

Three schools from J&K and Ladakh recognised at Wipro Earthian Awards 2024

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JAMMU: Wipro Limited, a leading technology services and consulting company, held the 14th edition of Wipro earthian Awards for the year 2024 recently, at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. The awards are a conclusion of an annual program designed to foster integrated sustainability education and recognize Indian schools and colleges that actively promote sustainable action and thinking.

Winners from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh:

Government Boys Higher Secondary school, Manigam, Jammu & Kashmir: The school from the valley of Kashmir produced an award-winning submission on solid waste. The struggle to manage the growing issue of solid waste was well represented and documented by the students. The difference between linear disposal of waste, and circular recycling/reuse management was well represented by them. They developed a good understanding of the solid waste journey in the local area.

Lamdon School (Tsang



Winners schools from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh receiving awards.

Chu), Ladakh: The school team brought in a different perspective on water management in the cold desert environment of Ladakh. Similar to hot deserts, water is in short supply there. However, the requirement is less, due to the low temperatures. Water management remains an issue. Challenges of storage and distribution were highlighted by the team.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Leh, Ladakh: The team documented changes in the attitudes of people. There is increased awareness due to climate change. The team explored how ice stupas play an important role in the conservation of glacial water. Climate change is causing

huge disruptions in people's day-to-day lives. Drip and sprinkler irrigation is practiced on the campus. The school is residential. Therefore, water consumption is higher than a day school.

Anurag Behar, Chief Executive Officer, Azim Premji Foundation, and Narayan P.S., Global Head of Sustainability and Social Initiatives, Wipro Limited, and Managing Trustee, Wipro Foundation, felicitated the winning teams with certificates and cash prizes.

Narayan P.S., Global Head of Sustainability and Social Initiatives, Wipro Limited, and Managing Trustee, Wipro Foundation, said,

"The annual Wipro earthian awards is the culmination of the 14th edition of Wipro's long-running program that seeks to ignite interest and foster learning in young minds on humanity's unique relationship with nature. Bringing students and teachers together from schools spread across the country, the Wipro earthian program is designed to generate action-based learning that celebrates the underlying connectedness of the individual with the larger fabric of community and nature. We continue to be inspired by the spirit of resilience and optimism we see in our young citizens as they get ready to face the

multiple challenges of sustainable development the world faces."

The Wipro earthian program is one of India's largest sustainability education programs for schools and colleges. The 2024 edition of this program received over 1,500 project submissions, of which 23 winning and 43 shortlisted entries were selected by an independent jury. The teams from the winning schools demonstrated a deep understanding of biodiversity, waste and water, through a combination of activity-based learning programs and written essays.

Since 2011, Wipro earthian has engaged with over 50,000 schools, 4,000 colleges, 2,00,000 students, and 40,000 teachers. This year, participation remained high with more than 1,500 submissions from schools and over 700 from colleges. Support from Wipro's education partners, including CEE, CPREEC, Wild Ecologues, IIT Madras, IIM Bangalore, state governments, and educators in the SEN, has expanded the program's reach.

JU organises training program on Plant Root Architecture Analysis



JU officials along with participants posing for photograph.

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JAMMU: The Department of Botany, University of Jammu, successfully organised a one-day training program on "Plant Root Architecture Analysis for Climate Resilience" under the DST-Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) project of Dr. Sikander Pal, Principal Investigator. The program, organized as part of the Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) initiative of the Government of India, aimed to provide research training to faculty and scholars from the region, promoting expertise in climate resilience studies within plant sciences.

The event commenced with an invited lecture by Prof. Gurdev Chand, Head of the Plant Physiology Division, SKUAST-Jammu, followed by an interactive session on trait identification for conventional versus molecular breeding. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest. In her address, Prof. Rohmetra emphasized the significance of such training programs in enhancing research capabilities, particularly in understanding climate change responses in crop systems.

Earlier, Prof. Susheel Verma, Head, Department of Botany, welcomed the partici-

pants and extended his gratitude to the Chief Guest and Prof. Namrata Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, who attended as the Guest of Honor. Prof. Verma highlighted the importance of plant root trait analysis in agricultural research.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Namrata Sharma encouraged the participants to adopt advanced research methodologies in their respective domains.

The practical sessions were led by Dr. Sikander Pal alongside a team of Plant Physiology Lab scholars-Prakriti, Bhuvneshwari, Rehana, and Shamli. Participants were trained in advanced root analysis techniques using specialized software, including ImageJ, Rhizo Vision Explorer, RootScan, WinRhizo, and RootSOFT.

The program successfully enriched the knowledge of 40 participants, comprising faculty and scholars from various universities and colleges across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. The event was attended by Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Prof. Jyoti Wakhlu, Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Rakesh, Dr. Skarma Nonzom, and Dr. Ripudaman, who engaged in discussions on the relevance of root architecture research in modern agriculture.

