

## CUJ organizes event on 'Significance Collaborative Research in Social Sciences'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu organized the second session of Shiksha Shastrarth, a distinguished platform dedicated to fostering intellectual discourse in the field of education.

On this occasion, Dr. Pawan Kumar Burman, Associate Dean of Research at Central University of Jammu (CUJ), delivered a lecture on 'Research, Publication, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)'.

The event commenced with the welcome address by the Head of the Department Prof. Asit Mantry where he commend-



CUJ faculty along with resource person at the event.

ed the historic role of the ancient Indian practice of scholarly debates and dialogues known as Shastrarth in the field of intellectual pursuits and social progress and its role as an inspiration for this modern platform by the name of Shiksha Shastrarth (A forum for academic

Discourses) connecting students, scholars and the faculty members alike.

During his interaction with the research scholars and faculty members, Dr. Pawan Kumar delved into various significant areas crucial for cultivating a culture of healthy research within academic circles.

Some of the notable highlights included the emphasis on the role of collaborative efforts, academic autonomy, and integrity, interdisciplinary partnerships, etc. He also stressed the role of the innovative concept of Ph.d, Sandwich Programmes, emphasizing their value in providing scholars with diverse research experiences.

This approach involves periods of study at different institutions, contributing to a well-rounded and globally informed research perspective.

The session was very productive and finally concluded with question-answers focused on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Scholars engaged in a

meaningful dialogue with Dr Pawan, gaining valuable insights into the nuances of IPR in the context of academic research.

The event included the gracious presence of the Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, and faculty members Prof. J. N. Baliya, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Mohan, Dr. Aarushi, and Dr Anil along with the research scholars.

The organizational effort behind the success of the event was provided by the Co-curricular Committee of the Department consisting of Dr. Kiran, Dr. Yadram, Arvind Kumar, and Shivali Khajuria.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr Yad Ram.

## Heritage conservation a specialized field; should be dealt technically: Dulloo

### Reviews efforts of the department to conserve it

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday while taking the first hand appraisal of the measures to conserve and preserve the heritage remarked that the subject deserves to be dealt technically as it is a specialized field of interest. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Tourism and Culture; CEO, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Director Tourism, Kashmir/Jammu besides other concerned officers. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Department to explore the best way of heritage conservation by

engaging an experienced consultant, who has prior experience of carrying out such works. He asked them to look into the process elsewhere as that of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where conservation measures had been taken on large scale.

Dulloo also took note of the progress made on the protection and conservation works on Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex besides on the Sri Pratap Singh (SPS) Museum, Srinagar. He called on them to pace up the progress on such culturally significant projects. He asked for them to popularize the sites to increase the overall footfall to these campuses.

He discussed about the continuous funding and civil works being carried out here. He also took detailed review of all the 35 heritage sites taken up under the scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation & Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in J&K.

The Secretary, Tourism & Heritage, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah informed the meeting about the progress on all the ongoing projects and plans of the department to carryout projects to their completion. He also laid out the tasks being undertaken by the Department to promote all these places based on their culture value and significance.

## IIM Jammu hosts insightful NPS Subscriber Awareness Program

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu conducted highly informative and engaging National Pension System (NPS) Subscriber Awareness Program on the 13th of December 2023. The program was conducted by Sunny Gonsalves, Manager at Protean eGov Technologies Ltd-NSDL E Governance, aimed at enhancing the understanding of NPS among the faculty, officers, and staff of the Institute.

The event took place at the Chanakya Classroom of the IIM Jammu Permanent Campus and witnessed a significant turnout, with attendees eager to gain insights into the intricacies of the National Pension System. Shri Rajat Jain, FA-CAO, IIM Jammu, graced the occasion, further emphasizing the importance of financial litera-



Resource person Sunny Gonsalves speaking at awareness programme.

cy and retirement planning. The presence of Shri Rajat Jain added a special dimension to the event, underscoring the commitment of IIM Jammu to the financial well-being of its community. Sunny Gonsalves, an expert in the field, delivered an insightful presentation, covering various aspects of the NPS, including its features, benefits, and the procedure for enrollment. The program was designed to empower the participants with the

knowledge required to make informed decisions about their retirement planning and financial security.

Expressing his enthusiasm about the program, Shri Sunny Gonsalves said, "Financial literacy is crucial, and understanding the National Pension System is an integral part of planning for a secure future. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to share insights on NPS with the esteemed faculty and staff of IIM

Jammu."

