

YUVTARANG 2025 begins with cultural spirit at CLUJ

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual Cultural and Literary Extravaganza YUVTARANG 2025, organized by the Department of Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), commenced on Monday with remarkable zeal and enthusiasm at PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar. The grand inaugural ceremony set an inspiring tone for the days ahead, celebrating creativity, talent, and cultural diversity among the youth. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, as the Chief Guest, while Yudhvir Sethi, MLA, attended as Special Guest. Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, CLUJ, presided over the event, joined by Principals of constituent colleges, Deans, Directors, Associate and assistant Deans, faculty members, and a large gathering of students of CLUJ and constituent Colleges.

In his welcome address, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, stated that YUVTARANG is not merely a festival but a vibrant platform that nurtures creativity, leadership, and collaboration among students. It reflects the university's commitment to fostering holistic growth and celebrating the diverse talents of our youth. Prof. D. S. Manhas, Dean



Participating students posing with dignitaries.

Students Welfare, CLUJ, highlighted that the festival aims to promote cultural harmony, artistic expression, and healthy competition among students from various disciplines. He added that such events strengthen inter-college bonding and encourage young minds to showcase their potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Chief Guest, applauded the university's efforts in nurturing young talent. He stated that cultural festivals like YUVTARANG inspire students to think creatively, work collectively, and build confidence that extends beyond the classroom. He encouraged students to participate wholeheartedly and make the most of the opportunities offered through such initiatives.

Addressing the audience, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA, lauded

CLUJ for providing a vibrant platform for youth engagement. He emphasized the significance of cultural and literary activities in shaping responsible, confident, and dynamic individuals. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and reaffirmed his support for initiatives aimed at youth empowerment.

Following the formal inauguration, the festival began with spirited Mehandi and Clay Modelling competitions. In the Mehandi competition, held at GCW Gandhi Nagar, 1st prize was won by Arun and Sonakshi respectively both from Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, and 3rd by Palak Choudhary of GCW Gandhi Nagar. The competitions of the day were judged by Dr. Amarjeet Singh, Ankush Kesar, and Mahua Gupta. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Ankur Mahajan, Registrar CLUJ; Prof. Twinkle Suri (DAA); Dr. Ranvijay (COE); Dr. Zubair Kales; Dr. Satinder Kour; Dr. Monika Sharma; Prof. Vishal Sharma (all Deans); Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College; Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar; Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal MAM College; Dr. Jyoti Parihar; Principal GCOE Jammu; Nagesh Jamwal, Financial

Advisor CLUJ; faculty members, the Student Cultural Council, and students. The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Revika Arora, Cultural Coordinator, while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sugandha Mahajan. The entire event is being supervised by Prof. D. S. Manhas, with key contributions from Dr. Davinder Kour; Prof. Tarseen Lal, Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Dr. Ashu Manhas, Dr. Revika, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Roomi Rani, Dr. Sunita Kumari, Prof. Mohd Ashraf, Dr. Sugandha Mahajan, Prof. Paramjeet Singh, besides the cultural conveners of the constituent Colleges and Schools of CLUJ. YUVTARANG 2025 promises a dynamic series of events in the days ahead, celebrating youth talent, creativity, and cultural vibrancy.

IUST, CBC J&K forge strategic partnership to promote Mission LiFE, Science Communication & Public Welfare Outreach

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SRINAGAR: In a significant step toward strengthening public communication on sustainability, science, and welfare initiatives, the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Kashmir and the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have agreed to a far-reaching partnership aimed at amplifying awareness on Mission LiFE, scientific advancements, and people-centric government schemes. The collaboration was formalized during a meeting between Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, and Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC J&K-Ladakh, held on the university campus today. Both underscored the urgency of integrating academic expertise with strategic communication to empower communities with credible, science-backed information. Director Ghulam Abbas emphasized that Mission LiFE-Lifestyle for Environment requires active public participation driven by clear and accessible communication. He said the CBC is committed to working closely with academic institutions like IUST to pro-