Kakora Cricket League concludes; DSK Mafia XI wins trophy



Army official handing over trophy to winner team.

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RAJOURI: The Kakora Cricket League (KCL) 2025 culminated in a thrilling final match at the breathtaking Kaniyal Gali Cricket Ground, delivering an electrifying contest between Mafia X1 and DSK Mafia X1, wherein Mafia X1 put up a total of 90/10 in 11.4 overs. Their innings was driven by an explosive knock from Mohd Sami (34 off 18 balls, SR 188.8) and a solid contribution from Fazan (14 off 7 balls, SR 200.0). However, disciplined bowling from DSK X1, led by Pervaiz Ahmed and Mukhtar Prince, kept

them in check.

Chasing 91, DSK dominated with a stunning innings from their captain Rukhsar Anjum, who played a match-winning knock of 80 runs off 41 balls at a strike rate of 195.1. Supported by Anaz Khan (26 off 4 balls), DSK comfortably secured victory at 94/1 in 11.4 overs, lifting the KCL 2025 Trophy in style.

The grand finale was a testament to the fierce competition and sportsmanship that defined KCL 2025, organized by Indian Army. Cricket fans can now look forward to even bigger and better action in next year's edition.

SBI enhances amenities at GGHS Resham Garh Colony

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JAMMU: In a significant effort to improve sanitation facilities at the school, the State Bank of India (SBI) has made a noteworthy contribution to the enhancement of amenities at the Government Girls High School Resham Garh Colony in Jammu. As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, the bank has renovated the girls toilets and installed a rooftop water tank. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Kumar Jee Raina, the Regional Manager of SBI. In his speech, Mr. Raina highlighted the bank's acknowledgment of the crucial role that education plays in shaping the future of society. Mrs. Chanchal Khajuria, the Principal of the Government Primary School, expressed her sincere gratitude to SBI for their generous assistance, emphasizing that such initiatives not only improve facilities but also inspire students to engage more fervently with their education. Also present were Mr. Vishesh Garg, Branch Manager of the SBI Shakti Nagar Branch, along with the school's teaching staff.

IIT Jammu hosts workshop on Modern Pedagogical Techniques for Student-Centric Learning in Engineering Education

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu hosted a two-day workshop on 'Modern Pedagogical Techniques Emphasizing Student-Centric Learning in Engineering Education.'

The workshop aimed at equipping educators and research scholars with innovative teaching methodologies that enhance student engagement, active learning, and skill development-critical aspects of modern education.

The workshop was graced by distinguished academicians, including Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, Vice President, Indian National Academy of Engineering; Prof. C. S. Upadhyay, Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Abhay Sharma, Dean, Education and Outreach, IIT Jammu; and Dr. Chembolu Vinay, PIC, Centre for Essential Skills (CES), IIT Jammu.

Their presence and insights added significant value to the discussions on contemporary pedagogical strategies.



Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu and others after the workshop.

The first day commenced with a session on Teaching and Learning Styles, led by Prof. C. S. Upadhyay, where participants explored different pedagogical approaches to enhance teaching effectiveness.

This was followed by a session on the importance of soft skills in professional success, conducted by Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti.

In an engaging discussion, he emphasized the significance of communication, collaboration, and adaptability in the rapidly evolving professional landscape.

Dr. Sanchita Srivastava from IIT Jammu took the stage for the session on Learner's Development and

Educational Psychology, providing insights into cognitive and emotional aspects of student learning.

This was followed by an interactive session on Effective Presentation Skills, conducted by Dr. Gaurav Ashok Bhaduri, who highlighted the role of visual aids and communication techniques in teaching.

The day concluded with an exciting breakout session where participants engaged in discussions on key aspects of engineering education, including assessment techniques, hybrid learning models, student attention spans, and cognitive aspects of pedagogy.

The second day of the

workshop began with an insightful session on Leadership in Pedagogy, led by Prof. Bijoy Boruah from IIT Jammu. He underscored the importance of educators as leaders who inspire students and shape their academic journeys.

This was followed by a session on Inclusive and Equitable Education by Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, who shed light on bridging regional and cultural gaps in learning to create an equitable educational environment.

The event also featured an engaging participant brainstorming session, where attendees collaborated to develop innovative ideas for enhancing student engage-

ment in engineering education. Later, groups presented their insights, which were evaluated by an esteemed panel comprising Prof. Abhay Sharma, Dr. Sanchita Srivastava, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal from IIT Jammu.

The workshop concluded on a high note, leaving participants enriched with practical insights into modern teaching methodologies.

During Valedictory, Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti joined for certificate distribution. IIT Jammu continues to uphold its commitment to academic excellence and student-centric learning, reinforcing its role as a leader in engineering education.

