

3-day Skill Development Programme on "Drug Discovery & Development" concludes at CSIR-IIIM Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: CSIR- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, concluded its three-day skill development training program which saw participation of more than 20 participants from different Universities of J&K region. The valedictory function was chaired by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu who underscored the need of obtaining S&T skills as he termed Science-A way of thinking and said that in order to achieve SDG goals and success towards Viksit Bharat, the role of Science has to be pivotal. While addressing the participants, Dr Ahmed fostered scientific temperament among participants and encouraged them to pursue research as their career, emphasizing the importance



Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu chairing the meeting.

of science & technology for future. Dr Ahmed in his address welcomed all researchers to visit the Institute and equip themselves with practical insights and skills, vital for navigating the complexities of drug research and development. During the three days program, participants were

imparted training in drug discovery and development with meticulously designed hands on training practical sessions equipping participants with fundamental skills and knowledge in drug discovery and development. On Day One, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh, Principal Scientist delivered a lecture on

"Phytopharmaceuticals Drugs - Scientific Validation of Traditional Knowledge" while Dr Ravindra S Phatake, Senior Scientist talked about "Natural products in drug discovery - advances and opportunities". On day two Dr Praseon K.Gupta, Principal Scientist gave an insightful talk on "Discovery of Bioactive Compounds through a High Throughput Strategy to Speedup Drug Discovery" while as Dr Bharitkar Yogesh, Scientist delivered a lecture on "Discovery of Novel Phytochemicals -A Systematic Process including Extraction, Isolation and Spectroscopic Characterization". Dr Kancherla Prasad, Senior Scientist delivered a talk on "Intellectual Property Rights". On day three, Dr Qazi Naveed ,Principal Scientist & Head NPMC

Division, talked about "Modern Drug Discovery-A Rational Approach" while as Dr Showkat Rashid, Senior Scientist delivered a lecture on "Natural Product Chemistry (NPC) and Synthetic Organic Chemistry (SOC) - A Tale of Two Complementary Partners in Modern Drug Discovery". Dr. Bhahwal Ali Shah, Pr. Scientist and Technical Coordinator of the event, enhanced the program's practical value by conducting hands-on training and lab sessions. Earlier Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist & Coordinator Skill Development conducted the proceedings of valedictory function. The Training program was conducted under overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim,Chief Scientist and Head, RMBD & IST Division.

P F Commissioner set target of Rs. 85 Lakhs in Administrative Account for EPFO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office - Jammu is functioning in flexi-hours to offload the work related to claims by capitalizing on system speed. EPFO has achieved a milestone by increasing the income of accountnumber-2 to Rs. 86 lakhs for the month of February, 2024(highest ever in the financial year 2023-2024) which is nine percent above the previous year's figure of Rs.79 Lakhs (in February, 2023). According to RPFC-I, Rizwan Uddin consistent follow-up in "call centre mode", e-mails and "Nidhi Apke Nikat 2.0" was ensured with a large number of establishments including private firms, companies, malls, industries and other private establishments were not paying monthly ECR regularly



since long time. This has resulted in significant improvement of Account No-2 in EPFO, Jammu. Average monthly income in Account No-2 for eleven months during previous year (2022-23) was 74 percent , which has increased to 80 lakhs in current lakhs for the corresponding period. When second team of EPFO had joined RO, Jammu in July, 2021, average income of Account No -2 was Rs 56 lakhs, which has reached to Rs 80 lakhs per month. This is a increment of over forty

percent during a period of two and a half years. Other than this, a team of officials from EPFO Regional Office Jammu under the leadership of Rizwan Uddin, RPFC - I has processed over a dozen claims of pension cases where benefits have been disbursed to their family members and members of deceased persons also. Special emphasis has also been laid on settlement of death claims. Accordingly, multiple such claims have been processed and benefits provided to claimants.

JKHCBAJ marks Int'l Women's Day; holds Shivratri Bhandara



JKHCBAJ and others during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ) celebrated International Women's Day on Thursday in the Ladies Bar Room, District Court Complex. The event commenced with a warm welcome speech by Vice President Amit Gupta. Justice Sindhu Sharma, accompanied by Special Judge CBI Court Bala Jyoti, graced the occasion. Addressing a gathering of budding female advocates, Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasized the importance of dedication, perseverance, and hard work in shaping successful careers in the legal profession. JKHCBAJ also organized a

vibrant Bhandara on the eve of Maha Shivratri. The event witnessed the presence of all the judges of the High Court, who congratulated the members of the Bar on the occasion. Vikram Sharma, Senior Advocate and President of JKHCBAJ, expressed gratitude to all the attendees and participants for their unwavering support and enthusiasm in making both events a resounding success. He reiterated the Association's commitment to promote gender equality and empowering women in the legal profession. All the Office bearers of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu namely Vikram Sharma, Senior

