

VC Prof Sanjeev Jain unveils CUJ's 2026 Calendar-A Vibrant Tribute to Dogra Heritage

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, today unveiled the University's Wall Calendar for the year 2026 in the presence of Shri Mukesh Ji, Prant Pracharak, Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS), Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Parcharak, along with Deans and Heads of various Departments of the University.

The 2026 calendar stands as a visually rich and intellectually engaging tribute to the cultural, historical, and civilizational legacy of the Jammu region, traditionally known as Duggar Pradesh. Thoughtfully curated, the calendar presents a month-wise celebration of Dogra heritage, seamlessly blending striking visuals with concise educational narratives.

Each page offers insight into the region's history, art,



VC Prof. Sanjeev Jain unveiling the Central University of Jammu Wall Calendar-2026.

architecture, language, festivals, cuisine, landscapes, and spiritual traditions, reflecting the University's commitment to preserving and promoting regional identity through academic and cultural initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain emphasized that the calendar is not merely a timekeeping tool but a cultural document designed to sensitize students, scholars, and the wider public to the richness of Dogra traditions. He noted that such initiatives align with the

University's broader vision of integrating local heritage with higher education and public outreach.

The calendar opens in January with Dogra Women of Grace, celebrating traditional attire, dignity, and the contributions of iconic figures such as renowned poet Padma Sachdev. February captures the rhythmic vitality of Dogra Dance Forms, including Kud and Geetru, reflecting the collective spirit and folk traditions of the region.

March is dedicated to the Legacy of the Dogra

Kingdom, tracing the historic journey from Maharaja Gulab Singh, founder of the princely state in 1846, to the reformist vision of Maharaja Hari Singh. April highlights the artistic brilliance of Basohli Painting, renowned for its vibrant primary colors, expressive forms, and the distinctive use of beetle wings in ornamentation.

The spiritual landscape of the region comes alive in May with Purmandal (Chota Kashi), situated on the banks of the sacred Devika River. June showcases Dogra Cuisine, featuring traditional

delicacies such as Rajma Chawal and Kalaadi, integral to the region's culinary identity.

The martial legacy of Jammu is honored in July through Dogra Warriors, paying tribute to legendary figures such as Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, General Zorawar Singh, and Brigadier Rajinder Singh (MVC), whose valor shaped the region's history. August celebrates Dogri Language and Literature, acknowledging the contributions of literary stalwarts like Pandit Ramnath Shastri and the rich linguistic heritage of the Dogra people.

Architectural grandeur takes center stage in September, showcasing Dogra Architecture through landmarks such as the Mubarak Mandi Palace and Bahu Fort, reflecting a harmonious blend of aesthetics and strategic design. October explores the breathtaking

Valleys of Kishtwar and Bhandarwah, highlighting the sapphire mines of Paddar and the pristine landscapes of the Warwan Valley.

The calendar's final months embrace cultural and spiritual vibrancy, with November featuring the historic Jhiri Mela, commemorating sacrifice and agrarian traditions, while December concludes the year with Traditional Dogra Festivals such as Rut Raade and Bach Dua, symbolizing community bonding and seasonal celebrations.

The unveiling of the 2026 calendar reinforces the Central University of Jammu's role as a custodian of regional heritage and its dedication to cultural education under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The initiative stands as a meaningful bridge between academia and society, celebrating the timeless legacy of the Dogra land.

AJBRCEAK organises Cosco Ball Cricket Tournament

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association, Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) organized a Cosco Ball Cricket Tournament to honour the supreme sacrifice of Martyr Rajni Bala Ji, a teacher from District Kulgam. The event was held to promote unity, discipline, and patriotism among employees of the Kashmir Division.

The final match was played at Guru Tegh Bahadur Mini Stadium, Gole Gujral, Jammu, between the Srinagar and Bandipora district teams. After an exciting match, the Srinagar team emerged victorious with an impressive display of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Raj Kumar Attri, husband of Martyr Rajni Bala, and Surjeet Kumar, her brother, were the chief guests on the occasion. They presented trophies to the winning and run-

ner-up teams and appreciated the efforts of the organizers in keeping alive the memory of the brave martyr.

Several prominent social and community leaders were present, including Ramesh Baba, Sham Bason, Mohinder Bhagat, Sanjay Radha, Mohan Lal, Raj Kumar Raji, Sarpanch Prithpal Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Inderjeet Singh, Devi Ditta, Omkar Verma, R. L. Kaith, and Prithvi Singh.

The event was successfully conducted under the leadership of the organising committee headed by Anil Radhey, along with Hemraj Lakhotra, Vijay Kumar, Sunil Ramotra, Virender Mohan, Ram Krishan, and Arvind Kumar.