GDC Kunjwani organises First-Aid Awareness and Youth Red Cross Program in collaboration with IRCS



Faculty members along with faculty members during the programme.

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JAMMU: In an initiative to promote health awareness and empower youth with life-saving skills, Govt. Degree College Kunjwani/Sainik Colony, under the aegis of Shikshat Bharat successfully organized a First-Aid Awareness session and Youth Red Cross program, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

The event was organized under the guidance and coordination of Dr. Manisha Sarup Kohli, Principal of the College and was aimed to equip students & staff with essential first-aid knowledge and the importance of humanitarian work.

The program began with a welcome address from Prof. Risha Kumari, Assistant Professor, who emphasized the significance of quick and effective first-aid response during emergencies.

"Being equipped with first-aid skills is not only essential

for personal safety but also crucial for helping others in times of need," she said.

Dr. Manpreet Kour, Medical Officer and Vironica Marwah, Field Officer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, conducted informative and interactive sessions during the event.

Dr. Manpreet Kour provided valuable insights into first-aid techniques and emergency medical responses, while Marwah highlighted the role of youth in humanitarian services through the Youth Red Cross Programme.

The event emphasized the significance of basic first-aid knowledge, stressing how it can save lives in critical situations.

The participants engaged in hands-on activities to practice first-aid techniques under expert guidance. Students were also introduced to the Youth Red Cross, an initiative that

empowers young people to contribute to society through voluntary services and humanitarian efforts.

The programme was a resounding success, with active participation from students and faculty members. It served as an excellent platform to instill a sense of responsibility among the youth, preparing them to act confidently in emergencies and contribute to community welfare.

The college administration expressed gratitude to the Indian Red Cross Society for their support in organizing the event and reiterated the importance of such programmes in building a more prepared and compassionate society.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Ramnik Kour. The organizing committee of the event includes Prof. Baljinder Kour, Dr. Rohini Jamwal, Dr. Ramnik Kour and Prof. Risha Kumari.

Shikara March marks 2nd Day of Srinagar Heritage Festival 'Soun Meeraas'

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SRINAGAR: On the 2nd day of Srinagar Heritage Festival-"Soun Meeraas" an initiative of District Administration Srinagar, a traditional Shikara March showcasing unique cultural richness and historical heritage of Kashmir Valley was held on Wednesday here in the world famous Dal Lake. The event organized by District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts was aimed at acquainting the young generation about the values of rich cultural heritage and tradition of Srinagar. During the event, the tourists and local people cherished the live demonstrations of the Floating Market in Dal Lake exhibiting living proof of Kashmiri culture of past times, when local farmers and artisans would sell their products and crafts directly from their boats. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, other senior Officers and Officials of District Administration Srinagar and IGNCA were present on the occasion.

Army organises Volleyball Competition at Kijai



Army officer handing over trophy to winner team.

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KISHTWAR: As part of its continued efforts to engage with youth and nurturing their sports talent, Indian Army, organised Volleyball Competition for the local youth at Kijai, District Kishtwar. The competition aimed to build a bond between youth and the Indian Army while fostering a spirit of healthy competition. A total of five teams participated and four matches were played. The final match was held between Kundal and Himalayan team in which Himalayan emerged victorious. More than 60 locals participated and witnessed the competition. The competition culminated with felicitation of the winners and runner-up teams. All the participants thanked the Army for organising the event and expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers (Batch II) concludes at IIM Jammu

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the valedictory ceremony of the three-day trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's young leaders on Wednesday.

The event, held at the Prahalad Classroom, marked the culmination of a transformative three-day program designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the scenic lower Himalayas.

The program featured seven meticulously designed sessions focusing on themes such as team building, conflict resolution, strategic thinking, sustainability, and digital transformation.

A key highlight of the program was a trekking expedition to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, which offered participants a unique platform for field-based experiential learning.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with a welcome, followed by a detailed program report presented by Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Participants shared their reflections of their jour-



Dignitaries during the programme.

ney, highlighting the program's role in enhancing their leadership capabilities and personal growth.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Program Director, IIM Jammu, appreciated the participants for their valuable feedback and emphasized that this marks the beginning of a long-lasting relationship.

He expressed hope that the bond formed here would extend for a lifetime, as the participants are now part of the IIM Jammu family.

Encouraging them to explore other programs offered by IIM Jammu, including career counseling, he invited them to visit the institute's website and looked forward to meeting them again in the near future.

Dr. Chinmaya Swain, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized that

while every beginning has an end, at IIM Jammu, every end marks a new beginning, reflecting the institute's commitment to continuous collaboration.

On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, he extended heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their dedication and efforts in pushing their limits. He also thanked NTPC for organizing the MDP program and expressed enthusiasm for future leader-specific programs.

The event concluded with a formal certificate distribution, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Chinmaya Swain, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

The program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy Office, IIM Jammu.