

Workshop on "Foundational AI: Large Language Models and Generative AI" concludes at SMVDU

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University successfully concluded a five-day workshop titled "Foundational AI: Large Language Models and Generative AI," organized by the School of Computer Science and Engineering under the High End Computing AI and Deep Learning Lab (RP-126). The programme aimed to equip students, researchers, and faculty members with advanced knowledge and practical exposure to emerging artificial intelligence technologies.

The workshop was formally inaugurated in the presence of faculty members, research scholars, and enthusiastic participants. The primary objective was to bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and practical implementation of modern AI technologies, including transformer architectures, Large Language Models (LLMs), Generative AI, deepfake detection, and



Students along with faculty during the workshop.

Agentive AI systems. The initiative focused on strengthening foundational understanding, enabling hands-on exposure to LLM workflows and prompt engineering, and encouraging research and innovation in AI and deep learning.

The workshop featured expert lectures by distinguished academicians and industry professionals. Puneet Goyal, Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, delivered an insightful session on image detection techniques with a special emphasis on deepfake detection and its associated challenges. Gyanendro

Loitongbam, Assistant Professor at IIT Ropar, discussed the evolution from traditional machine learning approaches to transformer-based Large Language Models.

Vinit Jakhetiya, Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, and Devashish Kumar, Director of CodroidHub Pvt. Ltd., delivered sessions on Agentive AI, focusing on the development of autonomous AI systems and their transformative potential. Murari Ramukha, AI Technology Strategist at Microsoft, conducted an industry-oriented session on Large Language

Models and their real-world deployment scenarios.

The programme was further enriched by Prof. Anand Nayyar from Dui Tan University and Tanmoy Chakraborty, Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, who shared advanced insights into Agentive AI architectures and applications. The valedictory technical session was delivered by Mettu Srinivas, Assistant Professor at National Institute of Technology Warangal, highlighting emerging trends and future research directions in Generative AI.

The workshop effectively combined theoretical sessions

with practical demonstrations. Key topics included foundational AI principles, transformer architecture and attention mechanisms, training and fine-tuning of LLMs, prompt engineering strategies, deepfake detection methodologies, Agentive AI frameworks, and applications of Generative AI tools. Participants appreciated the hands-on exercises and case studies that enhanced their practical understanding and technical competence.

The workshop was efficiently coordinated by Dr. Baijnath Kaushik, whose dedicated efforts ensured smooth technical and logistical execution. The organizing team expressed special gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, for his continuous encouragement and institutional support. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all speakers, organizers, and participants, marking the successful completion of this significant academic initiative.

GCW Udhampur conducts educational botanical trip to Jungle Gali



Students along with faculty during the trip.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Department of Botany organized an educational botanical trip to Jungle Gali as part of experiential and field-based learning under the patronage of Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal, Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, and the able guidance of Prof. Anita Gupta, HOD Botany.

The visit was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Kiran Parasher, Dr. Mehak Jamwal and Dr. Sameer Ahmad Thoker, faculty members of the Department of Botany.

The primary objective of the trip was to provide students with practical exposure to plant diversity, natural vegetation, ecological interactions, and field identification techniques. During the excursion, students observed various plant species in their natural habitat and studied morphological adaptations and ecological associations.

The field visit enabled students to correlate theoretical classroom knowledge with practical field observations, thereby enhancing their under-

standing of biodiversity and environmental awareness.

The trip was organized with due approval of the college administration. Faculty members who accompanied the students included Prof. Lekh Raj, Dr. Ujval Gupta, Dr. Arti Devi, along with supporting staff members.

Dr. Nalini Pathania appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of field-based education in strengthening scientific aptitude among students. Prof. Anita Gupta also lauded the efforts of the organizing faculty and highlighted that such excursions play a vital role in developing observational skills and research orientation in botanical studies.

The Department of Botany expressed gratitude to the college administration for their continuous support in successfully conducting the educational excursion.

GDC Neeli Nallah shines in District Road Safety Programme

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Road Safety Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah organized a vibrant College-Level Contest as part of its continued efforts to promote road safety awareness among students. The programme featured three major competitive events - Painting Competition, Slogan Writing Competition, and Elocution Contest - aimed at sensitizing students about traffic regulations, responsible driving, and the importance of adopting safe road practices. The event was conducted under the able guidance of Dr. Seema Arora, Principal of the college, whose consistent encouragement inspires students to actively participate in socially relevant initiatives. The programme was convened and efficiently coordinated by Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Convenor



Faculty members along with winner students.

of the Road Safety Club, who ensured the smooth and systematic conduct of all activities.

