

Principals' meet held at University of Jammu 'Design Your Degree' program hailed as model for flexible, student-centric education



Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor JU with principals of various schools from across Jammu at a meet.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Redefining the future of higher education through dialogue and collaboration, the University of Jammu on Saturday brought together principals of higher secondary schools from across Jammu for an interactive session on its flagship 'Design Your Degree (DYD)' program. The four-year undergraduate initiative, launched in 2023 under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to give students the freedom to design their own learning pathways - blending flexibility, skill development, and interdis-

ciplinary exploration to prepare them for emerging career landscapes. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, said the program marks a shift from conventional learning models toward education that nurtures independent thinking and practical competence. "The 'Design Your Degree' program empowers students to take charge of their learning. It nurtures analytical reasoning, communication, creativity, and digital fluency - all essential for the workforce of the future," he said.

Prof. Rai added that the initiative reflects the true spirit of NEP 2020 by moving away from rigid course structures and encouraging exploration before specialization. "Our aim is to help students move from rote learning to reflective learning and from degrees to real skills," he noted. Prof. J. P. Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, said the DYD program demonstrates how Indian universities can align with global standards while remaining rooted in local educational needs. He described it as a progressive model that pro-

vides choice-based learning and holistic growth. Earlier, Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, Skill Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIDEC), welcomed the participants and introduced the concept and objectives of the program. She urged school leaders to encourage students to pursue academic flexibility and skill-based learning aligned with their interests. Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director, SIIDEC, presented the program's structure, explaining that the first

two years focus on foundational and skill-based learning, after which students can design their degree in disciplines such as Arts, Science, Commerce, or Technology. The meet also saw participation from DYD mentors Prof. K. S. Charak, Prof. Anil Gupta, Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Dr. Sunil Bhogal, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Sarika Verma, Dr. Manish, Dr. Jyoti, and Dr. Sakshi. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Assistant Professor, Department of Life-long Learning. Principals attending the meet lauded the University of Jammu for introducing a program that bridges the gap between school education and higher learning. They appreciated the DYD initiative as a timely and practical response to the evolving academic and employment landscape.

District Reasi Softball Championship 2025 concludes



District Reasi Softball Association members honouring Chief Guest, Sanjeev Sharma, National Awardee Teacher.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POUNI: The District Reasi Softball Championship 2025 organized by the District Reasi Softball Association in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council under the auspices of the J&K Softball Association, concluded on Saturday at Mini Stadium Pouni, Reasi. The championship witnessed commendable participation from various teams, reflecting the growing interest in the sport. The closing ceremony was graced by Sanjeev Sharma, National Awardee Teacher as the Chief Guest. The event was further honoured

by the presence of DGPC President Deedar Singh, Bholu Devi, Lecturer HSS Pouni and other distinguished guests. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest encouraged young athletes to dedicate themselves to the sport, emphasizing that softball falls under the sports requirement quota of the J&K Government, which could significantly benefit aspiring players in their careers. The event concluded with the distribution of medals and trophies among the winners, runner-up, and third-place teams. The chief guest also presented mementos to the esteemed

guests and officials from various schools and clubs. In girls section, first place goes to Nature Lap International School, second to GHS Pouni and third place goes to Kalhar Club. In junior boys, first place goes to Nature Lap International School, second to MS Khalar and third place goes to Panthers Club. In senior section, first place goes to Middle School Pouni, second to HSS Pouni, and third place goes to Riders Club. The matches were officiated by Madan Mohan, Ravinder Kour, Opinder Singh, Manorma Bharti and Sonali Sharma.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Unity Pledge taking ceremony organised at DSEJ



