

Valedictory function of 'Summer Internship Program' held at GDC Reasi

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: The Government Degree College (GDC) Reasi organized the Valedictory Function of the Summer Internship Program (Session 2025-26) today, marking the culmination of an intensive training program conducted in collaboration with Rapture Biotechnology, Jammu. The event celebrated the successful completion of the internship by students of Semester V, Major Botany, Chemistry, and Zoology, who were felicitated with certificates in recognition of their active participation and successful completion of the program.

The internship was conducted in the Biotechnology Laboratory of the College during August-September 2025, providing students with practical exposure to advanced biotechnological techniques, analytical methods, and skill-oriented training designed to enhance employability in the life sciences sector.



Faculty members during the programme.

The function began with a welcome address by Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, Head, Department of Botany and Coordinator of the Internship Program. In his remarks, Prof. Atri highlighted the objectives of the program and its alignment with the Skill Development and Employability Vision under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He expressed sincere gratitude to Rapture Biotechnology, Jammu for their valuable collaboration in providing the students with hands-on industrial exposure.

A key feature of the event was an 'Invited Lecture' on the theme "Skilling of Youth for Realization of the Goal of Viksit Bharat-2047: Biotechnology as a Helping Tool." The lecture was delivered by Dr. Ambika Slathia, Director, Rapture Biotechnology, Jammu, who served as the Resource Person. Dr. Slathia elaborated on the emerging scope of biotechnology in diverse sectors including health-care, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. She underscored the importance of vocational and skill-based training in

bridging the gap between academic learning and industry requirements, thereby empowering youth for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formally signed between GDC Reasi and Rapture Biotechnology, Jammu, aimed at strengthening future collaborations. The MoU envisions coordinated efforts for training, research support, and job placements of students in the private sector, thereby fostering a culture of innovation and industry-academia partnership.

In his presidential address, Prof. Ashok Sharma, Principal of the College, commended the efforts of Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri and the organizing team for successfully conducting the internship and valedictory event. He appreciated the visionary contribution of Rapture Biotechnology and emphasized that such collabor-

ative initiatives embody the true spirit of NEP 2020, which integrates skill development with academic excellence. Prof. Sharma encouraged the faculty to continue organizing similar programs to enhance students' employability and prepare them for future challenges.

The event witnessed the prominent presence of senior faculty members including Prof. Ravi Kant Sharma (HoD Physics), Dr. Sanjay Kotwal (HoD Zoology), Dr. Satish Kumar (HoD Chemistry), Prof. Kewal Krishan (HoD Mathematics), Prof. Baldev Sharma (NSS Programme Officer), and Dr. Anish Gupta (Assistant Professor, Chemistry). Their participation added academic significance and encouragement to the proceedings.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks and a group photograph session, marking a memorable culmination to an academically enriching and professionally inspiring event.

MD HADP, DC Kathua interact with Krishi Udhymis



Sandeep Kumar, MD HADP chairing meeting.

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KATHUA: Sandeep Kumar, MD HADP/JKCIP, JKUT visited District Kathua to interact with Krishi Udhymis of Kathua District along with Director Agriculture, Jammu Anil Kumar and Director Horticulture, Jammu Gul Sayer.

During his visit, Mission Director HADP/JKCIP-JKUT also visited Mushroom Cluster, Vermicompost Unit Jandi, Millet Restaurant Pathwal, Soil testing Laboratory under private sector and interacted with the beneficiaries who have availed benefited under HADP. Mission Director also appreci-

ated the entrepreneurship skills of all women beneficiaries managing Millet Restaurant.

Upon arrival at office complex of Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua, Mission Director was warmly welcomed by Jatinder Khajuria, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua and other District Officers / officials along with Krishi Udhymis of the District.