Advocate & President JKHCBAJ, Amit Gupta Vice-President, Parvesh Singh Salaria General Secretary, Chetan Misri Joint Secretary, Utkarsh Pathania Treasurer were present. Rohit Sharma (President, YLA), Gagandeep Singh Lucky (Vice President YLA), Yaseer Farooq Khan (General Secretary YLA), Karanjeet Singh Johal (Joint Secretary YLA), Naresh Kumar (Treasurer YLA) were also present. Many senior and young lawyers participated in the celebration namely Radha Sharma, Seema Sharma, Deepika Mahajan, Rozina Afzal, Deepali Arora, Jyoti Sharma, Supriya Chouhan, M.P. Singh Palli, Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, Anil Khajuria, Umesh Sharma, M.S. Qureshi, Zamir Muslim Qureshi, Bindusar Abrol, Divyaishan, Amit Manhas, Atul Raina, Manjit Singh Sarkaria, Dakshesh Maharaj, Samantika Tickkoo, Vikram Thakur and Rudhra Partap Singh. Parvesh Singh Salaria, General Secretary, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu concluded the function.

BJP leadership in J&K bridging gap between Govt, masses with efficacy: Yudhvir



Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Vice President listening to public issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President emphasized that the BJP leadership in Jammu and Kashmir is working relentlessly to bridge the gap between the government and the people. He underlined the need for efficient governance and emphasized that the BJP is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He was speaking after listening to the grievances of general public at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan in Kaechi Chawni, Jammu. The camp was organized by Yudhvir Sethi with the primary objective to address the

problems being faced by the general public. Arun Sethi, General Secretary East Mandal, Naseeb Singh, Vice President Bajalta Mandal and Ricky General Secretary BJYM Bajalta Mandal also accompanied the senior BJP leader. Sethi pointed out that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has a personal interest in the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP-led government at the Centre has taken various initiatives to address the issues of unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment in the Union Territory. He reiterated the government's commitment in delivering basic amenities and facilities to

the people, particularly in rural areas. Yudhvir said that BJP remains committed to addressing the issues and concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby bridging the gap between the government and the masses with efficacy. Earlier, the camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders. Various deputations, including individual persons--most of whom were women--visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He assured the visiting people that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar imparts awareness on domestic violence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: GCW Bhagwati Nagar organised a workshop on Domestic Violence Awareness. The programme was organised under the mentorship of the principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol and led by renowned advocate Kiran Thakur, Advocate, Legal consultant, and Legal counsellor. She is also the founder of Project DHIRA: The Undistracted Mind, this workshop aims to educate, empower, and inspire our college community to combat domestic violence and create a safer environment for all. Speaking on the occasion Principal of the college Dr Meeru Abrol said that Domestic violence is a pervasive issue affecting individuals across all demographics, irrespective of gender, age, or socioeconomic status. As an institution we are committed



Principal of college Dr. Meeru Abrol honouring advocate Kiran Thakur.

to fostering a culture of inclusivity and safety, recognizes the urgency of addressing this pressing societal concern. Advocate Kiran Thakur,brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to this workshop. With a career dedicated to advocating for victims of domestic violence and promoting awareness, as she is well-equipped to engage, educate, and inspire attendees. She also presented

amongst the students a detailed analysis of various cases of Domestic violence that came to the forefront in the past few years and suggested the course of action which was taken or could have been taken to avert such a situation. The workshop covered various aspects related to domestic violence, including recognizing signs of abuse, understanding its impact on individuals and communities,

and exploring avenues for support and intervention. Through interactive discussions, real-life case studies, and practical strategies, attendees gained valuable insights into combating domestic violence and fostering a culture of respect and empathy. The students interacted with the resource person and participated wholeheartedly. The Programme was organised by Prof Nisha Bhagat, Dr Pavan Jeet Bahl& Dr Preeti Salathia, from Women Welfare Cell of the college. The programme was organised with a belief that education is key to combatting domestic violence, by raising awareness and equipping our community with knowledge and resources, we can work together to break the cycle of abuse and create a safer, more compassionate society.