Officers and staff members of the Directorate of School Education taking pledge.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of the Director School Education Jammu, Naseen Javaid Chowdhary, a unity Pledge taking Ceremony was held on Saturday in the premises of the Directorate to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, honouring the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - the steadfast architect of India's unity and the unbending sentinel of

her sovereignty. All officers and staff members of the Directorate participated in the solemn observance, taking the pledge of unity and integrity in remembrance of the man whose courage welded fragments into a nation. The moment carried not merely a ritual significance but a rekindling of conscience - a reminder that the strength of a country rests in the moral sinew of its

people. On this occasion, Director School Education Jammu said "Sardar Patel did not merely unify the land; he fortified its soul. His iron was not in his hand but in his heart - in his clarity of purpose and discipline of thought. Let education, therefore, be our continuing tribute to him: a patient builder of unity, a quiet craftsman of national character; where the classroom becomes

the first frontier of cohesion." The ceremony concluded with the collective recitation of the

National Unity Day celebrated at National College of Education

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National College of Education, Purkhoo Camp, Domana, Jammu celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel which is also observed as National Unity Day. The theme of the celebration was "Ek Bharat Atmanirbhar Bharat". The program commenced with offering a floral tribute to the revered leader; Sardar Patel.

Students participated enthusiastically in various activities organized on the occasion of National Unity Day. They took a pledge to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity and security of India. As Essay Writing Competition was also conducted on the topic "Sardar Patel's Values: A way of living life" portrayed the life and ideals of the Loh Purush - Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The day served to promote the values of unity, integrity and security among citizens. The purpose of celebrating these days was to make students realize that national integration is essential for defeating actual and potential threats to the unity and security of our nation.

The program concluded with the address by the Program Officer, Yashumati Jamwal, who emphasized that we should embrace diversity and celebrate

unity to strengthen our nation. Er. Ajay Singh Jamwal (Dean Administration) highlighted that it is our moral duty to uphold and practice the values of the LOH PURUSH for the betterment of the country. The Program Officer also appreciated the efforts of the volunteers of faculty members including Zenab Ara Khan, Priya Rani, Preeti Devi, Neetu Sharma and others.

Foundation Day of various states/UTs celebrated at LG Secretariat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Foundation Day of several states and union territories was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. States and UTs commemorated during the event included Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry. Foundation Day of various states & UTs are celebrated at Raj Niwas and Raj Bhawans across India as part of the Government of India's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, which aims to honour the formation of states and UTs, promote cultural diversity, and foster unity among regions. The event was designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of India's rich tapestry of cul-

tures and traditions, and to reinforce the spirit of togetherness among the country's diverse regions. Addressing the gathering, Administrative Secretary Bhanu Prabha, a native of Punjab, emphasised that national prosperity is only possible when the states and union territories thrive together. She highlighted the responsibility of citizens in helping India progress and noted Punjab's legacy of fertile land and its contributions to the nation's freedom struggle, with many eminent leaders and freedom fighters emerging from the region. Administrative Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary, representing Haryana, spoke about India's strength in its diversity-encompassing a wide range of cultures, communities, and religions. He reiterated the importance of citizens' contributions to nation-building, essential for achieving the goal of a developed India (Viksit

Bharat). He remarked that although Haryana accounts for roughly 1.5% of India's total land area, it contributes around 3.5% to the national GDP. The event included video messages from the Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, and the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mangubhai C. Patel. A visual presentation showcasing Kerala's major attractions was also screened for the audience. Earlier, Under Secretary Sachin Bali welcomed attendees and explained the purpose of organising the Foundation Day celebrations of different states and UTs. Administrative Secretary Shashanka Ala, members of the armed forces from various states and UTs serving in Ladakh, officials and staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, and Raj Niwas were present at the event.

SCERT Jammu hosts 5-day workshop



SCERT Jammu officials and teachers at a workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to promote experiential and skill-based learning, a 5-day workshop on "Sensitisation and Contextualisation of Guidelines for

Implementation of Bagless Days in Local Languages" was organised by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Jammu from Oct 28 to November 1, 2025, bringing together a consortium of thirty teachers,

master teachers, headmasters and lecturers from across the Jammu Division. The programme was organised by the Department of Art Education and Vocational Education, Academic Unit-I under the mentorship of

Shantmannu, Financial Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary and Director JKSCERT and the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division. The workshop aimed to familiarise participants with the PSSCIVE, Bhopal guidelines on Bagless Days and contextualise them into local languages; Hindi, Urdu, Dogri and Gojri, for effective implementation in schools.

