

Dual control in J&K governance is biggest hindrance to fulfill aspirations of people: Sadhotra

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JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Saturday strongly criticized the prevailing dual control in the governance of Jammu and Kashmir, saying it is detrimental to democratic aspirations of the people, who have already suffered immensely, particularly over the past decade due to mis-governance by the double engine sarkar, said Sadhotra while addressing a public meeting at Gurha Brahmana in Jammu North Assembly Constituency which was organized by Surinder Manhas. Sadhotra urged the Central Government to fulfill its long-standing commitment of restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which it has, time and again, promised not only on the floor of Parliament but also in the Apex Court of the country. He emphasized that only a duly elected popular government can truly represent and address the needs of



NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra during public meeting.

the people, ensuring their aspirations are met through democratic means. In a statement, Sadhotra said, "the people of Jammu and Kashmir have endured years of political uncertainty and administrative neglect. The dual control in governance not only weakens democratic institutions but also deprives the people of their fundamental right to self-governance. It is high time that the Centre honors its promise of restoring full statehood and ensures the decentralization of powers." Sadhotra referred to the overwhelming participation of the people in the

Assembly Elections, despite numerous challenges, saying the huge turnout reflected their unwavering faith in democracy. However, continuing with dual control undermines this faith and disregards the mandate given by the people, he said, adding: "Braving all odds, the people came out in large numbers to vote, demonstrating their trust in the democratic process. But depriving them of participation in the governance through elected representatives amounts to an insult to their right to shape their own destiny." Reiterating the National Conference's stand on the

issue, Sadhotra said that his party remains committed to advocating for the complete restoration of statehood and a fully empowered government to assuage the urges of the people. He urged the Centre to take immediate steps to remove the existing administrative roadblocks and ensure that the reins of governance remain under the

popular government. "Jammu and Kashmir deserves to be governed by its own people, not through remote control. The aspirations of the people can only be fulfilled when their chosen leaders are given the authority to govern without undue interference," he added. The National Conference hoped that the Centre will take an immediate call on the restoration of full statehood and ensure that democracy prevails and the people of Jammu and Kashmir regain their rightful control over their own future. Others who were present in the meeting were Raghubir Singh Manhas, District President Jammu Rural A, Randhir Singh Secretary Rural A, Vishaw Singh District Secretary Jammu Rural and others.

Awareness lecture on Rare Genetic Diseases held at JU

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JAMMU: To mark Rare Disease Day, the Institute of Human Genetics and the Department of Zoology, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, organized an awareness program on Rare Genetic Disorders. The event was held under the Mission Program on Pediatrics Rare Genetic Diseases, a DBT-sponsored initiative, and aimed at enhancing understanding and awareness of rare genetic conditions, their impact, and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Digra, a distinguished pediatrician from SMGS Hospital, Jammu, delivered an insightful lecture on the prevalence, causes, inheritance patterns, and impact of rare genetic diseases on individuals and families.



He stressed the significance of early detection, advanced diagnostic techniques, and genetic counseling in improving patient care. He also highlighted how the Mission Program on Pediatrics Rare Genetic Diseases is helping people receive proper diagnosis and support. The event began with a welcome address by Prof. B.K. Bajaj, Coordinator, Institute of Human Genetics, University of Jammu. A large number of research scholars

and students from the Institute of Human Genetics, Department of Zoology, Biotechnology, and Central University of Jammu participated with great enthusiasm. Dr. Parvinder Kumar expressed gratitude to Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Digra and other distinguished guests, including Prof. B.K. Bajaj, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Sarbjeet Kour, Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Nisha Kapoor, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, and Dr. Shaspal, for their valuable insights. The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. Mohd Younis, Dr. Meenakshree Sharma, Dr. Sonia Sharma, and Dr. Monika Pandita. The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Parvinder Kumar, acknowledging the contributions of all dignitaries, participants, and organizers in making the event a success.

IIM Jammu inaugurates "Inner Engineering" Workshop by Isha Foundation

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, inaugurated the Inner Engineering Workshop by Isha Foundation, organized by Anandam: The Center for Happiness.

