

MSCBMC Trust's 7-day 'Adi Shankaracharya Sansar' workshop ends on inspiring note

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The week-long national art workshop 'Adi Shankaracharya Sansar', organised by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), concluded today on a high spiritual and artistic note in Srinagar.

Held at the 43 Battalion Headquarters CRPF, District Police Lines Budgam, the workshop brought together artists from Srinagar, Delhi and Kolkata who explored the timeless philosophy of Adi Shankaracharya through vibrant visual narratives rooted in Advaita Vedanta.

On the final day, a striking



President of the Trust, Anuradha Rishi and others with CRPF officials.

and dynamic painting of horses was created at the Officers' Mess of CRPF, symbolising strength, freedom and spiritual energy. The artwork drew appreciation from officers and participants alike.

The Trust extended special thanks to Vivek Bhandral, DIG CRPF, for his support and encouragement in facilitating the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Later, members of the Trust called on Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, who hailed the initiative and lauded the Trust's efforts in promoting art as

a medium of cultural awakening. He remarked that art serves as a powerful instrument to preserve heritage, inspire youth and strengthen social harmony, appreciating the workshop for connecting India's spiritual legacy with contemporary creative expression.

President of the Trust, Anuradha Rishi, reiterated that the workshop successfully transformed canvases into meditative journeys, fostering cultural consciousness and national unity through art. The event concluded with gratitude to participating artists, including Sharmila Sharma from Delhi and Apurba Karati from Kolkata, for their meaningful contributions.

AJBRCEAK accords farewell to outgoing DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa

STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: The All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony in honour of the outgoing Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa (IAS), acknowledging his dedicated services and people-friendly administration during his tenure in the district.

The programme was arranged under the leadership of AJBRCEAK President Anil Radha, along with District President Suresh Kumar and other esteemed members.

On the occasion, the association extended its sincere gratitude to the DC Baramulla for his unwavering support towards Jammu-based reserved category employees.

AJBRCEAK President expressed special thanks to Minga Sherpa for the allotment of Government accommodation at Veerwan Colony to Jammu-based reserved category employees, which brought much-needed relief and security to many families posted in the district.



AJBRCEAK members according farewell to outgoing DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

Prominent members present on the occasion included Ram Krishan, Ajeet Kumar, Surjeet Kumar, Rajinder Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Rajinder Kumar Bhagat, Sanjeev Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Ranjeet Kumar, Roshan Lal and others.

The association wished Minga Sherpa success and excellence in his future assignments and expressed hope that his legacy of fairness and dedication will continue to inspire.

Bovine smuggling bid foils, 10 cattle rescued

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Continuing its crackdown on bovine smuggling, the Samba Police successfully intercepted an illegal bovine transport and rescued ten cattle in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba.

Acting on credible information, a team from Police Post Rakh Amb Talli intercepted smugglers attempting to move the bovines on foot near Village Chak Dayala, close to the Basantar River. All rescued animals were immediately shifted to a safer location to ensure their welfare.

A formal case, FIR No. 50/2026 under sections 223 BNS and 11 PCA Act, has been registered at Police Station Samba, and a detailed investigation into the incident has been launched to apprehend those involved and prevent further illegal smuggling activities in the area.

Jestha Varna Mahavihara Restoration wins UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The restoration and retrofitting of Jestha Varna Mahavihara, Lalitpur, Nepal - a Government of India-funded initiative supported through the Ministry of External Affairs and the Embassy of India, Kathmandu - has been conferred the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2025. The award was officially announced on 20 February 2026, recognising excellence in heritage conservation across the region.

The project was undertaken as part of post-earthquake reconstruction and retrofitting initiatives in Nepal, with INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage) serving as the design and

project management consultant. Established in 1984, INTACH adopted a holistic conservation approach rooted in archival research, structural stabilisation, archaeological impact assessment, and a comprehensive conservation plan. Importantly, the restoration safeguarded the Vihara's status as a living heritage site, ensuring that daily rituals and community activities continued uninterrupted throughout the process.

The initiative formed part of the Government of India's commitment to rebuilding Nepal's cultural heritage following the devastating earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015, which caused widespread destruction, including significant damage to historic monuments.

For the conservation of 12 heritage sites, the Embassy of India in Kathmandu appointed INTACH, and an MoU was signed on 12 December 2019. INTACH's Architectural Heritage Division established a Nepal Office in Kathmandu, operational until May 2024, with a dedicated team of conservation architects and engineers.

Located about 300 metres from Patan Durbar Square, the two-storeyed monastery had lost its entire top floor in the 2015 earthquake. After meticulous reconstruction, it was inaugurated on 22 March 2024 and handed back to the community, symbolising resilience and enduring cultural ties between India and Nepal.

