

Physics Alumni reconnect at Central University of Jammu



Physics Alumni along with faculty and students at Central University of Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Physics and Astronomical Sciences at the Central University of Jammu organized an Alumni Meet 2026 at the Auditorium, Aryabhata Bhawan today.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni, along with faculty members and students of the department, creating an atmosphere of nostalgia and interaction.

The programme was formally inaugurated by the Dean Sciences Prof. Vinay Kumar, who highlighted the importance of alumni engagement in strengthening academic institutions. Prof. Kamni Pathania delivered

the welcome address and warmly greeted the alumni, appreciating their continued connection with the department.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Ashish Kumar and Dr. Vishal Singh, while the student of the Vignyan Vatika group actively served as the coordinators and helped organize the activities smoothly.

A series of cultural performances added vibrancy to the programme, including dance and singing performances by students. Interactive games and creative activities further encouraged participation and engagement between alumni and current students.

The alumni also shared their experiences and memories, making the gathering meaningful and inspiring for the younger participants.

The department expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, for his encouragement and support, and acknowledged the guidance of the Dean, DSW Prof. Ritu Bakshi in facilitating the successful organization of the event. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vishal Singh, followed by souvenir distribution, cake cutting, a group photograph, and lunch, marking a memorable reunion for the alumni and the university community.

Kupwara Taekwondo meet from March 15

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Taekwondo Association of District Kupwara shall organise two-day District Championships under the aegis of the J&K Taekwondo Association and the J&K Sports Council (JKSC).

The championship shall be held at the Indoor Sports Hall, Handwara, from March 15 under the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the JKSC.

The event shall feature competitions across Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, and Senior categories, providing a platform for the young athletes of the district to perform and excel, a hand-out issued here today informed.

Those participating athletes need to bring along Registration Form compete in all respects, Aadhaar Card, JKTA License and Date of Birth Certificate, the handout added.

For further information, players may feel free to contact the organising secretary (+91 60066 36652).

J&K Sub-Junior Hockey tourney from March 24

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hockey Jammu and Kashmir, after a gap of three years, shall conduct the J&K UT Sub-Junior Hockey Champion at KK Hakhu Stadium, here from March 24.

Sponsored by J&K Sports Council (JKSC), the event shall involve teams from various districts of the Union Territory. "The new body in Hockey J&K, which took over May last, is committed to hold activities on a regular basis with the sole aim to give exposure to the young talent. The next edition of the J&K UT championship is scheduled for Srinagar," informed general secretary of Hockey J&K, Dr. Taran Singh.



Heritage School holds orientation for new parents and students



Heritage School faculty with parents at orientation programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Heritage School organised an Orientation programme in the school amphitheatre to welcome new students of Classes I and II and their parents for the academic session 2026-2027.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Principal Akash Pradhan, Guest Speaker Dr. Richa Sharma, Vice Principal Rashmi Thakur, Founder Headmistress and Mentor Vandana Jasrotia and Headmistress Hemneet Kour, amidst chanting of

shlokas.

Welcoming the gathering, Headmistress Hemneet Kour shared the school's vision of holistic and experiential learning. Coordinators Rachita Anand and Harpreet Kaur briefed parents about the curriculum, school guidelines and assessment practices.

Guest speaker Dr. Richa Sharma spoke about raising emotionally strong and responsible children, emphasising the importance of encouraging independence and discouraging helicopter parenting.

Meanwhile, the young learners participated in engaging activities, including the award-winning short film 'Good Morning', recognised at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival, a NAPO animated film, and a craft activity titled 'A Paper Chain of Magic Words.'

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Principal Akash Pradhan, reaffirming the school's commitment to nurturing confident, responsible and compassionate learners.

