

CSIR-IIIM hosts Curtain Raiser for IISF 2025, showcasing innovation and scientific outreach



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM with other dignitaries and students at Curtain Raiser and Outreach Event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, organised the Curtain Raiser and Outreach Event of the 11th India International Science Festival (IISF)-2025, setting an enthusiastic tone for the prestigious national event scheduled to be held in Panchkula from 6-9 December 2025.

The programme began with a formal welcome and introduction, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Vice President, VIBHA (J&K) and Professor & former HoD, Department of Computer Science, University of Jammu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, presided over the function.

In his inspiring address, Prof. Abrol spoke about emerging and future technologies in which India has the potential to take global leadership. He emphasised the importance of innovative thinking to tackle social challenges through science and technology. Sharing his experiences and insightful perspectives, he encouraged students to expand their belief systems, think creatively and actively participate in national scientific platforms. He also urged them to visit the IISF website and register for the festival.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed expressed confidence that the visit to CSIR-IIIM's advanced laboratories would ignite scientific curiosity among students. Presenting a roadmap to contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, he highlighted the pivotal role of science and technology in resolving societal issues. He acknowledged the efforts of Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA) in promoting S&T culture in the region

and noted with satisfaction that as part of the outreach programme, over 1,000 students from various schools and universities visited CSIR-IIIM Jammu and its Srinagar branch. Through guided tours, students explored cutting-edge research facilities and ongoing innovations, aimed at nurturing future scientists and innovators.

Earlier, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Nodal Scientist, IISF, welcomed the gathering and stressed the significance of involving youth and the general public in S&T initiatives. An outreach video showcasing the mission and vision of IISF-2025 was also screened. The proceedings were conducted by Shafali Bhasin, Research Scholar, PSA Division, while Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head, RMBD&IT, proposed the formal vote of thanks.

GGM Science College shines with stellar literary & cultural triumphs



Principal Dr. (Prof.) Romesh Kumar Gupta felicitating winner students.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: GGM Science College continues its remarkable streak of excellence as its students delivered outstanding performances in prestigious inter-college literary and cultural events held on 29th November 2025.

In the Inter-College Debating Competition hosted during Ekartan, a vibrant literary fest organized by Stephen International School, Manmeet Kour and Jaspreet Singh emerged victorious, showcasing exceptional clarity of thought and oratory finesse. Adding to the college's glory, Zaigham Salaria once again proved his artistic talent by securing the third position in the Solo Dance Competition, captivating the audience with his expressive performance.

The success story continued at Govt. Degree College RS Pura, where GGM Science College students excelled in the Inter-College Poetry Recitation Competition. Karanveer Singh clinched the first position, while Aftab bagged the third, impressing the judges with their eloquence, rhythm and emotive delivery. Principal Dr. (Prof.) Romesh Kumar Gupta congratulated the star performers for bringing laurels to the institution. He also appreciated the efforts of the Literary Club Convener and the dedicated faculty for motivating students to participate in such enriching activities.

Sanjeev Gupta appointed Convenor Refugee Cell

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu unit announced the appointment of new Convenors and Co-Convenors for various District Cells.



The announcement was made by District President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, following consultations with Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and BJP State President J&K-UT, Sat Paul Sharma, General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Kaul, and Ved Sharma, Convenor BJP All Cells, J&K-UT.

In the Employee Cell, Jai Paul Sharma has been appointed as Convenor, while Ram Lal Bhagat and Vijay Kumar will serve as Co-Convenors. The Professional Cell will be led by Deepak Sharma as Convenor, supported by Co-Convenors Ravi Khajuria and Kuldeep Singh as Co-Convenors.

The Legal Cell will function under Convenor Adv. Abdul Hafeez, while Adv. Vinay Sharma and Adv. B. Arun Kandroo have been named Co-Convenors. The Refugee Cell will be steered by Convenor Sanjeev Gupta, supported by Co-Convenors Amit Gupta and Manmohan Sudan. For the Co-Operative Cell, Arun Khajuria will serve as Convenor, with Sunil Kumar Vaid and Sukhvir Kohli as Co-Convenors.

