

Department of Botany, CUJ celebrates World Soil Day with series of events

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Botany, Cluster University of Jammu, marked World Soil Day with a vibrant celebration aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of soil health and its role in sustainable ecosystems.

The day commenced with a Plant Donation Drive, where students and faculty donated a variety of saplings to promote greenery and instill the spirit of conservation.

The initiative emphasized the need for afforestation and sustainable practices to combat soil degradation and mitigate climate change.



Faculty members along with students during the event.

In addition to the donation drive, a Debate Competition was organized, focusing on the theme "Caring for Soil-Measure, Monitor, and Manage". Participants showcased their oratory skills and exchanged thought-provoking ideas on the significance of soil conservation in addressing global environmental challenges.

Nikita, Anamika and Keshav won first, second and third prize. A Poster Making Competition was also conducted, allowing students to creatively express their perspectives on soil conservation.

Prof Sugandha Mahajan, Head of the Department of Botany, commended the participants and emphasized the critical role of soil in ensuring food security, sustaining biodiversity, and combating climate change.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and the distribution of prizes to the winners of the competitions. Among the faculty Dr. Isha Sharma, Dr. Arun Khajuria, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Dr. Vijay, Dr. Tassir and non-teaching faculty Deepika Charak and Parvinder Kaur were also present.

MP Gulam Ali condemns attack on Minority Community in Bangladesh

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, strongly condemned the recent attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh.

He termed the incidents as a blatant violation of human rights and a serious blow to the secular ethos of the region.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Khatana expressed deep anguish over the targeted violence, which included vandalism of temples, destruction of properties, and attacks on individuals. He urged the Bangladesh government to take immediate action against the perpetrators and ensure the safety and security of its minority population.



"Such incidents are not only an assault on the minority community but also on the values of tolerance and harmony. It is the responsibility of every nation to protect its citizens, regardless of their religious or ethnic background," Khatana said. The MP highlighted India's commitment to promoting regional peace and called for international organizations to step in and hold Bangladesh accountable for protecting its minorities.

"The global community must stand united against such heinous acts and ensure justice for the victims," he added. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of minorities worldwide, urging collective efforts to uphold communal harmony and peace.

Jan Aushadhi scheme signs MoU to expand affordable healthcare access for CAPFs, NSG & AR Personnel

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Ravi Dadhich, CEO, PMBI, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr. Vinod Kumar, ADG (Medical) for CAPFs, NSG & AR, Ministry of Home Affairs, at PMBI Head Office in New Delhi for expanding the affordable healthcare services through Jan Aushadhi. This partnership will facilitate the availability of Jan Aushadhi medicines at hospitals and medical establishments of CAPFs, NSG, and Assam Rifles, enhancing healthcare access for security personnel and their families across India.



Ravi Dadhich, CEO, PMBI, signing MoU with Dr. Vinod Kumar, ADG (Medical).

Anti Crime NGO Chairman Sham Lal meets SSPs to address rising drug menace in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a bid to curb the escalating drug menace in the Jammu region, Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman of the Anti Crime, NGO held a significant meeting with SSP Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu, Sanjay Parihar and SSP Crime Branch Jammu, Benam Tosh.

The meeting, held in Jammu, focused on the alarming rise in drug abuse among the youth and the measures needed to prevent their involvement in substance abuse.

During the meeting, Sham Lal Gupta expressed deep concern over the growing prevalence of drugs in the region, which has severely impacted the younger generation. He emphasized that the surge in substance abuse is not only a health crisis but also a significant social challenge that requires immediate intervention from all stakeholders, including law enforcement, civil society, and families.



Sham Lal Gupta, Chairman Anti Crime, NGO and others calling on SSP.

SSP Sanjay Parihar provided insights into the steps currently being taken by the Special Crime Wing to combat the issue. He elaborated on the ongoing anti-drug operations, intelligence gathering, and inter-agency collaborations aimed at disrupting the drug supply chain in Jammu. He also acknowledged the role of NGOs like the Anti-Crime in creating awareness and assisting law enforcement agencies in their efforts.

Benam Tosh, SSP Crime Branch Jammu, highlighted the importance of preventive measures to keep the youth from falling prey to drug addiction. He underlined the need for awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and local communities to educate young individuals about the dangers of substance abuse.

"We must address the root causes of drug addiction, including unemployment and peer pressure, while providing avenues for rehabilitation and skill development," he stated. Sham Lal Gupta assured full cooperation from the Anti Crime NGO in supporting the authorities through community-based initiatives, awareness drives, and counseling programs.