GGM Science College lifts Vice-Chancellor Rolling Cricket Trophy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Inter-Collegiate Staff Vice-Chancellor Rolling Cricket Trophy, organized by Cluster University of Jammu, concluded on Saturday with GGM Science College emerging as the champions after defeating SPMR College of Commerce in an exciting final match. The Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Brig. (Retd.) Anil Gupta, Member Administration of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, attended as the Guest of Honour. The Vice-Chancellor presented a memento to the Guest of Honour, while Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education and Sports, presented a bouquet. The Registrar, Dean Academic Affairs, Deans of various faculties, and Principals of the constituent colleges were also present during the match and attended the prize distribution ceremony.



The final match was played at the JKCA Hostel Ground, GGM Science College, Jammu. After winning the toss, GGM Science College elected to bat first and posted a competitive total of 176 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Dr. Lokinder and Rajesh Bhardwaj led the batting effort with 41 runs each, while Dr. Bilal added a valuable unbeaten 17 runs and later made a significant impact with the ball by claiming three crucial wickets. For SPMR College of Commerce, Dr. Sunil delivered an impressive bowling spell, taking four wickets for 33 runs and restricting the opposition from posting an even bigger total. In response, SPMR College of Commerce struggled against disciplined bowling and managed 70 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their 20 overs. Nazim emerged as the top scorer with 20 runs, including a boundary, while Ranjeet contributed 12 runs. GGM Science College's bowling attack dominated the innings, with Dr. Rahul Kaith producing an outstanding performance by taking four wickets for 20 runs. Dr. Bilal supported effectively

with three wickets for 13 runs, while Rahul Verma claimed three wickets for 16 runs, sealing a comprehensive victory for his team. Dr. Bilal was declared Man of the Match for his exceptional all-round performance. Other awards presented during the ceremony included Best Fielder of the Tournament awarded to Rahul Verma, Best Batsman of the Tournament to Dr. Sunil Gupta, Best Bowler of the Tournament to Dr. Rahul Kaith, and Most Enthusiastic Player of the Tournament to Dr. Sunil Gupta, Principal of SPMR College of Commerce. The match was officiated by Deepak Gupta and Manish Sharma as umpires, while Prateek Malhotra served as the scorer. The tournament was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education and Sports, whose dedicated efforts were appreciated by the Vice-Chancellor.

Asmita Pencak Silat State League begins at Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Asmita Pencak Silat J&K League 2025 (J&K) commenced today at the Indoor Sports Complex, Polo Ground here, bringing together around 550 girls from various districts of J&K to compete and showcase their skills in the traditional martial art of Pencak Silat.

The opening ceremony was graced by Nusrat Ghazala, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir (J&K Sports Council) as the chief guest, while Hilal Ahmad, Manager J&K Sports Council, Polo Ground was guest of honour.

The dignitaries appreciated the initiative of organizing a large-scale women's sporting event aimed at empowering



Players competing in Asmita Pencak Silat J&K League.

young girls through sports.

The Asmita Pencak Silat State League is being organized as part of the Khelo India initiative, which focuses on strengthening women's participation in sports across the country. The league provides an important competitive platform for female athletes and encourages them to

pursue excellence in martial arts. The two-day league is expected to witness exciting bouts and outstanding performances by young female athletes from across the Union Territory, further strengthening the movement for women empowerment through sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

Badal Club to take on GNHC in Hockey final

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Badal Hockey Club Srinagar shall be playing against Guru Nanak Hockey Club Jammu in the final of the ongoing 11th Shaheed Bhagat Singh Sub-Junior Men Hockey Championship, organised by Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Foundation under the aegis of Hockey J&K at KK Hakhu Stadium, here tomorrow. The final is scheduled to be played at 4 pm, followed by the valedictory function of the tournament.

Earlier, in the semifinals, decided today, Badal Club defeated Bandhurakh Hockey Club at 4-3 via tie-breaker after the match ended in a 2-2 draw in the stipulated time. Badal Club scored in the 22nd and 58th



(Varun) minute of the match while Bandhurakh struck in the 32nd (Somu) and 48th (Ankit) minute to make it a drawn game.