Ex-CPMF Welfare Association asks GoI to address long-pending grievances, ensure justice to retired CAPF personnel



Retired DIGP V. K. Sharma talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the occasion of the 61st Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF), V. K. Sharma, Retired DIGP and Chairman of the Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMF), paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the force. He extended heartfelt homage to all those who laid down their lives in service of the nation and saluted the courage of the Veer Naris, acknowledging their strength, resilience, and sacrifice.

Addressing a press conference today, Sharma praised the BSF for its unwavering vigilance, unmatched dedication, and steadfast commitment to the sovereignty and security of the country. He conveyed his congratulations to officers, subordinate officers, and jawans, reinforcing the significance

of the BSF's inspiring motto, "Duty Unto Death." Sharma, along with other senior members of the Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces, raised several pressing concerns affecting BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, and Assam Rifles personnel. He urged the Government to ensure that these directives are fully implemented across all Union Territories and states.

ing states and UT administrations to extend benefits to CAPF personnel on par with those given to ex-servicemen of the defence forces. He urged the Government to ensure that these directives are fully implemented across all Union Territories and states.

Indian Oil extends CSR support to SMVDSB Healthcare Initiatives

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: With a view to enhancing healthcare services and strengthening emergency medical response, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has extended vital support to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), Kakryal, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme implemented through the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).



CEO SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya flagging off Critical Care Ambulance.

from Cochlear Implant surgeries, getting them the priceless ability to hear and speak. The Blood Donation Van and Critical Care Ambulance were formally flagged off on Monday by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, in the presence of Dr. Mukesh Ranjan Das, Executive Director (HR), IOCL; Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO; Mahesh Sharma, FA/CAO, SMVDSB; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME; Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVDNSH; Arif Akhtar, GM (HR & CSR); Rakesh Roushan, GM (MS & CSR); IOCL Corporate Office, Delhi; besides, other senior officers of IOCL along with

factory and staff members of SMVDIME and SMVDNSH. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer expressed deep gratitude to IOCL for its generous CSR contribution aimed at augmenting the healthcare infrastructure of Shrine Board institutions. He emphasized that the provision of a Critical Care Ambulance and a Blood

Donation Van will greatly strengthen emergency response and blood collection services, ensuring timely medical assistance to patients and pilgrims in need. He further underscored that the addition of a Dialysis Unit and Hospital Beds will enhance patient care facilities, expand treatment capacity and provide greater comfort to those undergoing medical procedures besides, the support for the Cochlear Implant Programme will be truly life-changing for hearing impaired individuals.

He also highlighted that the contribution of specialized equipment such as a Polygraph Machine, Ergograph Machine and advanced Physiology Laboratory Equipment will significantly strengthen the teaching and research facilities at Medical College of SMVDIME, thereby enriching the quality of medical education and clinical practice.

Dr. Shamim Anjum of IGGDC Jammu re-elected as Executive Committee Member at IACDE NC

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a proud moment for IGGDC, Dr. Shamim Anjum has been re-elected as an Executive Committee Member at the prestigious Indian Association of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics (IACDE) National Conference held in Chandigarh. This marks his second consecutive term, reflecting the trust and recognition he continues to earn at the national level.



The conference, attended by leading academicians, clinicians, and researchers from across the country, witnessed an enthusiastic gathering celebrating advancements and leadership in the field of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics. Dr. Anjum's re-election stands as a testament to his consistent dedication, academic contribution, and

active involvement in the professional community. Dr. Shamim Anjum was applauded for her ongoing efforts to promote academic excellence and his commitment to strengthening national-level dental education and clinical standards. Colleagues from IGGDC and fellow professionals extended their heartfelt congratulations, acknowledging that her continued representation will bring further recognition and opportunities to the institution

IGGDC Jammu. The achievement also reflects positively on the Principal and Dean of IGGDC Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, whose constant encouragement, visionary leadership, and support for faculty development have played a pivotal role in shaping such accomplishments. Under the Principal's guidance, the institution continues to create an environment where academic growth, research involvement, and national-level participation are actively promoted.

With this second tenure on the Executive Committee, Dr. Shamim Anjum is expected to contribute significantly to upcoming national initiatives, academic programs, and policy-level decisions within the IACDE and representing IGGDC Jammu at National level.

