

CSIR-IIIM Jammu begins 3-day training programme on Gas Chromatography

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu on Monday inaugurated a three-day Skill Development Training Programme on Gas Chromatography (GC) at its Quality Management and Instrumentation Division (QMD). The programme aims to equip students and researchers with practical analytical skills in advanced scientific instrumentation.

Participants from various academic and research institutions introduced themselves during the inaugural session. Dr. Nagaraju Nekkala, Scientist at the Quality Management and Instrumentation Division, presented an overview of the training programme and explained its objectives. He informed the participants that the course has been designed to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical laboratory exposure, enabling them to



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Zabeer Ahmed with participants and other dignitaries.

understand the functioning and applications of gas chromatography in scientific research.

Addressing the gathering, Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, emphasised the importance of capacity-building initiatives for students and young researchers. He said such programmes help bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical laboratory skills, allowing participants to gain familiarity with modern analytical tools widely used in research and industry.

Dr. Ahmed encouraged participants to take full advantage of the opportunity to learn from experienced scientists and gain hands-on exposure to sophisticated instruments available at the institute. He also highlighted the role of CSIR-IIIM as a premier national research institute working extensively in the field of drug discovery, particularly phytopharmaceuticals. Exposure to advanced analytical technologies like gas chromatography, he noted, would significantly enhance the research capabilities of young scientists.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Rajkishor Rai, Head and Senior Scientist of the Quality Management and Instrumentation Division, underlined the importance of skill-based scientific training in modern research. He stressed that knowledge of advanced analytical techniques is essential for researchers working in fields such as biotechnology, microbiology and pharmaceutical sciences.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Principal Scientist Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed.

Following the inauguration, the technical sessions began with a lecture by Dr. Nagaraju Nekkala on "Introduction to Gas Chromatography: Principles, Instrumentation and Applications." The session provided participants with a foundational understanding of GC technology; its components and applications in chemical and pharmaceutical analysis. Participants were later given a laboratory orientation, during which they were introduced to analytical facilities, laboratory protocols and safety practices followed in chromatographic analysis. The afternoon session focused on hands-on training, where participants analysed essential oils using GC-MS instrumentation. They were guided through sample preparation, instrument operation, chromatographic separation and interpretation of analytical data under expert supervision. The training programme, organised by the Quality Management and Instrumentation Division, aims to strengthen the technical capabilities of young researchers and enable them to apply gas chromatography techniques in research laboratories, quality control units and industrial settings.

"Pratham Sindhu Kumbh" to be organized from June 22

'Last date for registration of Yatra is May 15'



Dignitaries releasing "Pratham Sindhu Kumbh" poster.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti (Regd.) announced the historic "Pratham Sindhu Kumbh" to be organized as part of the 30th Sindhu Darshan Yatra 2026. The grand religious and cultural event will take place in Leh-Ladakh from 22nd to 27th June 2026. Registrations for the yatra have already started and the last date for registration is 15th May 2026.

The Sindhu Darshan Yatra, which began in 1997 under the guidance of Dr. Indresh Kumar (Senior Pracharak, Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh), is celebrating its 30th year in 2026. The yatra symbolizes India's ancient cultural heritage and promotes national unity by bringing together devotees, saints and social organizations from across the country.

During the event, religious rituals, cultural programmes and patriotic activities will be organized. Special campaigns such as "Tiranga for POK, Tiranga for Kailash and Tiranga for Sindh" will also be conducted.

Those present during the press conference included Satish Mittal (State

President, Himalayan Parivar), Suneet Raina (State President, Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti), Purnima Sharma (Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & State Mahila Wing President, Himalayan Parivar) and Narinder Aggarwal (State General Secretary, Himalayan Parivar) among others.

The Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti appealed to devotees, youth and social organizations across the country to participate in large numbers and make the historic Pratham Sindhu Kumbh a grand success.

VLCC hosts 'The Complete You Mahotsav' in Jammu, Rekha Mahajan highlights importance of wellness



BJP Vice President Rekha Mahajan with others at inauguration ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A grand wellness and beauty event titled "The Complete You Mahotsav" was organised by VLCC Jammu Channi at Country Inn & Suites by Radisson Blu, Jammu, bringing together beauty experts, wellness professionals and customers for a day dedicated to self-care and holistic well-being.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from visitors who explored a wide range of services and consultations related to skin care, hair science, slimming therapies, laser treatments, aesthetic consultations and other beauty and wellness services.

The programme also featured the launch of new wellness offerings designed to help individuals enhance their confidence and overall well-being. BJP Vice President Rekha Mahajan, who attended the event, appreciated the initiative and said that platforms promoting health, wellness and self-care are important for building confidence and encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles.