mote environmentally conscious behaviours, sustainable technologies, and a culture of responsibility among the youth. He proposed the organization of a large-scale Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) at IUST in the near future. The ICOP will serve as a dynamic platform to inform, engage, and educate students, faculty, and surrounding communities on Mission LiFE, scientific innovation, and flagship welfare programmes of the Government of India, he said. Vice Chancellor Prof. Ramshoo welcomed the collaboration, stating that partnerships between communication institutions and universities are critical for translating scientific ideas into meaningful societal outcomes. He reaffirmed IUST's commitment to supporting CBC's outreach efforts and contributing its

academic and research expertise to promote sustainability, innovation, and welfare awareness across Jammu & Kashmir.

During the discussions, the CBC Director also explored avenues for enhancing the visibility of the university's innovations. Referring to IUST's patent policy and the range of technologies developed by its researchers, he noted that the CBC would assist in publicizing these patents under the "Lab to Household" banner-an initiative focused on taking academic research and technological solutions directly to the public, thereby maximizing their societal impact.

Both institutions expressed confidence that this partnership will set a model for proactive, evidence-based public communication and will significantly contribute to building informed, empowered, and environmentally responsible communities.

Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn inaugurates one week Aapda Sakhi training course at CTI



SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu Zahid Naseem Manhas with Snober Jameel, Deputy Secretary, Department of DMRRR, J&K at a programme.

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JAMMU: A one-week Training Programme on "Capacity Building and Training of Women as Aapda Sakhi for Disaster Management" was inaugurated on Monday by Commandant, SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu Zahid Naseem Manhas here at the Central Training Institute (CTI) HG/CD Kot Bhalwal. He was accompanied by Snober Jameel, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Department of DMRRR, J&K (Nodal Officer) & Principal CTI HG/CD Jammu, Dy.SP (Trainings), I/C Trainings, SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu. In his inaugural address, the Commandant highlighted the aims and objectives of the Aapda Sakhi Programme, a specialised initiative of Government of India to train women volunteers as community first responders during dis-

asters. He stressed that the programme empowers women to provide immediate support in disaster-affected areas.

The initiative, a part of an important component of the Aapla Mitra Scheme of DMRRR J&K, aims to create a trained volunteer force across the country equipped with essential skills for disaster response, coordination and management. Dy. SP SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu, Area Commandants of Home Guards and Dy. Controllers, Civil Defence, Jammu, Udhampur; Samba and Kathua were also present on the occasion.

The participants of the training programme include CD Wardens/Volunteers, NCC Cadets of 4th & 8th NCC Battalions, ASHA Workers, Health Department staff, Anganwadi Workers, Panchayat Secretaries and RDD Workers.

JKAGOA meets Director Agriculture Jammu; raises long-pending service issues

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Graduate Officers Association (JKAGOA) on Monday held a meeting with Anil Gupta, Director, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu, and Sanjeev Rai, Deputy Director Agriculture (Central), at Krishi Bhawan, Directorate of Agriculture Jammu.

The meeting was convened to discuss key service-related issues that have remained unresolved for years, causing deep concern among Agriculture Graduate Officers.

During the meeting, the Association highlighted two core demands: the conduct of DPC and promotion/regulation of Incharge JAEOs with retrospective effect from 2017, and the publication of the final seniority list of Agriculture



JKAGOA delegation meets with Director Agriculture Jammu.

Extension Assistants (AEAs), which has remained pending despite the issuance of two tentative lists. These issues, the delegation emphasized, have resulted in prolonged stagnation and uncertainty for officers awaiting their due career progression.

The delegation was led by Dr. Surinder Radotra, President JKAGOA, who presented a detailed

overview of the challenges faced by Agriculture Graduate Officers. He informed the Director that the department had already issued two tentative seniority lists to ensure transparency and allow officers sufficient time to submit objections. The first tentative list was issued under Ref. No. Agri-NG/02/2021/(11437) dated February 24, 2023 by the

then Additional Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, now Chief Secretary. The second list was issued under Ref. No. Agri-NG/02/2021/(E-11437) dated January 9, 2024 by Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary/Financial Commissioner, APD & FW.