Upon interaction with Krishi Udhymis, Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director HADP/JKCIP-JKUT deliberated his experience and guided them to pursue their business by availing benefit of Kisan Khidmat Ghar subsequently benefitting the farming community. It is

pertinent to mention that 120 Kisan Khidmat Ghars are established in the District, being operated by Krishi Udhymis under Project 20 - Innovative approaches of Agriculture Extension under HADP. During interaction, queries were raised, and Mission Director assured full support and cooperation to Krishi Udhymis.

Rajesh Sharma, DC Kathua also interacted with Krishi Udhymis in presence of Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP-JKUT. All District Officers/ Officials and staff member were also present on the said interaction program.

GDC Akhnoor holds awareness workshop on 'Plants Around Us'

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AKHNOOR: The Departments of Botany, Agriculture Technology and Horticulture/Technology, Government Degree College, Akhnoor jointly organized an Awareness Workshop on "Plants Around Us" with the objective of creating awareness among students about the ecological and economic importance of locally available plant species.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Principal of the College, who also delivered the Inaugural Address. In her remarks, the Principal appreciated the efforts of the organizing departments for conducting such an event of academic and environmental significance. She emphasized that workshops like these play a vital role in fostering environmental consciousness among students and inspire them to contribute towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of plant resources.

The welcome address was presented by Dr. Anju Koul, Head, Department of Botany and Convener of the Workshop. She highlighted the aim of the event to sensitize students about the diverse plant wealth surrounding them and its cultural, medicinal, and ecological importance.

A Quiz Competition on Plant

Identification was conducted to test the students' knowledge of local flora. The event was coordinated by Prof. Nidhi Jarangal and Prof. Pooja Devi, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across science streams. Sonali Sharma Vth Semester bagged 1st position, Deepali Sharma Vth Semester bagged 2nd position, Rupali Sharma Ist Semester and Athithi Pandit Vth Semester bagged 3rd position and Komal Sharma Vth bagged consolation prize.

The workshop also featured a showcase of forest-based plant products arranged by the local Forest Range Office, Akhnoor, and an exhibition of herbal beverage innovations by Mr. Vishal Sharma from the Food Craft Institute, Jammu, coordinated by Dr. Sohika Rani. These displays drew keen interest from participants and provided practical insights into sustainable utilization of plant resources.

The highlight of the event was the Guest Lecture on "Sacred Trees and Sacred Groves" delivered by Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd.), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K. In his talk, he emphasized the spiritual, ecological, and cultural significance of sacred groves in India, describing them as living repositories of biodi-

iversity and traditional wisdom. He urged the younger generation to preserve and protect sacred landscapes and native tree species which form an integral part of India's natural heritage.

Following the lecture, Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi conducted an interactive "Tree Talk" in the college campus, acquainting students with various important plant species such as Amla (Phyllanthusemblica), Pongamia (Pongamiapinnata), and Jatropha (Jatropha curcas)-a biodiesel-yielding plant. He discussed their ecological and economic relevance, medicinal properties, and role in sustainable green initiatives.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Shahida Ibrahim, who expressed gratitude to the Principal, resource person, faculty members, and students for their active participation and support in making the workshop a success.

The workshop proved to be an enriching experience for the students, enhancing their understanding of the intricate relationship between plants, people, and the environment, and reinforcing the importance of conservation of local flora for ecological balance and human well-being.

GLDM Degree College Hiranagar hosts innovation boot camp

STATE TIMES NEWS
HIRANAGAR: Institution's Innovation Council of Government GLDM Degree College Hiranagar hosted Innovation Boot Camp organized by Indian Institute of Management Jammu. The program was organized to foster the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth. The objective of the Boot camp was student empowerment by making them aware about innovation ecosystem, entrepreneurship development. A team from IIM Jammu visited the college and enlightened the students through their informative lectures. Kanav Padha, Manager DST ITBI, IIM Jammu, handled a very long interactive session with the students and staff of GDC Hiranagar. He encouraged students to observe various problems in their routine life and develop problem solving ideas. He discussed various government schemes and funding for startups. He took queries of



Faculty members and students during the camp.

the students and very patiently satisfied them. Tania Sharma, an incubatee of IIM Jammu and a budding entrepreneur from Kathua shared her success story and motivated the students. She shared the names and businesses of her startups.

