

CLUJ organizes Workshop on LOCF and Revised Postgraduate Programme Structure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) today organized a one-day workshop on the Learning Outcomes-Based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) and the revised structure of One-Year and Two-Year Postgraduate Programmes at the Conference Hall of GGM Science College, Jammu. The workshop was conducted in accordance with UGC guidelines and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, as part of preparatory measures for the implementation of revised one year and two year postgraduate programmes from the Academic Session 2026-27. The programme was presided over by the Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar inaugurated the workshop as Chief Guest.

Earlier, the workshop commenced with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Dean, Academic Affairs who outlined the objectives of



Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Dean Academic Affairs felicitating Prof. Mohammad Mobin, VC CLUS.

the programme. She emphasized that the transition to one-year and two-year postgraduate programmes necessitates clarity in learning outcomes, assessment strategies, and a thoughtful curriculum design, and expressed confidence that the workshop would help faculty align academic practices with national educational reforms.

Prof. Renu Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Jammu and Prof. J. N. Baliya, Department of Educational Studies, Central

University of Jammu were the Resource Persons.

In her address, Prof. Renu Nanda highlighted that the curriculum structure of the revised postgraduate programmes must be student-centric, engaging, and meaningful, with a strong emphasis on competencies, skills, and holistic development, in consonance with the vision of NEP 2020.

Deliberating on the Learning Outcomes-Based Curriculum Framework, Prof. J. N. Baliya underscored that Outcome-Based Education focuses on

clearly measurable knowledge, skills, and attitudes that learners are expected to attain by the end of their educational journey.

He further stressed that the LOCF of every programme should comprehensively include the vision and mission, graduate attributes, qualification descriptors, programme learning outcomes, and course learning outcomes, ensuring coherence, transparency, and academic rigor.

In his address as Chief Guest, Prof. Mohammad Mobin emphasized the need for academic rigor, flexibility, and coherence in postgraduate curricula under NEP 2020. He noted that the LOCF provides a robust framework to ensure comparability, quality, and transparency in higher education, while empowering institutions to design programmes responsive to learners' needs and societal demands.

In his presidential address, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar underscored the significance of outcome-based education in transforming higher education,

noting that LOCF is central to ensuring academic flexibility, skill orientation, interdisciplinary learning, and global competitiveness, in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Deans and Principals of constituent colleges, Directors of various university wings, Financial Advisor, Conveners of Boards of Studies, Heads and Coordinators of Postgraduate Programmes, and faculty members of PG schools and colleges.

The workshop was effectively coordinated by Prof. Zubair Kales, Dean, Faculty of Education. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Sugandha while Dr. Rajesh Kumar Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, presented the formal vote of thanks. The workshop concluded with an interactive session, reaffirming the University's collective commitment to strengthening postgraduate education under the NEP framework.

SSP Jammu distributes 10 wheelchairs to specially-abled persons



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh handing over Appreciation Certificate, gift to a volunteer.

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AKHNOOR: A Thana Divas programme was organised today at Police Station Akhnoor and was attended by prominent citizens of the area, including former Sarpanches and Panches. The programme was chaired by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, accompanied by SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma.

During the programme, the SSP Jammu distributed 10 wheelchairs to specially abled persons namely Suram Chand, Isher Dass, Sohan Lal, Amro Devi, Bhagvan Dass, Raman Kumar, Rekha Devi, Mukesh Kumar, Prem Nath and Nisha Devi. Additionally, two wheelchairs were provided under the banner of All J&K Disabled Welfare Trust, Akhnoor; as part of the Civic Action Programme. On the occasion, Appreciation Certificates and gifts were also presented to volunteers who rendered commendable services during the recent floods in Akhnoor Sub-Division. The recipients included Ramesh

Singh (son of Daler Singh), Sandokh Singh, Ramesh Singh (son of Avtar Singh), Nasib Lal, Showket, Deepak Kumar, Daljeet Singh, Ullam Singh, Joginder Singh, Balvinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Ashok Singh, Kashmir Singh, Pawan Singh, Daler Singh (son of Mangal Singh), Neeraj Sharma, Kali Dass and Kulbir Singh.

