

Flower show-cum-floritech conclave concludes at CSIR-IIIM; Experts highlight floriculture's economic potential



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed speaking at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two-day Flower Show-cum-Floritech Conclave 2026 concluded at the campus of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) on Canal Road here on Sunday, with experts emphasising the growing role of floriculture in research, livelihood generation and sustainable agriculture. Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi attended the valedictory function as chief guest. A large number of participants, including farmers, students, scientists, garden enthusiasts and members of the public, took part in the event and showcased a wide range of floral exhibits and innovative horticulture models.

Addressing the gathering, Vidyarthi said the tradition of organising the flower show in Jammu dates back to

1961 and has played a significant role in promoting awareness about floriculture and horticulture among citizens. He noted that flowers are not only symbols of beauty but also hold immense economic value in sectors such as cosmetics, essential oils and medicinal research.

Highlighting the region's biodiversity, he said the Himalayan belt is rich in plant diversity, offering vast opportunities for research, conservation and economic development.

He added that platforms like the flower show help bring together researchers, students, farmers and nature lovers, encouraging innovation and knowledge exchange in floriculture and allied fields. Vidyarthi also appreciated the efforts of scientists and institutions working to promote horticulture and plant-based research, saying

such initiatives can open new livelihood avenues for farmers and entrepreneurs.

Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Dr. Zabeer Ahmed said the Flower Show and Floritech Conclave has emerged as an important platform connecting scientists, farmers, students and industry stakeholders.

He said the institute functions under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, one of India's largest scientific research networks operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology, with dozens of laboratories working across diverse scientific fields.

Ahmed said the core objective of scientific research is to ensure that its benefits reach society, particularly farmers and rural communities.

He highlighted that initiatives such as the CSIR

Floriculture Mission are aimed at strengthening linkages between scientists and farmers by introducing improved cultivation techniques and high-yield flower varieties.

According to him, thousands of farmers across several states have already been connected through the mission, with many adopting scientific cultivation practices in crops such as marigold and ornamental flowers.

These initiatives, he said, are helping generate additional income opportunities and strengthening the floriculture sector.

Ahmed also noted that scientists at the institute are exploring the medicinal and pharmaceutical potential of flowers and plants by identifying bioactive molecules that could contribute to future drug development.

Earlier, Senior Principal

Scientist and Head of the Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, welcomed the guests and participants, stating that the objective of the conclave is to promote floriculture technologies, innovations and public participation in gardening and flower cultivation. He said the event brought together experts, researchers, students and gardening enthusiasts from across the region. Various competitions and exhibitions were organised as part of the programme, including floral painting for children, garden and lawn competitions, bonsai displays, artistic floral arrangements and innovative floriculture models.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from educational institutions, defence establishments, government departments and local citizens.

Dr. Shahid Rasool, Principal Scientist at the institute, presented the vote of thanks and acknowledged the efforts of organisers, participants, scientists and supporting staff for making the event successful.

The programme concluded with prize distribution to winners of different categories of the flower show and competitions.

Nightingale Pre-School celebrates Graduation Day with enthusiasm



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nightingale Pre-School celebrated the Graduation Day of its 2025-2026 batch on Sunday with great enthusiasm and grandeur. The event, themed "The Journey Begins," highlighted the achievements of young students and marked an important milestone in their early educational journey. The programme featured a vibrant musical dance drama presented by the tiny tots of the school. Their energetic performances and colourful presentations captivated the audience and created a joyful atmosphere throughout the event.

Rohini Aima, Principal-cum-Vice Chairperson of Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu, attended the function as the Chief Guest.

Yudhvir Sethi, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, and Priya Sethi, former Minister and BJP J&K UT Vice President, also graced the occasion. The function commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, symbolizing the beginning of knowledge and enlightenment.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Rohini Aima appreciated the efforts of the school management and teachers in nurturing young minds and laying a strong educational foundation for the children. She emphasized the importance of following one's dreams with dedication, determination, and hard work. She also praised the students

for their impressive performances and encouraged them to dream big and pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi, who is also the Managing Director of the School, said that institutions like Nightingale Pre-School serve as a ray of hope for parents seeking quality foundational education for their children within limited resources. He said that the school is committed to imparting good education while instilling patriotic values and preparing young students to face future challenges with confidence.

