

AIIMS Jammu leads way in affordable healthcare: Jan Aushadhi Week 2025 celebrated with public engagement and awareness drives



Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS and others during the event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu actively participated in Jan Aushadhi Week 2025 (1st-7th March) by organizing a series of impactful programs aimed at raising awareness about the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

The initiative focused on promoting affordable, high-quality, and reliable generic medicines, ensuring that essential healthcare

remains accessible to all. Under the visionary leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, the institute conducted multiple awareness drives, health camps, and educational sessions across District Samba, reaching diverse sections of society. The week commenced with Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyaan, engaging with the rural population of Block Ramgarh and

patients at the AIIMS Jammu OPD, where information was disseminated about the efficacy, affordability, and availability of generic medicines at Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Furthering its outreach, AIIMS Jammu organized Jan Aushadhi Bal Mitra at New Jagat Jyoti Academy, Sangwal, involving students in health promotional activities and a drawing competition focused on healthcare awareness. In addition, a

Jan Arogya Mela at NT-PHC Sangwal, Block Ramgarh, provided essential medical services to the local community, reinforcing the importance of preventive healthcare.

A significant academic initiative, the Jan Arogya Seminar at JSS College of Pharmacy, Vijaypur, educated pharmacy students on the benefits of generic medicines and rational drug use, ensuring future healthcare professionals are well-informed advocates of affordable healthcare. AIIMS Jammu also hosted a dynamic awareness session featuring health talks, role plays, and poetry recitations, engaging faculty, students, and staff in

meaningful discussions on the role of Jan Aushadhi in reducing healthcare costs.

Recognizing the crucial role of women in healthcare, AIIMS Jammu organized "Jan Aushadhi - Ek Kadam Matri Shakti ki Ore," celebrating the dedication of women healthcare workers and doctors from Block Ramgarh. The event, held in the presence of CMO Samba, Dr. Vidhi Bhatial, and BMO Ramgarh, Dr. Lakhwinder Singh, honored their contributions to community health and patient care.

Through these initiatives, AIIMS Jammu reaffirms its commitment to making quality medicines accessible and affordable, empowering communities with the knowledge and resources needed for better healthcare outcomes. Aligned with the vision of "Jan Aushadhi - Sasti bhi, Achihi bhi, Bharosemand bhi!", AIIMS Jammu continues to lead the way in ensuring healthcare for all, contributing to the National goal of a "Swasth Bharat."

Ex-Policemen League Jammu holds monthly meeting, pays tribute to departed officers



League members after the meeting.

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JAMMU: The monthly meeting of the Ex-Policemen League, District Jammu, was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the Retirees Police League, District Jammu, at the Retirees Office in Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting began with floral tributes paid to the departed souls of Ex-Police Officers Abdul Subhan Lone (DIG), Ghulam Ahmed Malik (SP), and Ghulam Abbas Chowdhary (SP), who recently passed away. The gathering observed two minutes of silence, praying for their eternal peace.

The retired police officers expressed their gratitude to DGP Prabhat Nalin for conducting open public interactions during the Thana Divas program at Police

Station Gandhi Nagar.

They also appreciated the efforts of Jammu Police in curbing crime rates and making major narcotics recoveries, which have significantly contributed to public safety in the region. During the meeting, several important issues concerning retired police personnel were raised.

These included removal of salary and pension discrepancies among police personnel of the same rank, availability of essential medicines for retired officers, ensuring their healthcare needs are met, reservation in employment for children of retired police personnel and martyrs' families, demanding that they be given priority in job opportunities, and regular meetings between retired police officers and Police Headquarters, Zonal

Headquarters, and local police units, to address their concerns effectively.

A large number of senior retired police officers attended the meeting, including Ranjit Singh (SSP IPS), Suresh Kumar (SSP), DSPs Ch. Bhag Ram, Yoginder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Satpal Sharma, and J.S. Chib (Senior Vice President). Others present were Kamal Sharma (DSP), Mohd Sadiq (Vice President), SIs Ramesh Sharma, Satpal, Kirpal Singh, Manohar Lal Ratta, and ASI Ashok Kumar (Office Secretary).

