

JU Hostel hosts Vanmahotsav Plantation Drive with INTACH, Panch Parivartan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys' Hostel, University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with INTACH Jammu Chapter and Panch Parivartan NGO, conducted a plantation drive as part of the Vanmahotsav celebrations at the hostel premises on Friday. The Urban Forestry Division, Jammu, along with the Sanitation, Floriculture, and Health Divisions of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, actively collaborated in organizing the event.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Warden, SBSBH (Assistant Professor, Department of Buddhist Studies), coordinated the programme.

Dr. S.P. Vaid (IPS Retd.), former Director General of Police, J&K, was the Chief Guest. Various species of tree saplings were planted, including Sita Ashok,



Shaheed Bhagat Singh Boys' Hostel, JU with INTACH Jammu Chapter and Panch Parivartan NGO members during a plantation drive.

Tecoma, Panjtara, Chinese Rose, Mango, Chinara, Silver Oak, and Temple Tree, among others.

The Chief Guest planted a sapling of the Ginkgo biloba, also known as the "living fossil", regarded as the oldest surviving tree species in the world.

In his welcome address, Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma, Provost, Boys' Hostels,

emphasized the need for environmental conservation and highlighted the vital role of flora.

In his address, Dr. Vaid underscored the importance of planting more trees to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of rapid development. He stressed that if every citizen planted at least five trees, it would result in crores of new trees,

significantly benefiting the environment.

O.P. Sharma (IFS Retd.) spoke about the therapeutic value of trees and their importance in our lives and culture. Prof. Anil Raina elaborated on the deteriorating state of the environment due to forest degradation. Bharti Vaid (IIS Retd.) called upon all citizens to make environment

conservation and plantation drives a mass movement. S.M. Sahni (JKAS Retd.), Convenor, INTACH Jammu Chapter, spoke about the sweeping changes that Jammu city has undergone over the past few decades, often at the expense of green cover. C.M. Seth (IFS Retd.), in his vote of thanks, emphasized the pressing need for afforestation, given the alarming environmental changes being witnessed today.

Other dignitaries present at the event included Ashvini Kumar, DFO Urban Forestry; Er. Ashok Kapoor; Ajay Gandotra, Senior Advocate; Dr. Sudarshan Sharma, DG, DRDO (Retd.); Arvind Kotwal (JKAS Retd.); Prof. Rajeshwar Verma; H.R. Dogra, Advocate; Dr. Divya Sharma, MVO & I/C IEC, JMC; and Rabia Khan, AFO, JMC.

3-day Cricket Tournament for visually impaired inaugurated



ADC Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal after inaugurating cricket tournament.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal on Friday inaugurated a three-day cricket tournament for visually impaired players at the Sports Stadium, Government Degree College (GDC) Bhaderwah. The event is being held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and marks the fourth such tournament hosted in Bhaderwah.

Organized by the Cricket Blind Association J&K in collaboration with the District

Administration, Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA), and the Social Welfare Department, the tournament aims to inspire visually impaired players to participate in sports, boost their morale and help them pursue careers in athletics. On the inaugural day, a spirited match was played between the Red and Blue teams, with the Blue team emerging as the winner. Key officials including CEO BDA, Naib Tehsildar, Social Welfare Officer (SWO), Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO), and other departmental representa-

tives were present and extended their support to the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC commended the organizers and participants for showcasing exceptional determination and skill. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to promoting inclusive sports and supporting initiatives that empower persons with disabilities. The tournament will continue over the next two days with enthusiastic participation from visually impaired players across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Jammu's Trinabh Razdan secures 100 pc Global Citizen Scholarship to study at GIIS SMART Campus Singapore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Global Indian International School (GIIS) hosted a felicitation ceremony at Aerocity, Delhi, to honour the latest recipients of its prestigious Global Citizen Scholarship (GCS), a flagship initiative empowering bright young minds through world-class education.

Among the 10 exceptional scholars chosen this year is Trinabh Razdan from Jammu, who stood out for his academic excellence and leadership potential.

Trinabh will now embark on a transformative academic journey at GIIS SMART Campus Singapore, with 100 per cent coverage of tuition fees, boarding, and living expenses for two crucial years of senior secondary education (Grades 11 and 12).