"We dream of seeing our students achieve great heights in life and bring pride to their families and the nation," he said. Priya Sethi, Chairman of the School, highlighted that the institution strives to provide a homely and nurturing environment for children. She said the school not only focuses on academic learning but also emphasizes family values, social responsibility, cultural awareness, and the spirit of brotherhood.

Principal Sonia Jain also addressed the gathering. She expressed gratitude to the parents, teachers, and staff for their constant support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

The programme concluded with the distribution of graduation certificates and warm wishes to the young graduates as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey.

Delegation of J&K Backward Classes Organisations meets MoS Ramdas Athawale

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint delegation of the All Jammu & Kashmir Backward Classes Organisations Forum met Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale during his visit to Jammu and submitted a memorandum highlighting issues faced by backward class communities in obtaining OBC certificates.

The delegation informed the Minister that under SRO 294 dated October 21, 2005, issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Government, certain backward class communities were excluded from the Central List in Municipal Local Bodies. They urged the Union Minister to take immediate steps to ensure that members of Other Backward Classes (OBC) are issued certificates in accordance with the Central List so that the youth belonging to these communities can apply for jobs in Central Government services.

The representatives emphasized that the absence of OBC



Delegation of J&K Backward Classes Organisations meeting with MoS Ramdas Athawale.

certificates from Municipal Local Bodies is preventing eligible candidates from availing reservation benefits in Central Government recruitment. They requested that these communities be properly recognized so that individuals can obtain the required certification and participate in employment opportunities at the national level.

The delegation specifically mentioned communities including Nai (Barber), Dhobi (Washerman), Kumhar (Potter), and Teli, stating that people belonging to these groups are facing difficulties in securing

OBC certificates in urban local bodies. Responding to the concerns, Ramdas Athawale assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with the Central Government and make efforts to address the issue at the earliest.

The delegation included Abdul Latif Teli, Faqir Chand Satiya, Balwant Kataria, Mohammad Shabir Samial, Kasturi Lal Basotra, Mohammad Rashid, Sain Dass, Mehon Lal, Ayodhya Kumar Manoh, and Boa Ditta, along with several other members of the public.

IIM Jammu concludes AMDP under ESDP of Ministry of MSME, GoI ; Entrepreneurs from 16 states participate

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM Jammu) successfully concluded its five-day residential Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP Batch-4) under the Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The programme was held from March 9-13, 2026, at the MDP Centre, Dhama 268, Academic Block, Jagti Campus, IIM Jammu, reflecting the institute's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and enterprise leadership across India. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty & Research, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Prof. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, EE&C, IIM Jammu; Dr. Praveen Kumar and Dr. Shivani Sachdev, Programme Directors, IIM Jammu. The initiative, organized under the scheme of the



A participant being honoured at IIM Jammu.

Development Commissioner (MSME), aimed at equipping entrepreneurs and professionals with advanced managerial skills, strategic thinking, and entrepreneurial competencies to strengthen India's MSME ecosystem.

The five-day residential programme brought together 25 participants from across India, including Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. The diverse participation highlighted the programme's national outreach and the value of immersive learning in a premier management institute. Addressing the participants, Prof. Jabir Ali encouraged them to translate their learn-

ings into impactful entrepreneurial ventures and sustainable business models. He underscored the critical role of MSMEs in India's economic growth and highlighted IIM Jammu's initiatives such as the YUVA Mission and Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) model, which identify and nurture entrepreneurial talent while facilitating enterprise formalization. He emphasized the importance of peer learning, professional networking, and continued engagement with the institute.

Prof. Prashant Mishra highlighted the role of the EE&C team in bridging academia, industry, and aspiring entrepreneurs. He encouraged participants to aspire to become job creators rather than job seekers and assured them of IIM Jammu's ongoing support and collaboration opportunities.