The interactive session allowed participants to pose questions and engage in discussions, fostering a dynamic learning environment. IIM Jammu continues to prioritize initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of its stakeholders. The NPS Subscriber Awareness Program is another testament to the institute's dedication to providing valuable knowledge and resources to its faculty, officers, and staff.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Bank in collaboration with Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust (Regd.) organised an awareness camp-cum-workshop at Ward 56 Gangyal which was attended by a large number of people.

The camp was inaugurated by former Deputy Mayor JMC Baldev Singh Billawaria who appreciated the proceedings of the bank in day to day working and emphasized the bank reps to talk to the public in local language.

He also urged to keep on duty those employees who speak local language.

The awareness camp was organised to educate about the entire range of digital products of the bank.

Appreciating the J&K Bank role, former Deputy Mayor described such awareness camp-cum-workshop as a major step towards the well-being of the people and urged the people to avail the many benefits extended to them especially particularly govt. schemes through the Bank.

Billawaria said that these banks need a lot of help in digitalization. The former Deputy Mayor praised the banking sector for smoothly carrying out the integration process and providing service-



Former Dy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria speaking at a workshop.

es to customers even during the difficult times of the pandemic.

The Digital Marketing team gave a comprehensive presentation about the entire range of digital products of the Bank along with their benefits and processes. On the occasion, on-spot registration and activation of the Bank's easy, fast and secure app mPay was also done on the mobile phones of many residents.

J&K Bank officials advised the participants to be more conscious while transacting through online mode and not to share their ATM and credit card details with anyone under any circumstances, to protect themselves from cyber frauds.

Bank officials briefed the participants about key credit facilities, subsidy benefits and schemes including

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand-up India, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), and Credit Guarantee Fund

## PCJ pays rich tributes to Veteran Journalist, Rajesh Vidyarthi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Managing Committee of the Press Club of Jammu has expressed its profound shock and grief over the sad and untimely demise of Rajesh Vidyarthi, a veteran journalist and former member of the Managing Committee of the Press Club of Jammu.

A condolence meeting of the Managing Committee was convened here today, under the Chairmanship of the President, Sanjeev Pargal, where rich tributes

were paid to the departed colleague.

Among others, Vice President, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Secretary General, Dinesh Manhotra, Treasurer, Channi Anand and all the Executive members of the Committee were present.

The Committee members also observed two minute silence and prayed to the almighty God to bestow eternal peace to the noble soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

## IIT Jammu's Impact: Empowering Youth and Enhancing Rural Livelihoods



IIT Jammu faculty along with others at a programme.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "The Department of Continuing Education & Outreach at IIT Jammu, in collaboration with its Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell, welcomed 95 students from High School Dharamkot of Billawar, Kathua, UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The students were engaged in laboratory demonstrations at the Tinkerer's Lab, Central Workshop, and Physics lab, led by respective staff mem-

bers Israil and Gautam, Dr. Krishan Kumar and Aurl, and Sumit and Arjun.

During the sessions, students posed numerous questions, all of which were patiently addressed by the staff. Post their visit, Dr. Riya Bhowmik and Jeyoti Kaul interacted with the students and received a briefing about the academic and overall environment of the institute.

Later, Dr. Karan Nathwani conducted an

interactive session with the students, discussing the role of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in our daily lives.

The final session before their departure was hosted by Dr. Badri N Subudhi" as per the press release.

"Following this event, the Outreach team, comprising Prof. Rakesh Singhai, Dr. Riya Bhowmik, and Jeyoti Kaul, visited the village of Panjgrain to felicitate five higher secondary students from local schools who successfully completed the Computer Literacy Program at IIT Jammu's Computer labs.

This program was organized by the social club (Kritash) and UBA.

The felicitation ceremony also acknowledged ten trainees, primarily homemakers, who completed the Skill Training Program in

Screen Printing and are on the path to self-sufficiency; the ceremony took place in the presence of Thoru Ram, Sarpanch Panjgrain, and Akash, Branch Program Manager NRLM Nagrota" the release added.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "The Supreme Court judgement holding the abrogation of Article 370 as constitutionally valid and proper has finally set to rest all the apprehensions and speculations. It has made it unambiguously clear to everyone that the Constitution of India applies to Jammu and Kashmir fully, totally and in letter as well as in spirit," said Panun Kashmir Chairman Dr. Ajay Churungoo in a press conference, here on Wednesday.