Dr. Radotra strongly stressed the immediate need to convene the DPC to regularise Incharge JAEOs from 2017 and expedite the final seniority list. He also drew attention to the partial implementation of SRO 442, pointing out that while the 25% matriculation stream quota has been consistently implemented with regular promotions, the 75% promotion quota meant for Agriculture Graduates has not been executed. This selective implementation, he said, has caused severe career stagnation for more than 11 years, leading to frustration

and demoralisation among highly qualified officers.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta, gave a patient and sympathetic hearing to the delegation. He assured that all grievances would be taken up with the higher administration promptly. He also committed to personally pursuing the matter of DPC and promotions with Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary/Financial Commissioner, APD & FWD, with efforts to resolve the issues at the earliest.

Prominent members present during the meeting included Ravinder Singh, Rajiv Singh Chib, Prakash Vir Singh, Vinod Kumar Sharma, Vikas Gupta, Charanjit Singh, Amit Gupta, and other members of JKAGOA, all of whom endorsed the concerns raised and expressed hope for timely redressal.

IIM Jammu inaugurates GMP for Middle Management Professionals (Batch II) of NHPC Ltd

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, inaugurated the General Management Programme (GMP) for Middle Management - Batch II for National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited, a prestigious Government of India Navratna enterprise, on 17th November 2025 at the Vedanta MDP Centre, Jagti Campus. Designed exclusively for NHPC, a key pillar of India's hydropower infrastructure, the programme aims to enhance managerial competence, leadership agility, strategic insight, and organizational development among its experienced workforce. With a strong emphasis on future-ready leadership, the initiative reflects NHPC's commitment to strengthening human capital and supporting India's long-term energy aspirations. It also reinforces IIM Jammu's mis-



sion to deliver high-quality executive education under its Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) vertical.

A total of 20 selected NHPC professionals from various regions of the country are participating in this specialised programme, contributing rich practical experience and fostering collaborative learning. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, EE&C; Prof. Rajesh Sikka; and Dr. Jaganth G, Programme Directors, IIM Jammu.

The session began with registration followed by a guided campus tour showcasing IIM Jammu's world-class facilities,

including Smart Classrooms, the Vedanta Executive Education Block, and the Nalanda Library. The formal inauguration commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. In his address, Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, highlighted IIM Jammu's remarkable growth since its inception in 2016, noting that Jammu is the only city in India hosting three institutions of national importance. He emphasized the institute's commitment to designing programmes that serve diverse learner aspirations and welcomed participants to the institute's milestone tenth-year journey. Drawing from philosophical insights, he encouraged partici-

pants to stay open to learning, break limiting beliefs, and engage deeply with the programme. Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, EE&C, underscored that this is the second batch of the programme jointly developed with NHPC. He appreciated NHPC's vision in strengthening HR and Finance departments and remarked that the programme is structured to offer both individual and collective value. He stressed that the initiative goes beyond conventional training by fostering teamwork, strategic thinking, and impactful learning, while reaffirming IIM Jammu's dedication to excellence. Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Programme Director and Co-

Chairperson, EE&C, welcomed participants and elaborated on the programme's structure. He highlighted its focus on experiential learning through modules on sustainability, digital transformation, hydropower sector insights, leadership, conflict management, AI, and best managerial practices. Dr. Jaganth G, Programme Director, delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging NHPC's trust, the faculty's contribution, and the collective efforts of the organising team. Participants also introduced themselves and shared expectations, enriching peer engagement. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem and a group photograph.

The week-long programme includes case studies, simulations, leadership exercises, and strategic discussions, reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to empowering public sector professionals and strengthening industry-academia collaboration for India's development.

