

Final open house for JU's pioneering DYD program draws enthusiastic response

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu successfully held the third and final Open House for its flagship Design Your Degree (DYD) program on Friday, drawing the curtain on a series of engaging and interactive sessions aimed at prospective students and their families.

Organized on the university campus, the event provided a vibrant platform for open dialogue among aspiring students, their guardians, faculty mentors, academic experts, and current students of the DYD program.

The concluding Open House began with an address by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, who reiterated the University's commitment to reshaping undergraduate education through the DYD initiative, which is firmly in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Prof. Rai described the



Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director, SIIDEC, speaking during a programme.

DYD program not merely as a curriculum shift but as a rethinking of higher education-where students are given the tools and freedom to steer their academic journeys. He emphasized the importance of core skill development in areas such as analytical thinking, mathematical reasoning, communication, creativity, and critical thinking-skills essential for success in today's fast-changing world. He urged students to step forward and take ownership of their futures by

embracing this forward-looking model of education.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director SIIDEC, welcomed the participants and facilitated a lively, open-format interaction. She encouraged students and parents to ask questions, share their aspirations, and learn more about the opportunities the DYD program has to offer.

A detailed overview of the program was presented by Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director, SIIDEC, who explained the flexible academic structure and outlined the admissions process. She elaborated on how the first two years of the program are designed to build a solid foundation across disciplines, while the final two years allow students to craft their own degree pathways-selecting from options such as B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., or B.Tech. (IT).

Prof. Shah noted that DYD encourages students to go beyond traditional academic boundaries and design cross-disciplinary learning experiences based on their interests and career ambitions. She also coordinated the overall event, ensuring its smooth execution.

The audience was also addressed by A.M. Tiwari, Vice Chancellor of TransStadia University, Gujarat, who shared candid insights into the gaps in the current education system and praised the DYD model as a timely and much-needed step towards preparing future-ready graduates.

The event saw active engagement with a team of DYD faculty mentors, including Prof. K.S. Charak, Prof. Anil Gupta, Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Dr. Sandeep Arya, Dr. Shalla Sehgal, Dr. Sunil Bhogal, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Sarika Verma, and Dr. Manish, who interacted with students and shared insights on the unique strengths of the DYD program as a flexible, student-centric model.

A major highlight of the Open House was a heartfelt experience-sharing session by current DYD students from Semesters 2 and 4.

"With this final Open House, the pre-admission phase of the DYD program draws to a close. The entrance examination is scheduled to be held on 5th June 2025 at 10:30 AM at the new Design Your Degree building on the university campus.

Kavita Dutt Bhakti Sangeet Official presents devotional song ‘Mindal Batasa-Bich Rehan Waaliye’



BJP All Morcha Incharge J&K, Munish Sharma and others releasing devotional song.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kavita Dutt Bhakti Sangeet Official proudly announces the release of a soulful devotional song titled "Mindal Batasa - Bich Rehan Waaliye", a heartfelt tribute to Maa Bhagwati. The launch took place today at the Press Club Jammu, marking a significant moment in the celebration of spiritual devotion through music.

The song features the melodious voice of Kavita Dutt, beautifully capturing the essence of traditional devotional expressions. The grand launch event was honored by the presence of Munish Sharma, BJP All Morcha Incharge J&K, Former Vice Chairperson JAK-FED (J&K Govt.), and Former State General Secretary BJP J&K, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The music for "Mindal Batasa - Bich Rehan Waaliye" is composed by RB Music Studio,

while the touching lyrics are penned by Sonu Raipuria. The music video was skillfully shot and edited by Yogi Studioz under the direction of Prof. D.S. Manhas. The instrumental contributions by the JCM Musical Group add depth to the composition, and blessings have been sought from the revered Ustad Sh. Dharmesh Nargotra Ji.

Produced by Yash Dutt, the song promises to resonate deeply with devotees and music lovers alike, blending traditional devotional themes with vibrant visuals and soul-stirring melodies.

"Mindal Batasa - Bich Rehan Waaliye" will soon be available on all leading digital platforms. The team invites devotees and music enthusiasts to join in this spiritual journey of music and devotion. For further updates, subscribe to Kavita Dutt Bhakti Sangeet Official on YouTube and follow their social media channels.

‘Balidan Divas’ of Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath on June 1



Chairman Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath Trust, Surinder Bhagat talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Surinder Bhagat, Chairman of the Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath Trust, in a press conference held today at Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath Samark Park, Shalamar, announced the upcoming "Balidan Divas" to honour the sacrifice of Shaheed Bhagat

Amarnath. The event will take place on June 1, 2025, at the same location.

The programme will begin with a Havan ceremony at 9:00 AM, followed by a cultural programme at 11:00 AM. Various special dignitaries will also pay homage to Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath,

remembering his invaluable sacrifice, he said.