The workshop, which commenced on March 1, 2025, will continue until March 13, 2025, at the Yoga Room in the Sports Complex. The Inner Engineering program is a powerful tool for self-transformation, helping individuals develop mental clarity, emotional stability, and inner well-being. Conducted by Shri Atheer Khairallah Razzaq Alsarayfi, an experienced instructor from Isha Foundation, the workshop is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of yogic practices,



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

meditation, and holistic well-being techniques. The sessions focus on self-awareness, stress reduction, and fostering mindfulness, enabling participants to experience a profound shift in their overall outlook on life. Dr. Mamata Tripathi, Chairperson, Anandam, highlighted the workshop's transformational impact, stating that Inner Engineering enables participants to explore new per-

spectives, enhance focus, and cultivate inner balance. She reaffirmed Anandam: The Center for Happiness' at IIM Jammu's commitment to integrating holistic well-being into Institute's learning environment. The Inner Engineering Workshop witnessed active participation from students, faculty, and staff who are eager to explore the benefits of yogic practices and meditation. Each session is carefully structured to guide participants through a journey of self-

discovery, equipping them with the tools to manage stress, improve concentration, and develop emotional resilience. Participants have expressed their appreciation for the insightful and immersive experience, noting that the sessions are helping them achieve greater clarity, balance, and overall well-being. The program's focus on practical techniques and experiential learning has made it an enriching experience, fostering an environment of

growth and self-improvement at IIM Jammu. The Inner Engineering Workshop is part of IIM Jammu's larger initiative to integrate mindfulness and well-being into the academic ecosystem, reinforcing its mission to develop well-rounded leaders equipped with both intellectual and emotional intelligence. The ongoing collaboration between Anandam: The Center for Happiness and Isha Foundation reflects a shared vision of promoting mental well-being and personal growth within the IIM Jammu community. As the workshop progresses, participants continue to embrace this transformational journey, enhancing their self-awareness and overall quality of life. The initiative highlights IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to creating a holistic learning environment, where students and faculty alike can thrive both professionally and personally.

Nadda flags off 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas Rath



Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda flagging off Rath.

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NEW DELHI: At the initiative of the Prime Minister, the 7th of March is celebrated every year as

"Jan Aushadhi Diwas" to generate awareness about the scheme and promoting generic medicines. As in earlier years, week-

long events have been planned at various locations across the country from the 1st to the 7th of March, 2025. Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Anupriya Patel, Minister of State, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Amit Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals on Saturday flagged off a Rath (Chariot) & 10 other vehicles carrying branding of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) from Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

CLUJ celebrates 9th Foundation Day with grandeur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day with an impressive function held at the auditorium of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The event was marked by a series of events highlighting the institution's remarkable growth and achievements. The occasion was graced by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), as the chief guest.



Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, VC BGSBU lighting the ceremonial lamp.

mission to provide accessible and quality learning while reflecting on key initiatives and achievements. He also highlighted the remarkable milestones achieved by Cluster University of Jammu over the years. Prof. Rajinder Singh, Principal of SPMR College of Commerce, represented the constituent colleges of Cluster University and presented an overview of their achievements and contributions.

The celebration featured a series of captivating cultural performances, adding vibrancy to the event. A special documentary was showcased during the event, visually narrating the university's journey and milestones. To recognize and appreciate student excellence, awards were presented for outstanding contributions in Sports, Cultural Activities, NSS, and NCC, honoring students who have brought laurels to the university. In his address, Vice

Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar reiterated the institution's commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. He highlighted the university's ongoing efforts to enhance its infrastructure and foster academic and research collaborations, ensuring sustainable growth for the next two decades. In his presidential address, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal lauded Cluster University of Jammu as one of the leading institutions in the state. He stressed the importance of maintaining educational quality and embracing the challenges and opportunities posed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He emphasized the significance of skill-based and innovative courses to shape future-ready students. The event was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Abdul Majeed Bhat, Director Extension, Higher Education Department, Govt of J&K, Prof. Geeta Sumbl, Dr. Jatinder

Khajuria (Former registrar CLUJ), Prof. Z. A H a s h m i r (F o r m e r Controller CLUJ), Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Dr. Twinkle Suri, Dr. Sanjay Verma, Prof. S.P Sarswat, Prof. B. B. Anand, besides Ankur Mahajan (KAS), Registrar of Cluster University of Jammu; Deans of various Schools; Principals of Constituent Colleges; Associate and Assistant Deans (SW); Chairperson campus cultural committee, Cultural Coordinators; faculty members; non-teaching staff; Student Council members; and students from the university's schools and constituent colleges. The program was conducted by Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, while Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean of Humanities and Liberal Arts, delivered the vote of thanks. The event concluded on a high note, reaffirming Cluster University of Jammu's dedication to fostering innovation, academic excellence, and cultural enrichment.