The organizers said such events will continue to be held to honour the sacrifice of Martyr Rajni Bala Ji and to promote unity and positive spirit among employees.

National-level Powerlifter calls on LG



LG, Manoj Sinha congratulating powerlifter Rakesh Kumar on his National Championship success.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Rakesh Kumar for his impressive performance at the National Powerlifting Championship 2025 and extended his best wishes for the upcoming championships.

Army organises Rifleman Aurangzeb Memorial Volleyball Tournament at Salani

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Indian Army continues its steadfast commitment to community development and youth engagement through sports by organising the Shaheed Rifleman Aurangzeb Memorial Volleyball Tournament at Salani village, located near the Line of Control in Poonch District. The tournament was inaugurated with great enthusiasm amid loud cheers from local residents under Operation Sadbhavana.

The tournament is being organised in the fond memory of Shaheed Rifleman Aurangzeb, who laid down his life in the service of the nation. His courage, sacrifice and



Army official with participating teams at Shaheed Rifleman Aurangzeb Memorial Volleyball Tournament at Salani village, Poonch.

unwavering dedication continue to inspire the youth of the region.

A total of eight teams from local volleyball clubs are participating in the tournament and will compete for the Championship Trophy. The matches will be played over the coming days, showcasing athletic skill, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship among

the participating teams.

This Army-supported sports initiative forms part of a broader outreach and youth engagement programme under Operation Sadbhavana. Such events encourage physical fitness and healthy competition while strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local community. In this historically

sensitive border region, these platforms foster mutual trust, discipline and positive interaction.

Through initiatives like the Rifleman Aurangzeb Memorial Volleyball Tournament, the Indian Army reaffirms its dedication to promoting goodwill, harmony and constructive engagement with residents of remote border areas.

Civil-Police friendly T20 Cricket Match organised



STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A Civil-Police Friendly T20 Cricket Match (leather ball) was on Tuesday organised at Sports Stadium, Doda by District Administration Doda in collaboration with the Police

Administration Doda with the objective of strengthening coordination, camaraderie and people-friendly policing.

The event was graced by the presence of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and

Commandant IRP 5th Battalion, Beoli Doda, Ifroz Ahmed who interacted with the players and spectators and appreciated the initiative as a positive step towards fostering mutual understanding and teamwork between the civil

and police administrations.

Officers from Civil and Police Administration actively participated in the match, while students, senior citizens and a large number of sports enthusiasts from the general public witnessed the match,

adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of sports in promoting discipline, physical fitness and unity and lauded the joint efforts of both administra-

tions in organising such a friendly sporting event.

The Commandant emphasized that sports provide an excellent platform for informal interaction, helping in building strong bonds, team spirit and public trust in a healthy and friendly environment.

In the match, the Civil Administration Doda, batting first, scored 197 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Chasing the target, the Police Administration Doda put up a strong performance and achieved 198 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in 17.2 overs thereby winning the match by 6 wickets.

Kirti scripts history, becomes 1st-ever woman Working Committee Member of JKCA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a groundbreaking moment for Jammu and Kashmir cricket, renowned sports journalist Kirti Dhar has scripted history by becoming the first-ever woman Working Committee Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) since its inception.

This pioneering appointment not only celebrates her unwavering dedication but also heralds a new era of inclusivity and empowerment



in regional sports governance.

For the past six years, Dhar

has been a tireless force in elevating cricket across every nook and corner of the Union Territory. Through her multifaceted roles in sports journalism, team coordination, and comprehensive event coverage, she has championed the sport with unparalleled passion and precision.

As a proud Working Committee Member and Coordinator for the Rainawari Cricket Club (RCC) - a flagship JKCA-affiliated entity - she spear-

heads the promotion of all JKCA tournaments, ensuring widespread engagement throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

Her incisive interviews with cricketing luminaries like BCCI President Mithun Manhas, former Test cricketer Irfan Pathan, JKCA officials like Member Administration Brig. Anil Gupta on talent hunts, and live reports from virtually every major cricket event have amplified voices and

stories that matter.

Representing JKCA-affiliated clubs at high-profile ceremonies, she boosts visibility for grassroots initiatives, while her coordination of RCC activities fosters unity and excellence on the field.

Dhar's activism extends to championing women's cricket and spearheading talent hunts, directly fueling grassroots development and nurturing the next generation of cricketers in Jammu and Kashmir: Her journey from

passionate journalist to trailblazing leader exemplifies resilience, vision, and an unyielding commitment to the beautiful game.

