

JU organizes Presentation cum Interactive Session on Traditional Water Bodies of Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu and Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Jammu Chapter on Thursday jointly organized a presentation cum interactive session on 'Traditional Water Bodies of Jammu Municipal Corporation Area'.



Students and faculty of JU and INTACH officials at a programme on Thursday.

INTACH, and their department to involve students and scholars from the university in managing these water bodies.

Kour also discussed various central government schemes for conserving traditional water bodies under MG NREGA and encouraged members to adopt these bodies for conservation.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences, highlighted the significance of collaborative studies involving multiple stakeholders for water conservation

and management. The technical session commenced with a keynote presentation by Dr. Deepika Slatia, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences. She outlined the detailed findings of the collaborative study on the listing and mapping of traditional water bodies of the Jammu Municipal Corporation Area.

Dr. Slatia informed about the listing and mapping of around 65 water bodies, including ancient wells, step-wells, and ponds. She discussed their ecological, cul-

tural, and socio-economic significance, as well as the threats they face and the priority levels for their management.

S. M. Sahni, Convener of INTACH Jammu Chapter (JKAS Retd.), suggested including these water bodies in the Smart City Master Plan and developing surrounding areas as green spaces due to their ecological and cultural significance.

Dr. C. M. Seth (IFS), former Chief Conservator of Forests and Co-Convener of INTACH, shared field experiences and stressed the

importance of treating water bodies as living entities. He emphasized the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and resources for their restoration and conservation.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Arvind Kotwal, Coordinator Heritage Tourism INTACH Jammu Chapter.

Around 70 students and scholars from various departments of the University, along with faculty members, attended the event, including Dr. Raksha Kumar, Dr. Meenakshi Khajuria, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, and Rozi Sharma.

Other dignitaries present during the event included. Narinder Khajuria Secretary, Urban and Housing Development Department, Hemant Sharma Former Div. Com., Arvind Kotwal, Robin Mehta Director Tourism (Retd.), Reshmi Kashyap and Dr. Mrinalini Atri.

CISF nabs passenger with yellow metal at IGI Airport

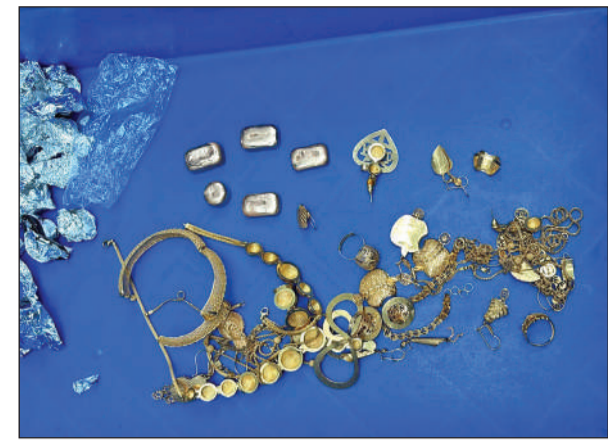
STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A US woman was apprehended at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after allegedly attempting to bribe a CISF security personnel with smuggled gold.

On April 24, 2024, around 06:25 AM, a significant incident occurred during pre-embarkation security checks at Terminal-3 of the IGI Airport in New Delhi.

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) woman personnel, stationed at the women's frisking booth, detected five gold bars weighing 250 grams in total (with each bar weighing 50 grams) and jewelry weighing approximately 150 grams, collectively valued at around Rs. 35 lakhs. These items were found concealed in the undergarments of a foreign lady passenger.

The passenger was later identified as Farah Deeko



Mohamed, a US citizen who had arrived from Nairobi on Air India flight No. AI 962 (scheduled time of arrival: 05:40 hrs) and was further scheduled to travel to Hyderabad on flight No. AI 560 (scheduled time of departure: 07:10 hrs).

In an attempt to evade detection, Mohamed discreetly offered gold to the CISF woman personnel in exchange for allowing her to proceed with the concealed items. However, the

CISF personnel refused the bribe and promptly apprehended the passenger. The incident was immediately reported to senior CISF officers.

Customs officials were also notified of the matter. Subsequently, Mohamed, along with the recovered 250 grams of yellow metal (gold) and 150 grams of jewelry, approximately valued at Rs. 35 lakhs, was handed over to Customs officials for further necessary action.