SKUAST-TAJ, NTEA-J felicitates VC Sikkim University Prof. Deepak Kher



President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma and other office bearers of Joint Action Committee of SKUAST-J felicitating VC Dr. Kher

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) and Non-Teaching Employees Association

Jammu (NTEA-J) felicitated Dr. Deepak Kher on assuming charge as Vice Chancellor of the Management and Information Technology University (MITU), Sikkim.

President Teaching

Association, Dr. Vikas Sharma, while reading Dr. Kher's citation, highlighted his 33 years of dedicated service to SKUAST-Jammu in various capacities. Dr. Kher served as Director Planning and Monitoring for nine years and played a transformative role in strategic planning and institutional expansion.

Among the landmark projects executed under his leadership was the establishment of the state-of-the-art Baba Jitoo Auditorium, which significantly strengthened the university's academic and cultural infrastructure.

President Non-Teaching Association, S.K.D. Singh, noted that Dr. Kher was instrumental in securing the sanction and establishment of three new faculties-Dairy Technology, Agricultural Engineering, and Horticulture-along with the creation of a Division of Seed Science. Through his visionary planning and persistent efforts, the university

secured nearly Rs 140 crore from various funding agencies for comprehensive institutional development.

The Joint Action Committee lauded Dr. Kher's visionary leadership, academic excellence, and unwavering commitment to institutional growth, extending best wishes for his continued success in advancing higher education and agricultural development. Several office bearers of both associations were present on the occasion.

Parliamentary delegation visits Jammu, pays tribute to Dogra Legacy

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A high-level parliamentary delegation comprising Rajya Sabha MP Anil Sukhdevrao Bonde and Lok Sabha MP from Mehsana Haribhai Patel visited Jammu, popularly known as the City of Temples. They were accompanied by Devendra Yadav, Director Jammu Airport.

The visit aimed at paying homage to the spiritual heritage and royal legacy of the Dogra dynasty, whose leadership played a defining role in the formation of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State in 1846.

The delegation received a traditional welcome from the Dogra Royal Family, represented by former minister Ajatshatru Singh and Dr. Ritu Singh. Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee of the Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust and associated with Hari Niwas Palace and Amar Mahal Museum and Library,



Parliamentary delegation paying obeisance at Raghunath Temple, Jammu.

briefed the MPs on the resilient history of the Dogra rulers and their role in safeguarding India's frontiers during the 18th and 19th centuries. The delegation paid obeisance at the revered Raghunath Temple. Dr. Ritu Singh highlighted its unique spiritual importance, noting it is among the only two temples worldwide to enshrine the sacred Shamvaran idol of Shri Raghunath Ji, the other being in Ayodhya.

They also visited the his-

toric site associated with Maharaja Hari Singh, where the Instrument of Accession was signed, formally linking Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India.

Emphasising tourism and economic growth, Dr. Ritu Singh advocated heritage-led regeneration, promotion of Basohli painting, handloom crafts, and industrial investment. The MPs appreciated the Royal Family's efforts in preserving Dogra heritage and expressed support for positioning Jammu as a hub of spiritual tourism, heritage conservation, and development.

GDC Marh organizes orientation programme for Bharat Scouts and Guides

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharat Scouts and Guides Committee of Government Degree College, Marh organized a two-day Orientation Programme for the Rangers and Rovers of the college in collaboration with the JK Bharat Scouts and Guides.

The programme was conducted by Asha Kumari and Dr. Priya Sharma, Unit Leaders, under the guidance of Prof. Ramneek Kaur, Principal of the college. Its primary objective was to familiarize students with the history, mission, vision, and core values of the Bharat Scouts and Guides while motivating them to actively participate



A dignitary speaking during a programme at GDC Marh.

in community service. Resource Persons from the State Headquarters of BS&G, including R.P. Kotwal, State Commissioner; Harun Malik, Trainer; and Madan Lal, Trainer, conducted interactive and enlightening sessions. They highlighted the principles, activities, and significance of scouting and guiding in fostering character building and leadership development.

The inaugural session featured the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp and was graced by

Prof. Anita Sharma, seniormost faculty member. Prof. Intiaz Shahid, Coordinator IQAC, welcomed the Resource Persons, while Prof. Madhvi Prashar briefed participants on the objectives of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Other faculty

members in attendance included Dr. Ram Dayal, Prof. Sachin Bhagat, and Dr. Sheetal Sharma. Prof. Malti Rajput presented the Vote of Thanks for the inaugural session.

Approximately 50 students participated actively, sharing their enthusiasm for community service. During the valedictory session, participants shared their feedback, and the Principal lauded their commitment, encouraging sustained involvement in social initiatives. The programme concluded with refreshments and a formal Vote of Thanks by Dr. Priya Sharma, marking the successful completion of the orientation.