In other semifinal, Guru Nanak Nagar Hockey Club blanked Khalsa Hockey Club 9-0 in a one-sided contest. Daksh scored two goals in the 18th and 19th minute while Ramandeep netted the ball in the 22nd minute to help the side take an invinc-

ible lead. It was followed by Manpreet, Harmandeep, Tejvir and Prabal, who added one goal each.

Ishan Sharma, businessman and Gurmeet Singh (Chief Engineer retired) were the special guests in today's semifinals.

The panel of technical officials comprised Kirandeep Singh, Saksham, Minakshi, Jagjeet Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Geeta.

Com Secy Cooperative reviews performance of ACCB Ltd

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting held to evaluate the performance and operational status of the Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. (ACCB) at the JCC Bank Rail Head Complex.

The meeting was attended by the senior officials, including Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Mohammed Shafiq Chak; Director Finance, Cooperative Department; Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Ravi Shankar Sharma; other senior officers from the department and branch heads of the bank.

General Manager, ACCB, Intikhab Hussain, delivered a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the



Comm Secy Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal at a meeting.

bank's physical and financial performance. The overview encompassed key parameters such as deposit mobilization, advances, loan disbursement, liquidity management, asset quality, profitability, productivity, and human resource management. He also outlined ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing the operational efficiency, strengthening internal controls, and

transforming the bank into a financially sound, customer-centric institution with improved service delivery to members and customers.

The meeting featured in-depth discussions on the bank's overall financial health, operational challenges, and strategic priorities. Key focus areas included measures to reduce Non-Performing Assets (NPAs),

strengthen recovery mechanisms, improve profitability, and ensure long-term sustainability.

The Commissioner Secretary was briefed on various operational aspects, performance indicators, challenges encountered and proposed strategic interventions to fortify the cooperative banking framework across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the critical importance of financial discipline, Yasha Mudgal directed the officials to prioritize robust recovery strategies, enforce timely loan repayments and adopt sound financial management practices. She instructed the concerned officers to focus on achieving the targeted financial benchmarks, particularly improving the Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio

(CRAR), enhancing overall financial stability and ensure regulatory compliance.

The Commissioner Secretary further asked all the officers to work with full dedication. She reaffirmed the bank's commitment to proactive steps for boosting operational efficiency, elevating financial performance and delivering superior banking services to members and customers.

She reiterated the need to increase quality loan disbursement, modernize management systems and accelerate recovery efforts. She asked the Branch managers to expand high-quality lending while ensuring effective recovery of outstanding dues, and to implement aggressive measures to bring NPAs down to targeted levels.

Jammu Vishwavidyalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam concludes at JU

VC urges academia to preserve Jammu region's cultural legacy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: University of Jammu Vice-Chancellor Umesh Rai on Saturday lauded the rich cultural diversity of the Duggar region, emphasizing that Jammu's identity has been shaped by centuries of traditions, languages and community practices. He said it is essential for academic institutions to document, preserve and promote this heritage for future generations.

The Vice-Chancellor was addressing the concluding session of the two-day Jammu Vishwavidyalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam, which concluded at the University of Jammu with insightful panel discussions, vibrant cultural performances and enthusiastic participation from students, scholars and members of civil society.

Prof. Rai highlighted the broader vision of reconnecting the younger generation with the literary and cultural traditions of the Jammu region. He said the idea behind organising the

Samagam was to create a meaningful platform where literature, culture and public discourse could come together in a spirit of dialogue and reflection. Universities, he added, must function not only as centres of academic learning but also as custodians of cultural memory and heritage.

He also stressed the importance of integrating regional literature, languages and cultural traditions into academic curricula so that students remain connected to their roots while engaging with global knowledge systems. Referring to the Arvind Gyan Kendra, Prof. Rai reiterated the university's commitment to preserving and making accessible valuable cultural literature and intellectual traditions related to the Duggar region. He expressed satisfaction that the Samagam successfully brought together scholars, writers, artists, journalists and students on a common platform, encouraging dialogue across generations and



VC University of Jammu Umesh Rai speaking at a samagam.

strengthening awareness of Jammu's cultural heritage.