"Beauty and wellness are not just about appearance but about feeling confident and healthy from within. Events like 'The Complete

You Mahotsav' create awareness about modern wellness practices and help people take better care of their physical and mental well-being," she said. Rekha Mahajan further added that Jammu is witnessing rapid growth in lifestyle and wellness sectors, which is encouraging entrepreneurship and creating new opportunities for professionals in the beauty and healthcare industry.

The organisers expressed gratitude to the people of Jammu for their love, trust and continued support, stating that the success of VLCC Channi over the years has been possible because of the strong bond with its clients and well-wishers. Participants gain insights into advanced techniques and modern approaches to beauty and wellness.

The organisers said that the objective of the event was to create a platform where people could explore various beauty, health and wellness solutions under one roof, while also celebrating the long-standing relationship between VLCC and its customers.

The programme concluded with an interactive engagement with guests and visitors, making "The Complete You Mahotsav" a vibrant celebration of beauty, wellness and self-care in Jammu.

IIM Jammu inaugurates 17th Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program under Malaviya Mission

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on Monday inaugurated the 17th batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, at its Jagti Campus.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Programme Director, and Prof. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C). The programme began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolising the pursuit of knowledge and collective wisdom. The five-day training programme has brought together 16 participants from different parts of the country, representing diverse academic and professional backgrounds.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ateeque Shaikh shared an overview of the programme and emphasised



Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Programme Director, and Prof. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy with others at IIM Jammu.

the importance of staying relevant in today's rapidly evolving professional environment. He highlighted the remarkable growth of IIM Jammu, stating that the institute has expanded significantly since its inception.

"From an initial strength of around 60 students, IIM Jammu has now grown to more than 1,000 students across various academic programmes, reflecting the institute's expanding academic footprint," he said.

Dr. Shaikh also recalled his experience as former Chairperson (Admissions),

mentioning that students were earlier encouraged to record short videos showcasing the safety and normalcy of Jammu and Kashmir. He said this initiative helped build confidence among prospective students and their families and contributed to improved gender diversity on campus.

He further highlighted the institute's diverse academic offerings, including the MBA in Healthcare Management, jointly offered with AIIMS Jammu and IIT Jammu, and the dual degree B.Tech + MBA

programme in collaboration with IIT Jammu.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Prashant Mishra warmly welcomed them and described the programme as a platform for professionals and members of academia and industry to reconnect with learning and knowledge exchange. He provided an overview of the Executive Education and Consultancy initiatives at IIM Jammu, noting that such programmes play an important role in bridging the gap between industry practices and academic learning. He emphasised

that insights gained through industry engagement enrich classroom discussions and enhance students' learning experiences. Prof. Mishra also briefly shared his professional journey and reaffirmed IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering continuous learning and academic collaboration.

During the session, the participants introduced themselves and shared their expectations from the training programme.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Prashant Mishra, who expressed gratitude to the participants, faculty members and organising team for their contributions to the successful launch of the 17th batch.

The training programme is being coordinated by IIM Jammu's Executive Education and Consultancy division, reinforcing the institute's commitment to capacity building, academic excellence and collaborative knowledge creation.

Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association honours Veer Naris, urges Union Govt to fulfil demands

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association, Jammu and Kashmir (UT) has urged the concerned authorities to address several long-pending issues related to the welfare and rights of retired paramilitary personnel.

The Association has submitted appeals to the 8th Pay Commission, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Union Home Minister, highlighting matters related to pension parity, ex-servicemen status and other benefits for former paramilitary personnel.

In its appeal to Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Chairperson of the 8th Pay Commission, the Association requested the removal of pension disparities between the Central Paramilitary Forces and the Army. It demanded that pension benefits for paramilitary personnel be brought



Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association members honouring Veer Naris.

on par with those provided to Army personnel, stating that both serve the nation with equal dedication and commitment. The Association has also appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to grant Ex-Servicemen status to retired paramilitary personnel in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The members pointed out that such provisions have already been implemented in states like Kerala, Uttarakhand and Haryana,

and urged the government to extend similar benefits in J&K. They further requested the Chief Minister to expedite the process and review the file related to the matter that is currently pending with the Home Department of the Government of J&K.

In another appeal addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Association urged the government to withdraw the requirement of a security deposit for liquor licenses imposed on retired paramilitary personnel.

The Association stated that this condition is not applicable to Army ex-servicemen and therefore requested that the order be withdrawn to ensure equal treatment for retired paramilitary personnel. Meanwhile, the Association organised a special function to honour the Veer Naris (war widows) of ex-paramilitary personnel. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Chief Patron Harinder Mahajan, where the widows were felicitated with

respect and appreciation for the sacrifices made by their families in service of the nation.