The event was conducted under the patronage of esteemed Principal Dr. Pragna Khanna. She inspired the students to think boldly, act creatively and innovate fearlessly. She added that college is always ready to help and guide bright and enthusiastic students in their ideas and

innovations. She motivated students to promote their culture and heritage through innovations.

Dr. Anupma Arora, President, IIC coordinated the event and explained the students about the innovation and start up culture initiative of Govt. of India. She said information is the life blood of progress, it transforms ideas into impacts and challenges into opportunities. Prof. Neeru Sharma, Organising Secretary of the event, ran the proceedings of the programme and presented an overview of the various activities conducted by the IIC of the college for the last

years. The Programme was attended by around eighty students of the First semester. IIC committee members cooperated enthusiastically in the successful conduct of the programme. Faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Poonam Kamotra, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Prof. Amit Sharma, Prof. Amit Singh, Dr. Bhavna Janwal, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Rajni Sharma, Dr. Manpreet, Dr. Ridham, Dr. Divya and Dr. Nishu. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Anupma Arora.

SKUAST-Jammu holds bootcamp at GDC Chenani

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CHENANI: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu under Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) organized a One-Day Bootcamp at Government Degree College (GDC) Chenani under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. The resource person of the programme are Sahil Gupta Manager-Incubation of JKCIIP Project and Ashwani Sharma FPO Development Officer. Sahil Gupta Manager-Incubation of JKCIIP project SKUAST-Jammu have delivered a detailed presentation on JKCIIP, the concept of the Boot Camp and shared inspiring success stories of startup establishments. In his address, Gupta highlighted the importance of such boot camps for nurturing entrepreneurial skills among students.

Sahil Gupta informed the participants about the objectives of JKCIIP and the funding opportunities available under its Agribusiness and Incubation System component. He urged the students to actively participate in ideathons and

hackathons encouraging them to present their innovative ideas to secure funding support for the establishment of their innovative enterprise/startup.

During the interactive session, students were divided into groups and assigned an activity to identify problems, propose innovative solutions, develop business models and analyze the potential impact of their ideas. Each group came forward with creative and practical solutions, showcasing the enthusiasm and innovative spirit of the youth. Dr. Pawan K. Sharma, Professor & Head, Agricultural Economics, is the Nodal Officer of JKCIIP, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr. Anil Bhat Associate Director Research is also the CO-PI of the project. The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Aditiya Sharma, Assistant Professor, while Prof. Kewal Kumar presented the formal vote of thanks. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Ashwani sharma.

The event witnessed the presence of Principal - Prof. Rajesh Gupta, Prof. Kewal Kumar, Prof. Aditiya Sharma, Dr. Arun Gupta who also motivated the students to harness innovation for entrepreneurship development.

GDC Khour organises essay writing, singing competition

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KHOUR: As a part of celebration of commemoration of 150 years of National Pride "VANDE MATRAM," NCC wing in collaboration with department of Physical Education organized an essay writing and singing competition on theme "Vande Mataram" under the patronage of Prof. (Dr) T.K. Sharma, Principal GDC Khour. The event was held to encourage the students to promote patriotism and national pride among students.