Earlier in the day, a panel discussion titled "Jammu Sanskriti Ki Baati: Vyapakata Dikhati" highlighted the region's rich and diverse cultural traditions. The session featured eminent speakers including Shiv Nirmohi, M. K. Waqar, Harsimran Singh, Farooq Anwar Mirza, Chander Kant and Dharmender Singh, while the discussion was moderated by Gulaab Safi.

The speakers elaborated on the deep historical roots of Duggar culture, tracing its connections with ancient traditions, Vedic references and regional folklore. They highlighted the cultural contributions of areas such as

Bhaderwah, Paddar and the Pahari belt, along with the influence of Punjabi traditions in shaping the composite identity of Jammu. They also noted that traditional festivals, agricultural practices, community participation and folk traditions continue to preserve values of unity, harmony and cultural continuity in the region.

The afternoon session included another panel discussion moderated by Arun Manhas. The panel featured Mohan Singh, Baljit Singh Raina, Rajveer Singh, Asadullah Wani, Saras Bharti and Subash Brahamanu. The panelists discussed the role of language, cinema, literature and cultural traditions in shaping

youth consciousness and strengthening regional identity.

As part of the event, several competitions were organised. In the elocution contest held at Padma Sachdev Sur Samvad, Parul Thakur from the Department of Journalism, University of Jammu secured the first prize, while Nitish Kumar from the Department of Dogri, University of Jammu won the second prize. Akash Rathore from Indian Institute of Mass Communication Jammu secured the third position. Consolation prizes were awarded to Komal Devi from the Department of English, Central University of Jammu and Samiksha

Mishra from IIMC Jammu.

A Students' Elocution Contest also witnessed enthusiastic participation from 43 students representing various colleges and universities. Mahi Gupta from Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar secured the first prize, followed by Rahul Thakur from Government Degree College Kathua in second place and Ojeswi Rajput from Government College for Women Parade in third place. Consolation prizes were awarded to Mannat Abrol from Government Degree College Reasi and Hetisha from Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research.

The audience was also treated to captivating folk performances by Master Kartar Chand, Khajoor Singh, Mohinder Soni and Sohan Kumar, reflecting the vibrant musical traditions of the Duggar region. Additional performances by Darshan Patakha, the Slatia Brothers and Bishan Dass added further

cultural vibrancy to the programme.

The valedictory session included a panel discussion featuring prominent journalists Neha Jalali, Nishikant Khajuria, Naveen Nawaz and Daya Sagar, moderated by Pradeep Dutta. The panelists observed that although Jammu has a long tradition of inclusivity and coexistence of diverse communities, its cultural heritage has not always received the recognition it deserves in broader discourse. They noted that since its establishment in 1969, the University of Jammu has played an important role in promoting regional languages, literature and cultural traditions. Describing Jammu as a "bouquet of cultures," the speakers highlighted the contributions of Dogra, Pahari, Gujjar, Bakarwal and other hill communities from regions such as Doda, Bhaderwah, Rajouri and Poonch in shaping the region's composite

identity. They also stressed the need to engage the younger generation in preserving and promoting cultural traditions through digital platforms and modern communication tools. The valedictory ceremony was further enriched by vibrant cultural performances, including traditional folk dances and musical presentations by the BSF Band and Pipe Band. Students of the University of Jammu also presented cultural items, bringing the two-day literary and cultural festival to a colourful conclusion. Over the course of two days, the Jammu Vishwavidyalaya Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam transformed the University campus into a lively hub of literary dialogue, cultural reflection and artistic expression. Dogra art, culture and cuisine were also showcased during the event, reaffirming the university's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of Jammu and the broader Duggar region.