JU conducts two-day workshop on "From Idea to Impact: Creativity as a Career Skill"

The Incubation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SHEDC), University of Jammu, organized a two-day workshop titled "From Idea to Impact: Creativity as a Career Skill" on 24th-25th November 2025 for the students of the Design Your Degree Programme. The workshop aimed to enhance creative thinking, communication skills, and entrepreneurial awareness through expert-led sessions and hands-on activities. The programme began with a warm welcome address by Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, SHEDC, setting an encouraging tone for the two-day



Dignitaries along with JU officials and students.

insightful and engaging sessions delivered by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra, who spoke on creativity rooted in cultural identity, followed by Dr. Rakesh Sharma from IMFA, University of Jammu, who discussed visual arts and colour psychology. The day concluded with an

enriching session on structured storytelling and creative writing by Dr. Neena Gupta Vij from the Central University of Jammu.

The second day brought a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital creativity. Zahid and Shiwani from JKEDI introduced stu-

dents to startup development, skill-based learning, and digital ideation through interactive exercises. This was followed by a dynamic session on digital promotion by RJ Sarang of Red FM. Later, Ashok Sharma guided students on understanding creative writing as a profession,

by Dr. Pankaj, who engaged participants in innovative communication techniques through practical activities.

The event concluded with final remarks from Syed Ahfadul Mujtaba, retired IPS officer and former JKPSC Member, who appreciated the initiative and motivated the students to strengthen creativity as a meaningful professional asset. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director, SHEDC, acknowledging the contributions of all resource persons, organizers, and participants.

The proceedings of the twoday workshop were conducted by Dr. Sana Farooq Lone, Mentor of Expressing Creativity under the Design

AIMCCC calls for immediate enhancement of Migrants' cash relief

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All India Camps Migrant Coordination Committee (AIMCCC) has once again urged the Centre and the J&K Government to immediately announce an increase in the monthly cash relief for all Kashmiri migrant relief holders living across the country. The organisation stated that thousands of displaced families continue to survive without permanent homes, and enhancement of relief is not charity but a constitutional and moral right.

AIMCCC emphasised that the Kashmiri Pandit community has always stood firm for the nation and made immense sacrifices

Women-led development is driving force of Viksit Bharat: Sat

during the mass migration of 1989-90, when militancy was at its peak, governments collapsed, and the then Chief Minister fled abroad for safety. "Our people lost everything-homes, land, and livelihood. Since then, we have been left at the mercy of fate while governments watched," the

organisation said. The committee expressed deep anguish that, for 36 years, basic issues remain unresolved. From drinking water to healthcare, the community continues to face hardship, particularly in Jagti township where residential blocks are reportedly on the verge of collapse due to government apathy. AIMCCC leaders

said they have repeatedly sought appointments with the Chief Minister for nearly a year but were denied every time.

Criticising the recent hike in salaries of MLAs-from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3 lakh-the organisation said the government ignored the urgent need to raise migrant cash relief simply because the community lacks a sizeable vote bank.

AIMCCC Chief Desh Ratten Pandita Chairman B.K. Raha asserted that the struggle for justice, dignity, and adequate relief will continue with full determination, leaving no stone unturned in securing the rights of

participation to

growing SHGs, stronger

health and nutrition indi-

cators, and enhanced safe-

ty infrastructure, India is

witnessing a silent revolu-

tion shaped by women's

power. He urged Mahila

Morcha workers to intensify outreach so that every

household benefits from

start-ups.

