

Directorate Placement GCW Gandhi Nagar, Dept of Botany CLUJ organize Placement Drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Directorate of Placement, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, and the Department of Botany, Cluster University of Jammu, successfully organized a placement drive in association with Graminik, an agribusiness startup dedicated to empowering farmers and women.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 students, eager to explore opportunities in the agribusiness sector. Following a rigorous selection process, 60 students were shortlisted for interviews.

The selected candidates will undergo a three-month internship program with a stipend of Rs. 9,000 per month, paving the way for potential full-time placements within the organization.



A dignitary speaking at the Placement Drive.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from Graminik Simran Bedi, Senior Manager Maharashtra and J&K and Gagandeep Bedi, Assistant Manager, Human Resources

J&K, highlighted the startup's mission to revolutionize the agricultural landscape by integrating modern business strategies with traditional farming and good agricultural practices.

Prof. D.S Manhas, Director Placement, Cluster University of Jammu, commended the efforts of the organizing

departments and expressed gratitude to Graminik for offering valuable opportunities to the students.

"We are committed to inculcate industry-academia collaboration to enhance employment prospects for our students," he added.

Dr. Anju Koul, Associate Professor Department of

Botany, GCW Gandhi Nagar, expressed satisfaction over the overwhelming response from students and stated, "This initiative provides an excellent platform for our students to gain hands-on experience in the agribusiness sector and apply their academic knowledge in real-world scenarios."

Prof Sugandha Mahajan, Coordinator Dept of Botany Cluster University of Jammu added that the placement drive aligns with Cluster University of Jammu's vision to empower students with industry-relevant skills and provide them with meaningful career opportunities.

The event was coordinated by the faculty of Dept of Botany, GCW Gandhi Nagar and Cluster University of Jammu.

JKHCBA Jammu team calls on Dr. Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Newly elected team of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu called on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent charge) Ministry of Earth Sciences.

J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu team comprising of President K. Nirmal Kotwal, Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal, during meeting with Dr. Jitendra Singh, presented a charter of demands and apprised him the issues and concerns of the Advocates.

The minister assured all kind of assistance and cooperation.

The demands were raised



Jammu Bar team calling on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister.

by the Bar Association include upgradation of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) infrastructure, including construction of a multi-storey building to accommodate CAT at High Court Complex, Jammu, appointment of Senior Advocates as Members of

the CAT, and appointment of Young Lawyers as Standing Counsels for Central Government departments and autonomous bodies.

Team of JKHCBAJ thanked Minister for giving a patient hearing and his assurance to address the concerns.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 outreach event on Jan 27 at Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: EPFO Jammu is celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 program, launched in January 2023, with an awareness and outreach event on January 27, 2025, at the Conference Hall, DC Office Doda.

This program aims to create awareness among employers and employees in the region about various social security provisions, such as the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Pension Scheme, and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI).

The program will focus on educating attendees about filing grievances through plat-

forms like EPF&GMS, CPGRAMS, and other grievance portals. It will also highlight the importance of UAN activation, Digital Services, fraud prevention, and employees' rights. The event will feature a session dedicated to the pension schemes, with a special help desk for pension-related queries and grievances. Additionally, attendees will learn about online claim filing, e-nomination, KYC updates in UAN, and the Principal Employer Dashboard.

Rizwan Uddin, the P.F. Commissioner, will personally address grievances from workers, employers, and stakeholders, offering handholding support to those in need. The pro-

gram encourages participation from various sectors, including private schools, contractors, and government departments such as Education, PWD, PDD, and PMGSY, to ensure that workers benefit from the provisions of the EPF and MP Act, 1952.

The aim is to foster better participation, grievance redressal, and knowledge-sharing, bringing EPFO's services closer to the people. Key initiatives like e-Nomination, online claim filing, and the importance of activating UAN will be discussed. EPFO Jammu invites valuable feedback and suggestions from all stakeholders to improve its services.

Ambedkar had no place in policies of Cong: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Addressing a large gathering of party activists at Kakrayal, under Katra Mandal of Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly constituency, Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP spokesperson & former vice chairperson, charged Congress of ignoring the contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and disrespecting him.

He was speaking in a programme under 'Samvidhan Gourav Abhiyan', along with Rajinder Singh Chib, Co-Convenor of the Abhiyan, Sohan Lal, Mandal President, Rajinder Mengi, DD, Reetu Thakur, Mahila Morcha District President



BJP spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan paying tributes to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

and other leaders.

Balbir said that the Congress ruled the country for decades together but had no concern towards giving due honour to Ambedkar, while alive and after his demise.

"Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had no place in programmes

and policies of the successive governments of Congress after independence", Balbir said, adding that the architect of the Constitution got recognition of his services only when BJP came in power at the Centre. He cited a number of instances of how

the Modi government has, honestly and truly, honoured Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

While Congress honoured Jawahar Lal and Indira Gandhi with Bharat Ratna, it did not even consider Dr. Ambedkar for any kind of reward or honour, which itself speaks of how Congress ignored one of the most educated persons of his times, he said.

