

Annual Flower Show cum Floritech Startup conclave held at CSIR-IIIM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, successfully hosted the Annual Flower Show cum Floritech Startup conclave on Sunday at the institute's main campus. The event brought together floritech startup, floriculture enthusiasts, farmers, and experts to celebrate nature, exchange knowledge, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal & Dean, Govt. Medical College, Jammu was the chief guest whileas Dr. C. L. Sharma, Director, Horticulture, Jammu was the guest of honour. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM presided over the function. Their insights and encouragement set the tone for an inspiring day ahead. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, while speaking on the occasion said that the events like the flower show are not significant and known for exhibition of various flowers or the flower bye products but also the opportunity to various set of a society to come on a common platform and build up a cohesive way of working. Appreciating the organisers for conducting such an important event wish them to achieve the goals under different verticals of Floriculture Mission of CSIR.He also expressed the need for both the institutions to work in more close collaboration on the ideas of inter-institutional connect putforth by Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr. C.L.Sharma, the guest of



Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal & Dean, GMC Jammu and others during the conclave.

honour while complimenting the institute's endeavour to revive this important activity of the institute explained about various schemes of J&K UT govt. which are for flowers growers and floritech startup.

In his presidential address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, said that the institute which is pioneer in the core pre-clinical drugs discovery with Cancer, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Diabetes Mellitus and Alzheimer's disease as core areas, has, under the mentorship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of S&T and Vice President, CSIR, been implementing societal missions like CSIR Aroma and CSIR Floriculture Mission in Jammu & Kashmir. This year, the Flower show besides participation from various participants in various competitions was unique to host a two day the Floritech Startup conclave in which about 130 innovators and young startup took part and gain different types of trainings in floriculture sector, added Dr. Ahmed.

Furthermore he highlighted

how floriculture helps to improve rural livelihoods and strengthen the economy. He stressed the institute's work in research and development, its focus on sustainable farming, and its support for farmers through programs like the Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution. He thanked participants for their enthusiasm and reaffirmed the institute's dedication to advancing innovation in floriculture. "Since its inception in 1961, the Annual Flower Show here has encouraged awareness about floriculture, gardening, and environmental sustainability" he said.

Earlier Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division (PSA), CSIR-IIIM, while welcoming the guests, highlighted that the event received an overwhelming response from participants and visitors. The Exhibition of Flower Stalls featured a diverse range of flowers, innovative gardening techniques, and artistic floral arrangements, earning appreciation from both experts and enthusiasts. The Floriculture

Farmers Conclave served as a platform for agronomists, industry experts, and farmers to share insights on modern farming techniques, value addition in floriculture, and government initiatives for rural development. The event concluded with the prize distribution among the winners of various competitions. Among the key winners, Devanshi Gulati from received the prestigious Dr. K. Ganpaty Memorial Trophy for the Best Garden & Lawn (Civilian), while Lt. Col. T.S. Arora from the Sunjawan Cantt, Jammu, was awarded the Dr. L.C. Chopra Memorial Trophy for the Best Garden & Lawn (Services). The DG, BSF Running Trophy for Best Flag Staff House was secured by Topi Bangla, Satwari Cantt, Jammu, and the World Wide Fund Rolling Trophy for the Best Maintained Public Park & Garden was awarded to Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. Col RN Chopra Memorial Trophy for educational institution in the best performance in floral painting went to APS, Nagrota. Gen KV Krishna

Rao running trophy for best garden and lawn maintained by armed forces went to Station HQ, Sunjwan. In the Floral Painting Competition, young talents shone brightly, with Bavanya Mathur (APS Nagrota), Viaan Bhat (GLS public School), Atharv Soni (RRL High School) got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively in Group I (Age 5-8). The consolation prizes in this category went to Royina (RRL High School), Harshit (JK Montessori), Pihu Luthra (Daffodil Convent), Shreya Gupta (Hertitage School), Anaysha Gupta (Presentation Convent). In the Group II (Age 9-12), Sharanya Mathur (APS Nagrota), Pihu Gautam (RRL High School), Sanchaari (APS) got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively. The consolation prizes in this category went to Alishba Ahmed (RRL High School), Neha Rajput (RRL High School), Mrigakshi Kumari (RRL High School), Advita Singh (APS Nagrota). In the Group III (Age 13-16), Neha Sharma (APS Nagrota), Dhvani Jakhotra (DPS, Jammu), Kavita Arora (APS) got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively. The consolation prizes in this category went to Vasundhara Jamwal (KC public School), Manya Bhardwaj (Activity School), Aradhya (DPS, Jammu). The first prize winners in various categories included Devanshi Gulati, Lt Col TS Arora, Maj Gen Mukesh Banwala, 526 Officer Mess, Bhag-e-Bhour, Herbal Garden, SKUAST, Jammu. The second prize win-

ners include Priya Gupta, VC Residence, SKUAST, Brig Pawan Rai, RBI, Stn HQ Ratnuchak, Usman Officer Mess, Satwari, Bagh-e Bhou, Topi Banglow. The third prize winners include Vimal Kharyal, VC Residence, JU, Brig Sumit Sharma, Admin Block, JU, Park 2 Gandhi Nagar, Regional Ayurvedic Research, Bantalab.