In Painting Competition Sharuti Sharma (Semester 2nd) and Manik (Semester 6th) jointly secured the First Prize, while Ananya Sharma secured the Second Position for their outstanding artwork effectively conveying the message of road safety. In the Slogan Writing Competition, participants expressed powerful messages through short yet

impactful slogans emphasizing discipline and responsibility on roads. Madiha Mir (Semester 6th) secured the First Prize, Priya Salaria obtained Second Position, and Tanvi Sumbria secured the third Position for their thought-provoking slogans promoting safe driving practices. The Elocution Contest provided a platform for students to confidently articulate their views on road safety concerns. Participants delivered persuasive speeches highlight-

ing adherence to traffic rules and the prevention of road accidents. Varun Verma bagged the First Prize, while Sonia secured Second Position and Rimjhim Sharma achieved third Position for their confident delivery and insightful perspectives on responsible driving and traffic regulation compliance.

Adding further laurels to the institution, Madiha Mir and Sharuti Sharma of GDC Neeli Nallah secured First Position in the Slogan Writing Competition and Painting Competition respectively at the Road Safety Event held at GDC Boys Udhampur, the Lead College for the district-level Road Safety Programme. The Principal appreciated the sincere efforts of Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Convenor, Road Safety Club, and congratulated the winners and participants for their enthusiastic involvement.

Reviving Excellence: BGSBU's Journey of Transformation and Trust

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University is witnessing a remarkable phase of transformation as it reclaims its legacy through accelerated infrastructure development, academic reforms, sporting excellence, and community engagement under visionary leadership.

Several major infrastructure projects are now progressing at a rapid pace, including the construction of a modern Indoor Stadium, establishment of smart classrooms equipped with advanced digital facilities, large-scale repair and renovation of academic buildings, hostels, and staff quarters, and the installation of a Solar Panel Project to promote sustainable and green energy practices. A significant milestone has been the effective mitigation of the long-standing water crisis through improved storage, supply systems, and system-



atic resource management, ensuring uninterrupted availability of water for the University community.

Academically, BGSBU has successfully implemented the transformative provisions of the National Education Policy 2020, introducing multidisciplinary frameworks, skill-oriented courses, and flexible academic structures, which have resulted in remarkable growth in admissions during the last academic session, reflecting renewed public confidence in the institution. The University has

also achieved notable success in sports, with both boys' and girls' teams excelling, while faculty and staff participation in sports and wellness initiatives has fostered a vibrant culture of health and teamwork. Simultaneously, outreach initiatives aimed at community welfare such as awareness campaigns, educational support programs, and youth skill development workshops have reinforced the University's commitment to regional development and social responsibility. Central to this transformation has

been the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, complemented by the highly proactive and result-oriented role of the Registrar, Abhishek Sharma (IAS), who has ensured timely execution of developmental works and fast-tracked long-pending administrative matters.

The Registrar has enforced transparency and accountability in governance, streamlined financial and procurement processes, and introduced e-office and digitisation of legacy records. Alongside these efforts, outreach initiatives focusing on community welfare, awareness campaigns, and youth engagement programs have reinforced the University's commitment to regional development, positioning BGSBU as a revitalized center of excellence determined to uphold and advance its proud legacy.

DC inspects NH-44 four-laning work from Nashri to Banihal, reviews development projects in Ramban town



DC Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan inspecting NH work.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing four-laning work on the Nashri to Banihal section of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, officers from the district administration and representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The DC undertook an extensive tour of the stretch, covering key locations including Digdol tunnels SBT 3 km and NBT 2.5 km, Panthyal and Viaducts at Magarkote, Gangroo, Nachilana and Kishtwari Pather.

The DC closely assessed the progress of tunnel works, viaduct and bridges construction, slope stabilization measures and other allied infrastructure being developed as part of the prestigious four-laning project aimed at ensuring all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar.

While reviewing the pace of work, the DC directed the officers and engineers of NHAI to expedite the construction of tunnels and viaducts to ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the developmental and protection works underway in Ramban town. He also reviewed works related to drainage being executed to mitigate flood and erosion risks.

The DC directed Executive Officer MC and officers of the Public Works Department to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion within the prescribed timelines.

J&K Teachers' Joint Action Committee holds monthly meeting, demands revocation of TET Order

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) convened its monthly meeting at Udhampur under the leadership of District President Lekh Raj Parihar. Representatives from all eleven zones of the district participated in the meeting to deliberate on key issues concerning the teaching fraternity.

Addressing the gathering, Lekh Raj Parihar demanded the immediate withdrawal of Government Order No. 80, under which the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) has been made mandatory for all teachers of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the decision has caused widespread concern

among thousands of teachers and their families. Parihar emphasized that teachers in the Union Territory have served with dedication, including in far-flung and militancy-affected areas, and have consistently fulfilled their professional responsibilities. He argued that imposing TET on in-service teachers who are already trained and possess the required qualifications is unjustified and has created unnecessary anxiety within the community.

