

IIIM adopts ATL schools



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM speaking at the workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, has adopted 30 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) schools in Jammu and Kashmir, which are supported by NITI Aayog.

An Atal Tinkering Lab provides activity based learning in the identified schools across the country where young minds can give shape to their ideas for societal problems.

It also fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, enabling over more than 3 million students between grade VI to grade XII to acquire a problem solving,

tinkering and innovative mindset.

Pertinently, under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Atal Incubation Mission (AIM) initiative, NITI Aayog's ATL and CSIR Jigyasa are working for organizing science workshops, interaction with scientists, outreach programmes and many others activities.

In line with this, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, has organized a three-day science workshop for 15 Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) schools of Jammu region.

Around 60 students from various schools of Jammu

region like Jammu, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Hiranagar, Miran Sahib, Dadwara, Reasi have successfully registered for this workshop.

The three-day workshop has been specifically designed with the exciting biology and chemistry experiments related to the course work, and will have hands on experience of working in various laboratories of the institute. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM inaugurated this workshop.

In his presidential address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed referred to PM Narendra Modi's call for 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' emphasized that academic activities must be aligned with the practical.

He urged that the young minds, who are the future of Nation, must come forward and adopt science as their careers and contribute to the nation's journey towards "Viksit Bharat" @2047.

Dr. Ahmed, further said that it is indeed a matter of privilege as well as responsibility to host students of ATL schools and will extend them full support in the field of science and technology.

Dr. Asha Chaubey, Sr. Principal Scientist & HoD FMB Division, Nodal scientist Jigyasa program, welcomed the students and their faculty members and briefed them about the activities are planned during the workshop and encouraged the students to actively participate in such activities to be carried out during the workshop.

The event was attended by Heads of the Division, scientists, research scholars, students and others. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Qazi Naved Ahmad, HoD, Natural Products and Medicinal Division while proceedings of the event were conducted by Vidushi Abrol.

World Dance Day celebration held at Dance Department IMFA, JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Jammu, celebrated World Dance Day with great enthusiasm and artistic fervor.

The event was graced by eminent personalities, including Prof. Meena Sharma, Chairperson, Utsaah-The Clubs; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, University of Jammu; Prof. Sohaib Malik, Principal, IMFA; and Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas.

The program began with a heartfelt tribute to Padma Vibhushan Guru Kumbhini Lakhia for her matchless contribution to the field of Kathak, who passed away recently at the age of 93.

The celebration commenced with a soulful Tarana presented by the students of Saba Majid, a proud alumna of the Dance Department, IMFA. The students' vibrant performances set the tone for the day's festivities.

Pragya, Akshita, and Radhika, second-semester students of the Dance Department, captivated the audience with a unique Dogri-Kathak fusion, beautifully



JU officials along with students during the event.

blending regional flavor with classical dance.

Following this, the final-year students showcased their prowess with a brilliant Kathak performance on Bandish, which was highly appreciated by everyone present. The highlight of the event was the presentation of a Tarana by Saba and Ritika, composed and sung by none other than Pt. Birju Maharaj and choreographed by Dr. Priya Dutta, Head of the Dance Department, IMFA. Their performance was a heartfelt tribute to the Kathak legend.

All the esteemed guests praised the meticulous efforts of Dr. Priya Dutta and her dedicated team for organizing

such a vibrant and soulful celebration. They lauded the department's commitment to nurturing young talents and promoting Indian classical arts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, University of Jammu, appreciated the efforts of the department and congratulated all the faculty members for organizing such a wonderful show. Prof. Meena Sharma also commended the department's efforts, while Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas emphasized that such events connect us deeply with our heritage and traditions, encouraging that similar experiments should be undertaken in the future as

well. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sohaib Malik, Principal, IMFA, who congratulated the Dance Department for the successful organization of the event.

The program was anchored expertly by Rajkumar Behrupia, whose lively anchoring added a special charm to the proceedings. The arrangements were efficiently managed by Vijay Kumar.

Faculty members present on the occasion included Dr. Sumit Madan, Dr. Roshi Shaminotra, Bindu Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, Rajkumar Behrupia, Dr. Sujata Rajput, Prabhat Lal, Shivani Kapoor, Amit Anand, Mohit Kumar, and Chander Dhari Kesar.

WAVES Animation Film-makers' challenge brings to fore 42 amazing animation films

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The 42 finalists of the Animation Film Makers Competition (AFC), held as part of the 'Create in India Challenge Season-1' of World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit 2025, were declared in the second week of April. Dancing Atoms Studios, which collaborated with the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in organizing the national level challenge since its inception, has brought out a comprehensive creative catalogue on the best 42 projects to be showcased in the WAVE Summit to be held in Mumbai from May 1-4, 2025. This unique initiative aims to connect talented creators with like-minded individuals, producers, and distributors, fostering collaborations between creators and the industry that transcend geographical boundaries.