National Science Day celebrated at Botany and Zoology Deptt, CLUJ

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Marking a pivotal step toward inclusive agricultural growth, the United Nations has declared 2026 as the "International Year of the Women Farmer (IYWF)," celebrating the resilience, leadership, and transformative impact of women in agriculture worldwide. This global campaign aims to recognize women's indispensable yet often overlooked contributions to agrifood systems.

Aligned with this declaration and commemorating National Science Day, the Department of Botany and Zoology at Cluster University of Jammu organized a one-day lecture program to further accelerate women's empowerment and entrepreneurship, highlighting key initiatives focused on uplifting women across the country.

The occasion was graced by distinguished personalities, including O.P. Vidyarthi, Retired IFS, who shared his profound insights as the resource person.

Pooja Kapoor Suri, a woman

entrepreneur from J&K, delivered an insightful presentation on "Herbal Innovation: Organic Colors," primarily focusing on nature-based solutions for sustainable health and eco-friendly living. She elaborated on the process of developing organic colors from herbal and plant-based sources, emphasizing their environmental benefits and potential applications in health-conscious and sustainable industries. Highlighting the integration of agricultural science with nutritional science, she explained how interdisciplinary collaboration can lead to innovative, safe, and sustainable products. Underscoring the vital role of women in driving such initiatives, she encouraged young students-especially aspiring women entrepreneurs-to explore research-based ventures, adopt sustainable practices, and contribute meaningfully to community well-being and economic development.

The celebration featured a series of enlightening sessions, engaging participants in thought-provoking discussions and captivating presentations. Students were encouraged to explore the wonders of science, showcasing creativity and ingenuity through various ideas.

In the concluding remarks, Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, Coordinator of the Department of Botany; and Prof. Meenakshi from the Department of Zoology at Cluster University of Jammu reflected on the theme of this year's National Science Day celebration, "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat" and emphasized the nation's commitment in promoting women's entrepreneurship and home-grown technological solutions for societal well-being. As the world commemorates the pioneering contributions of C. V. Raman on this auspicious day, the celebration at Cluster University of Jammu stands as a poignant reminder of the boundless possibilities that lie ahead in the realm of science and technology. All the faculty members and students from both the departments attended the program with great enthusiasm.

JU Girls' Hostel celebrates three-day cultural and orientation extravaganza



JU students and faculty posing for a photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a spectacular blend of heritage, culture, and community spirit, the Girls' Hostel of University of Jammu (JU) concluded a vibrant three-day event from February 23 to 25, 2026. The celebrations encompassed an Induction-cum-Orientation Programme for new boarders, the Duggar De Lok Khedan festival of traditional folk games, and a flower-based Holi Mahotsav, Rangoutsav, leaving a lasting impression on students and staff alike.

The orientation programme welcomed newly admitted boarders and familiarized them with hostel life, rules, and the importance of community service, teamwork, and cultural engagement. Distinguished alumni were invited to share

experiences, inspiring the new boarders with their personal and professional journeys. Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning and Development, lauded the efforts of the hostel administration and emphasized the role of such activities in promoting healthy, stress-free living while staying rooted in tradition.

The second day, Duggar De Lok Khedan, revived forgotten local games of the Duggar region, including Pithu, Fitti, Gitte, Langdi Tang, Kikki, Rassi Kudd, and Tug-of-War. The event encouraged physical activity, cultural awareness, and bonding among participants, demonstrating the timeless relevance of traditional games in fostering community spirit and resilience. The third day fea-

tured Rangoutsav, a water-free, flower-based Holi celebration highlighting togetherness, joy, and sustainability. Boarders presented a vibrant cultural programme with Dogri folk music, classical dance, Radha-Krishna enactments, and regional performances. Hostel walls were adorned with paintings created by boarders, reflecting creativity, teamwork, and cultural pride.

Prof. Shashi Manhas, Provost of the Girls' Hostel, emphasized reviving cultural heritage and fostering moral and social values among students.

Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Meenakshi Chowdhary, Dr. Bhagwati, Dr. Radhika, Dr. Sushma Devi, Dr. Neha, and Dr. Rubia, Wardens and Resident Wardens, were instrumental in organizing

the event, along with Office In-charge Seema, Rupinder Kour, Dimple, and Jyotsana.

Staff members and hundreds of girl boarders actively participated in the programme. The proceedings were conducted by Warden Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Meenakshi Chowdhary, and Resident Warden Dr. Bhagwati. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Meenakshi Chowdhary and Dr. Sushma Devi.

The three-day event successfully combined mentorship, cultural revival, sustainability, and festive joy, reflecting the hostel's commitment to shaping responsible, culturally aware, and value-driven students who are equipped to embrace tradition, community, and modern challenges.



Department of Botany and Zoology faculty and a dignitary posing for a photograph.