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JAMMU: In line with the visionary initiative of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu (JU), to bring cultural activities closer to students across the region, the much-awaited "Display Your Talent 2025 - Ravi Zone & Pir Panjal Zone" was inaugurated on Monday at Kathua Campus and Government Post Graduate College Rajouri simultaneously. The event is being organized by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), JU, in collaboration with the respective campuses.

This vibrant two-day cultural festival, scheduled from 17-18 November 2025, features students from nearly 25 colleges of Ravi and Pir Panjal Zones participating in 24 competitions, ranging from music and dance to theatre, fine arts, and literary events. The ceremony at Kathua Campus began with great enthusiasm, drawing participants and guests from across the Ravi Zone. The event was graced by Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, as the Guest of Honour, along with Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus.

Competitions like Group Song (Indian), Jai Dogra Solo, Light Vocal Solo, Classical Vocal Solo, and Classical Instrumental Solo (Percussion) were judged by Suraj Singh, Dr. Chankya Sharma, and Bahadur Singh. Western Group Song and Western Vocal Solo were



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp.

evaluated by Narinder Wazir and Andrew. Day One proceedings were observed by Dr. Rajbir Singh and Ashwin Kumar Kushwaha, ensuring fair and seamless conduct.

Prof. Jasrotia expressed pride in hosting the festival and emphasized the campus's commitment to fostering cultural engagement. Prof. Monika Chadha highlighted that decentralizing the event into five zones-Tawi, Devika, Ravi, Pir Panjal, and Chenab-has greatly enhanced inclusivity, enabling students from far-flung regions to participate and celebrate their cultural identity.

At Rajouri, the programme commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a welcome address from Dr. Zakir Hussain Kalis, Cultural Coordinator for Pir Panjal Zone. Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, JU, presided as Chief Guest. In his address, he praised the support of the Vice Chancellor in making the decentralized cultural model a success and commended the college for providing an excellent platform

for students to explore and express their talents.

Principal Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza thanked the University for entrusting the institution with hosting responsibilities and appreciated the dedication of various organizing committees.

The inaugural day featured vibrant performances, including Group Song (Indian), Jai Dogra Song, Light Vocal Solo, Painting, Poster Making, Collage Making, Skit, and Mimicry. An expert jury comprising Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, Mohit Kumar, Subash Jamwal, and Rajinder Kumar Narang evaluated the events.

The day concluded with a vote of thanks offered by Dr. Ahsan ur Rehman Rizvi and Prof. Sabia Akhter. The event is being coordinated by the DSW team led by Prof. Prakash Antahal, supported by Prof. Monika Chadha, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Dr. Pritam Singh, Dr. Shalsh Sharma, Dr. A.R. Manhas, Dr. Harleen Kaur, Dr. Ripudaman Parihar, Mansi Mantoo, Sumeet Sharma, and members of the Campus Cultural Committee.

Sunil visits hospital to inquire about well-being of injured in Nowgam Blast

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, on Monday visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Srinagar, to personally inquire about the well-being of those injured in the accidental blast that occurred at the Nowgam Police Station. The incident left several individuals wounded, and the LoP's visit aimed to reassure them of full support during this difficult time.



LOP Sunil Sharma inquiring about well-being of accidental blast injured.

medical team regarding the nature of injuries and the ongoing treatment. He

reassured the injured individuals and their families, expressing his sympathy and commitment to ensuring their well-being.

Sharma conveyed heartfelt wishes for the swift and complete recovery of all the injured. He emphasized that the administration and public representatives must stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected families and ensure that they receive every necessary assistance.

The Leader of Opposition was accompanied by NEC Member and Former UT President Ravinder Raina, along with senior BJP leaders, who also visited the patients, expressed solidarity, and prayed for their early

recovery.

Sharma assured the families and hospital authorities that he would closely follow up on the treatment and ensure that all required support is provided without delay. He reiterated that the safety and welfare of the people remain the top priority and that such unfortunate incidents must be prevented in the future through better safety protocols and preparedness.

The LoP reaffirmed the party's commitment to stand with the victims and their families during this hour of distress.