

IIM Jammu concludes MDP on "Managerial Mindset: Strategies for Effective Leading and Decision Making"

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu concluded a Management Development Programme (MDP) titled "Managerial Mindset: Strategies for Effective Leading and Decision Making," specially designed for officers of the Indian Metro Rail Organizations' Society. The valedictory ceremony was held at the Institute's campus in a dignified and engaging atmosphere. The ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Rajkumar V, who extended a warm reception to the distinguished resource person, participants, and faculty members. In his remarks, he highlighted the growing need for a progressive managerial mindset to address emerging challenges in metro rail organizations. He emphasized that strategic leadership and effective decision-making are essential for ensuring efficiency,



A dignitary handing over certificate to a participant.

accountability, and sustainability in public infrastructure systems. Presenting the programme report, Rajkumar V provided a comprehensive overview of the core learning modules. These included managerial mindset development, strategic thinking, decision-making under complexity, organizational behavior, leadership strategies, and case-based discussions. The programme was structured around interactive sessions, experiential learning methodologies, and real-world simulations to ensure practical relevance and immediate applicability in professional settings. Dr. Jagnath G, Faculty at IIM Jammu, who graced the valedictory ceremony as the Resource Person, addressed the participants and underscored the evolving role of metro rail systems in shaping sustainable urban mobility in India. He noted that strong managerial capabilities, innovation-driven thinking, and ethical leadership are vital to achieving operational excellence and building long-term organizational resilience in the rapidly expanding urban transport sector. The ceremony also featured reflections from participants, who shared their enriching learning experiences. They appreciated the academic rigor, practical insights, and participatory pedagogy adopted during the programme. The officers expressed that the training enhanced their leadership confidence and equipped them with structured frameworks to navigate complex organizational challenges and make informed, data-driven decisions. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr.

Mamtha Tripathi, Programme Director, IIM Jammu. She expressed sincere gratitude to the resource person, participants, faculty members, and the organizing team for their enthusiastic engagement and valuable contributions. She reiterated the Institute's continued commitment to fostering leadership excellence and strengthening capacity building across critical infrastructure sectors. The valedictory ceremony culminated with the distribution of certificates to the participants, marking the successful completion of the programme. The MDP reaffirmed IIM Jammu's dedication to executive education and its sustained efforts toward nurturing competent, forward-looking leaders capable of steering India's urban transport and infrastructure ecosystem toward greater efficiency and sustainability.

Yudhvir Sethi inaugurates Alfresco Restaurant near IIT Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A new family and student garden restaurant, Alfresco, serving Indo-Chinese cuisine, was inaugurated opposite IIT Jagti in a well-attended ceremony marked by enthusiasm and community participation. The restaurant was formally inaugurated by MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, who appreciated the initiative and extended his best wishes to the management. He lauded the effort of creating a welcoming dining space for families, students, and local residents, noting that such ventures contribute positively to local employment and economic growth. Owned by Sandeep Singh Pathania, Alfresco Restaurant aims to offer a comfortable garden-style ambience combined with a diverse Indo-Chinese menu tailored to the tastes of students and families alike. Speaking on the occasion, the owner expressed gratitude to the chief guest and other dignitaries for their



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating restaurant, 'Alfresco' on Sunday.

presence and support. He shared that the restaurant is committed to maintaining high standards of quality, hygiene, and customer service. Among the prominent attendees were Sumant Singh Jamwal; Vinod Kundal SDPO Nagrota; senior leader Parveen Kherni; Shiv Sharma, President Bajalta Mandal; and Abha Jamwal, Sarpanch Jagti. They congratulated the owner and conveyed their confidence that the new establishment would become a popular destination for residents and students in the area. The opening ceremony concluded with the ribbon-cutting, followed by a brief interaction with guests and well-wishers. With its strategic location near IIT Jammu and its focus on quality dining in a garden setting, Alfresco Restaurant is poised to emerge as a vibrant culinary hub in the Jagti locality.

Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic organizes 463rd Free Artificial Limbs Camp



Physiotherapist, Dr. Anita Gupta assessing a patient during a camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 463rd Free Artificial Limbs Camp was organized by Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic at Kali Janni for three days from March 1 to 3, 2026, continuing its longstanding commitment to serving specially abled persons. On the first day of the camp, 61 patients were examined and provided assistive devices based on

their medical needs. A total of 29 artificial limbs, 6 calipers, and 6 AFO & KFO supports were distributed among beneficiaries. In addition, two wheelchairs and eight hearing aids were given free of cost. Chairman Pradeep Jain explained the procedure for providing hearing aids and appealed to the general public to help identify and inform specially abled individuals about the free facilities available at the clinic. Dr. Anita Gupta, physiotherapist, carefully assessed patients and advised suitable limbs and aids to address their mobility challenges. Other prominent members present included Varinder Jain, Ashu Jain, Kimti Lal Jain, Deepak Jain, Lovely Jain, Munish Jain, Dimple Jain and Sailash Jain.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu seeks immediate withdrawal of RBI Notification excluding Dogri

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha Jammu deliberated upon a matter of serious concern affecting the youth of Jammu Province. The issue pertains to the notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) dated February 16, 2026, inviting applications for the posts of Assistants. The notification prescribes knowledge of the local language of the place of posting as an essential eligibility condition. While Jammu has been included as one of the centres, the list of local languages mentioned includes only Hindi, Urdu, and Kashmiri. Shockingly, Dogri—the principal mother tongue of Jammu and a constitutionally recognized language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India—has been excluded. Addressing the media, Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President, Dogri



Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President, Dogri Sanstha Jammu talking to reporters.

Sanstha Jammu, described the omission as "deeply unfortunate, discriminatory, and unacceptable." He stated that Dogri is not merely a language of communication but the cultural and historical identity of the Dogra community. "To ignore Dogri while identifying the local languages of Jammu is to deny the very linguistic reality of the region," he remarked. Prof. Magotra expressed grave concern that such decisions directly affect the employment prospects of the youth of Jammu. He pointed out that by not recognizing Dogri as a local language, Dogra candidates are placed at a disadvantage in a competitive recruitment process. "This is not just an administrative lapse; it is a serious injustice that impacts careers, dignity, and the future of thousands of aspiring candidates," he said. He further observed that there is a growing feeling among Dogras that they are being discriminated against on the basis of language and region. "When a language recognized by the Constitution is excluded

from official considerations in its own homeland, it sends a painful message to its speakers. It creates alienation and weakens faith in fair treatment," he added. Prof. Magotra strongly warned that if such actions are allowed to go unchallenged, they will set a dangerous precedent. "If we remain silent today, this will become a trend tomorrow. Similar exclusions may recur in future recruitments and official communications, gradually marginalizing Dogri and its speakers," he cautioned. Dogri Sanstha Jammu has unequivocally demanded the immediate withdrawal of the notification in its present form and its re-issuance after duly incorporating Dogri as one of the recognized local languages for Jammu. The Sanstha also called for fixing responsibility on the concerned officials who failed to ensure the inclusion of Dogri, stressing that accountability is essential to prevent recurrence of such lapses. The organization appealed to all political parties, non-political organizations, literary bodies, student unions, social groups, and cultural institutions of Jammu Province to rise above differences and unite in raising their voice against this discrimination. The Sanstha urged collective and peaceful protest to safeguard the linguistic rights and equal opportunities of the Dogra youth. Concluding the press conference, Prof. Magotra reaffirmed that Dogri Sanstha Jammu will continue to stand firmly for the protection, promotion, and rightful recognition of Dogri language and the dignity of its speakers. He urged the concerned authorities to take immediate corrective measures in the spirit of justice, constitutional values, and national unity.

Dr. J.P. Sharma elected president of executive committee, Dr. Akshaydeep as chairman of youth wing

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Jagdeep Sharma, Ex-Director Research and Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu has been declared elected unopposed as President of Executive Committee while Dr. Akshaydeep, Asstt. Professor (Contractual) in Dairy Business Management, SKUAST-Jammu has been declared elected unopposed as Chairman of Youth Wing during the general elections 2026 of Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary & Ecological Sciences (SIDAVES).