Mahila Congress holds Nari Nyay programme at Jammu North Constituency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the directions of National President Mahila Congress Alka Lamba, Jammu and Kashmir Mahila Congress led by Shameema Raina launched Nari Nyay programme at Jammu North Constituency. The programme was organized by Rajni Bala, Ex Corporator and Vice President Mahila Congress. On the occasion, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla, Sr. Vice President Mula Ram, Vice president Hari Singh Chib, Uday Bhanu Chib AICC Member and National General Secretary AIYC Bhanu Mahajan Sr. Vice President, Sushma Choudhary Vice President, Parveen Akhtar General Secretary besides others were present. Bhalla said all women issues will be taken care of, if the Congress Government comes to power. He asked Mahila Congress to continue to project these demands/ issues before the concerned authorities and



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and others during the public meeting.

present Government/UT administration. He said the campaign will bring improvement in women's economic condition, social standing, education, healthcare, political representation and to address crimes and violence against women. He asserted that the Nari Nyay campaign was launched to identify and resolve the issues faced by women. Further, he urged women to take part in the campaign and share their grievances without any hesitation. Mula Ramsaid that in the

past five years, under the Modi government, the growth rate of real rural wages has become negative for both agriculture (-0.6 per cent) and non-agriculture (-1.4 per cent), which means there is widespread rural distress, he added. Uday Bhanu Chib emphasized the importance of addressing women's issues comprehensively. Rajni Bala facilitated discussions on various issues affecting women, including economic empowerment, healthcare access, educa-

tion, and protection against violence. She sought to mobilize women's participation in the campaign, encouraging them to voice their demands and actively engage with policymakers to drive positive change. Hari Singh Chib and Uday Bhanu Chib appealed to Mahila Shakti to approach to women in their respective areas to strengthen the hands of Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and highlight Rahul Gandhi Guarantee for the poor peoples of the country.

Tourism Deptt, JKAACL organise Mahashivratri Mahotsav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Continuing the promotional stride for religious tourism encompassing the celebration of religious festivals at local shrines and temples, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with JKAACL and District Administration Jammu, Samba and Reasi has organised the Mahashivratri Mahotsav with vibrant festivities at the revered temple Peer Kho & Panchvaktar Mahadev Temple in Jammu District, sacred Shiv Temples at Purmandal in District Samba and pious pilgrimage Shrine Shivkhori in Ransoo town of District Reasi. The Four days Mega festivities at Peer Kho Cave Temple Jammu started today by formal inauguration on the 7th March, 2024



DC Jammu Sachin Vaishya lighting the ceremonial lamp.

by the Chief Guest Sachin Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu along with Shishir Gupta Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Sher Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu and Sunaina Sharma Mehta,Joint Director Tourism Jammu. The fes-

tivities at this renowned temple are organised annually by the Tourism Directorate and District Administration Jammu which are witnessed by thousands of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine during these celebrated days of Mahashivratri Mahotsav. Speaking on the occasion,

Sachin Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu prayed for progress and development of the UT of J&K and urged the people to rise above their differences and contribute towards the collective progress and development of the UT. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu while addressing the media invited people to join the Mahashivratri festivities at Jammu, Samba and Ransoo Reasi and celebrate this sacred festival amidst the natural beauty of Jammu region while also revisiting the cultural legacy of these revered shrines and immerse your soul in the religious fervour and aura of celebration and devotion towards this religious festival.

Week long capacity building programme on advanced bioinformatics commences at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Department of Zoology on Thursdays inaugurated One- week capacity building workshop on Hands-on training in Advanced Bioinformatic Techniques in Molecular Biology. The Chief Guest of the program Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu inaugurated and addressed the gathering. Dr. Gupta highlighted the need and use of Bioinformatics in medical sciences. Earlier welcome address was delivered by Prof. Seema Langer, Head of Zoology and coordinator of the workshop. Dr Parvinder, Convener of the Workshop



Dignitaries being honoured during the event.

introduced the keynote speaker. Dr. Amit Nargotra, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IIIM Jammu was the keynote speaker who set the tone for the workshop by introducing Bioinformatics to the participants and also discussed various recent advancement in the field. Dr Rakesh Panjaliya, organizing secretary detailed

about the week-long program. About 70 participants from all over the country joined for this workshop (ICMR, Delhi; ASCOMS, Jammu, ZSI, H.P; Tezpur University, University of Kashmir; HMM, Ludhiana; PDSU, Sikar; PU, Chandigarh, Delhi University, CCSU, Meerut, Kashmir University, from

HP, AU, Talwandi; GCW, Parade; Degree College, Doda, GGM Science College; School of Biotechnology; IHG and Dept. of Zoology, JU). Dr. Chinnmoyee Maharana, Co- convener of the workshop presented vote of thanks. Dr Sanjeev Digra (Head, Pediatrics, SMGS), Dr. Chirango (ASCOMS), Prof. Susheel Verma (Head, Botany, JU), Dr Anish Khajuria (ASCOMS), Dr Arti Sharma, Dr Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr Pankaj, Dr Raman. Sarbjee Kaur, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Zoology conducted the proceedings for the inaugural session.