Shaheed Bhagat Amarnath gave his life fighting for the implementation of reservation benefits for SC, ST, RBA, residents of LAC, socially and educationally backward classes, ex-service-men, and physically challenged persons in Jammu and Kashmir. Due to Article 370, these reservations were not implemented until 1970. However, after his ultimate sacrifice, the people of Jammu and Kashmir finally secured these rights," Surinder said.

Surinder Bhagat emphasized the significance of the day and urged everyone to participate in the homage to honor the legacy of this martyr who fought for social justice.

IIM Jammu organises Hindi Workshop on noting, drafting, unicode

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, organized a one-day workshop on Noting, Drafting, and Unicode on 30th May 2025 (Friday) at the Agastya Classroom. The workshop aimed to enhance the use of Hindi in administrative and technical communication, in line with the Government of India's Rajbhasha policy.



IIM Jammu faculty and students during a workshop.

The session was conducted by Santosh Kumar, Assistant Director, Official Language Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Jammu.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson of Anandam, Media and Publication Committee, and Brigadier Neeraj Soni, faculty member, IIM Jammu.

Santosh Kumar, Assistant Director, Official Language

Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Jammu emphasized the mandatory implementation of Hindi under the Rajbhasha policy, stating that while 55% of official communication should be in Hindi, the set target for Jammu (K zone) is currently at 30%.

He provided a detailed overview of Hindi noting and drafting, emphasizing clarity, tone, and structure in official

correspondence.

He also introduced tools and techniques for Unicode-based Hindi typing and demonstrated the use of phonetic, Remington, and Inscript keyboards.

He encouraged staff to enroll in Prabodh, Praveen, and Pragma Hindi training programs, which offer incentives such as annual increments.

He also proposed an Inscript Typing Workshop with performance-based rewards to further promote Hindi usage in official work.

The session began with a welcome address by Shri Ashish Kumar Isher, Hindi Rajbhasha Officer, IIM Jammu, who also introduced the guest speaker. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks, also delivered by him. The event saw active participation from officers and staff across departments.

The workshop concluded

with a vote of thanks. Ashish Kumar Isher, Hindi Rajbhasha Officer, IIM Jammu expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, Indian Institute of Management Jammu, for his valuable guidance and vision, and for granting permission to organize such a workshop to promote the Hindi language.

He also extended his thanks to Dr. Amja Akhouri, Vice-Chairperson, and Commander Kesavan Bhaskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, for their support.

The workshop marked an important step in strengthening the use of Hindi in official functioning and reaffirmed IIM Jammu's commitment to promoting linguistic and cultural diversity.

1947 POJK SIF thanks Delhi CM, Sirsa for job letters to 1984 Riot Victims’ Families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former General Secretary of the 1947 POJK Sharanarthi Intellectual Forum, Surjit Singh, on Thursday extended gratitude to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa for their historic initiative of offering government jobs to families affected by the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

At a ceremony held on May 27, 2025, at the Delhi Secretariat, 19 individuals from riot-affected families were handed appointment letters for Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) roles in the Revenue Department. This is part of a broader drive to provide employment to 125 individuals from the affected community.

Surjit Singh hailed the initiative as a monumental step toward justice and healing for the Sikh community.

"I thank CM Rekha Gupta and Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa for fulfilling a long-standing demand. The 1984 anti-Sikh riots left thousands devastated, and this effort under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a reflection of the BJP's unwavering commitment to justice," he said.

He added that the distribution of jobs, though delayed, carries immense emotional and symbolic value, offering not just financial support but a long-overdue acknowledgment of the community's suffering. The 1984 riots, which followed the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, claimed over 2,700 lives in Delhi alone and displaced thousands. The initiative follows earlier efforts, including Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena's job appointments to 47 victims in November 2024.

CM Gupta, during the event, remarked, "This is not just employment-it is justice arriving after 40 years of silence." Surjit Singh also praised Manjinder Singh Sirsa for his personal commitment, calling the gesture "a moment where justice arrives with dignity."

BJP guided by principle of selfless service: Yudhvir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President of J&K BJP and MLA from Jammu East, and Surinder Bhagat, MLA from Marh, held a public darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



MLA, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues.

redressal through direct dialogue with their elected representatives.

Issues were related to the renovation of the school, repair of damaged lanes and drains, installation and proper functioning of street lighting systems, and improvements in the supply of clean drinking water. Matters related to the Revenue Department, such as land mutation delays were also brought to the fore.

Yudhvir Sethi and Surinder Bhagat listened patiently to the deputations. In many cases, the leaders responded on the spot by contacting concerned departmental officers, issuing written directives, and instructing immediate action. Several grievances were resolved during the course of the event itself, reinforcing public confidence in responsive governance.

BJP's guiding principle of selfless service. "The BJP believes in working for the welfare of every individual, particularly the marginalized and underprivileged. A BJP worker is not just a political representative, but an institution committed to public service. These grievance redressal camps are part of the Modi Government's larger vision of holistic development, where every citizen's issue is acknowledged and acted upon swiftly," he stated.