ES), the result of which was declared by Election Commissioner Dr. Vikas Sharma Professor (Biochemistry), SKUAST-J,

during the General Body Meet of Society held at Press Club of Jammu. In this general election of Executive Committee of SIDAVES, Dr. Vivak M Arya Professor (Soil Science), was elected as Vice President, Dr. Vikas Sharma Professor & Head (Soil Science) as Secretary, Dr. Vijay Khajuria, Chief Scientist (Farming System Research) as Joint Secretary whereas Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Director Research, SKUAST-J was elected as Publicity Secretary, Dr. Balbir Dhotra, Professor (Organic Farming) was elected as Treasurer and Dr. Satish Kumar Professor (Organic Farming) SKUAST-J was elected as Coordinator. The elections for Youth Wing of SIDAVES was also held where Dr. Divyansh Verma was elected President, Dr. Snehalpreet Kour as Vice President, Gourav Sudan as Secretary, Dr. Tanika Mahajan as Joint Secretary, Dr. Divyanshu Sharma as Publicity Secretary

and Dr. Chandan Thappa was elected as Coordinator unopposed. SIDAVES, a registered society with Registrar Societies, Govt. of J&K and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India, is a professional commune working for sustainable development in a cohesive manner with its motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. SIDAVES is striving to infuse sustainability in the global ecosystem by integrating the activities of agriculture, veterinary and ecological sciences with the cooperation of its scientific knowledge bank. Amid the challenges of Ecological Crisis, Digital Addiction and Human-values disintegrations, human-world strives to remain at the top in the course of evolution. Dr. Rajeev Bharat Professor (Agronomy), Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas Professor (Agril. Extension) and Dr. Devinder Sharma Professor (Entomology) acted as Assistant Election Commissioners in this General Elections of SIDAVES held at Main Campus Chatha of SKUAST Jammu. Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Chairman Sidaves Academy was also present on the occasion.

Asha Kiran Welfare Society organizes free medical camp



Asha Kiran Welfare Society members at medical camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Asha Kiran Welfare Society (Regd.) organized a Free Multi-Specialty Medical Camp at Trimurti Mandir on Sunday, reaffirming its commitment to community healthcare and service to humanity. The camp was inaugurated by Arvind Gupta, MLA, Jammu West, and Dr. Sanjogita Soodan, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Super Specialty Hospital Jammu, in the presence of members of the Society and prominent local dignitaries. Among those present were Chairman Dr. J.P. Gupta, President Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Vice-President Jaswant Manhas, General Secretary Kamal Netar, Joint Secretary Hari Chand Sharma, Organizing

Secretary Vinod Kumar, and other executive members. Sunita Gupta, Ex-Corporator Ward No. 37, along with several respected residents of the area, also attended the event. The medical camp witnessed the participation of more than eight specialists from various fields. The team included orthopaedicians Dr. Vikrant Sharma and Dr. Vijay Vikas, physician Dr. Harsh Sharma, paediatrician Dr. Pooja, gynaecologist Dr. Neeru Khajuria, eye specialist Dr. Ghani Shyam Singh, ENT specialist Dr. Monika Khajuria, dentist Dr. Anubhav Khajuria, and Dr. Rajinder Thappa, Ex-Chief Medical Officer. Their dedicated services ensured comprehensive consultations for patients across specialties. Over 120 patients were examined during the camp, and free medicines were distributed to all beneficiaries. Pharmacists Ankush Khajuria, Ranjit Singh and Mohan Lal Sharma also rendered valuable assistance in dispensing medicines and guiding patients. On the occasion, President Dr. Vikrant Sharma expressed gratitude to the chief guests, doctors and volunteers for sparing their valuable time. He reiterated that the Society's core objective is service to humanity, particularly for the poor and weaker sections of society. He assured that Asha Kiran Welfare Society will continue organizing such free medical camps in the future to extend healthcare support to those in need.