The meeting concluded with a heavy tea session, where members expressed their appreciation to District Police Jammu for providing logistical support and making necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of their monthly meetings.

HPS organises an inter-class English poetry recitation competition



Faculty members along with winner students.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: An Inter-Class English Poetry Recitation Competition was organised recently at Humanity Public School (HPS), Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana for classes 6th to 9th.

The participants came up with different poems on various themes like Patriotism, Nature, Festivals, Seasons etc and recited them with great fondness and zeal.

The winners of Competition according to

class were Abbul Hassan (6th A) got 1st position, Prithvi (6th B) won 2nd position and Gurbani (6th G) stood at 3rd position.

From class 7th Priya (7th G) won 1st position, 2nd position is secured by Snavi (7th A) and Divyanshi (7th B) got 3rd position. From class 8th Navya (8th G) stood at 1st position, Shabnam (8th B) secured 2nd position and Khushi (8th C) won 3rd position. In class 9th, Vivek (9th G)

secured 1st position, 2nd position is secured by Aakriti (9th A) and Pallvi (9th B) stood at 3rd position.

The competition was organised under the guidance of Vice-Principal, Anku Charak and High Wing Incharge, Namrta Sharma. All the winners were honoured with the merit certificates by the Principal, Gaurav Charak. Kamaljeet Kour, English teacher was the presenter of the competition. Aradhana Bhagat and Monika Verma, Lecturer High. Sec. Wing were the judges of the competition.

Gaurav Charak congratulated the winners and said, recitation activities helped students to build confidence as they learnt to speak more accurately and persuasively about any piece of writing. Vice-Principal, Anku Charak also appreciated and applauded the performance of all the participants and wished them for their future endeavours.

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JAMMU: A grand Shobha Yatra was taken out in Jammu as part of the week-long fifth Bhagavad Gita Gyan Saptah, organized by the Mahanubhav Panth Jai Shri Krishna Dharmik Shri Dattatreya Prabhru Kripa Samidhan under the guidance of Pawan Gupta. The week-long Saptah will conclude tomorrow, March 9, 2025 at Aggarwal Dharamshala. On this occasion, Senior BJP leader and MLA of the East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, Priya Sethi, former Minister along with several prominent individuals from the area, participated in the procession. The Shobha Yatra commenced from Agarwal Dharamshala and traversed through prominent areas of

Shobha Yatra taken out as part of Fifth Bhagavad Gita Gyan Saptah. Yudhvir, Priya Sethi ask people to imbibe teachings of Bhagavad Gita for personal, societal transformation



MLA East Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Leader Priya Sethi participating in Shobha Yatra in Jammu.

Jammu, including Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Raj Tikal Road, Moti Bazar, Paeca Danga, Jain Bazar, Peernetha, Lakhdata Bazar, Shahidi Chowk, Residency Road, and culminated back at Aggarwal Dharamshala. Devotees from various parts of the city participated enthusiastically, accom-

panying the procession with traditional music, dance, and devotional chants. The procession featured beautifully decorated tableaux depicting scenes from Lord Krishna's life, attracting the attention of onlookers and devotees alike. The streets were adorned with colorful decorations, and residents lined the pathways, offer-

ing flowers and expressing their reverence as the procession passed by. Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the profound significance of the Bhagavad Gita in today's world, emphasizing its timeless teachings that promote values of righteousness (Dharma), devotion (Bhakti), and selfless service (Seva). He stated that the Bhagavad Gita serves as a spiritual guide, inspiring individuals to lead a life rooted in moral integrity and compassion.

Sethi stressed that the sacred scripture's message of performing one's duty without attachment to the results is especially relevant in modern times, where materialism often overshadows spiritual growth. He also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of devotees and

the dedication of the volunteers who contributed to the successful organization of the event.

Lauding the efforts of the organizers, Priya Sethi said that such spiritual gatherings play a vital role in fostering communal harmony and unity, bringing people from diverse backgrounds together in a spirit of devotion and mutual respect.