This milestone inspires countless young women in sports, proving that barriers are meant to be broken. JKCA's bold step forward promises a brighter, more equitable future.

Kirti is all set to attend the scheduled JKCA Working Committee Meeting on January 16, 2026.

D-Drama conducts 10-day Production-Oriented Theatre Workshop at Scottish Hall Academy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: D-Drama conducted a 10-day production-oriented theatre workshop at Scottish Hall Academy, Alexander Memorial School, Jammu, during the winter break from January 2 to 12, 2026.

The intensive workshop was held under the mentorship of renowned theatre practitioner Delight William Kler and aimed at nurturing creativity, confidence, and social awareness among students through theatre.

The workshop culminated in a powerful and thought-provoking theatrical produc-

National Integration Tour for GDC Poonch students culminates with flag-in ceremony at Nagrota

STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: National Integration Tour (NIT) for the students of Degree College, Poonch, organised by the Ace of Spade Division under the aegis of the White Knight Corps, successfully culminated on 12 January 2026 with the Flag-In Ceremony at Nagrota, marking the formal conclusion of the tour that commenced on 03 January 2026.

The Flag-In Ceremony was conducted in the august presence of the GOC White Knight Corps, who interacted with the students and lauded their enthusiasm, discipline, and keen interest throughout the tour. He emphasised the importance of youth engagement in nation-building and highlighted the role of such initiatives in fostering national

JKCA empowers J&K's deaf cricketers with kitbags, gear to shine for India

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a powerful display of inclusivity and commitment to grassroots talent, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has empowered two of J&K's rising deaf cricketers-wicketkeeper-batter Umar Ashraf Beigh and dynamic all-rounder Hilal Wani-with top-tier kitbags and cricketing equipment. This gesture equips them to represent India with distinction at the forthcoming Deaf Asia Cup 2026, set to ignite from January 18 at the iconic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha. Brig Anil Gupta, Member-Administration of JKCA, personally presented the premium gear during a heartfelt ceremony at the Pavilion Building, JKCA Hostel Ground, here today.

The thoughtfully curated kit includes two pairs of high-performance coloured batting pads, two superior-quality cricket bats, two pairs of professional cricket shoes, one wicketkeeping pad, one pair of wicketkeeping gloves, two pairs of elite batting gloves, and two durable quality kitbags-everything these athletes need to perform at their peak. Addressing the gathering, Brig Anil Gupta emphasized JKCA's unwavering resolve: "Under the visionary guidance of the BCCI and its President, Mr. Mithun Manhas, our Sub-Committee is dedicated to nurturing cricket at every level. We leave no stone unturned-or any talented player behind-ensuring that barriers like disability only fuel greater triumphs." His words resonated as a beacon for aspiring cricketers across the region, underscoring JKCA's role in fostering an equitable sporting ecosystem. Remarkably, the 16-member Indian squad boasts two proud representatives from J&K namely Umar Ashraf Beigh and Hilal Wani. Their selection not only honours their grit and skill but also spotlights J&K's burgeoning cricket legacy on the national stage. As these warriors gear up for the Asia Cup, JKCA's support reaffirms that true champions rise when opportunity meets preparation.

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The tournament is being organised in the fond memory of Shaheed Rifleman Aurangzeb, who laid down his life in the service of the nation. His courage, sacrifice and unwavering dedication continue to inspire the youth of the region. A total of eight teams from local volleyball clubs are participating in the tournament and will compete for the Championship Trophy. The matches will be played over the coming days, showcasing athletic skill, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship among the participating teams. This Army-supported sports initiative forms part of a broader outreach and youth engagement programme under Operation Sadbhavana. Such events encourage physical fitness and healthy competition while strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local community. In this historically sensitive border region, these platforms foster mutual trust, discipline and positive interaction. Through initiatives like the Rifleman Aurangzeb Memorial Volleyball Tournament, the Indian Army reaffirms its dedication to promoting goodwill, harmony and constructive engagement with residents of remote border areas.

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The Flag-In Ceremony was conducted in the august presence of the GOC White Knight Corps, who interacted with the students and lauded their enthusiasm, discipline, and keen interest throughout the tour. He emphasised the importance of youth engagement in nation-building and highlighted the role of such initiatives in fostering national integration and unity. During the tour, the students visited New Delhi, Agra and Amritsar, gaining invaluable exposure to India's democratic institutions, rich cultural heritage, and national security ethos. Key highlights included an interaction with the President of India, visits to the National War Memorial and Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, witnessing the Republic Day Parade rehearsal by NCC cadets, a visit to the

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