

JU organises Induction program for B.Ed students

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, organised an Induction Programme for B.Ed students on December 8, 2025, as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations. The event began with student registration, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a soulful recitation of Saraswati Vandana, setting a serene and auspicious tone for the programme.

Prof. Md. Zubair Kales, Dean, Faculty of Education, Cluster University of Jammu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he spoke about the rapidly transforming landscape of education and technology and how these advancements are redefining learning experiences for future educators. He offered insightful moral



Prof. Md. Zubair Kales, Dean, Faculty of Education, CLUJ being honoured.

guidance, urging students to uphold integrity, responsibility, and empathy in both professional and personal spheres. Prof. Kales also congratulated CDOE on its recent affiliation with DEB and NCET, calling it a major milestone that will significantly strengthen teacher education in the region. A special "Miracle of Mind" meditation session was conducted by Guest of

Honour, Dr. Siya Malhotra. Drawing inspiration from spiritual leader Sadhguru, she guided students through simple yet powerful meditation techniques aimed at enhancing mindfulness, focus, and emotional well-being. She encouraged students to develop self-discipline, clarity of mind, and inner balance.

Dr. Sumita Sharma, Joint Registrar, CDOE, high-

lighted the crucial role teachers play in shaping young minds and motivated the new B.Ed batch to recognize their potential impact on future generations. Earlier, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director, CDOE, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the Centre's five decades of excellence, assuring students of a supportive, learner-centric environment.

Several distinguished members were felicitated during the ceremony for their contributions. Dr. Pooja Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all dignitaries, including Prof. Sandeep Tandon, Dr. Hina Abrol, Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Dr. Rajbeer Singh Sodhi, Dr. P. P. Singh, faculty members, students, and organizers. The formal proceedings were coordinated by Dr. Jaspal Singh, Associate Professor and Coordinator, B.Ed Programme.

The event concluded with the distribution of refreshments, marking a warm and inspiring beginning to the academic journey of the new B.Ed batch. Hosting duties were performed by Jasdeep Kour and Khushi from the B.Ed Programme.

SKUAST-J's Prof Poonam Parihar honoured for Excellence in Teaching

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JAMMU: Dr. Poonam Parihar, Professor in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education at SKUAST-Jammu, has been awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at the 12th International Conference on Emerging Issues in Agriculture, Food Technology, Biological & Applied Sciences for Global Development (EIAFTBAS-GD-2025), organized by the Agro Environmental Development Society (AEDS), Rampur, UP, and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur. The award recognizes her outstanding contributions in teaching, student guidance, and promoting entrepreneurship development and gender mainstreaming in agriculture.

Dr. Parihar has supervised numerous M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, authored two books,



contributed over 150 publications, and delivered talks on Agripreneurship and Gender-Smart Agriculture. She engages with rural communi-

ties, guiding women and youth toward self-reliance through SHGs, value addition, and agri-enterprises. She also serves as Vice President of the Royal Association for Science-Led Socio-Cultural Advancement and holds multiple awards, including Best Teacher Award, Bharat Jyoti Puraskar, Young Scientist Award, and others, reflecting her dedication to education, science, and societal upliftment.

MIET organises Fit India Week 2025

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JAMMU: The Fit India Week 2025, organised by the MIET, attracted tremendous enthusiasm and participation from students across departments. The week-long celebration, inaugurated at the Sports Hall jointly by Prof. Devanand Padha, Dean Academics; Sukomal Ganguly, Sports Officer MIET and Vishal Gupta, Convenor Sports Committee, in the presence of the Sports Committee members. Students are engaged in diverse range of sports and fitness activities, including TT, Pickleball, Futsal, Volleyball, Fitness Competition and Arm Wrestling. The event shall conclude with the Futsal final.

GDC Khour observes World AIDS Day 2025



GDC Khour students and faculty at a programme.

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KHOUR: Government Degree College Khour observed World AIDS Day 2025 by organizing an HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme under this year's global theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response." The event was conducted in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) and the J&K Health and Medical Education Department.

The programme aimed to educate and sensitize students about HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, treatment availability and the importance of social awareness. As part of the event, Poster Making and

Debate Competitions were organized on the theme. A large number of students actively participated, showcasing their creativity, critical thinking and understanding of the theme through impactful posters and powerful speeches.

Dr. Anil Kumar Dogra, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club, delivered a detailed and insightful presentation covering causes, transmission modes, preventive measures and the significance of timely diagnosis. He stressed the need to address disruptions, social misconceptions stigma and healthcare barriers that challenge the global AIDS response, urging students to promote compassion, scientific thinking and responsible

behaviour in society.