Priya Sethi further added that the vibrant Shobha Yatra not only showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region but also served as a reminder of the moral and ethical values that form the foundation of a harmonious society. She appealed to the people to imbibe the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita for personal and societal transformation.

JKEEGA condemns freezing of salary funds of 200 Transmission Line Maintenance Division Employees

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) has strongly condemned the freezing of salary funds amounting to Rs 1.52 crores in the Divisional Salary Accounts of Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I/II (TLMD-I/II), JKPTCL, Jammu.

This decision, stemming from a legal dispute involv-

ing M/s Gulati Metals and Alloys vs. Chief Engineer (Transmission) Jammu, has directly impacted 200 employees, including Class-IV workers to Executive Engineers, causing severe financial distress.

The freezing of these funds follows an order issued by the Additional District Judge (Commercial Court), Jammu, on January 30, 2025, directing the attachment of the awarded

amount of Rs 52 lakhs from TLMD-II's account at J&K Bank Narwal Branch and Rs 1.08 crores from TLMD-I's account at J&K Bank New Plot Branch.

The ruling was in response to a contractual dispute in which M/s Gulati Metals and Alloys claimed interest payments from the department, despite already receiving their principal payment. In light of this situation, JKEEGA convened a meeting in Jammu, where affected employees expressed their concerns.

The union highlighted that General Provident Fund (GPF) contributions, tax deductions, and leave salary funds for December, January, and February remain unadjusted, depriving employees of rightful earnings and accrued inter-

est. It emphasized that employees are suffering financial losses through no fault of their own, as these accounts solely function for salary disbursements and do not hold commercial funds.

JKEEGA also criticized the Government's standing counsels for their failure to effectively defend the case, resulting in this grave injustice. The association lamented that despite two months having passed since the ruling, the appeal has not yet been properly discussed in court. Furthermore, the Senior Advocate assigned by the Law Department failed to appear at the scheduled hearing on March 7, 2025, reflecting a casual and unprofessional approach to a matter of significant public interest. The association

has now appealed to Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), and Law Secretary to urgently intervene and assign a strong legal team to challenge the court's decision.

JKEEGA has also urged the government to release additional funds under the salary head to compensate the affected employees, ensuring they do not bear the brunt of a legal dispute unrelated to their work or entitlements.

If left unaddressed, JKEEGA warned that this issue could set a dangerous precedent, leading to similar litigations impacting other departments. The immediate defreezing of funds is crucial to prevent further hardships for employees and safeguard government interests.

GCW Parade, FactShala University Network hold workshop on 'Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Mass Communication and Multimedia Production at Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Jammu, in collaboration with FactShala University Network, on Saturday conducted a workshop on 'Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes.'

The event aimed to equip students with the essential skills to critically evaluate digital content, combat misinformation, and navigate the evolving media landscape with confidence. The workshop was led by Dr. Raviya Gupta, an media educator and Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu. With extensive experience in media literacy, digital journalism, and communication research, Dr. Gupta pro-



College faculty members and students during the workshop.

vided insightful discussions on the challenges posed by deepfakes, misinformation, and the influence of artificial intelligence on media consumption. Her session emphasized the importance of critical thinking, fact-checking, and recognizing credible sources in today's digital world.

As part of the FactShala University Network Programme, the workshop integrated interactive learning modules, including 'Google

Super Searchers in the Time of AI' and 'Critical Thinking & Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes.'

Students participated in hands-on exercises designed to strengthen their ability to discern manipulated media and identify misinformation trends. Additionally, real-world case studies and examples illustrated the dangers of deepfake technology and the urgent need for digital literacy.

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organises free full-body health checkup camp



Health check up being carried out during the camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu, organized a free full-body health checkup camp on Saturday at its Kathua office in collaboration with Atulaya Diagnostic Lab.

Over 50 members benefited from comprehensive screenings, including 58 vital parameters and a PSA test, conducted by a proficient medical team.

Held under the guidance of Iqbal Singh (Working President) and Pawan Mahajan (Secretary), who traveled from Jammu to assist the Kathua Unit, the camp received an over-

whelming response, continuing the success of previous editions.