Rajinder Singh Chib said that the Panchteerth built in memory of Dr. Ambedkar, itself stands proof that BJP and PM Narendra has given real respect to Ambedkar. He said that the Congress is now playing politics in the name of Ambedkar just for its political survival.

Rajinder Mengi said that whatever the people today see as monuments, memorials, museums etc dedicated to Dr. Ambedkar; all are the symbols of honour from the Modi government.

Reetu Thakur spoke on Ambedkar's initiatives of empowering women. She said that Dr. Ambedkar was of the opinion that there should be no gender-based discrimination.

Sohan Lal said that Dr. Ambedkar's vision and contributions were marginalized in the Congress times, which is a matter of shame.

Party leaders Prabhat Singh, Subhash Bhagat, Tilak Raj, and Manohar Lal, also addressed the gathering.

POJK VSS unveils annual calendar to raise awareness on 1947 Exodus

Educated Youth have role to play in reclaiming PoJK: Pt Ashok Khajuria

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti (VSS) launched its annual calendar at a function held on Friday in the Rohi Morh area of Jammu South.

The event was part of the ongoing awareness campaign aimed at highlighting the forced exodus of the Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) displaced community in 1947.

The ceremony, which was attended by various community members, activists, and local leaders, focused on the importance of preserving the history and struggles faced by the displaced community since the partition of India.

Pt. Ashok Kumar Khajuria, Advisor to the PoJK VSS, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the key objectives of the event and the broader campaign.

He explained that the initiative seeks to raise mass awareness about the atrocities faced by the PoJK displaced community, and their enduring grievances. A central aim of the campaign is to unite the displaced population in reclaiming the lost



POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti (VSS) members releasing its annual calendar.

territories of Jammu and Kashmir, which remain under illegal Pakistani occupation. Khajuria further highlighted that the newly launched calendar would serve as an educational tool, featuring significant historical events and stories that reflect the community's journey since their displacement. "This calendar is not just a reminder of our past, but also a call to action for the present generation to stay committed to their rights. Our ancestral lands and properties in the PoJK region should not be forgotten, and the struggle to reclaim them must continue," said Khajuria.

Speaking at an event, Ex-Sarpanch Vijay Sharma called on the government to expedite the fulfillment of promises made under the PoJK Relief and Rehabilitation Package, reiterating the pressing demands of displaced persons (DPs) from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). He urged the government to disburse the remaining amount of ₹25 lakh per family as announced in the package by the Government of India.

Highlighting the challenges faced by the PoJK DP community, Sharma emphasized the importance of reservation in higher edu-

cational institutions across India for educated youth from the displaced community. He also advocated for a special recruitment drive to ensure employment opportunities for PoJK DP youth in the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other government departments.

In his appeal to the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, and the Chief Minister of J&K, Sharma stressed the need to extend full Scheduled Tribe (ST) status benefits to all members of the PoJK displaced community.

He criticized the selective granting of ST status, cur-

rently limited to DPs from the Rajouri-Poonch region, as unfair and discriminatory.

"The displaced community has endured immense hardships for over seven decades. It is highly regrettable that even today, the government selectively grants ST status to people of the same clan and socio-economic background," Sharma stated. He urged the government to address this disparity and ensure equal treatment for all PoJK displaced families.

The event witnessed a significant presence of prominent individuals and community leaders, further reinforcing the importance of the occasion.

Among those present were representatives from various social organizations and local political figures including Vikas Sharma, Pt Surinder Sharma, Sanjeev Khajuria, Pt Deputy Nath, Naresh Kumar, Gourav Raina, Sarvan Dass, Ramesh Sharma, Rohit Khajuria, Ashok Ranyal, Pushp Khajuria, Tilak Raj, and Pt Rakesh Shastri all showing their support for the cause.

Congress always at forefront of tackling challenges before J&K: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla emphasized Congress's leadership in addressing the challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to residents of Deep Nagar Ward 55 in RS Pura Jammu South Constituency, Bhalla highlighted Congress's historical role in making sacrifices for the country and its commitment to the welfare of the people.

He was accompanied by prominent local figures, including former JMC Chairman Satish Sharma and Congress leaders Sanjeev Katal, Sanjay Sharma, and others.

Bhalla criticized the current situation in J&K, attributing the growing issues to the Union

government's anti-people policies.

He pointed out concerns such as inflation, poverty, malnutrition, rising crime, and attacks on democratic values and institutions. He urged Congress workers to connect with the people's struggles, emphasizing that the party's mission has always been to alleviate the suffering of all sections of society.