"The judgement has unambiguously debunked the concept of internal sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir and validated the Constitutional powers of

President of India to abrogate Article 370, extend all provisions of Constitution of India to Jammu and Kashmir as well as reorganise Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories," Dr. Ajay Churungoo said adding that the judgement has brought immense joy and happiness to all of us.

"We have time and again said special status for Jammu and Kashmir through the aegis of Article 370 and 35-A had created a Muslim State of the territory of India. The Supreme Court's decision upholding the removal of Article 370 has dismantled for good the dejure edifice of this Muslim State," Dr. Ajay said.

## Govt should create Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Panun Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

"The judgement of Supreme Court justice S K Koul which forms the part of the wider SC Judgement has underlined that 'there was a mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits Community threatened for their life and property changing the very cultural ethos of Kashmir...there was a troubled situation on the ground level which was apparently not redressed. It culminated in the migration of one part of the population of the state in 1989-90... It was not a voluntary migration.' These comments should suffice to persuade GoI not to call religious cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits as Migration and decisively move to recognise the

Genocide inflicted on them. Recently when scores of Hindus living in Kashmir were selectively targeted and killed forcing the remnants of a few thousand Hindus living in the valley again to flee, the Supreme Court ignored the developments. When the Government forced them to return to the same dangerous conditions by threatening to stop their livelihood, the Supreme Court again chose not to take any notice" the release added. "We want that the suggestion of the Justice to the Government to create a truth and Reconciliation Commission to address the trouble has very little value for Hindus of Kashmir," he said.

## DB disposed of PIL regarding creation of Artificial Lake in River Tawi and Gandola Project

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Inderjeet Khajuria President All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association Jammu espouses public causes including creation of Artificial Lake in River Tawi and Gandola Project from Mubarakh Mandi to Bahu Fort, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N. Kotishwar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi disposed of the PIL.

While closing the PIL, Division Bench observed that from the reading of the status reports and also having regard to the directions issued by this Court from time to time, this Court is satisfied that the purpose, for which, the present PIL was filed, has been accomplished and therefore, we are of the considered opinion that no fruitful purpose will be served by keeping this PIL pending as the grievance projected herein has been redressed. The petitioner would be at liberty to approach this Court again or to seek revival of this petition in case any cause of action survives.

DB observed that the main grievance, amongst others

raised by the petitioner in this Public Interest Litigation, is to the effect that in the recent years, the flow of water has been decreasing owing to the pollution and increasing untreated sewage being dumped into the River Tawi. Keeping in view these problems, the Authorities concerned proposed construction of an artificial lake in river Tawi.

It is stated that the construction of an artificial lake in river Tawi and beautification of banks of river Tawi was perceived as a major step towards developing Jammu city and its surroundings as an independent tourist destination. But till date, Jammu city lacks any kind of an artificial lake and the concerned authorities seem to have been shying away from their responsibilities. The petitioner feeling aggrieved of the inaction on part of the respondents despite the fact that the scheme to initiate and execute the artificial lake in river tawi is centrally sponsored, wrote a letter to the Minister for Irrigation, Flood Control and PHE to know about the status of the artificial lake in river Tawi. In response to the letter of the petitioner, the Executive Engineer con-

cerned sent a reply. It is submitted that the said reply reveals admission on the part of the respondents for taking the project of artificial lake in river Tawi casually. The petitioner while agitating the issue with the concerned authorities regarding the construction of artificial lake in River Tawi could lay his hands on some relevant communications. It is submitted that the concerned authorities despite the fact that the funds stand allotted to them for pursuing the aforesaid project they have paid no heed to the public interest involved. It is stated that poor sanitation, foul smell and heaps of garbage including human waste and plastic has totally rotted the spirit of the morning/evening walkers and the natural beauty of river Tawi.

The instant petition aims at preservation of river Tawi as a natural tourist destination and in case it is not preserved, it will become a serious threat for natural resources of State.

In short, this public interest litigation relates to completion of the project of Artificial lake in river Tawi and laying down of the Gandola Project from Mubarakh Mandi to Bahu Fort, DB observed.

DB further observed that on

19.12.2022, this Court directed the AAG to file the latest/update status report. In compliance to the said order, the answering respondent has filed the latest status report.