To support fasting requirements, refreshments were provided post-examination, and all costs were fully covered by the association as part of its commitment to members' well-being. Iqbal Singh expressed gratitude to the participants and medical professionals.

The association reaffirmed its dedication to ensuring the health and welfare of retired employees while actively contributing to societal well-being through various noble initiatives.

Devyani Rana leads Women's Day celebrations at Nagrota, felicitates women achievers

STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: In a heartfelt tribute to her legendary father and senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana, J&K BJP Yuva Mrocha Vice President Devyani Rana joined thousands of women in Nagrota to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event was held at the very venue where Mr. Rana had embarked on his journey to contest the 2024-Legislative Assembly elections-a contest he won with a record-breaking margin, emerging as the most resounding voice for Jammu's cause. The atmosphere was charged with emotions and nostalgia as the people of Nagrota remembered the dynamic and visionary leadership of Devender Singh Rana, who left this world on October 31 last with his boots on, just days after taking oath as an MLA, leaving behind an irreplaceable void in Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape.

Interacting with the partici-

pants, Devyani Rana emphasized the unmatched potential of women and their role in shaping society as also their own destiny.

"Given the right opportunities, the sky is the only limit for women, who have already proven that they are second to none in any field," she said.

Devyani Rana also highlighted the Narendra Modi government's commitment to women empowerment, urging the women of Nagrota to take full advantage of the various welfare schemes designed to uplift them.

Assuring her support to the people of Nagrota, Devyani Rana reaffirmed her commitment to carrying forward her father's mission. "This constituency was extremely close to my father's heart, and I will do everything I can to uphold his vision for its progress," she added.

During the event, Devyani Rana felicitated several distinguished women achievers from



J&K BJP Yuva Mrocha Vice President Devyani Rana during the event at Nagrota.

Nagrota for their exceptional contributions in different fields. They included Nazia Bibi, daughter of Sabar Ali and Zulaikha Bibi, an international Kho-Kho player who represented India in the 2025 Kho-Kho World Cup in New Delhi. Hailing from Ban, Nagrota, she played a crucial role in India's victory; Chhavi Sharma, daughter of Vijay Sharma and Tripta Sharma from Jandyal Thathi, an international fencer who won a bronze medal in the Cadet and Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championship held in

Christchurch, New Zealand; Ridhima Rajput, daughter of Rajeshwar Singh and Binchu Slathia from Jakharyar (Dhan), a promising spin bowling all-rounder. She played Under-15 and Under-19 cricket (2023-24) and took 111 wickets in the Women's U-15 One-Day Trophy, securing 9th rank in India; Meenakshi Jamwal, daughter of Varinder Singh and Neetu Devi from Jhakyari Dhan Panchayat, a senior national-level player in Kho-Kho and Rugby; Ashley Sharma, daughter of Romesh Kumar and Anjali Sharma, a

national-level Judo player from Agore village; Preeti Sharma, daughter of Late Bansilal Sharma, a successful entrepreneur who has been running a wholesale grocery business in Nagrota for the past two decades; Prakriti Sharma, daughter of Rattan Lal and Santosh Sharma from Gharota, a gold medalist at the National Thang Ta Championship in Kanyakumari, Ekta Kumari, resident of Gharota, who led the NCC contingent during the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi and Chitrakala, daughter

of Ishar Dass from Chilla, a gold medalist in Mastogi-Du.

The celebrations were marked by a cultural extravaganza and local talent showcase. The celebrations featured vibrant cultural performances by women and girls from the Nagrota constituency. Renowned Dogri singer Varsha Jamwal, who hails from Surinsar, Nagrota, presented a mesmerizing performance, enthralled the audience. Devyani Rana also launched Pooja Saathi Dhoo Cones, a local women-led entrepreneurship initiative. This product, crafted by Nagrota's Self-Help Group (SHG), is now listed on various online platforms, bringing handmade food, beauty, health, jewelry, and clothing products to a wider market.

The event was a testament to the growing empowerment of women in Nagrota and reaffirmed the legacy of Devender Singh Rana, who always advocated for social and economic upliftment of the Constituency.