MIER College organizes an orientation on voter's registration



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The NSS Unit of MIER College organized an orientation session on voter's registration for BA Honors students. The event was attended by the HODs of SOE and SSSS, the Deputy HoD, faculty and students of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The program began with a warm welcome by Arzoo Sharma of B.A. English (Hons.) Semester IV, who introduced the event and highlighted the importance of voter registration in the democratic process. Her

engaging introduction set the tone for the rest of the session. The orientation was then led by Dr. Komal Sharma, who provided an informative and engaging presentation on the process of voter registration. She covered various aspects of the registration process, including the eligibility criteria, the required documents, and the online and offline registration options elaborately through a PPT. Throughout the presentation, she emphasized the importance of voting and encouraged the students to

register and exercise their right to vote. She also addressed some of the common misconceptions about voter registration and provided clarification on these issues.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Unmesh Kant Shah, B.A. Political Science (Hons) Semester II. The program was ably conducted by Stuti Mahajan of B.A. Psychology (Hons) Semester IV.

The NSS Unit's orientation session on voter registration left the students with a better understanding of the registration process and a renewed sense of responsibility towards their democratic duties.

Prof. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College, appreciated the efforts of the NSS Unit in organizing the event and said that the college is committed to promoting civic engagement and participation among the students.

World Malaria Day: IEC activities held across Jammu Div

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World Malaria day was observed on Thursday across Jammu division by organising series of IEC activities.

The awareness campaign was held under the overall supervision of Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah. Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr Rakesh Magotra, with teamwork of all the staff working under the administrative control of Dr. D. J Raina, State Malariologist, J&K Jammu, immensely contributed in organisation of various programmes.

The activities included participation in web conference of National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control in collaboration with WHO. At the National level, the Nodal Officer of the Provincial Hospital Gandhinagar Jammu participated in a one day technical workshop on elimination of Malaria targeted by 2027.

The IEC activities included publishing of IEC material



A dignitary speaking during a programme at Jammu on Thursday.

in leading UT and local newspapers. The information was also spread through TV interviews on Doordarshan Jammu and local channel(s).

The awareness on Malaria was also spread through an interview and day long broadcast of audio -spot on Akashvani Jammu and FM radio channels, educating the people about various aspects of prevention and control of malaria.

The State Malariologist

addressed an assembly of around 1500 students in Army School, Nagrota as a part of Civil Army collaboration for percolation of the message in the community at large through school children. The IEC material was distributed among the students and students were requested to carry message to their homes.

The IEC activity on World

Malaria Day was also held at Provincial Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar in which a gathering of AMT students, Malaria workers, staff of the hospital among others were addressed by the State Malariologist, Deputy Director Health Services, Jammu and Medical Superintendent, Government Hospital, Gandhinagar, Jammu.

Similar IEC activities were also held at several District and Block headquarters by taking out rallies with participation of schools to bolster the Malaria elimination by 2027.

World Malaria Day was also observed by the healthcare Institutes in the urban healthcare setup by organising rallies and educational programmes in schools and spreading awareness in the community by undertaking house to house visits.

Using the Social Media platform, the IEC campaign was also carried out through the WhatsApp groups, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

The banner display containing the IEC material was held at different prominent points for general awareness of the public.

The RBSK teams and School Health teams were also part of the World Malaria Day awareness campaign.

Diamond Honda Jammu celebrates opening of Smart Workshop of Honda Motorcycles, Scooters

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Diamond Honda Jammu, a prominent dealership under the AM Group Brand, announced the grand opening of its cutting-edge Smart Workshop of two Wheeler Honda Motorcycles and Scooters, revolutionizing the automotive service experience for the people of Jammu.



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar at a smart workshop.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by guests including Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Prashant Kumar, Regional Manager Service at Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI).

The event was further embellished with the pres-

ence of Sanjay Mahajan, Managing Director, and Sanjeev Mahajan, Director of Diamond Honda Jammu. The Smart Workshop concept intro-

duces advanced automation aimed at minimizing waiting times and enhancing service readiness visibility. Customers can now enjoy swift and hassle-free service, facilitated by digital tracking of vehicles throughout the repair process. Additionally, the workshop features a comfortable lounge area, ensuring that customers can relax in style while their vehicles receive top-notch care.

Speaking at the grand opening ceremony, Sanjay Mahajan expressed his enthusiasm for the launch, stating, "The focus of Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India has always been on customer delight for superior customer satisfaction. Diamond Honda in Jammu is aligned with this philosophy, striving to elevate the automotive service experience for our

valued customers."

Moreover, Mahajan proudly announced, "This innovative workshop has created job opportunities for 60 individuals, aligning with AM Group's dedication to fostering employment in the Jammu region while ensuring exceptional customer service."

With this state-of-the-art facility, Diamond Honda Jammu reaffirms its commitment to excellence in customer service and satisfaction. The Smart Workshop represents a significant milestone in the dealership's journey towards providing unparalleled automotive solutions to the community of Jammu.