On the occasion, D.K. Chouhan also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release the pending 18 months of Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears for employees and to merge 50 percent DA of the 7th Pay Commission with the basic pay until the implementation of the 8th Pay Commission.

Several members of the Association were present during the programme, including Kiran Singh, Harbans Lal Sharma (Vice President), Noor Mohammad (General Secretary), Inspector Yash Pal, Jagan Nath, Sub-Inspector Janak Raj, Bishno Devi and Harvinder Kour.

The members reiterated their commitment to continue raising issues related to the welfare and rights of retired paramilitary personnel and their families.

Sadhotra felicitates UPSC achievers Ritika Bhan, Akash Jaggi; says youth are pride of J&K



Former Minister and Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra felicitating UPSC achievers Ritika Bhan and Akash Jaggi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and Additional General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Sunday visited Bhatnagar and Lower Roop Nagar in the Jammu North Assembly Constituency to congratulate UPSC achievers Ritika Bhan and Akash Jaggi on their remarkable success.

Sadhotra visited their residences and interacted with family members, relatives and well-wishers, sharing in their joy over the prestigious achievement. He said the success of Ritika Bhan and Akash Jaggi, along with 15 other candidates from Jammu and Kashmir who cleared the examination this year, has brought immense pride and honour to the Union Territory. "These young achievers have made Jammu and Kashmir proud. Their accomplishments

are not only a moment of celebration for their families but also a source of inspiration for society at large," he said.

Praising their dedication and perseverance, Sadhotra noted that such success stories highlight the tremendous potential of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that when young individuals excel in competitive fields, they motivate countless others to pursue their goals with commitment and confidence. He further stated that the youth of the Union Territory possess exceptional talent and capability and, with proper guidance and opportunities, can shine in diverse arenas while bringing laurels to the region.

Emphasizing the role of institutions and society, Sadhotra called upon educational bodies, social organizations and community leaders to extend full support to talented youth. He

stressed the need to create a positive and encouraging environment where young people are inspired to strive for excellence in academics, sports and other professional fields.

Sadhotra conveyed his best wishes to Ritika Bhan and Akash Jaggi for their future endeavours and expressed confidence that they would achieve greater milestones in the years to come. He also lauded the role of their families, stating that the guidance and encouragement of parents and mentors play a vital role in shaping the future of young achievers.

Those who accompanied Sadhotra during the visits included Sumita Gupta, Sandip Singh Manhas, Veerji Bhat, Uttam Sharma, Dev Raj, Babu Ram Bhagat and Kasturi Lal Sharma. They also congratulated the successful candidates and wished them continued success in their future pursuits.

Sat raises Jammu Smart City Mission in RS, Centre confirms 98 pc projects completed with Rs 489 Cr

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma raised the issue of the progress and outcomes of the Jammu Smart City Mission in the Rajya Sabha through an unstarred question, seeking details from the Union Government regarding the status of projects, funds utilized, and the future roadmap of the initiative.

Responding to the question, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu submitted the written reply in the House that under the flagship Smart Cities Mission launched by the Government led by Narendra Modi, Jammu has witnessed significant

transformation in urban infrastructure and civic amenities.

The reply from the Minister stated that Jammu Smart City has received the entire central financial assistance of Rs 489 crore, which constitutes 100 percent of the total central share allocated for the city. Out of this amount, Rs 455 crore has already been utilized, reflecting 93 percent utilization of the funds released by the Government of India. Providing further details, the Government informed that out of the 127 projects sanctioned under the Jammu Smart City Mission, 125 projects-about 98 percent-have already been successfully completed, while the remaining two projects are currently under implementation.

This progress reflects the effective

execution of development initiatives aimed at modernizing Jammu's urban infrastructure and enhancing public services. The Ministry also informed that after the formal closure of the Smart Cities Mission on March 31, 2025, an advisory was issued to ensure timely completion of the remaining projects and submission of utilization certificates for the funds released by the Government of India by March 2026.

The advisory further directs the concerned authorities to prepare operation and maintenance plans for the assets created under the mission. The Government has also outlined a future roadmap under which the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) created for Smart Cities will continue to play a strategic role in addressing emerging

urban challenges. Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) established under the mission will function as city operating systems and analytical hubs, supporting improved urban governance and service delivery. Sat Sharma further reaffirmed his commitment to highlighting the developmental aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir at the national level and ensuring that the benefits of major flagship programmes of the Modi Government reach the people of the region.

He insisted that the prompt response in Parliament also reflects the significant strides made in transforming Jammu's urban landscape through sustained investment and focused governance under the Smart Cities Mission.