He proposed collaborative workshops involving students, parents, and teachers to create a unified front against the drug menace. The discussion also touched upon the establishment of hotlines for reporting drug-related activities and strengthening community policing to keep neighbourhoods safe.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to work collectively to safeguard the region's youth from the clutches of drugs. This crucial engagement between civil society and law enforcement serves as a step forward in addressing one of Jammu's most pressing challenges.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises poster, collage-making competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Red Ribbon Club of GCW Bhagwati Nagar organised a Poster-Making and Collage-Making Competition as part of its efforts to commemorate World AIDS Day under the mentorship of the Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol. The event aimed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, promote solidarity with those living with the condition, and encourage a stigma-free society.

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day, "Take The Rights Path: My Health My Right" inspired students to create powerful visual messages through their art. Participants showcased their creativity and understanding of the issue through vibrant posters and thought-provoking collages.



Faculty members along with students during the contest.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines, with each artwork reflecting a strong commitment to spreading awareness about HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of empathy.

In her address, Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol emphasized the significance of engaging youth in such initiatives, stating, "Awareness and education are crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Events like these empower young minds to become advocates of change." She urged the

work reflecting a strong commitment to spreading awareness about HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of empathy. In her address, Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol emphasized the significance of engaging youth in such initiatives, stating, "Awareness and education are crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Events like these empower young minds to become advocates of change." She urged the

work reflecting a strong commitment to spreading awareness about HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of empathy. In her address, Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol emphasized the significance of engaging youth in such initiatives, stating, "Awareness and education are crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Events like these empower young minds to become advocates of change." She urged the

work reflecting a strong commitment to spreading awareness about HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of empathy. In her address, Principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol emphasized the significance of engaging youth in such initiatives, stating, "Awareness and education are crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Events like these empower young minds to become advocates of change." She urged the

Sat visits Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre, hails their social services



BJP State President J&K Sat Sharma lighting the ceremonial lamp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State President J&K Sat Sharma, visited Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre (SCRC) in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and interacted with the Office Bearers of this social organization.

Sat Sharma was received and welcomed with presentation of bouquets amid chanting Bharat Mata Ki Jai. Prominent among those who accompanied Sat Sharma to the main stage, included Centre's Chairman Shubh Chander Verma, President Baldev Raj Gupta, General Secretary T C Taggar and Team District, besides President Jammu South BJP Rekha Mahajan, former corporator Surjit Choudhary, Dr Sumedha Mengi and others.

Sat Sharma, while expressing gratitude to the organization, said that senior citizens are the people who are rich enough with their past experiences of facing as well as dealing with odds and evens of life to conquer and can be best teachers, provided anyone sit with them, seek their advice to progress.

"It is really a great moment for me to be with the office bearers of an organization which is doing great service to the people through different ways", Sat Sharma said, while adding that "I salute their efforts for helping poor families, conducting free medical camps and organising daily basis yoga classes."

Sat Sharma said that senior citizens are real treasure of life experiences and one should feel pride in meeting them and learn realities and struggles of life to survive. He proposed collaborative workshops involving students, parents, and teachers to create a unified front against the drug menace. The discussion also touched upon the establishment of hotlines for reporting drug-related activities and strengthening community policing to keep neighbourhoods safe.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to work collectively to safeguard the region's youth from the clutches of drugs. This crucial engagement between civil society and law enforcement serves as a step forward in addressing one of Jammu's most pressing challenges.

With a coordinated approach, the region hopes to reclaim its future by empowering its youth and eliminating the scourge of drugs. Gupta along with ASI Naresh Digna, MC Bishnah Ex Councillor Sahil Gupta, Members Mukhtyar Saini, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Tushar Digna, Anshu Kumar, Rohit and others.

With a coordinated approach, the region hopes to reclaim its future by empowering its youth and eliminating the scourge of drugs. Gupta along with ASI Naresh Digna, MC Bishnah Ex Councillor Sahil Gupta, Members Mukhtyar Saini, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Tushar Digna, Anshu Kumar, Rohit and others.

With a coordinated approach, the region hopes to reclaim its future by empowering its youth and eliminating the scourge of drugs. Gupta along with ASI Naresh Digna, MC Bishnah Ex Councillor Sahil Gupta, Members Mukhtyar Saini, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Tushar Digna, Anshu Kumar, Rohit and others.

December 2024 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU going on smoothly

Special teams deployed to monitor Exams in Jails

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The December 2024 Term-end Examinations of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are being conducted across the Country including Jammu region and will conclude on 9th January, 2025.

Apart from the regular Examination Centres, Regional Centre Jammu has established Examination Centres in Jails as well. These Special Examination Centres are exclusively meant for jail inmates.