R&R Commissioner reviews polling arrangements for Kashmiri Migrants at Delhi



R&R Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr Karwani reviewing polling arrangements.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr Karwani on Thursday reviewed polling arrangements for Delhi based Kashmiri Migrants and interacted with them at National Capital.

Dr Karwani, during his 3 day visit to Delhi and NCR, reviewed the polling arrangements in the special polling stations set up

at 4 different locations of Prithviraj Road, Shalimar Bagh, Dilshad Garden and Najafgarh. He issued on spot directions for further improvement.

He also interacted with representatives of different Kashmiri Pandit organizations.

Dr Karwani and his team gave a detailed presentation on the scheme of voting for migrants in the Lok-Sabha elections 2024.

A migrant residing in Delhi NCR can opt to vote in a special polling station, for which s(he) has to fill Form -M or opt for postal ballot, for which Form 12-C is to be filled.

Pertinent to mention that the process of filling Form 12-C has been recently simplified. Dr Karwani appealed all migrants in the Delhi NCR to cast their vote, which is their democratic right.

CUJ organizes Thursday Mind Meet

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Educational Studies at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized a panel discussion titled "Transforming the Role of Teachers and Teacher Educators in Light of NEP-2020" as part of the "Thursday Mind Meet" initiative.



CUJ students and faculty during a Thursday Mind Meet.

The event took place under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, and the Head of the Department, Prof. Asit K. Mantry.

Key panelists and resource persons included Prof. Madhu Singh, Principal of M.C. Khalsa College of Education, Jammu, and Prof. Vandana Sharma, Head of the Department of English and Convener of 'Thursday Mind Meet', along with research scholars and students.

Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean of Students' Welfare at CUJ, delivered the welcoming remarks. Prof. Vandana Sharma elaborated on the various perspectives outlined in the NEP-2020 and underscored the transition in the education system from a multidisciplinary to a transdisciplinary approach.

Prof. Madhu Singh emphasized the importance of creating a team of teachers equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster competent educators.

She referred to every teacher as a 'research scholar' and posed several thought-provoking questions for discussion.

The discussion was further enriched by student participants, including Sourabh Sharma (Senior Research Scholar), Vivek Singh, Achyutam (M.Ed. Students), Samriti, and Kumar Sourabh (B.A. B.Ed. Students).

Various topics were covered during the panel discussion, such as the role of

ICT in teaching, teachers' role in holistic student development, and the integration of ancient Indian knowledge systems into the current educational landscape.

Prof. J.N Baliya, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Jai Bhawani, faculty members, research scholars, and students from the Department of Educational Studies were present.

Prof. Asit K. Mantry, Head of the Department, presented a vote of thanks.

SKUAST-J organizes valedictory function of Agri-entrepreneurship Training Programmes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The valedictory function for the one-month agri-entrepreneurship training program for the 7th batch of incubatees of Agri-Business Incubator at SKUAST-Jammu, under the RKVY-RAFTAAR scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, was marked by insightful remarks from Prof. B. N. Tripathi, the Vice Chancellor, here on Thursday.

Prof. Tripathi emphasized the importance of instilling seeds of creativity and innovative thinking in young minds early on to inspire them to explore agri-business ventures.

He urged students to go beyond traditional job opportunities and consider becoming job providers through their own enterprises.



VC SKUAST-J Prof. B. N. Tripathi and others at a function.

Prof. Tripathi stressed the need for practical entrepreneurship training from the undergraduate level itself, enabling students to establish their ventures during their academic tenure.

Furthermore, Prof. Tripathi advised budding entrepreneurs to engage in regular brainstorming sessions to tackle agricultural sector challenges, fostering novel innovative ideas.

He assured complete support from the university for

those embarking on the path of agri-entrepreneurship.

Prof. Anil Kumar, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, highlighted the positive impact of the RKVY-RAFTAAR scheme on developing the agri-startup ecosystem in the region, emphasizing the alignment of higher education and research with practical on-ground issues.

Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, Head of the Division of AEABM and CEO of the Agri-Business Incubator at SKUAST-J,

mentioned that 78 incubatees from 7 batches have been trained, with funding totaling Rs. 2.88 crores sanctioned for 26 start-ups. Prof. Kachroo also announced new initiatives such as special funding support for students and women entrepreneurs, along with cash prizes for the best start-ups based on their innovative ideas and products.

The event saw the distribution of certificates to the incubatees and was attended by various dignitaries, including deans from different faculties and former Director of Agriculture, K. K. Sharma.

The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Anil Bhat, and the arrangements were facilitated by Dr. Yamini Raut and Tarunjeet Singh from the Agri-Business Incubator at SKUAST-J. Dr. S.P Singh presented the formal vote of thanks.