Principal of the college, Dr. T. K. Sharma personally graced the occasion and appreciated the efforts of both the students and the organizers. In his address, he praised the enthusiasm displayed by the youth and encouraged them to extend their awareness beyond the campus. Dr. Sharma urged students to become ambassadors of knowledge, spreading accurate information in their communities and contributing to a healthier and more responsible society.

The programme was smoothly coordinated by the Red Ribbon Club members and committee members of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, Dr. Chetan Sharma, Dr. SapnaNarania, Dr. Pooja Kumari and Prof. Sunil Kumar, whose efforts ensured the successful conduct of all activities.

Highlighting the spirit of the 2025 theme, the event emphasized empowering youth to overcome barriers and contribute meaningfully to a transformed, inclusive and stronger AIDS response.

Prof. Arya of SKUAST-J receives SCSI National fellowship award

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LUDHIANA: Prof. (Dr.) Vivak M. Arya, a distinguished soil scientist from SKUAST-Jammu, has been honoured with the prestigious National Fellowship Award during the 33rd National Conference on "Land and Water Management for Ecological Restoration and Agricultural Sustainability." The conference, hosted by the Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi (Punjab Chapter), was held from 08-10 December 2025 at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, and brought together over 300 delegates, including eminent agricultural experts from across the nation. The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries such as Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor, PAU Ludhiana, and Dr. B. R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU Hisar.

Prof. Arya received the



Dr. S.S. Gosal, Vice Chancellor, PAU Ludhiana, and Dr. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU Hisar, honoring Prof. (Dr.) Arya with the SCSI National fellowship award.

award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to climate change research, soil and water conservation, and natural resource management. His pioneering work in promoting real-

time nitrogen management through the Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) in Jammu & Kashmir has significantly reduced nitrogen losses and mitigated environmental pollution. He has also led

innovative scientific interventions for the rejuvenation of village ponds in the Lower Shivaliks and conducted impactful research on resource conservation technologies (RCTs), now

widely adopted to reduce sediment yield and nutrient loss in the region.

Presently, Prof. Arya is heading several prestigious externally funded projects supported by national agencies such as DBT-GoI, DST, and JKST&IC. His research spans soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics, microbiome characterization in temperate ecosystems, climate change impacts on natural resources, and macro-nutrient management in major cropping systems. With numerous publications in renowned international journals including Elsevier, Springer, and Taylor & Francis, he has established himself as a leading researcher.

Actively engaged in climate change awareness, training, and community outreach, Prof. Arya continues to benefit farming communities across Jammu, while many of his students have advanced to top global universities.

Ritika led BBBP Team visits Sunrise Public School

Emphasizes importance of girls' education, role they play in shaping a brighter future for India

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JAMMU: Ritika Trehan, Convener of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, BJP Jammu & Kashmir State (UT), along with Co-Convenors Sarojni Sharma, Indu Puri, Saroj Manhas, and Arti, visited Sunrise Public School, Channi Himmat, and organized an awareness camp for students. The event focused on promoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives for the empowerment of girls and youth, with special emphasis on the flagship scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

During the session, the team interacted with students, highlighting the importance of girls' education and their role in shaping a progressive future. Students were informed about the positive impact of the scheme, including the improvement in sex ratio and increased enrollment of girls in schools across India. The students responded enthusiastically, pledging to support the cause and act as ambassadors, spreading awareness about girls' education and empowerment in their communities.



Ritika Trehan, Convener BBBP, BJP J&K UT with students and others.

Ritika Trehan appreciated the students' commitment and said, "The enthusiasm and participation of the students were truly heartening. Initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have significantly improved the sex ratio and girls' enrollment in schools. With active support from our youth, we can further accelerate this progress. I urge all stakeholders to join us in building a more

inclusive and progressive society where every girl child can thrive and achieve her full potential."

The visit aimed to empower young minds, encouraging them to actively participate in nation-building while creating awareness about government schemes. The team lauded the students for their energy and dedication and motivated them to continue contributing

to the empowerment of girls and women, reinforcing the importance of education, equality, and social responsibility in shaping India's future.

The event marked a significant step towards fostering gender equality, youth participation, and social awareness in the community, inspiring students to become proactive contributors to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao movement.

GDC Hiranagar leads J&K's representation as Jury for Smart India Hackathon 2025 Grand Finale

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KATHUA: Government Degree College Hiranagar has registered a proud achievement as its Principal and faculty members have been nominated by the Higher Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir, to serve as Jury/Evaluators for the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 Grand Finale, scheduled for 8-9 December 2025 at Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad.