Surinder Bhagat emphasized the importance of public outreach in strengthening democracy.

"Our role as elected representatives is not limited to legislation. We are also facilitators of governance. Public darbars like this empower citizens by giving them direct access to their leaders, promoting transparency and accountability," he said.

Centre always stands with J&K people in tough times: Dr Tahir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K BJP Spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary has hailed the two-day visit of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a reaffirmation of the Central Government's deep commitment to the people of the Union Territory.



under Prime Minister Modi's leadership."

Dr. Choudhary expressed optimism about the anticipated visit of Prime Minister Modi, saying it would lift the spirits of people across the region.

He also welcomed the likely upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing it as another sign of solidarity with the people of the region.

"Amit Shah's visit demonstrates that the Centre stands with the people of J&K in times of distress, offering not only reassurance but concrete support," said Dr. Choudhary.

"His interaction with border residents and security forces in Poonch reflects the seriousness with which the government views the ground realities."

He lauded the BSF's achievements during Operation Sindoor, which saw the destruction of over 118 Pakistani forward posts and surveillance systems.

"This was a decisive blow to the enemy's capabilities and shows India's preparedness

gize the public and reinforce the message that the Union Government is always by their side."

He further noted the Modi government's consistent efforts to improve infrastructure, strengthen border security, and empower the youth. "From development to defence, this government has proven time and again that Jammu and Kashmir is a priority - not just in words, but in action," he said.

"Whether it's restoring religious and cultural sites, providing relief to victims of shelling, or ensuring a smooth and secure Amarnath Yatra, the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to bring tangible results," Dr. Choudhary concluded.

Lion Cubs, Kutki, Bhunki displayed on 2nd Anniversary of Jambu Zoo

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Wildlife Department celebrated the completion of two years of Jambu Zoo with a series of activities held here the other day. The occasion marked a significant milestone in the zoo's journey, with over five lakh footfalls since its opening to the public on May 29, 2023.



Lion Cubs, Kutki and Bhunki, born on 5 March 2023 to their parents brought from Gujarat two years back, were the main attraction of the event. The other attractions included a live snake show and display of live Brandt's Hedgehog, a new discovery for India.

A cultural programme, organized in collaboration with the Culture Department, witnessed a large participation of school students, NGOs, and local artists performing Dogri songs, dance, skits and yoga, on the theme of wildlife conservation. Children enthusiastically participated in the painting competition and the winners were awarded prizes.

Several staff members of the zoo were felicitated for their dedication. Members of the public participating in the zoo adoption programme were also felicitated.

Spread over a vast area, the zoo boasts of 21 enclosures housing a variety of species, including lions, tigers, common leopards, Himalayan black bear, brown bear, spotted deer, hog deer, barking deer, sambhar, black buck, goral, crocodile, gharial, porcupine, wild boar, snake species, emu, pheasants, leopard cat, jungle cat and civet cat.

The zoo has recently introduced new species, including the Indian grey wolf and brown bear. Also, the zoo has been successful in breeding several rare animal species including lion, civet cat, jungle cat, leopard cat and spotted deer.

Apart from showcasing diverse wildlife, the zoo offers a range of activities for children, including virtual reality, swings, trampoline and boating.

BJP KDD celebrates 300th Jayanti of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar at Jagti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The BJP Kashmir Displaced District (KDD) organized a grand program at Shiv Mandir, Jagti Township, to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, the revered ruler of the Holkar dynasty in Malwa, then a part of the Maratha Confederacy.



J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul speaking at a programme.

The event was graced by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), as the Chief Guest. Also present were Girdhari Lal Raina (Ex-MLC, BJP Spokesperson, and District Prabhari KDD), Rajeev Pandita (District President KDD), former KDD President Chand Jee Bhat, General Secretaries M.L. Bhat and Vimal Raina, Mahila Morcha President Dolly Raina, Mandal President (Tika Lal Taploo Mandal) Pyare Lal Pandita (Osheen Pandita), along with

several senior BJP leaders and party workers.

The program commenced with floral tributes offered at the portrait of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar. Dolly Raina presented the details of the event and welcomed the dignitaries.

Ashok Koul described Ahilyabai Holkar as a divine and courageous leader who demonstrated valor on the battlefield while maintaining a nurturing and just approach in governance. He

praised her lifelong dedication to the service of the people and the revival of cultural nationalism beyond the borders of Malwa. He emphasized the Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to promoting cultural nationalism and remembering unsung heroes of India's glorious past. He urged the community and party workers to study and honor the lives of great national personalities, which instills a spirit of valor, pride, and strong national character.

In his presidential address, Rajeev Pandita provided the background of the event and hailed Ahilyabai Holkar as a divine soul who, despite numerous challenges, dedicated her life to delivering a just and dignified rule to the people of Malwa.

The proceedings were conducted by Moti Lal Bhat, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Paray Lal Pandita.