During the valedictory ceremony, Dr. Praveen Kumar presented the programme report, highlighting key learning outcomes, interactive sessions, and collaborative engagements. Participants appreciated the exposure to contemporary management practices, entrepreneurial frameworks, and MSME policy perspectives. They described the programme as an inspiring and comprehensive learning experience, commending the faculty's interactive approach and the inclusive campus environment.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of completion certificates and photographs, while Dr. Shivani Sachdev delivered the Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the efforts of the faculty, staff, and participants in making the programme a resounding success.

Dr Darakhshan visits Eidgah Jammu to review preparations for Eid prayers



JKWB Chairperson, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi visiting Eidgah at Residency Road in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, visited the Eidgah at Residency Road in Jammu today to review the arrangements for worshippers ahead of Eid festival.

She was accompanied by Special Officer Anqaf Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Administrator Jammu Abid Hussain & others sectional heads.

Dr Andrabi inspected the facilities and directed the concerned officials to ensure proper cleanliness, water supply, electricity, and other essential services for the people who will be offering Eid prayers here.

Andrabi said that the biggest Eid prayer congregation of Jammu is held here and hence we are committed to ensure satisfactory facilitation to the visitors on the day of Eid-al-fitr here.

"Waqf Board in coordina-

tion with different government departments and with the support of the public, we will manage the festival prayers in smooth and satisfactory manner as done in the past", said Dr Darakhshan.

Pushtah Law Firm inaugurated in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The inaugural ceremony of Pushtah Law Firm, founded by female entrepreneur Adv. Dhanyata Kumar, was held with great enthusiasm, marking a significant milestone in the region's legal landscape. The launch represents a step forward in promoting accessible, client-centric, and inclusive legal services tailored to the evolving needs of the community.

The event brought together members of the legal fraternity, community leaders, and guests for an inspiring evening of celebration, networking, and discussion on the future of legal services. The occasion was graced by the Chief

Guest, Dr. Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary of the Dogra Education Trust, which oversees institutions including Dogra Law College and Dogra Degree College.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Charak congratulated Adv. Dhanyata

Kumar for her initiative and entrepreneurial spirit. He noted that her venture marks the beginning of a new chapter in legal services in Jammu and Jammu & Kashmir, encouraging innovation and empowerment within the legal profession.



Sanskrit Nameplate installed at residence of Journalist Pradeep Dutta

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an initiative aimed at promoting Indian culture and the Sanskrit language, a Sanskrit nameplate was installed at the residence of senior journalist and State Awardee Pradeep Dutta in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The nameplate, bearing the name of his revered father G. S. Dutta, was formally installed by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and also a State Awardee.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Sanskrit is not merely a language but the foundation



Mahant Rohit Shastri presenting Sanskrit nameplate to journalist Pradeep Dutta.

of India's ancient civilization, knowledge tradition, and cultural heritage. He emphasized that installing Sanskrit nameplates at homes, institu-

tions, and establishments can serve as a meaningful step toward reviving the language and strengthening cultural identity. He added that such

initiatives can inspire the younger generation to understand and appreciate their cultural roots.

Mahant Shastri further stated that in the modern era it is important to preserve traditions and values. According to him, small yet meaningful steps like installing Sanskrit nameplates send a strong cultural message and contribute to safeguarding Sanatan values and heritage. Expressing his gratitude, Pradeep Dutta said it was a matter of pride for his family that the name of his respected father, G. S. Dutta, had been respectfully written and installed in

Sanskrit. He noted that Sanskrit represents the identity, traditions, and spiritual heritage of India and that it is the collective responsibility of society to preserve and promote the language.

He also hoped that more people would join this initiative and contribute toward the revival and promotion of Sanskrit.

Among those present on the occasion were Karunesh Gupta, Bhushan Jamwal, and other prominent members of the community, who appreciated the initiative and emphasized the need to strengthen cultural awareness in society.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCJL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Part of Channi Himmat, Malik Market, Upper Chowadhi, Matto Colony, Bathindi, Sunjwan, Boria and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bathindi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 16 from 9 am to 9.30 am and 1.30 pm to 2 pm.

