role, she urged the Department to increase its footprints across the Digital / Social media platforms for prompt dissemination of news and greater outreach so that it is the "Go To Point" for the masses to access news.

While taking a stock of the administrative matters under process, the Secretary impressed upon the officers to coordinate with ARI & Trainings Department for ironing out issues hindering the necessary updation of



Secretary Information Department, Rehana Batul chairing a meeting on Thursday.

Recruitment Rules for Subordinate and Gazetted services of the Department. She maintained that this step will not only be pivotal towards furthering the career of departmental employees but would also enable the Department to refer the vacancies for early filling of the same by the Recruitment Board.

The Secretary also referred to the implementation of the J&K Film Policy 2024 and asked the Directorate to ensure effective publicity of the same across the media so that Film Makers from outside the UT and local film makers particularly the local startups in the Sector gain the maximum support from the Department.

Further, she took note of the expenditure made under the Revenue and CAPEX budget of the current fiscal. She enquired about the status of different ongoing works taken up by the Department under CAPEX and directed the concerned officers to ensure quality execution of the said works and their timely completion.

On his part, Director Information, Jatin Kishore, threw light on different aspects of working of the Directorate of Information and Public

Relations. He highlighted various promotional activities carried out by the Directorate, including on the occasion of 55th International Film Festival of India recently held at Goa from 20 to 25 November. He also said that that promotional activities of the Department are also done through different media platforms to ensure their reach across of the country.

The Director apprised the chair about the benefits accruing to film makers by virtue of the New film policy framed in 2024 by the Department. He also apprised about the recent accreditation process successfully accomplished by the DIPR in favour of the journalists. Besides, different initiatives taken by the Department to fact check the fake news and dissemination of genuine infor-

mation to the public were also highlighted.

He also informed that all Departments have designated Nodal Officers to issue necessary rebuttals by the respective Departments in case any mis-information is circulated in public domain and these rebuttals are immediately uploaded by the DIPR on the portal prepared for the purpose.

The issues faced by the Department with possible resolutions were also discussed in detail.

The meeting concluded on the note that necessary steps would be taken to further enhance the efficiency of the Department with necessary augmentation in its infrastructure and manpower as per the requirements of modern times.

# Charak meets LG, discusses regional development initiatives



Founder Nations Development Association, Sushil Singh Charak meeting with LG Manoj Sinha.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sushil Singh Charak, Founder and General Secretary of the Nations Development Association (NDA), recently met with Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to discuss the urgent need for several key development initiatives in the region, with a special focus on the border areas of Bishnah and Ramgarh.

During the meeting, Charak proposed the establishment of rehabilitation centres for drug addicts, emphasizing the critical need for specialized services that offer medical care, counseling, and vocational training to help individuals recover and reintegrate into society.

Charak also highlighted the necessity of setting up old age homes to provide safe, dignified, and comprehensive care for the growing elderly popula-

tion, including medical facilities, nutrition, and recreational activities.

Furthermore, he called for the creation of skill development institutions to equip the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with essential vocational skills in fields such as IT, hospitality, and manufacturing, which would address unemployment and foster economic growth in the region.

In addition, Charak urged the government to organize special recruitment drives in the border areas of Bishnah and Ramgarh, offering local youth employment opportunities and contributing to national security efforts.

These proposals aim to improve the overall well-being of the residents and promote long-term socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Er. Ashu Kumar, Member of NDA, was also present at the meeting.

# GGM Science College felicitates Amarjeet on superannuation



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GGM Science College organized a heartfelt ceremony to honor Amarjeet Singh, a revered employee who is set to retire at the end of this month after 32 years of dedicated service. Joining the college in August 1992 as a Chowkidar, Amarjeet earned a reputation for his honesty, discipline, and tireless work ethic, playing a vital role in shaping the institution's culture. At the ceremony, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College,

praised Amarjeet for his exceptional contributions and described him as a man of principles who inspired both students and staff. "His legacy will continue to motivate generations to come," Dr. Gupta said. The event was attended by faculty, staff, students, and alumni, who shared heartfelt tributes. Amarjeet expressed his gratitude, saying, "It has been an honor to serve this institution, and my heart will always remain with GGM Science College."



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विश्वविद्यालय  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Financial Services

F. No. 19/2/2019 PR

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Jeevan Deep Building,  
Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001

Inviting applications for the post of Whole-time Member(Law) in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), New Delhi

Applications are invited for the post of Whole-time Member(Law), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), New Delhi, which has a tenure period of 5 (five) years or up to 62 years of age, whichever is earlier.

The pay and allowances of the Whole-time Member(Law) shall be ₹ 5.00 lakh consolidated per month without facility of house and car. The particulars of the post and eligibility conditions are given on the Ministry's Website <http://financialservices.gov.in> as well as on PFRDA's website <http://www.pfrda.org.in>. The last date and time for receiving the completed applications is 30.12.2024 till 5.30 P.M. The candidates can apply through online mode on <https://rect.pfrda.org.in/> or through offline mode clearly demonstrating eligibility at the address indicated below:

Shri Harkesh Chander,  
Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India,  
Room No. 1, 2nd Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street,  
New Delhi 110001. Tele No. 011-23748760



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Ministry of Finance  
Department of Financial Services

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2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Jeevan Deep Building,  
Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001

Inviting applications for the post of Chairperson in Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), New Delhi

Applications are invited for the post of Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), New Delhi, which has a tenure period of 5 (five) years or up to 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

The pay and allowances of the Chairperson shall be ₹5,62,500/- consolidated per month without facility of house and car. The particulars of the post and eligibility conditions are given on the Ministry's Website <http://financialservices.gov.in> as well as on PFRDA's website <http://www.pfrda.org.in>. The last date and time for receiving the completed applications is 30.12.2024 till 5.30 P.M. The candidates can apply through online mode on <https://rect.pfrda.org.in/> or through offline mode clearly demonstrating eligibility at the address indicated below:

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