women-led

CUJ hosts International Symposium



Chief Guest Prof. Viney Aneja being honoured during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu under the esteemed leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Organized one day symposium where internationally acclaimed Atmospheric Scientist Prof. Viney Aneja from the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, North Carolina State University, USA delivered lecture and interacted with students. Prof. Richa Kothari, HoD delivered the welcome remarks and warmly greeted the guests along with Prof. Sunil Dhar (Dean, School of Life Sciences) and Prof. Deepak Pathania. Prof. Aneja delivered a lecture titled "Is Nitrogen the Next Carbon?: Impacts on Air Quality, Climate and Human Health." He highlighted how reactive Nitrogen

influencing air quality, climate systems, and public health. During his lecture, Prof. Aneja emphasized the urgent need for integrated strategies to manage nitrogen pollution and its cascading environmental effects. In the second half, Dr Ankit Tandon, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences coordinated an interactive session which drew enthusiastic participation from students, scholars, and faculty members. Dr. Shweta Yadav Associate Prof. and Centre Incharge, Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre convened the symposium. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Dinesh, Faculty, EVS, appreciating Prof. Aneja's valuable contributions to Atmospheric science and his insightful talk, which provided a deeper understanding of one of the most pressing environmental issues of

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), accompanied by former Minister and MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, addressed the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mahila Sammelan organized under the leadership of Mahila Morcha District President Indu Wazir Sambyal at Ramgarh Rajpura, Assembly Constituency in Samba District. The programme witnessed the presence ofChairperson Keshav Dutt. District President & DDC Asha Rani, DDCs Shilpa Dubey and Anita Choudhary, and former BDC Chairperson Radhey Sham, along with a large gathering of women from the area. Addressing the Sammelan, Sat Sharma said that women-led devel-



BJP J&K President and MP Sat Sharma alongwith others during the programme.

foundational pillar Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He stated that over the last decade. the Modi government has undertaken "historic, structural, and outcomedriven reforms" to uplift the socio-economic position of women, ranging from Ujjwala Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, Poshan Yojana, MUDRA loans,

Self-Help Group empowerment, together have laid the base for creating the largest women-led development

movement in the world. "Women are not just beneficiaries, they are leaders, creators, and central drivers of national growth. The vision of Viksit Bharat can be realized only when every woman self-reliant, empowered, and confident

He lauded the Mahila Morcha for taking the message of Atma Nirbhar Bharat to every booth and village, ensuring that women become equal partners in the nation's progress. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted that the Modi government's schemes for women have delivered unprecedented results on ground.

ety," Sat Sharma said.

the government's transformative initiatives. Asha Rani said the BJP remains fully committed to the dignity, safety, and empowerment of women, and the Mahila Morcha is working tirelessly to ensure last-mile delivery of all welfare schemes.

Indu Wazir Sambyal said that the Morcha is playing a decisive role in strengthening the Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign, mobilizing women at the grassroots and encouraging them to become entrepreneurs, leaders, and com-

emphasising the need for

full transparency to main-

tain public confidence. In a

major demand, the organi-

sation has called on the UT

administration to desig-

nate SMVDIME as a

minority institution, argu-

ing that such a status

would enable religion-

based reservations for the

Hindu community, which

DSS holds meeting to review heritage week activities

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) held an emergent meeting of their core group under their President Col Karan Singh to review the activities during the ongoing World Heritage Week from Nov 19 to Nov 25, 2025. This has denied Jammu from the benefits of great possible tourism potential of the region more so when the new Rail and Road network in the UT has bypassed Jammu pushing the region into great commercial loss. The main sufferers are the small traders, hoteliers, shopkeepers, transporters and has considerably reduced the footfall of the local regional religious tourism too. Members pointed out that the resumption of the Durbar move is of little consequence due it's



DSS members after the meeting

limited impact only within the confines Jammu City and that too in a few markets and Malls. leaving the other nine Districts

The members noted with concern that numerous heritage sites in & around Jammu were in a State of neglect urged the union government to maintain these and develop these along with provisions of requisite infrastructure like wavside eateries, boarding and lodging

in tourism friendly hotels, development of better approach roads and ply sufficient, quality public transport and organize sightseeing package trips.

The Purmandal, Uttar Beni Shiv Khori, Sukrala Maata, Regional Forts, Sudh Mahadev, Kol Kandoli, Mansar, Dhansar, Surisar & Balidaan Stambh, Pandavs & Budhist sites near Akhnoor are just a few names to quote.