The programme was attended by SDPO Akhnoor; SHOs of Akhnoor; Gharota and Khour Police Stations, IC PPs and ICBPPs of Sub-Division Akhnoor.

During the interaction, local people raised issues such as traffic congestion in Akhnoor town, drug menace, and other miscellaneous public concerns. The SSP Jammu emphasized the importance of community participation in maintaining peace and law & order; assured the general public that their grievances would be resolved at the earliest, and directed the officers present on the spot to take the issue of traffic congestion seriously.

Rekha Mahajan praises Modi Govt for electoral integrity



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan speaking at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan strongly criticized Congress over his recent remarks on vote Chori and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) initiative, calling his statements baseless and politically motivated.

Rekha Mahajan along with BJP District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, speaking at a workshop organized at Kunjwani Mandal of BJP District Jammu South. The workshop was organized by Mandal President Ajay Partap Singh and attended by District Secretary Ranjeet Singh,

District General Secretary Vikram Charak, and a large number of party karyakartas.

Rekha Mahajan said, "Rahul Gandhi's allegations are completely unfounded and appear to be an attempt to undermine the democratic process. The Congress has consistently failed to ensure transparent elections, and such statements reflect their political opportunism."

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, electoral integrity and transparency have been strengthened, ensuring fair voting and accountability across the country," she asserted.

Addressing concerns regarding the SIR exercise, she clarified that the initiative, which focuses on updating and verifying electoral rolls, is crucial to ensuring that all eligible voters are accurately registered while preventing duplication or malpractice.

"The SIR process is transparent, fair, and independent of political influence. It reinforces the credibility of the democratic process in the country and guarantees that every eligible citizen can exercise their voting rights without hindrance," she added.

BJP District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia emphasized the importance of the SIR in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections conducted under the strict supervision of the Election Commission of India. He said, "The SIR process strengthens the democratic process and reinforces public confidence in elections."

General Secretary Vikram Charak presented a vote of thanks.

Book on Alpine Flora by JU Researcher unveiled at National Conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A two-day National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions, organized by the Department of Botany, University of Jammu (JU), was inaugurated with great academic fervour.

Dr Kanad Dass, Director, Botanical Survey of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while the function was presided over by Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu.

Prof Susheel Verma, Head, Department of Botany, delivered the welcome address, and Dr Sikander Pal, Organizing Secretary, presented an overview of the conference objectives and themes. Dr Geeta Sharma proposed the vote of thanks, while the proceedings were conducted by Dr Romika.

A major highlight of the inaugural session was the release of the book A Pictorial Guide to the Alpine Flora of Madhmaheshwar



Dr Kanad Dass, Director, Botanical Survey of India, VC JU Prof Umesh Rai and others releasing a book.

Valley, Uttarakhand by Dr Kanad Dass, Prof Umesh Rai, Prof Susheel Verma, and Dr Sikander Pal.

Authored by Dr Sunit Singh along with co-authors, the book presents comprehensive and updated information on the rich alpine plant diversity of the Madhmaheshwar Valley.

It documents 317 plant species belonging to 59 families of Gymnosperms and Angiosperms collected from elevations ranging between 3000 and 5100 meters. Notably, 22 vascular plant species recorded in the study

area fall under various threat categories of the IUCN Red List.

The book also provides an introduction to the Madhmaheshwar temple, highlighting the cultural and ecological significance of the region, and suggests strategies for conservation and sustainable management of alpine flora. Enriched with detailed descriptions, phenology, and vibrant colour photographs, it serves as a valuable resource for researchers, forestry professionals, nature lovers, and trekkers.