During the workshop, participants engaged in group discussions, case studies and project-based activities, designing school action plans, developing local activity models and contextualising Bagless Days guidelines through field-based tasks.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM	
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM	
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM	
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM	
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM	
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM	
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM	
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM	
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM	
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM	
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM	
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM	

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE		
11078 Jhelum Express		
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi	
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi	
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express		
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi	
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi	
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express		
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi	
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi	
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)		
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra	
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar	
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM	
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 715		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)		
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra	
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar	
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 660		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		

FIND CINEMA		
EK DIWAANE KI DEEWANIYAT		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 9:45 AM / 2:15 PM / 5:05 PM / 7:50 PM / 10:40 PM		
PVR KC JAMMU 09:00 AM / 03:50 PM / 10:50 PM		
KANTARA (A LEGEND CHAPTER-1) (HINDI)		
PVR KC JAMMU 09:35 AM		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 11:00 AM		
BAAHUBALI:THE EPIC(HINDI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 3:20 PM / 10:30 PM		
PVR KC JAMMU 3:15 PM / 10:20 PM		
THAMMA -HINDI		
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 12:30 AM / 7:40 PM / 10:50 PM		
PVR KC JAMMU 12:05 PM / 7:40 PM		
MADHANIYAN (PUNJABI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 9:30 AM / 5:30 PM		

performances in music, dance, theatre and visual arts, each narrating a fragment of India's cultural continuum through rhythm, movement and colour. In his message, the Director School Education Jammu lauded the young artists for embodying the essence of creative discipline and cultural inheritance. He noted that Kala Utsav is not merely a competition but a communion - where the learner meets the

lineage of learning and where art becomes the language of unity. He further expressed gratitude to all the participating schools, mentors and jury members for nurturing this festival of expression with sincerity and grace, affirming that every child who dares to create, already wins. The winners in various categories were felicitated amidst applause, appreciation and a shared sense of achievement.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Devik, Dairy Farm and Pathi will remain affected on November 02 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Pouni, Shiv Khouri, Dadua, Laiter, Bharakh, Ransoo, Talwara, Dadua, Laiter and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 02 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ramban, Chanderkote, Karole, Battery Chashma, Bernote, Sangaldan, Gool and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 03 from 8 am to 11 am.

HELPLINE		
TELPHONES		
Directory Enquiry		197
Fault Repair		198
Local Assistance		199
Trunk Booking		180
Trunk Assistance		181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951	2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415	181
Billing Complaints Computerize		1955
Change No. Announcement		1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953	
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291	
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital		2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	2571147, 257084, 257357	
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637	
Emergency		2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638	
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012	
Dental Hospital		2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar		2430041
Emergency		2431740
Child Hospital		2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital		262270
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society		2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248	
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705	
City		2544263
Canal		2554064
Roop Nagar		2597522
Gangyal		2480026
Bari Brahmana		220020
Akhnor		252481
Kathua		234313
Samba		243280
Katra		232451
Udhampur		270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82	
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624	
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920	
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920	
Hot Line		383
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport		2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station		2430078
Tourist Reception Centre		2579554
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager		2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand		2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service		2576562
Punjab Roadways		2542782
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh		2542582
Parade		2544979
Bakshi Nagar		2543557
Panjthirthi		2547501
Narwal		2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal	2554147, 2554199	
Parade	2542289, 2543398	
Nanak Nagar		2430776
Gandhi Nagar		2430180
Shastri Nagar		2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari		2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)		
		101
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality	2547846, 2542192	
Health Officer		2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal		2547440