Bhalla accused BJP government at both the Centre and in J&K of causing further hardship to the people through policies that favor nepotism, unfair job practices, and economic mismanagement.

He referenced Congress's efforts to uplift marginalized communities, including the protection of job rights and the welfare of refugees and farmers.

Bhalla also criticized the BJP for failing to address the concerns of the youth, particularly the rising unemployment rate, and for bringing economic hardship to the poor; common people, and daily wage workers through exorbitant price hikes and high taxes. He assured the public that Congress would fight for the rights of the people and undo the wrongs of the BJP government.

IGNOU offers Bachelor of Science (Food Safety and Quality Management) under Four Year Undergraduate Programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Food safety is an emerging discipline and has become an area of priority and necessity for manufacturers, retailers, regulators and consumers.

Enforcement of Science-based Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has resulted in the requirement for a large number of qualified and trained workforce at different levels.

School of Agriculture, IGNOU is offering a Bachelor's degree programme in the area of Food Safety and Quality Management in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

Its objectives are to generate human resources in the area of food safety and quality management; to enhance knowledge and skills in multidisciplinary areas like food science, food processing and food safety; and to promote self-employment in food processing, food safety and food auditing.

This is the first-of-its-kind Bachelor's degree programme in the area of Food Safety and Quality Management in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode developed as per

the National Education Policy and UGC's Four Year Undergraduate Programme guidelines. The admissions for January 2025 admission cycle are open and aspirants can apply online following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in/> on IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in for which the last date is January 31, 2025.

There are a plethora of employment opportunities after undergoing this programme such as Food safety Supervisor/Manager in Food and Hospitality industry; Technical Officer in Quality Control department; Food safety officer/inspector in Regulatory bodies; Trainer/Counsellor in training/counselling bodies, Member of supply chain management team in retail chain/industry and self-employment as certifying professionals, counsellor, trainer, auditor, etc

"The aspirants who wish to make a career in the promising Food Safety profession must join the programme and become a food safety professional and contribute to the food safety culture", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

GDC Nowshera celebrates National Girl Child Day 2025



GDC Nowshera faculty and students during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Department of Sociology at GDC Nowshera proudly observed National Girl Child Day on Friday with a series of meaningful events aimed at raising awareness about the empowerment and rights of the girl child. The celebration brought together faculty and students, to reaffirm their commitment to create a society that values and supports girls in achieving their dreams. This year's program, themed 'Empowering Girls for a brighter tomorrow' emphasized the importance of equal opportunities for girls in education, safety, and personal growth. The event commenced with an inspir-

ing address by the college principal, Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad who emphasized the role of education in empowering young girls to overcome societal barriers. The event featured a talk by HOD Sociology, Dr. Ruhi Gupta who shared insights on the challenges faced by girls and the need for collective action to promote gender equality. A debate competition on the topic, "Empowered Girls, Empowered Nation," saw enthusiastic participation from students and poster-making contest highlighted the importance of girls' education and the fight against gender discrimination. The Faculty members and students participated in a dis-

cussion on the role of colleges in nurturing leadership and career aspirations among female students.

Dr. Sunil Dutt Sharma, Department of Dogri in his remarks stated that "National Girl Child Day is not just a celebration but a reminder of our responsibility as educators to provide an environment where girls can thrive. The whole event was coordinated by Dr. Tarun Gupta, Department of Sociology and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mohd. Saleem, HOD Chemistry. The event concluded with a pledge by students and faculty to advocate for gender equality and work towards empowering every girl child.

JU organizes awareness programme to celebrate National Girl Child Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the eve of National Girl Child Day, the Centre for Women's Studies today organised an awareness programme for the students of Government High School, Bhagwati Nagar, Canal Road Jammu.

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu in her lecture highlighted the importance of celebration of National Girl Child Day. She explained



Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, CWS JU addressing students.

the theme of this year i.e., "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future," and said that this day is dedicated to raising awareness about the rights, education and empowerment of the girl child. Further, she averred that education is not just a fundamental right rather; it is the foundation upon which girls can build their brighter futures for themselves, their families, and the community at large. Education is crucial for breaking the stereotypes and helping foster equality and empowerment. She also explained the various initiatives taken by the government, like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and scholarship schemes for the girls to promote their educa-

tion. While interacting with the students, she also gave details about various legal safeguards available for the girls, like Right to Education Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act etc.

Earlier Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Faculty Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the participants and briefed about the importance of National

Girl Child Day. Further, she said that the goal of this day's observance is to raise awareness of the various injustices that girls encounter in society. Additionally, the objective of this day is to increase awareness of the rights of girls and the significance of their education, health, nutrition, and safety among people nationwide.

A large number of students and teachers of the school very actively participated in the program. The students very actively gave various performances related to the theme in the form of songs, dance and poems etc.

The program was coordinated, and a vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Saranjit Kaur faculty, Centre for Women's Studies.