Although the floristic work focuses on Uttarakhand, the research compilation, analysis, and finalization were carried out in the Department of Botany, JU, under the mentorship of Prof Namrata Sharma, reflecting the department's strong research environment.

Among the authors, Dr Sunit Singh, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow under the Ministry of AYUSH at the University of Jammu, has a keen research interest in Alpine and Glacial flora of the Western Himalaya. He

has described four new plant species, including Allium jammuense, and reported several new records for Indian and Himalayan flora. Recently, he received the Best Paper Presentation Award at the IAAT International Conference in Kerala.

Several eminent scientists and academicians were present on the occasion, including Prof T N Lakhan Pal from Shimla, Dr Sangeeva Nayaka from NBRI Lucknow, Dr Arun Arya from the University of Baroda, Dr Amit Chawla from IIBT Palampur, Prof Anima Langer, Prof Sanjana Koul, Prof Seema Langer, Prof Namrata Sharma, Prof Venu Kaul, Prof Piyush Malaviya, Prof Pankaj Kumar, Prof Deepika, Dr Neeraj, Dr Sarbjit, Dr Ritu Mahajan, Dr Nisha Kapur, Dr Amit Gupta, Dr. Sajjan, Dr. Abhishek and Dr Komal, along with research scholars and students of the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Jammu.

GGM Science College hosts election awareness programme to strengthen democratic values



Principal GGM Science College, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta with others.

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JAMMU: Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu, organized a Comprehensive Election Awareness Programme with the aim of strengthening electoral literacy and reinforcing democratic values among students. The programme was conducted under the overall guidance of Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College, Jammu, and under the supervision of Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Nodal Officer for Election Awareness, Jammu Division. The initiative was organized in collaboration

with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the guidance of Salam Din, Deputy Election Officer, and supervised by Mohd Basharat, Data Entry Operator. The programme formed part of the broader mandate of the Election Commission of India to promote informed, ethical, and responsible participation of youth in the democratic process. The sessions focused on creating awareness about the importance of voting, voter registration procedures, ethical

electoral practices, and the crucial role of young citizens in sustaining a vibrant and inclusive democracy. A major highlight of the programme was the deployment of an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van on the college campus, which attracted enthusiastic participation from students.

Through engaging audio-visual presentations, interactive displays, and expert-led discussions, students were educated about voting rights, the electoral process, and the significance of free and fair elections. The interactive format encouraged active participation,

enabling students to ask questions and clarify doubts. While interacting with students, Dr. Ashaq Hussain emphasized that educational institutions play a pivotal role in nurturing informed and responsible voters. He stressed that youth participation forms the backbone of democracy and urged students to exercise their right to vote and motivate others to actively participate in elections.

Faculty members and students appreciated the initiative, describing it as informative, engaging, and especially beneficial for first-time voters. The programme concluded with students taking a pledge to uphold democratic values and contribute positively to nation-building through active civic engagement. GGM Science College, Jammu remains committed to promoting constitutional values, social responsibility, and civic awareness among its students.

DGPC Jammu to organize Seminar and Screening of Animated Movie "Chaar Sahibzade" on Dec 25 at Abhinav Theatre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC Jammu along with Surjit Singh Gen Secretary, Tejinder Singh & Harjeet Singh both members DGPC shared with media that to commemorate the supreme and unparalleled martyrdom of the four Sahibzadas, the revered sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj DGPC Jammu, is observing Safar-e-Shahadat Week from 21st December to 28th December 2025 in different Gurudwaras of Jammu District. Their extraordinary sacrifices continue to inspire humanity with the eternal values of faith, courage, righteousness, and resistance against injustice.

As part of these week-long commemorations, DGPC Jammu has planned a series of awareness and educational programmes across various Gurdwaras in the Jammu &



Vice President DGPC Jammu, Balvinder Singh talking to reporters.

Kashmir Union Territory, with special emphasis on sensitising the younger generation about the historical significance, moral strength, and spiritual legacy of the Sahibzadas.