These best 42 projects that came up from after a rigorous nine-month evaluation process of the competition, have shown a focus on original storytelling across the

entire spectrum of animation, encompassing traditional animation, VFX, Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR), and virtual production. The creative catalogue features a diverse range of innovative projects, including - 12 feature films namely Catharina Dian Wiraswati S - Fly!, Shubham Tamar - Mahzun, Srikanth Bhogi - Rudhra, Anirban Majumder - Babar Aur Banno - A friendship saga, Nandan Balakrishnan - The Dream Balloon, Jacqueline C Ching - Lykke and the Trolls, Rohit Sankhla - Dwarka The Lost City of Shree Krishna, Bhagat Singh Saini - Red Woman, Abhijeet Saxena - Arise, Awake, Vamsi Bandaru - Ayurveda Chronicles - Search for the Lost Light, Piyush Kumar - Wrong programming, the unleashed wars of ai., Khambor Batei - Kharjana, Lalpalang - A Khasi Folklore Reimagined, 18 short films namely Shreya Sankdev - Vani,Shrikant S Menon - Odiyan, Prasanth Kumar Nagadasi - Best Friends,Shweta Subhash

Marathe - Melting Shame, Anika Rajesh - Achappam, Martand Anand Ugalmugle - Chandomama, Kiruthika Ramasubramanian - A Dream's Dream, Harish Narayan Iyer - Karabi, Tripama Maiti - The Chair, Arundhati Sarkar - So close yet so far, Gadam Jagadish Prasad Yadav - Symphony of Darkness, Vetrivel - The Last Treasure, Gargi Gawthe - Godva, Shreeyaa Vinayak Pore - Kali (Bud), Harshita Das - Luna, Sandhya Mary - MISSING, Richa Bhutani - Climatescape, Hirak Jyoti Nath - Tales From The Tea House.

9 TV/Limited Series namely Jyothi Kalyan Sura - Jackie & Jilal, Tulin Chanda - Chupi : Silence behind laws,Kishore Kumar Kedari - Age of the Decean - The Legend of Malik A m b a r, B h a g y a s h r e e Chatapathy - P?aa, Rishav Mohanty - Khatti, Sukankan Roy - Sound of Joy, and 3 AR/VR experiences including Atreyee Poddar, Sangeeta Poddar, and Bimal Poddar- Moray Kaka, Prasenjit Singha-

The Quiet Chaos, Segun Samson, Omotunde Akiode-Maapu.

All 42 shortlisted film projects will be showcased to industry stakeholders through this unique initiative.

For the first time, bringing all 42 projects together in one creative catalogue is a testament to the sheer talent we have discovered, stated Saraswathi Buyyala, Founder and CEO of Dancing Atoms Studios. The Waves Advisory Board, comprising industry veterans and influential figures in media and entertainment, will play a crucial role in evaluating the potential of these projects and guiding them towards production and distribution, she added. Ms. Buyyala also informed, the global revenue generated by these dynamic verticals underscores the immense potential within the animation industry. In 2024, the global animation market witnessed substantial growth. Short Films contributed an estimated \$20 billion in revenue through

various platforms including online streaming, festivals, while educational content is projected to reach \$70 billion USD by 2032. Feature Films, which represents the largest segment, generated approximately \$30 billion USD to \$32.3 billion USD at the global box office and through ancillary markets. Animation TV Series experienced a boom driven by streaming services, accounting for around \$512 billion USD in production and licensing revenue. AR/VR and immersive entertainment market, including AR/VR animation is a burgeoning sector. It reached an estimated USD 22.12 billion and USD 79.36 billion, with significant growth projections. AR/VR technologies are transforming sectors including gaming, healthcare, retail, education, and manufacturing, fuelled by demand for immersive experiences and substantial investment. While North America holds a significant share, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated for the fastest growth, she added.

IGP Security felicitates officers excelled at All India Police Badminton, TT Cluster meet



IGP Security Sujit Kumar felicitating DySP Basanti Bhatt and DySP Kuljit Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Inspector General of Police, Sujit Kumar on Monday felicitated the medal winning officers of security wing, who brought laurels to the department at the recently concluded First All India Police Badminton, Table Tennis Cluster 2024-2025 held in Kerala. The competitions were held from April 11 to 15.

As per the officials, IGP Security, J&K, Sujit Kumar on Monday felicitated the medal winners of the security wing here in his office chamber.

DySP Basanti Bhatt and DySP Kuljit Singh won gold medal in the mixed doubles in badminton discipline while DySP Basanti Bhatt and DySP Rajesh Anand won bronze medal in mixed doubles Table Tennis event.

Meanwhile DySP Mahesh Sharma also bagged bronze medal in men's singles Table Tennis event and DySP Mahesh Sharma with DySP P V Singh won bronze medal in the men's doubles Table Tennis discipline.