He further stated that JKJAC would continue to advocate firmly for the dignity and rights of teachers. Welcoming the recent statement of Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo regarding keeping

the TET order in abeyance, he appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, and Education Minister to personally intervene and file a review petition in court to safeguard teachers' interests.

During the meeting, several other issues were raised by the leadership, including the release of pending Mid-Day Meal (MDM) dues for 2025-26, which teachers reportedly managed from their own resources; regularization of left-out ReTs; conversion of RREts to Teacher Grade II/III; formulation of a comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under the ReT scheme; and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for

Army organizes environmental awareness campaign "Sunder Sunderbani"



STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: In line with the spirit of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Kalidhar Brigade, Crossed Swords Division of White Knight Corps, organized an environmental awareness campaign titled "Sunder Sunderbani" at ALG, Sunderbani. The initiative combined a Wall Graffiti Drive with a Plantation Campaign to promote cleanliness, environmental responsibility and creative expression among school children.

The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from six schools, including New Public Hr. Sec. School Sodra, Bharat Public Hr. Sec. School Sunderbani, Harsh Niketan Hr. Sec. School Sunderbani, International Public Hr. Sec. School Babajan, MER Hr. Sec. School Hardul Malada and Kalidhar War Memorial Army School, with a total of 126 students involved.

Participants transformed designated walls into vibrant canvases, conveying messages on cleanliness, sustainability and community pride. As part of the plantation drive, 150 saplings were planted within ALG premises, symbolizing a collective pledge for a greener and healthier future.

Several members also expressed their views during the meeting, including Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Shamsheer Singh, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Anil Sharma, Sham Singh, Vipin Raina, Maan Chand Khajuria, Parshant Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Rakesh Singh, Balwinder Singh, Som Raj, Ranjit Singh, Sudesh Dubey, Madan Bhardwaj, Mohd Mustafa, Khuld Singh, Bashir Ahmed, Ashok Anthal, Rajeev Sharma, Beerbajan Singh, Swarn Singh, Ravinder Atri, Yash Paul, Deepankar Sharma, and others.

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DC Kishtwar reviews drug control measures; calls for stronger action, generating mass awareness

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: The District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) Committee meeting was convened today to review the measures taken to combat drug abuse in the district and to strengthen the ongoing anti-drug initiatives in the District.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the meeting focused on reinforcing the drug de-addiction framework and assessing the progress achieved under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign being implemented as part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Qazi presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) outlining the progress made on the decisions taken during the previous NCORD meeting. Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the prevailing drug abuse scenario in the district. He sought detailed inputs regarding vulnerable areas, affected age groups and identified hotspots requiring immediate attention.

He also reviewed the preventive, rehabilitation and enforcement measures being



DC Pankaj Kumar Sharma chairing meeting.

undertaken by the stakeholder departments to curb the menace of drugs.

Emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility and coordinated action, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Heads of Departments (HoDs) to ensure that all nominated resource persons and concerned officers and officials actively participate in the ongoing IEC campaign against drug abuse under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. He cautioned that any instance of non-compliance or absenteeism in the future would be viewed seriously and dealt with accordingly. He further directed to declare remaining schools as Tobacco-Free Zones in strict adherence to TOFEI guidelines.

To strengthen grassroots-level interventions, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Sub-Divisional

Magistrates and Tehsildars, who head the Sub-Division and Tehsil-Level Committees respectively, to declare Panchayats as "Nasha Mukta" strictly in accordance with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), ensuring proper verification and community involvement.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, SDM Dr. Amit Kumar, ACD Manoj Kumar, ARTO Tasleem Wani, ALC Mamta Sudershan, Dy. SP Hqsrs Dr. Ishan Gupta, DFO Mahesh Thakur, DFO Vishal Chaudhary, CAO Kushal Chandel, CEO Sanjay Dogra, Inspector, Excise and Taxation Department, Drugs Inspector, Drugs and Food Control Kishtwar, Nodal Officer ATF Dr. Hariss, along with other officers and officials of the concerned departments.

Grand Sanskrit Kutumb Sammelan & Rang Utsav organised at Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: A grand Sanskrit Kutumb Sammelan and Rang Utsav was organized today in Doda bringing together Sanskrit scholars, Acharyas and members from the community to celebrate India's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Krishan Lal, who inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp and offering floral tributes to Bharat Mata, symbolizing respect for the nation's cultural roots and traditions.

The DC appreciated the dedicated efforts of the organizing team for promoting Sanskrit and preserving traditional values through such meaningful initiatives. He emphasized that Sanskrit, as one of the world's oldest languages, continues to serve as a vital link to India's philosophical, spiritual and cultural legacy.

Several renowned Sanskrit Acharyas and scholars participated in the programme and delivered insightful deliberations highlighting the significance of Sanskrit in shaping India's civilizational identity and fostering moral and cultural values among the younger generation.

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