As a part of Prison Reforms, IGNOU has established a number of Learner Support Centres in prisons across the Country.

The prisoners are enrolled in various vocational and educational programmes for their social rehabilitation and also to enable them to earn their livelihood after their release from the prisons. In Jammu region, there are four Learner Support Centres in District Jail Anubhalla, District Jail Udhampur, District Jail Kathua and Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. The education through ODL mode is provided free of cost. Free of Cost Study Material is also provided to the inmates who are enrolled for IGNOU programmes.



Dr Sandeep Gupta ARD IGNOU alongwith Dharmendra Katoch Superintendent Jail at Exam Centre 1256D District Jail Udhampur.

Dr. Jai Prakash Verma informed that the first Special Jail Learner Support Centre was established in Jammu region in the year 1999 in District Jail Anphala which

was followed by the L&S in District Jail Udhampur in 2005 and the L&S in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal in 2007 and District Jail Kathua special L&S was established in 2011.

The all four Learner Support Centres in jails in Jammu region are also the Examination Centres for the ongoing December 2024 Term End Examinations and the officials of the Regional Centre have been deployed to monitor the conduct of examinations throughout the region by making surprise visits for on the spot assessment of the conduct of examinations, said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu. As a part of monitoring of examinations, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Assistant

Regional Director, visited the Examination Centre established in District Jail Udhampur today. Dharminder Singh Katoch, Superintendent Jail, who is the Coordinator of the IGNOU Centre in Udhampur Jail as well as the Centre Superintendent for the ongoing examinations there, apprised Dr. Sandeep about the conduct of examinations. Dr. Sandeep expressed satisfaction about the manner in which examinations were being conducted in a fair and smooth manner. Dr. Sandeep said that IGNOU makes arrangements for the prisoners' studies through ODL mode free of cost so that they earn academic qualifications during their jail tenure and get easy rehabilitation post release.

Dr. Sandeep expressed satisfaction about the manner in which examinations were being conducted in a fair and smooth manner. Dr. Sandeep said that IGNOU makes arrangements for the prisoners' studies through ODL mode free of cost so that they earn academic qualifications during their jail tenure and get easy rehabilitation post release.

Dr. Sandeep expressed satisfaction about the manner in which examinations were being conducted in a fair and smooth manner. Dr. Sandeep said that IGNOU makes arrangements for the prisoners' studies through ODL mode free of cost so that they earn academic qualifications during their jail tenure and get easy rehabilitation post release.

RNU Jammu celebrates 54th Foundation Day



their moral and professional skills. Deputy Director General (Engineering) Akashvani Jammu, J. Ravikantha

Head of Programs, Bachan Bhagat; and Engineering Head, Sanjay Koul presented awards to the winners. Mohammad Yousaf Ganai, former RNU head, who served from 1996 to 2000, was a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, DDG Ravikantha Babu congratulated the RNU Jammu team on turning 54. He said that RNU carries a huge legacy of authenticity and credibility, which is unparalleled and unmatched. He urged the

Head of Programs, Bachan Bhagat; and Engineering Head, Sanjay Koul presented awards to the winners. Mohammad Yousaf Ganai, former RNU head, who served from 1996 to 2000, was a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, DDG Ravikantha Babu congratulated the RNU Jammu team on turning 54. He said that RNU carries a huge legacy of authenticity and credibility, which is unparalleled and unmatched. He urged the

Head of Programs, Bachan Bhagat; and Engineering Head, Sanjay Koul presented awards to the winners. Mohammad Yousaf Ganai, former RNU head, who served from 1996 to 2000, was a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, DDG Ravikantha Babu congratulated the RNU Jammu team on turning 54. He said that RNU carries a huge legacy of authenticity and credibility, which is unparalleled and unmatched. He urged the

Head of Programs, Bachan Bhagat; and Engineering Head, Sanjay Koul presented awards to the winners. Mohammad Yousaf Ganai, former RNU head, who served from 1996 to 2000, was a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, DDG Ravikantha Babu congratulated the RNU Jammu team on turning 54. He said that RNU carries a huge legacy of authenticity and credibility, which is unparalleled and unmatched. He urged the

Head of Programs, Bachan Bhagat; and Engineering Head, Sanjay Koul presented awards to the winners. Mohammad Yousaf Ganai, former RNU head, who served from 1996 to 2000, was a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, DDG Ravikantha Babu congratulated the RNU Jammu team on turning 54. He said that RNU carries a huge legacy of authenticity and credibility, which is unparalleled and unmatched. He urged the