Jammu and Kashmir Police Department notably, alongside performing their professional duties on all fronts, is also outstanding in the sports sector:

Border cooperation reviewed to boost agricultural production in frontier areas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In a significant move to enhance agricultural productivity and strengthen border security coordination, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma on Monday undertook review of cooperation framework between local farmers and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel during his visit to the border villages and Border Out Posts (BOPs) at Nursery and Tamwar in Tehsil Ramgarh.

The initiative aimed to bring previously unused agricultural land between the border fencing and zero line into productive cultivation, potentially adding hundreds of acres to the district's cultivable area while improving the economic prospects of border communities.

"Our border farmers have shown tremendous resilience despite facing unique challenges," said DC Sharma



DC Samba, Rajesh Sharma chairing a meeting.

during the joint meeting with farmers and BSF officials. "This administration is committed to removing barriers to cultivation in these strategic areas through improved coordination and targeted support measures."

The Deputy Commissioner assured that a dedicated task force would be established to address irrigation needs, provide technical agricultural assistance, and streamline security protocols to minimize disruption to farming activities.

BSF officials expressed

their support for the initiative, reaffirming their dual commitment to national security and community welfare. "The presence of regular agricultural activity in these areas strengthens security through increased vigilance while supporting local livelihoods," noted a senior BSF representative.

The meeting was attended by ADC Samba, Jagdish Singh, ACR Samba Ajay Bharti, Tehsildar Ramgarh, officers from civil administration, BSF officials and community leaders.

This distribution drive reflects the ongoing commitment of Social Welfare Department toward fostering education and empowerment in the region. The Department reaffirmed its dedication to conducting similar initiatives to uplift and support young learners, ensuring that every child gets access to essential learning materials.

HEW Team installed Sanitary Vending machine and also distributed school bags among needy girls of different schools of Block Pouni. The girls were also sensitized about menstrual hygiene and encouraged to pursue their studies with enthusiasm.

The

sions, sensitising attendees about the alarming consequences of drug abuse.

Medical professionals from the health department highlighted the root causes of addiction, including depression, curiosity, family trauma and feelings of inferiority. They stressed the importance of timely intervention, emotional support and rehabilitation in combating the crisis.

Resource persons from DLSA provided detailed insights into the district's strategic action plan to curb drug addiction.

One of the major highlights of the event was a dramatic and artistic performance sponsored by the Cultural Unit of DIPR, J&K and DIPR Shopian. The creative skit, themed on drug abuse prevention, powerfully portrayed the devastating impact of addiction on families and communities. The performance called upon society to stand united and take collective responsibility to eliminate the menace from its roots.

It was informed that 98 awareness programmes are being scheduled at the Panchayat level under the

IEC Campaign, 61 of which have already been conducted. Additionally, 17 programmes planned for municipal areas have been conducted. To extend this initiative to students, 26 programmes have been scheduled in educational institutions.

During the programme, speakers stressed making use of the services available at the Addiction Treatment Facility operating in the district and to encourage affected individuals to seek professional help without stigma.

Speakers at the events reiterated the need for a community-driven approach to effectively tackle the growing challenge of substance abuse. Through discussions, interactive sessions and expert talks, participants were encouraged to act as agents of change within their localities.

The programme was attended by DDC member Raja Waheed, District Nodal Officer (AYUSH), Deputy LADC, representatives of the DLSA, lecturers and teachers from Ranjoor Memorial Government Higher Secondary Schools, Keegam, and Narapora.

DC Ganderbal reviews NTEP progress; district achieves 98% TB MukT Panchayat coverage



DC Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in District Ganderbal.

During the meeting, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) delivered a detailed presentation on the current status of NTEP activities across the district. It was highlighted that Ganderbal has achieved TB MukT Panchayat status in 123 out of 126 Gram Panchayats, registering an impressive 98% coverage.

It was informed that out of 123 Panchayats, 31 Panchayats have been recognized under the Bronze category and 92 Panchayats under the Silver category, reflecting consistent efforts and community engagement.

It was further informed that Panchayats maintaining TB-free status are being symbolically honored with bronze (one year), silver (two year), and gold (three year) statues of Mahatma Gandhi based on the number of consecutive years they sustain TB-free status.

Appreciating the district's commendable achievements, DC assured full support towards further strengthening TB elimination efforts, emphasizing the importance of early detection, continuous community engagement, and enhanced diagnostic infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, District Tuberculosis Officer Ganderbal, Nodal Officer NTEP Ganderbal, and Programme Coordinator NTEP Ganderbal besides others.

Social Welfare Department Reasi empower needy girls by providing school bags under BBBP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a significant step towards promoting girl education and empowerment, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women, Reasi on Monday organised two special distribution drives under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programmes were organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma.

The HEW Team reached to far flung Govt.Middle School Sarh, Block Mahore and distributed school bags among needy girls of marginalised section of society.

The other event was organised at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Laitar where



SWD officials along with girl students during the programme.