Smart India Hackathon, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell under AICTE, is among the country's most prestigious platforms encouraging innovation and problem-solving among students.

The nomination of GDC Hiranagar's academic

team marks a significant moment for the institution, underscoring its growing contribution to national innovation forums. Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal GDC Hiranagar, has been selected as the Team Coordinator, accompanied by experienced faculty members from the college. Their participation showcases the academic strength, research culture, and forward-looking vision nurtured within the institution.

Adding to the sense of pride, three of the five problem statements selected from Jammu & Kashmir for the SIH Grand Finale have been proposed by GDC Hiranagar. Dr. Sheikh

Ajaz Bashir, Director Colleges, graced the event as Guest of Honour.

His continuous encouragement towards fostering innovation-oriented teaching and learning has been instrumental in enabling institutions like GDC Hiranagar to secure opportunities on platforms of national prominence. His guidance has strengthened J&K's presence in academic and technological initiatives, inspiring faculty and students across the UT.

During the Grand Finale, the nominated faculty members from GDC Hiranagar will evaluate innovative solutions presented by student teams from diverse regions of the country.

Red Fort blast: Delhi court extends NIA custody of 3 doctors, preacher by 4 days

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday extended the NIA custody of three doctors and a preacher, who were arrested in connection with the November 10 Red Fort blast case, by four days.

All four accused -- Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheena Saeed and Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay -- were produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra on the expiry of their 10-day NIA custody granted on November 29. Mediapersons were barred from covering the court proceedings, which were held under tight security in and around the Patiala House district court premises.

Till now, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made seven arrests in the case, which

is linked to a 'white-collar' terror module busted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across states in coordination with the respective police forces to identify and track the others involved in the gruesome attack," the agency said in a statement earlier.

Dr Umar-un-Nabi was driving the explosives-laden i20 car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people and injuring several others.

PTI had earlier reported that the sophisticated terror module spearheaded by a group of doctors had been actively scouting for a suicide bomber since last year, with Umar being the alleged key planner.

GGM Science College organizes seminar on Indian Knowledge System and NEP-2020

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GGM Science College, Jammu organized an insightful seminar on "Indian Knowledge System and NEP-2020: Reviving Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges", bringing together faculty and students to deepen their understanding of India's rich intellectual traditions and their relevance in contemporary education.

Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College in presence of Resource Person Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Ex Director and founding faculty, Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Central University of Jammu, Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Convener, NEP implementation committee, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, UGC NEP SAARTHI Coordinator, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Dr. B.P.



GGM Science College students with dignitaries.

Singh, Dr. Mateen Hafiz, Prof. Kiran Bala, Dr. Ajay Singh Dadwal, and Dr. Bal Krishan.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College, addressed the gathering and appreciated the efforts of the organizing team. He highlighted the importance of such seminars in enriching academic discourse and aligning institutional practices with

NEP-2020. He encouraged students and faculty to explore India's ancient knowledge heritage as a source of inspiration for innovative and sustainable solutions.

In her welcome address, Dr. Vandana Khajuria underscored the importance of integrating India's rich traditional knowledge systems into contemporary curricula, as envisioned in

the National Education Policy 2020. She emphasized the need to reconnect with indigenous wisdom to effectively address modern academic and societal challenges.

At the Outset, Dr. Pankaj Gupta introduced the theme of the seminar and offered a brief introduction of the title, explaining its contemporary relevance and the need to draw upon ancient

wisdom to address modern global challenges. His remarks set the tone for the academic deliberations that followed.

Dr. B.P. Singh introduced the Resource Person, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, a distinguished scholar known for his contributions to the field of Indian Knowledge Systems. In his introduction, he underscored Dr. Singh's expertise and his commitment to promoting the essence of Indian Knowledge system (IKS) in higher education.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh elaborated on the philosophical foundations, scientific advancements, and pedagogical practices of ancient India.

He explained how NEP-2020 encourages the revival of holistic learning, multi-disciplinary approaches, and value-based education rooted in the IKS.

His session offered deep

insights into integrating traditional wisdom with modern scientific understanding to meet emerging global challenges.

Among student participants who spoke during the seminar were Maninder Singh, Neha Devi and Mohd Jameel and the proceedings of the event were nicely conducted by Amir Altaf.

The event concluded with an interactive session, during which participants engaged in meaningful discussions with the Resource Person. The seminar was well received and marked a significant step toward strengthening the understanding and implementation of Indian Knowledge Systems in higher education.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mateen Hafiz, expressing gratitude to the panellists, participants, and organizers for their contributions to the event's success.