The academic institution is known for its world class infrastructure, top-tier facilities, and a cohort of highly skilled teaching staff.

The program allows students to choose between CBSE or IBDP curriculum. The total expense will amount to Rs 1 crore for two years per student, which will be fully funded by the GCS programme.

"The Global Citizen Scholarship goes beyond financial support; it empowers dreams," remarked Pramod Tripathi, Director, Academic, Global Schools Group.

"We are investing in future leaders-students with vision, drive, and a commitment to not only excel in their careers but also make meaningful contributions to society. We take pride in supporting young

minds who dare to think globally and act purposefully."

Trinabh was selected through a rigorous multi-stage process that evaluated not just academics but also his problem-solving ability, social responsibility, and drive to create change.

"This scholarship has unlocked a world of possibilities. It's a powerful reminder that dedication and vision can shape extraordinary futures. I am excited to grow, contribute, and become a force for positive change," said Trinabh.

The event brought together families and dignitaries to celebrate the spirit of opportunity and equity that defines GIIS. With this scholarship, Trinabh now joins a global learning community committed to excellence, empathy, and impact.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has commenced the admission, registration, and onboarding process for the Academic Year 2025-26, welcoming fresh cohorts into its flagship and specialized programs. From July 11 to 13, the Jagti campus is witnessing an atmosphere of excitement and warmth as students from the 6th Batch of Ph.D., 4th Batch of Ph.D. (Working Professionals), 10th Batch of MBA, 4th Batch of MBA Healthcare, and 5th Batch of Executive MBA arrive to begin their academic journey.

The institute has arranged dedicated pickup services from the Jammu Airport and Railway Station, and inter-



nal campus transport including buses, e-karts, and cabs to facilitate easy movement across the campus.

A centralized help desk remains operational throughout the onboarding period, assisting students with registration, document verification, and hostel allocation.

All registration formalities are being conducted in the welcoming environment of the campus cafeteria, while wholesome free meals served at the cafeteria further reflect the institute's culture of care and hospitality.

At the heart of the onboarding experience is an interactive session between students, their parents, and the institute's academic leadership, including the Director, IIM Jammu, Dean, Faculty & Research, IIM Jammu and Dean, Academics, IIM Jammu. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, reiterated the institute's vision of nurturing responsible, ethical, and globally competent leaders through a value-driven and inclusive educational environment. He noted that at IIM Jammu, education begins well before the classroom, and the onboarding process is a reflection of the institute's belief in human-centric leadership and operational excellence. "From infrastructure to

interpersonal engagement, we aim to make every student feel supported, safe, and inspired from day one. This welcome is not just about logistics-it's about ushering students into a transformative journey within the IIM Jammu family," he said.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty & Research, IIM Jammu emphasized that the onboarding process has been thoughtfully curated to ease the transition for both students and their families.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean, Academics, IIM Jammu emphasized that when students feel oriented and secure, they are better prepared to immerse themselves fully in learning, collaboration, and campus life from the very outset.

Heritage School organises workshop on Pedagogical Skills for Teachers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Heritage School, as part of its ongoing commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD), organized an insightful and engaging workshop on Pedagogical Skills for its teaching faculty on Friday.

The session was conducted by educator and resource person, Archana Mishra, who brings over 30 years of rich experience in the field of education across India and Bhutan.

Mishra, a firm advocate of learner-centric teaching, scientific literacy, and sustainable living, provided valuable insights into the evolving role of teachers in



Heritage School faculty with resource person, Archana Mishra at a workshop.

today's dynamic educational landscape. The workshop emphasized the concept of the teacher as a lifelong learner and a moderator who guides and empowers students.

The workshop focused on enhancing student engagement, developing student-centered teaching practices, and identifying the qualities of effective teachers. It covered designing

impactful lesson plans, fostering a positive classroom environment, understanding learning principles, and adapting teaching methods to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

Teachers received valuable tips for hands-on activities and strategies to enhance classroom effectiveness.

The workshop was interactive, informative, and extremely well-received, leaving educators motivated and equipped with new tools to refine their instructional practices.

The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the Principal, Akash Pradhan, who appreciated Mishra's enriching inputs and reiterated the school's vision to continuously empower its educators with meaningful learning experiences.