Natrang presents Hindi Play 'Ghotala'



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Natrang staged the Hindi play 'Ghotala', written and directed by Neeraj Kant, at Rani Park here today as part of its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play opened with a powerful portrayal of frustrated youth suffocating in an atmosphere tainted by corruption, seams, and dishonesty. Through intense dialogue and expressive performances, the narrative questioned society's complicity in sustaining corruption. It suggested that anarchic elements flourish under political protection and that, in a democracy, the general public bears collective responsibility for empowering those in

authority. The storyline unfolded through everyday incidents illustrating how corruption begins at the grassroots level. A street fruit vendor becomes a victim of corrupt officials, leading to inflated market prices and increased burdens on common citizens. The play highlighted how systemic dishonesty affects not only individuals but also national progress. In another impactful scene, the issue of Tatkal railway tickets was dramatized, showing how middlemen, in collusion with officials, exploit common passengers by black marketing tickets at inflated prices. The episode drew attention to how ordinary citizens are deprived of basic services due to unethical practices. The narrative further explored electoral corruption, depicting a leader enticing voters with gifts during elections. A government officer, involved in corrupt dealings, uses bribery money to secure his son's college admission. In a dramatic twist, the son steals from his own home to make his father realize the consequences of dishonesty. When a police officer refuses to file a theft complaint without a bribe, the officer experiences firsthand the helplessness faced by those who cannot afford to pay. This moment of realization compels him to pledge that he will neither accept nor offer bribes in the future. The play concluded with a strong message urging citizens to reject corruption and reaffirm their commitment to the nation. The actors who delivered impactful performances included Aadesh Dhar, Sheetal Sen, Vishal Sharma, Kushal Bhat, and Kartik Kumar, whose compelling portrayals left a lasting impression on the audience.

and Dr. Chandan Thappa was elected as Coordinator unopposed. SIDAVES, a registered society with Registrar Societies, Govt. of J&K and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India, is a professional commune working for sustainable development in a cohesive manner with its motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. SIDAVES is striving to infuse sustainability in the global ecosystem by integrating the activities of agriculture, veterinary and ecological sciences with the cooperation of its scientific knowledge bank. Amid the challenges of Ecological Crisis, Digital Addiction and Human-values disintegrations, human-world strives to remain at the top in the course of evolution. Dr. Rajeev Bharat Professor (Agronomy), Dr. Jasbir Singh Manhas Professor (Agril. Extension) and Dr. Devinder Sharma Professor (Entomology) acted as Assistant Election Commissioners in this General Elections of SIDAVES held at Main Campus Chatha of SKUAST Jammu. Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Chairman Sidaves Academy was also present on the occasion.

82nd Death Anniversary of Sher-e-Duggar Lala Hansraj Mahajan observed

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the sacred occasion of the 82nd death anniversary of the revered Sher-e-Duggar, Lala Hansraj Mahajan, a grand and dignified tribute ceremony was organized by Akhil Bharatiya Mahajan Biradari Sangh at the auditorium of Government Polytechnic College, Vikram Chowk, Jammu. Representatives from 63 Mahajan biradaris and organizations participated in this historic gathering, reflecting unity and deep reverence. The ceremony began with the chanting of the Gayatri Mantra three times, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp to invoke divine blessings. Heads of participating biradaris offered floral tributes to Lala



Ji's portrait and paid heartfelt respects. The dignitaries were formally welcomed through an address delivered by Harinder Gupta, Founder Chairman Mahesh Gupta highlighted the tireless social service, visionary leadership, and historic contributions of Lala Hansraj Mahajan, urging members to draw inspiration from his ideals. In a historic decision, the community unanimously conferred upon him the prestigious title of "Mahajan Mukutmani," a proposal

moved by Mahesh Gupta and approved by representatives of 63 biradaris representing nearly five lakh people. The vote of thanks was presented by Bharat Bhushan Langar, while the proceedings were impressively conducted by Vice Chairman Shri Dinesh Gupta. Fourteen biradaris were honored for exemplary social coordination, and five dedicated associates received the title "Mahajan-Soumitra." The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.