A group of about 25 DSS

members visited Mandi Heritage site to include Col. Karan Singh, President and the Working DSS. President Th. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak.

The Group noted the devastation further caused by the recent havor of heavy rains. The members noted with deep anguish and concern, the perfunctory manner in which the restoration work is being done in total absence of any urgency and scant specialized supervision, if at all.

The members resolved to meet the Lt Governor and the Chief Minister to project their request about this and many other pressing issues concerning the Jammu region and the Dogras of the region to include all communities and ethnic cross sections of society.

The members who participated in the deliberations includes Maj Gen.(R) Sunita Kapoor VSM, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, Col Dr Virendra K Sahi, VrC, Mrs Uma Katal, Jagdeep Singh, Prem Sagar Gupta, Janak Khajurja, Lt. Col. (R) Rashid Ahmed, Virinder Gupta, Chhankar Singh, Dr. Samar Dev Singh, R S Katal, Dr. Sant Kumar Digra, Ravi Singh Slathia, Puran Chand, Rajay Jamwal and others.

KSJ demands UT Administration intervention in SMVDIME MBBS Admission controversy

increased female work-

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Kishtwari Sangathan Jammu (KSJ), a non-political social organisation, has urged the Union Territory administration of Jammu and Kashmir to step in urgently to resolve the controversy surrounding MBBS admissions at the Shri Vaishno Devi Medical Institute of Excellence (SMVDIME), Katra. The institute functions under the Shri Mata Vaishno DeviShrine Board. During a meeting held in Jammu, KSJ members expressed "deep distress and strong reservations" over the recently

published admission list, stating that it has sparked concern and resentment among devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi and sections

of the Hindu community. The debate primarily stems from the inaugural MBBS selection list for the 2025-26 academic session. Out of the 50 sanctioned seats, 42 reportedly went to Muslim students, 7 to Hindu students and 1 to a Sikh student, a distribution that has generated substantial political and social debate in the region. has formally appealed for a comprehensive review of SMVDIME's

procedures,

admission

they believe is necessary in Concluding the meeting, KSJ urged the administr tion to address the issue promptly to safeguard the 'sanctity and public trust' associated with the institute and ensure fairness in

its admission processes.

Jammu Airport reviews fog season preparedness



D. K. Gautam, Regional Executive Director (Northern Region) chairing meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A review meeting on fog season preparedness was chaired by D. K. Gautam, Regional Executive Director (Northern Region) today, with participation from all Northern Region Airport Directors. At Jammu Airport, the meeting was attended by AAI officials, Airline representatives, CISF personnel and other key stakeholders, where preparedness for smooth aircraft operations during low-visibility conditions was discussed. Key operational systems including RVR, approach lighting, ILS and Low Visibility Procedures (LVP) were reviewed, along with contingency planning for aircraft parking, airside safety measures, and passenger facilitation dur-

ing delays or disruptions. Emergency response and diversion handling were also evaluated, along with a review of last year's fog season performance. The leadership emphasized coordinated efforts and assured that all necessary measures are being implemented to maintain safety and minimize passenger inconvenience during fog conditions. Jammu Airport Director Devender Yadav briefed in the meeting that fog prepared ness sensitization meeting with all stakeholders of Jammu Airport has already been done. Low visibility procedures and SOP for handling contingencies are already in place and the airport is prepared to manage disruption in Airport operations

'BharatGen' India's first sovereign multilingual 'Large Language Model': Dr Jitendra **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today hailed "BharatGen" as India's first sovereign multilingual and multimodal AI driven Large Language Model, during his visit to IIT Bombay.