In this connection, a one-day seminar and screening of the acclaimed Punjabi animated film "Chaar Sahibzade" will be organised on 25th December 2025 in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Jammu.

The seminar will be

addressed by eminent scholars and academicians, including Dr. Harjod Singh Ji from Punjabi University, Patiala; Dr. Sewak Singh Ji from Anandpur Sahib; and Dr. Harsimran Singh, Assistant Professor, University of Jammu. The speakers will highlight the supreme sacrifices, bravery, and timeless moral values exemplified by the Sahibzadas.

The seminar will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, followed by a lunch break from

1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The screening of the animated movie will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by tea thereafter.

The DGPC, Jammu, has appealed to people from all walks of life—especially students, youth, academicians, and civil society members—to participate in large numbers and pay homage to the Sahibzadas, whose martyrdom remains a timeless beacon of truth, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Workshop on Good Governance practices, wide ranging field activities held across Poonch District on Day 5

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POONCH: The 5th day of Good Governance Week under the nationwide initiative "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" was observed at the District Headquarters and across the sub-divisions and tehsils of district Poonch with active participation from multiple government departments.

On the occasion, a workshop was organised at the District Headquarters featuring informative stalls put up by Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Horticulture, Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Social Welfare, Municipal Committee, Revenue, Health, Employment, Labour, Handicrafts/ Handloom,



ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik and others at a meeting.

JPDCI and other departments. The stalls provided detailed information about government schemes, subsidies and beneficiary-oriented initiatives. Several online services were also delivered during the programme. A

large number of citizens from different areas of the district participated and availed the services.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik along with Assistant Commissioner Revenue,

Assistant Commissioner Development and other district officers inspected the stalls.

After the inspection, the Additional Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of all departments in the Conference Hall of the DC Office to discuss Good Governance practices. He encouraged officers to work with dedication, honesty, sincerity and integrity to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach up to the last mile.

The Agriculture and Horticulture Departments also disseminated information regarding departmental schemes, subsidies and farmer-oriented initiatives.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina has alleged that the issue of alleged harassment of Kashmiri students and workers outside Jammu and Kashmir is being deliberately weaponised for political gain. He stated that instead of acting responsibly, certain political parties, leaders, and affiliated student bodies are inflaming tensions through provocative and misleading statements, exaggerating minor and routine incidents into claims of persecution, while simultaneously defending or justifying involvement in serious crimes such as terrorism.

Raina described this approach as reckless and counterproductive, asserting that it does more harm than good.

He stressed that by constantly promoting a narrative of victimhood, such leaders discourage Kashmiri students and workers from behaving as responsible citizens and make their adjustment in other states

more difficult. Highlighting what he termed as double standards, Raina said that while respect for "local sentiments" is demanded from people coming to Kashmir, the same respect is often ignored when Kashmiris reside elsewhere in the country.

The BJP spokesperson alleged that incidents involving intimidation, physical altercations, faculty bias, and lack of institutional support faced by students from other states studying in Kashmir are frequently suppressed. According to him, many such students are forced to leave campuses due to insecurity, yet these incidents rarely attract outrage from the same political voices, exposing selective concern.

Raina acknowledged that verified incidents of harassment do occur; both within and outside Kashmir, especially during periods of heightened tension. However, he cautioned that blanket accusations and manufactured hysteria weaken genuine cases and create unnecessary fear. He also

raised questions about the credibility and political motives of certain organisations, including the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), which claim to receive frequent distress calls.

He further pointed out that police authorities in several states have clarified that measures such as tenant verification or questioning are routine security practices based on specific inputs and not acts of targeting. Raina noted that state governments and political leaders across party lines have consistently appealed for calm and assured the safety of students.

Emphasising that rights come with responsibilities, Raina said students and workers must respect local laws, customs, and national sentiment. He asserted that expectations of special treatment are unreasonable and urged leaders to promote responsible discourse, national unity, and restraint instead of fear-mongering and political exploitation.