Other winners included Ashok Singh, Col. Karan Durand, Luxmi AFO, Sunil Kumar, Kapish Gupta, Rajiv Gupta, Devendra Kumar, BSF, Bushra and Sonam, Bansilal, Darshan Lal, Ruchika Khajuria, Samyra, Dr Anju Sirohiwal, Ayushi and Harshita, Pooja Suri, Ruby Gupta, Shiveta Pandit, Jiyahana and Anaysha, Jyoti Bala, Dr Neeru, Mehak, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Zahid Gul Batt, Priya Gupta.

The Floriculture Farmers Conclave provided a valuable opportunity for farmers to explore emerging trends, modern cultivation techniques, and business opportunities in the floriculture sector. Experts also highlighted CSIR-IIIM's contributions to initiatives like the Aroma Mission and the Purple Revolution, which have significantly increased farmers' incomes across Jammu & Kashmir.

Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head RMBD&IST and Head IIIM (Branch) Srinagar, also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Shahid Rasool, Nodal Scientist and coordinator of Floritech Startup Conclave presented the formal vote of thanks.

Union Minister of Power inaugurates GRIDCON 2025



Union Minister Manohar Lal and others at an event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal inaugurated GRIDCON 2025 - The International Conference cum Exhibition on 9th March 2025 at IICC, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi in the august presence of Union Minister of State for Power & New & Renewable Energy, Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik. The event organized by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) from 9th-11th March 2025 is being held under the patronage of Ministry of Power and in association with CIGRE, India.

GRIDCON 2025 inaugural event witnessed a galaxy of professionals from the field of power sector from across the globe. Sh. R.K. Tyagi, CMD, POWEGRID along with the directors and senior officials from Ministry, POWERGRID and other power sector PSUs were also present during the function. GRIDCON 2025 is a premier event in the power sector, for indus-

try, utilities, professionals, researchers, and academicians across the globalto shape the future of renewable integration, grid resilience, asset management, and digital transformation. It will witness more than 2000 conference delegates, 150 technical papers, 150 exhibition companies, 30 country representatives. With the theme "Innovations in Grid Resilience" the conference will focus on new technologies, infrastructure, and smart solutions that can revolutionize the way we generate, transmit, distribute, and consume energy. As of 28thFebruary 2025, a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, POWER-GRID has commissioned and is operating 281 Substations and more than 1,79,594 ckm transmission lines and 5,46,461 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of the latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation, and digital solutions, POW-ERGRID has been able to maintain an average transmission system availability of more than 99.81%.

Kathua killings: Terrorism will not be allowed to raise its head in Jammu: LoP



BJP leader Sunil Sharma addressing the protesters at Billawar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A day after three bodies were recovered from near a waterfall in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Sunday said terrorism which has been buried in Kashmir will not be allowed to raise its head in Jammu.

Addressing protesters gathered to condemn the killings in Billawar area of Kathua, the Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly said terrorists have come up with a new modus operandi where they are not using weapons to kill people only to create confusion.

Sharma, accompanied by party MLAs Satish Sharma and Rajiv Jasrotia, who visited Billawar also said he briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the incident. "He (Shah) asked me to tell the people of Billawar that he is standing behind them."

Meanwhile, senior Congress leaders including former MP Choudhary Lal Singh were barred by police from visiting the area, drawing strong protest by the

party. The bodies of Varun Singh (15), his paternal uncle Yogesh Singh (32) and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were found from the Ishu nullah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of Kathua district on Saturday. The trio had gone missing on March 5 during a marriage function.

"We are seeing a new modus operandi where terrorists are not using weapons to kill people...this is an act to create confusion. Jammu region is being deliberately targeted at the behest of Pakistan which wants to put hurdles in India becoming the world power," Sharma told the gathering at Phinter Chowk in Billawar.

"Terrorism has been buried in Kashmir and will not be allowed to raise its head in Jammu. The terror ecosystem supporting terrorists will be uprooted but we need to stay together and not get divided," he said.

BJP workers held massive protests across Kathua including Billawar where a complete shutdown was observed to protest the

killings of three persons.

Congress leader Singh and party colleague Manohar Lal Sharma, a former minister, were stopped by police enroute to Billawar to express sympathy with the bereaved families.

"This is ironic that the BJP leaders are facilitated while we are stopped to meet the families of the deceased. I have visited the area even during the peak of terrorism," Singh, who is also a former minister, told reporters.

He said this is for the first time that such a situation had emerged in Kathua district and it reflects the alleged failure of the home ministry which is directly controlling the law and order situation in J&K.

"We demand an inquiry to identify the culprits and a compensation of Rs 10 lakh and a government job for the families of the deceased," Singh said.

Meanwhile, protesters shouted slogans and torched Pakistani flags at different places in Jammu and Kathua districts in protest against the killings.

Identify, eliminate unnecessary compliances, outdated regulations for business growth: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Sunday directed for identification of all the unnecessary compliances existing in government departments to be done away with for the ease of citizens and business establishments.

Dulloo made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the progress of various departments in implementing the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2024, aimed at enhancing Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in the Union Territory.