The Minister interacted with the core team of "BharatGen", reviewed the ongoing work under the project and also received an extensive presenta-

During the briefing, Prof. Ramakrishnan, Ganesh Professor-in-Charge BharatGen, explained in detail how the model functions, what it seeks to achieve, and how it is



Sensing & Metrology Hub,

along with members of the

Dr. Jitendra Singh was briefed that BharatGen is

BharatGen team.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing meeting at Mumbai. India's first sovereign effort to create a Large Language Model that truly reflects the linguistic, cultural and social diversity of the nation. Built to

support over twenty-two Indian languages, BharatGen integrates three major modalities- text, speech and document vision, so that it can understand. øenerate and interpret information in the same way Indian citizens naturally communicate. The Minister was

told that this mission has been conceived in the spirit of building an inclusive digital future. where every Indian language, dialect and regional context is represented in the country's AI capabilities. The project aligns with the broader national vision of making India a global leader in frontier technologies, an objective consistently emphasised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has repeatedly called for developing

technology that is rooted in India's strengths, addresses India's needs, and contributes to the world from an Indian

Dr. Singh appreciated the scale, ambition, and technical depth of the BharatGen initiative, describing it as a turning point in India's journey toward technological self-reliance. He said that BharatGen is not just a technological project but a national effort to ensure that the future of AI reflects the aspirations, languages and lived experiences of 1.4 billion Indians. He also emphasised that initiatives like BharatGen embody the Prime Minister's vision of empowering every citizen through science and technology, building systems that are inclusive, trustworthy, and locally grounded, and ensuring that India's digital narrative is written by Indians themselves.

Dy CM honours 38 Master Craftsmen with prestigious U T-level Artisan Awards - 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday honoured 38 outstanding craftsmen and artisans with the UT-Level Artisan and Weaver Awards-2024 for their exemplary contribution to preserving and innovating Jammu and Kashmir's celebrated handicraft traditions.

The awards conferred by Handicrafts and Handloom

The event was attended by Commissioner Industries & Commerce. Handicrafts and Handloom Department Mussarat ul Islam, senior government officials, dignitaries, and members of the artisan

Department were presented at a grand ceremony held at SKICC, Srinagar.

Secretary, Vikramjit Singh, Director Kashmir,

and business community. Speaking on the occasion, the government is fully committed to transforming the Handicrafts and Handloom sector into a vibrant economic pillar. He noted that these awards not only celebrate craftsmanship but also motivate artisans to push creative boundaries and continue their

the Deputy Chief Minister said

"The Artisan Awards reinforce the profound cultural and economic significance of

invaluable service to society.

J&K's craft traditions, which sustain livelihoods and shape our identity on the global stage," he said.

Appreciating the department for its efforts, the Deputy Chief Minister added, "This event reflects our dedication to giving artisans the respect and recognition they truly deserve. They are our pride, the custodians of our heritage and traditions. Under the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jenab Omar Abdullah Sahib, we will leave no stone unturned in addressing sectoral challenges and elevating this backbone of our economy to new heights."

Of the 38 awardees, 20 belong to Kashmir Division and 18 to Jammu Division, selected through a rigorous evaluation across ten notified craft categories. Each category carried three awards, with winners receiving citations, certificates, and cash prizes of ?50,000, ?30,000, and ?20,000, enabling them to fur-

ther enhance their craft. Delivering the inaugural address, Vikramjit Singh highlighted the department's ongoing initiatives to strengthen the sector.

"The Industries and Commerce Department is extending comprehensive support for the upliftment of our artisan community. We are intensifying efforts to revive the sector, showcase the brilliance of our artisans, and connect them with global mar-

kets. A departmental spokesperson noted that the sector supports over 3.80 lakh artisans and weavers, contributing more than ?1500 crore annually to J&K's economy. He added that artisans from the UT

national honours such as the

earned prestigious

Padma Shri and Shilp Guru Awards, and have captivated global audiences from Paris to New York

Recent interventions, including skill enhancement workshops, Know Your Artisan initiative, digital marketplaces, and GI tagging, have significantly strengthened market outreach, contributing to a ?500 crore boost in exports through participation in multiple global trade fairs this year.