Katra delegation meets Dr Karan Singh in Delhi; discusses proposed Ropeway issue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation from Katra, district Reasi of Jammu region today met with Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of J&K and submitted a memorandum requesting that the proposed site for the Vaishno Devi ropeway be shifted to an alternate location along the traditional route.

The delegation expressed concern that the current plan would severely impact the livelihoods of several lakh people who depend on the existing path.

Dr. Karan Singh advised that the matter be taken up by the local MLA and MP with the Lt Governor of J&K for due consideration.

J&K fencers represent GNDU in World University Games

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three J&K fencers, who train and study at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) are set to represent the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in the FISU World University Games at Rhine-Ruhr in Germany from July 17 to 22.

These fencers are Shreya Gupta, Rishika Khajuria and Sufiyan Wahid Sohail. All of them have made it to the AIU team considering their performance in the All India Inter-University Games.

Since these fencers are registered in J&K for other National level competitions, J&K Amateur Fencing Association complimented them for the selection.

In a handout issued, here today, the Association lauded the efforts of the UT fencers and hoped they will give their best to excel in the competition ahead.



Randhawa visits schools in Chaata for developmental review

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Bahu Constituency, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, on Friday conducted a visit to High School and Primary School in Chaata to assess and initiate various developmental works aimed at improving educational infrastructure and student facilities.

He was accompanied by BDO Satwari, Panchayat Secretary, Mandal President Surjeet Singh, and local dignitaries including Raman Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Farman Khattana, Anwar Ali, Gulshan Sharma, Tirth Ram, Kuldeep Raj, Mohd Youns, and Vikram Singh. The visit was also attended by the Headmistress and staff of the schools.

During the inspection, Randhawa was shocked to see the dilapidated condition of the Primary School building, which was declared completely unsuitable for young children. Taking immediate action, he directed that the school be temporarily shifted to the nearby Panchayat Ghar to ensure uninterrupted learning in a safe environment.



MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa during visit to government school.

He further instructed the BDO and Headmistress to take up the matter with senior officials in the education and public works departments, seeking urgent repair and restoration of the school building.

Randhawa also assured that he would personally escalate the issue with higher authorities, including the Education Minister, the Director of School Education and Deputy Commissioner Jammu, to ensure timely intervention.

He emphasized that the safety and dignity of schoolchildren must be the topmost priority, stating, "It is unacceptable for children to study in such neg-

lected conditions. We are committed to providing a better learning environment, and I will make sure that necessary funds and approvals are arranged at the earliest."

The MLA also discussed broader development requirements in the area, including Examination Hall, toilet facilities, drinking water, and proper seating arrangements. He assured the local community that their demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Residents and school staff expressed gratitude for the MLA's swift response and commitment to grassroots development.

IICT upgrades skill of 11,000 carpet weavers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: a major boost to expand the pool of trained human resource, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has master trained around 11,000 carpet weavers from different districts, under various skill development programmes.

The weavers have been trained on modified carpet looms which shall go a long way in penetrating niche markets for the famed hand-knotted carpets, which is the second most exported handmade product from Kashmir.

In a press statement released here on Friday, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad said that the services of master trainers who have distinguished themselves in the field of carpet weaving are available to train skilled and semi-skilled carpet weavers in different batches, both in IICT premises at Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan and carpet clusters of different districts. "This face-to-face interaction and training shall go a long way in safeguarding the rare skill of weaving intricate hand-



knotted carpets, which have a huge export market, both within and outside the country," he stated.

The exports of hand-knotted carpets from Kashmir have touched Rs 838.70 crore in the last three financial years, despite challenges due to global conflicts which have affected markets in Middle East and other destinations.

In order to make the training programmes more attractive for trainees, IICT also provides monthly stipend as per Scheme Guidelines. "The stipend for these short-term training programmes of 4-6 months' duration with intake capacity of 20, ranges from Rs 1000 to Rs 3750 per month under various

skill-based schemes of Ministry of Textiles," he added.

The training programmes include Skill Upgradation and Capacity Building Training & Short-Term Training Programmes of the Ministry of Textiles and Skill Development Training Programme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Director also stated that under the Guru-Shishya Hastship Programme, the services of National Awardees shall be availed to provide skill upgradation training to registered carpet weavers. "Under this 2-month training programme, each trainee shall be provided a stipend of Rs 7500 per month," he stated.