Present in the meeting were ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department; Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Secretary, RDD; Commissioner, JMC; Director I&C, Jammu besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary directed the departments to identify and eliminate unnecessary compliance burdens on businesses and citizens at the earliest. He emphasised the need for



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

broad-based consultations with the stakeholders to gather feedback for a comprehensive analysis and action based on merit. He advised for holding separate feedback sessions with all the concerned citizens and other stakeholders in both the divisions to ensure inclusivity in the decision-making process.

Recognizing the significance of a structured approach, Dulloo instructed the Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department to compile department-wise suggestions for deregulation. He noted that the removal of all such outdated regulations should aim at reducing compliance burden on our businesses and citizens alike.

Reviewing the Single Window System, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of ensuring that all services under the system are provided digitally within a defined timeframe. He directed the I&C Department to analyse whether services are available online or offline at the backend and submit a detailed report with recommendations for making this system useful meeting the original objectives in letter and spirit.

In a significant move towards digital transformation, Dulloo also instructed the department to expedite the digitisation of data related to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). He called for

appointing Director Industries, Jammu, as the nodal officer to oversee and accelerate this process.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that this initiative should comprehensively document key business aspects including trade details, working capital, credit portfolio, transactions, manpower, and machinery. He highlighted that this analytical data would enable the government to provide timely support, credit linkages and policy interventions to strengthen the MSME sector across the length and breadth of J&K.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, briefed the meeting on the UT's progress in

BRAP 2024 implementation. He informed that out of 434 reform points across different departments, 424 have successfully been implemented, with the remaining 10 set for completion before the sunset date of March 15th.

He further stated that all necessary evidences have been uploaded on the national portal and final assessment, based on user feedback, will be conducted by DPIIT with results expected in April 2025.

Pertinent to mention here that the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), developed and distributed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aims to simplify business regulations and create a more business-friendly environment across India by assessing states and UTs based on reforms undertaken.

Till date six editions had been completed from its starting in the year 2015 and BRAP 2024 along with BRAP+ and RCB+ is its seventh edition that is going to be culminated by 15th March, 2025 in all the States/UTs across India.

Booth workers are backbone of Party's organizational structure: Nitish



Nitish Mahajan, President of Trikuta Nagar Mandal, BJP along with booth workers during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Nitish Mahajan, President of Trikuta Nagar Mandal, BJP, on Sunday chaired a meeting with Booth Presidents and Shakti Kendra Parmukhs of Ward No. 54, focusing on fortifying the party's foundation at the grass-roots level.

The meeting also included detailed discussions on the upcoming party programs and the policies launched by the Modi Government aimed at the welfare of the public.

Addressing the gathering, Nitish Mahajan emphasized the crucial role

of booth workers, describing them as the backbone of the party's organizational structure.

He urged them to work tirelessly to expand the party's reach and effectively communicate the achievements and welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. "Booth workers are the real strength of the party.

Their dedication and hard work at the grass-roots level are pivotal for our success. It is imperative to strengthen the booths to ensure a decisive victory in the upcoming

political battles," he stated.

The senior BJP leader also highlighted the impact of various welfare schemes introduced by the Modi Government, such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, and other initiatives focusing on healthcare, housing, and employment.

He encouraged the booth workers to spread awareness about these schemes among the masses and help them avail the benefits efficiently.

During the meeting, the Booth Presidents expressed their unwavering faith in the party's leader-

ship and assured their commitment to amplifying BJP's message at every nook and corner of their respective areas.

They also discussed strategies to enhance voter outreach and mobilization for the upcoming elections.

The meeting was attended by several key functionaries, including Vishal Gupta (Vice President), Kapil Khorana (General Secretary), Magan Grover (Secretary), Monika Khosla (Booth President), Ashok Sood (Booth President), and Anil Handoo (Booth President). The leaders shared their insights and presented suggestions to further strengthen the party's grassroots network.

Concluding the meeting, Nitish Mahajan expressed confidence that with the dedicated efforts of booth workers and the leadership's vision, the BJP would achieve resounding success in the region. He also called for unity and collective efforts to overcome challenges and serve the people of Jammu with utmost dedication.

Modi visits AIIMS, inquires about Dhankhar's health

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday went to the AIIMS here and inquired about the health of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The Vice-President was admitted to AIIMS early on Sunday after complaining of uneasiness and chest pain, sources said.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Went to AIIMS and inquired about the health of Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. I pray for his good health and speedy recovery."

Dhankhar (73) was taken to the hospital around 2 am on Saturday, and was admitted to the critical care unit (CCU) under Dr Rajiv Narang, head of cardiology at AIIMS.

The Vice-President is stable and under observation, a source said, adding that a group of doctors is monitoring his condition.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda also visited AIIMS to inquire about Dhankhar's health.

AWSDE delegation calls on LG



AWSDE delegation meeting LG Manoj Sinha in Jammu on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of Women Contingent who are participating in the All-Women Self-Drive Expedition (AWSDE) from

Kashmir to Kanyakumari, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Sunday. The delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on their 10-day

expedition traversing 3,700 kms across the country.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to all the participants.