Randhawa stresses importance of adequate sanitation facilities in PHCs Inaugurates development works at Malaria Centre in G'Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa on Saturday emphasized the critical importance of adequate sanitation facilities in public health centers. The MLA was speaking after inaugurating the construction of a new toilet complex and associated facilities at the Malaria Centre in Ward No. 21, Gandhi Nagar area of Bahu Constituency, aiming to enhance public health infrastructure and promote hygiene in the community. In his address, MLA Randhawa highlighted the Modi government's unwavering commitment to enhancing civic amenities and improving sanitation standards across the country, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.



MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa inaugurating civic work at Ward No 21.

He stated, "Ensuring proper sanitation is crucial for preventing diseases and promoting overall well-being. This project reflects our dedication to providing essential amenities to the residents of Bahu constituency." Randhawa highlighted that clean and hygienic public health infrastructure is fundamental to ensuring quality healthcare services. He stated that poor sani-

tation often leads to the spread of infections, affecting both patients and medical staff. The newly built facility aims to enhance cleanliness and convenience for visitors, particularly those seeking treatment at the center. Randhawa further reiterated the BJP government's commitment to improving public health infrastructure. He assured that similar initiatives would be undertaken across other healthcare centers in the region. The officials present assured that the construction would adhere to the highest standards and be completed within the stipulated timeframe. Community members expressed their gratitude for the initiative, highlighting its significance in improving local health infrastructure. Prominent among those who were present included Wasim (AEE), Manjot Pal Singh (AE), Vishal Kotwal (JE), Imtiaz Ahmed (Work Supervisor), BJP leaders present Naresh Singh (District President), Rahul Kumar (Mandal President), Lovisha Gupta, Rikki Gupta, Satbir Singh, Varun Sharma, Bhushan Verma, Daljeet Singh, Alok Mahajan, Shamyam Mahajan, Nirmal, Swarn Verma, Chander Kant Sharma, Surinder Bhushan Verma and others.

KK Gandhi honoured with Permanent Gallery at AFS Nathatop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Far from the madding crowd, at an altitude of 10,000 feet above sea level, the prestigious Air Force Station (AFS) Nathatop now houses a dedicated permanent gallery showcasing the remarkable on-spot live paintings of renowned artist K.K Gandhi. This exclusive gallery, established within the Air Force Museum, stands as a tribute to Gandhi's artistic excellence and his deep connection with the Indian Air Force. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, KK Gandhi has been honored by the Commanding Officer of Air Force Station Nathatop with an Award of Appreciation. His priceless paintings



vividly capture the essence of valor, heritage, and the indomitable spirit of the Indian Air Force, adding immeasurable value to the station's legacy. Through his art, he has left an enduring mark-one that inspires and instills pride in all who visit. The gallery has been meticulously curated with Gandhi's works, reflecting his artistic journey spanning over two decades. An honour board inscribed with his achievements in the field of art further highlights his dedication and passion. His evocative brushstrokes, infused with life and emotion, immortalize the strength, courage, and resilience of the Air Force, making the gallery a significant landmark at Nathatop.

Four-day national training program on Natural Farming concludes at SKUAST-J

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The four-day National Training Program on "Natural Farming," organized by the Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) in collaboration with the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Chatha, and the Directorate of Research, SKUAST Kashmir, concluded today. The training, held from February 25-28, 2025, was aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of Scientists and Professors from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of SKUAST-J and the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming. The valedictory function was graced by Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-J, as the Chief



SKUAST J officials along with participants.

Guest. Dr. Pooja extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, including Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Division of Fruit Science and Incharge, Centre for Organic and Natural Farming. Dr. Parshant Bakshi, who served as the Co-coordinator of the training, provided an overview of the program. He highlighted that the training featured 10 lectures and

practical demonstrations of bioformulations, including Panchgavya, as per the National Mission for Natural Farming (NMFN) guidelines. He appreciated the efforts of Bansil Lal, Farmers trainer from Reasi. He also shared his practical experiences using natural farming bioformulations on fruit crops such as guava, dragon fruit, and strawberries. On behalf of the partici-

pants, Dr. Banarasi Lal expressed gratitude to all resource persons for their valuable insights into natural farming, particularly in its association with crop and horticulture production and livestock management. Addressing the participants, Prof. Amrish Vaid lauded the efforts of Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator, Dr. Parshant Bakshi, Co-coordinator, and Dr. Satish

Kumar, Nodal Officer, for the successful organization of the training program. He emphasized that natural farming, an age-old practice, needs revival and assured continued support for similar capacity-building programs for KVK Heads and university scientists in the future. During the ceremony, certificates were distributed to the participants, acknowledging their engagement and learning. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Satish Kumar. The participants also shared their practical experiences, reflecting on the knowledge gained during the training. This training marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainable and natural farming practices.