It is stated that Administrative Approval has been accorded to the project vide G.O No. 150-JK(JSD) of 2022 dated 14.07.2022 and technical sanction was accorded vide order dated 22.07.2022.

The letter of intent in favour of the lowest bidder P&R infra projects ltd. was issued on 24.08.2022 and the work was formally allotted in favour of the said firm vide allotment order dated 07.09.2022. It is stated that the foundation stone for recommencement of the balance work of the tawi barrage was laid on 01.09.2022 and the work at site was started on 22.09.2022. Status report on behalf of the Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation has also been filed wherein it is stated that the work on the remedial measures of Sector-1 (Peerkho-Mahamaya) is expected to commence soon. Once the work is executed, the State technical committee shall be asked to give its recommendation for commencing of commercial operation. It is stated that at present both the Sections (i) and (ii) of the Jammu Ropeway Project have been completed and put to commercial operation. It is submitted that in terms of the said report the project undertaken by the answering respondent has been completed.

DB observed that looking to the detailed status reports filed by the respondents, it appears that enough and adequate steps have already been taken by the respondents and, therefore, we see no reason to further monitor this case and from the reading of the status reports and also having regard to the directions issued by this Court from time to time, this Court is satisfied that the purpose, for which, the present PIL was filed, has been accomplished and therefore, this Court is of the considered opinion that no fruitful purpose will be served by keeping this PIL pending as the grievance projected herein has been redressed. The petitioner would be at liberty to approach this Court again or to seek revival of this petition in case any cause of action survives. With these observations, Division Bench disposed of the PIL.

## Court awards seven years RI in 304-II

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 1st Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar Khurshheed-Ul-Islam awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment to Mukhtar Ahmad Shah in 304-II RPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

According to the police case that Gulzar Ahmad Mir S/o Wahab Mir R/o Gulab Bagh has stated that the deceased was his brother. He was having an orchard at Ahmadnager. On 06.06.2018 he had gone to irrigate the orchard. After offering Asar prayer at 5.30 p.m he asked his brother to get the cattle from the orchard, his brother took the cattle from the orchard and told him to remain in the orchard so that nobody stops the water supply to the orchard. After 10/15 minutes, the accused Mukhtar Ahmad Shah came to the orchard and he told him not to stop the water supply, he asked him whether the water is required to the paddy field or to the orchard. He replied that he is right but the government has issued an advisory not to cultivate the paddy this year due to scarcity of water. The accused Mukhtar Ahmad Shah did not agree and diverted the water towards his orchard. He informed his brother that the accused

Mukhtar Ahmad has diverted the water supply despite the objection raised by him. The deceased replied that he will be coming within five minutes on spot.

After five minutes, his deceased brother came on spot and asked him as to who has disconnected the water supply. He replied that it was the accused Mukhtar Shah who has disconnected the water supply, the deceased pushed the accused Mukhtar Ahmad Shah, on this incident the accused made a phone call to his home informing them to come immediately on spot, as the deceased has stopped the water. Two/four people came on spot and in the meantime two girls of the accused No. 3 &4 came and caught hold the hands of the deceased. The accused Mukhtar Shah told that they will eliminate both of the brothers. The accused Mukhtar Ahmad Shah gave a blow of lathi on the head of the deceased. He tried to save the deceased and while rescuing he received one blow of lathi on his hand.

1st Additional sessions Judge Srinagar Khurshheed Ul Islam after hearing both the sides observed that in the facts and circumstances of the case, on one hand an innocent life has been lost on the minor issue of irrigation of the field

and the blow which was inflicted on the head of the deceased was so severe that the deceased has died within a couple of days after the blow. The nature of the crime committed and the manner in which it was committed are the decisive factors to decide as to whether corrective measures should be adopted or a deterrence based approach would be befitting. The sentence must adhere to the principles of the proportionality of the punishment and to the gravity of offence as the injury was inflicted on the vital part of the body of the deceased. Undue sympathy and unwarranted leniency impair the cause of justice. The act of the accused falls under the category 304-II RPC, which provides the maximum punishment that may extend to 10 years or with fine or both. Whereas keeping in consideration the fact that the accused has no criminal background and is the only male member in the family and the manner in which the said offence was committed, the accused No.1 being convicted u/s 304-II is sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for seven years and fine of Rs. 10,000/- and in default of payment of fine, the accused will undergo further imprisonment of three months, Court ordered.