Over 30 students participated with full zeal and enthusiasm, showcasing their writing skills and expressed their thoughts



NCC cadets along with faculty members during the programme.

and feelings about the nation in essay writing. The singing competition featured melodious performance of the song "Vande Matram" by the students, showcasing their

vocal talent and patriotic spirit. The essay writing competition was judged by Prof. Pooja Kumari, HOD English. Cadet Sohani Sharma of Semester 3rd bagged 1st position while

Muskaan Sharma and Arvind Sharma ofsem 3rd scored 2nd and 3rd position respectively. The singing competition was judged by Dr. Rashmi Sharma, HOD Political

Science. Cadet Rishu Bharti and Cadet Laxmi Devi of Sem 1st got 1st and 2nd position respectively in singing. The judges praised the participants for their efforts and encouraged them to continue exploring and celebrating India's rich cultural heritage. They emphasized the importance of understanding the song's meaning and its significance. The whole event was conducted by Lt. Shivani Sharma in coordination with Prof. Sunil Kumar, Head, Department of Physical Education. Prof. Jozfeen, Prof. Khalid Bohra, and Prof. Sunil Kumar was also present in the event.

Training Programme on 'Social Defence Issues for Police Functionaries' held at SKPA

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The valedictory ceremony of a three-day Training Programme on "Social Defence Issues for Police Functionaries" was held today at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur, in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi, under the Ministry of Social



Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

A total of 40 officers and officials from different wings of the Jammu and Kashmir Police participated in the training, which focused on care and protection of senior citizens, prevention of substance abuse, and welfare of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Rajinder Kumar Gupta, IPS, SSP, Deputy Director (Indoor), SKPA Udhampur,

was the Chief Guest. In his address, Gupta appreciated the efforts of NISD and SKPA Udhampur in organizing such capacity-building programmes that sensitize police personnel towards social issues and community welfare. He stressed that modern policing extends beyond law enforcement to include social responsibility and empathy for the underprivileged.

Expert sessions were con-

ducted by: Binam Tosh, SSP, Deputy Director (Outdoor), SKPA Udhampur; Dr. Vinay Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu; Dr. Savita Nayyar, Professor, Department of Law, University of Jammu; Dr. Rajneesh Khajuria, Department of Law, University of Jammu.

Faculty from the District Social Welfare Department, Udhampur Participants also visited the Old Age Home, Udhampur, in coordination with the District Social Welfare Department, for practical exposure to social welfare practices.

Certificates of participation were distributed among the trainees. The course was coordinated by Inspector Abdul Momin, assisted by ASI Baldev Singh, member faculty, SKPA Udhampur.

CBC organises Integrated Communication & Outreach Programme

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UDHAMPUR: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office, Udhampur organised an Integrated Communication & Outreach Programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Arnas. The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Shri Parvinder Kumar principal of the host institute where as Shaktipal Sambyal, 1st class Magistrate was the Chief Guest. The aim of the day long programme was to generate awareness about Three New Criminal Laws, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Mission LiFE, and Flagship Programmes/ Schemes of Government of India.

Speaking on this occasion the Chief Guest highlighted the importance of such aware-



ness programme which are aimed to generate awareness about the welfare schemes of Government of India. He was of the view that with the induction of New three criminal laws the access to Justice has become easy and simple. He also urged the audience to act as message carriers/ Ambassadors for spreading the message of such programmes in their area.

A Galaxy of Experts viz. Pardeep Kumar, S.I, J&K Police, Shri Rihul Rana repre-

sentative from rural development department and Ms. Ena Dutta representative from education department delivered key note addresses on new three criminal laws, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Mission LiFE respectively.

During his welcome address Shri Parvinder Kumar, Principal of the Institute said that these programmes are very beneficial and should be organised in Schools and colleges where majority of youth can be benefitted.

A number of IEC activities like Group discussions, Expert Lectures by resource persons, Swelhata Pledge, Open Quiz, Drawing Competition, Theme based Cultural programmes, were carried out during the day long programme.

Gurnam Singh, I/C Field Office, CBC, Udhampur presented the Vote of Thanks and gave an overall view of the activities being carried out by the department. He expressed his gratitude to 'Tehsildar, Principal, Education, Social Welfare, Police, Rural Development for extending their support, cooperation and coordination in making the programme successful.

Sham Lal, Vice Principal of institute and Ms. Anuradha played a pivotal role in carrying out all the events successfully.

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