Purnima accuses NC Govt of failure in combating drug crisis in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP spokesperson Adv. Purnima Sharma on Monday launched a sharp attack on the ruling National Conference, alleging that Jammu & Kashmir is facing an unprecedented drug crisis while the government "remains inactive and unaccountable." She said her remarks were based on publicly available figures and asserted that the situation had reached the level of a public-health emergency.



Sharma said that an estimated 13.5 lakh drug users, including 1.68 lakh minors, reflects the gravity of the crisis. She pointed out that over 95,000 youths are dependent on opioids, largely heroin, and noted that more than 25,000 addicts had been enrolled in OPD and IPD services in the last three years. These numbers, she said, show how rapidly drug dependence is spreading across the region. Referring to the Government's Standard Operating Procedure for Nasha Mukta Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies issued on December 20, 2023, Sharma said the SOP laid out clear benchmarks-such as monthly awareness drives, zero pending cases for six months, active Gram Sabhas and Youth Clubs, destruction of illicit crops and district-level monitoring. However, she claimed that the on-ground situation "remains grim," noting that no Urban Local Body ward has been certified drug-free, and only around 1,000 of the 4,000+ Panchayats have met the criteria. She stated that although 32

de-addiction centres operate in J&K, the number of drug users has continued to rise, which she attributed to the government's inability to dismantle deeper trafficking networks. According to her, "a de-addiction centre is not a dumping ground but requires long-term counselling, rehabilitation and strong monitoring-none of which the administration has ensured." Sharma also accused the NC of failing to deliver on its election manifesto pledges, saying the promised action plans, rehabilitation measures and crackdown initiatives "remain missing even after one and a half years in power." She urged immediate and coordinated efforts, stronger community participation, and strict enforcement to protect minors and break supply chains. "The NC government cannot abandon the youth of Jammu & Kashmir," she said. "Every day of silence is another life lost."

AAP Govt has failed to curb heroin trade in Punjab: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh has launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, alleging a complete failure to curb the sale and consumption of heroin in the state. Chugh's remarks came after videos and public announcements purportedly surfaced on social media claiming to identify alleged heroin sale centres across Punjab. Chugh said the situation had "exposed the hollow and deceptive claims" of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's government regarding its anti-drug campaign. He alleged that

"drug mafias are being promoted and protected" under the present regime. Intensifying his criticism, the BJP leader claimed that Punjab had increasingly become a state "run by gangsters and criminals," pointing to incidents of shoot-outs and rising extortion cases. He said a sense of fear was prevailing across the state due to what he described as the collapse of law and order. The Punjab government has yet to issue an official response to Chugh's allegations, though it has previously maintained that strong measures are being taken to combat drug trafficking and organized crime.

Vishwa Bharati hosts Science Exhibition



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vishwa Bharati Higher Secondary School Akalpur Morh, Jammu hosted a science exhibition that showcased the innovative minds of its young students. Students from various grades presented their research findings and practical applications of scientific concepts. From Shukrayaan to other mind-boggling experiments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and Social Studies, the exhibition offered a glimpse into the future of Science and Technology. The event was graced by Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal Govt. Degree College Ramkote, as the chief guest, Dr. Vijay Kumar Ganju, General Secretary Vishwa Bharati Women's Welfare Institution special guest along with the committee members of Vishwa Bharati Women Welfare Association Dr. S.K. Koul President of the

Association, Joginder Koul Treasurer Jammu units, Verender Krishen Dembi, eminent educationist and B.L. Saraf Member RAC. Chief Guest in his speech appreciated the effort made by the students and the faculty members. He further asserted that such types of exhibitions are very important to enhance the scientific taste and temperament of the students. Dr. S.K. Koul, President and School Principal Annapurna Koul extolled the students and science teachers for their endeavour to organize the whole event so magnanimously and providing a platform for young minds to explore the wonders of Science and inspiring future generations of scientists and innovators. The programme was anchored by Kanchan Bhat the cultural coordinator and concluded with the vote of thanks by Vice-Principal Sameer Bhat.

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