

IIM Jammu hosts plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu organized a plantation drive at its Jagti campus under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign on 11th Aug 2024, in collaboration with the social group Oxygen Footprints, Jammu. The initiative, led by the faculty, staff and students of IIM Jammu, reflects the institute's commitment to environmental sustainability and community welfare.

The event witnessed active participation from students, as well as members of Oxygen Footprints. Over 385 plants of various varieties were planted across



IIM Jammu faculty and students during a plantation drive in the campus.

the Jagti campus, enhancing the greenery and contributing to the overall environmental health of the region.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized IIM Jammu's commitment to nurturing both its students and the environment. He highlighted the significance of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of World Environment Day, as a tribute to the nurturing spirit of Mother Earth.

He noted that this plantation drive is a crucial step towards a greener future, urging students and the broader community to take responsibility for nature. He also called on everyone to contribute to making our planet greener, thereby supporting a sustainable ecosystem.

Harneet Singh, Oxygen Footprints, Jammu, expressed pride in collaborating with IIM Jammu in this noble cause, which aims to inspire individuals to contribute to environmental conservation.

The event was supervised by Harneet Singh, Oxygen Footprints and Vijay Anant Kamble, Administrative Officer-Projects & Admin, IIM Jammu, along with students of IIM Jammu who actively participated in the plantation drive. The event was coordinated by Student Affairs Office and Student Council, IIM Jammu. This initiative marks another milestone in IIM Jammu's ongoing efforts to integrate sustainability into its campus and community activities.

NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, hostel boarders lead cleanliness drive at GGM Science College

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To commemorate Independence Day, GGM Science College conducted a focused cleanliness drive in the college hostel under the "Swachhata Pakhwada" initiative. The event was carried out under the leadership of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. He said "It was a tribute to the sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters, promoting the importance of cleanliness and civic duty".

In his address, he also highlighted the significance of cleanliness as a way to honor the legacy of the freedom fighters, urging students to adopt it as a core value for both personal and national development.

The drive saw enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers and NCC cadets, who worked diligently to ensure the hostel was thoroughly cleaned.



This collective effort not only improved the hostel's living conditions but also reinforced the values of unity, responsibility, and patriotism central to the Independence Day celebrations.

The event was organised by NCC Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma and Dr. Shafia Saleem, along with NSS Programme Officers (POs) Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma and Hostel warden Prof. Rajeev Kumar. Their coordination was instrumental in the success of the cleanliness drive, which aligned with the goals of the Swachhata Pakhwada mission.

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JKKKA to host Independence Day Kho Kho U-15 Cup 2024 on Aug 15

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Kho Kho Association (JKKKA), in collaboration with Kho Kho India, SAI Club under the aegis of the Kho Kho Federation of India and the J&K Sports Council, is set to host the Independence Day Kho Kho Under-15 Cup 2024.

The event will be held on August 15, 2024, at 3 PM at the Government Boys School, Gadigarh, Jammu.

This prestigious tournament aims to celebrate the spirit of independence while promoting the sport of kho kho among the youth.

It will feature various teams from across the region, showcasing their talent and competitive spirit in this traditional game.

Teams and clubs interested in participating are required to complete their registration by the deadline of August 14, 2024.

For further information and to register, interested clubs and teams can contact on 7889792681, 9149509617, and 9906204257.

This event promises to be a significant occasion for young kho kho enthusiasts and is expected to foster greater enthusiasm and skill development in the sport.

Tehsildar Mandi inaugurates National Taekwondo Club at Mandi

STATE TIMES NEWS

MANDI: The Poonch District Taekwondo Association expanded its reach to Tehsil Mandi with the inauguration of the National Taekwondo Club. The event, held in collaboration with National Public School, saw a notable gathering of officials and guests.

The Chief Guest, Tehsildar Mandi J&K Ashfaq Hussain, along with Dr. Sarfraz Mir, Chairman of Sir Syed Education Mission Soch J&K, and Shamim Ganai BDC, inaugurated the new Taekwondo club.

Taranpreet Kaur, General Secretary of the District Poonch Taekwondo Association, and Shihabuddeen, Zonal Manager of YES India Mandi, were also present.



Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain posing with other dignitaries and taekwondo players.

Haris Hadhi, Principal of National Higher Secondary School Mandi, served as a guest of honor, while Rajinder Singh, Taekwondo Coach from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, and

Dr. Sarfraz Mir extended his best wishes to the Poonch District Taekwondo Association and the new club.

The event commenced with a welcome speech by Taranpreet Kaur, who highlighted the achievements of Poonch Taekwondo players, noting their success at the All India level.

He expressed his gratitude to the District Poonch Taekwondo Association for establishing the club in Mandi and assured support for its development.

The inauguration marks a significant step in promoting Taekwondo in Tehsil Mandi, fostering the sport among the youth.

The event also saw the presence of notable figures including Hassan MT, Taekwondo Coach of the National Taekwondo Club, 'Toseef Tahir, a National Taekwondo Medalist, and black belt holders Sahiba Zahoor and Farzana Kouser. The inauguration marks a significant step in promoting Taekwondo in Tehsil Mandi, fostering the sport among the youth.

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Kathar Cricket Premier League

Sports inculcates camaraderie among youth: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Expressing satisfaction over sports gaining momentum in rural areas almost at par with urban and semi-urban pockets of Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Sunday said in the present era when social media is fast catching the imagination of young people, sports stands out as a catalyst to utilize their energies in more positive pursuits and fostering camaraderie.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of Kathar Premier League Cricket finals, Devender Rana said alongside personality development, discipline and team spirit the sports open up vistas of opportunities to enterprising and talented youth in career advancement.

Rana said cricket continues to remain a major attraction with the youth but the other games are



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana presenting trophy to a winner team.

equally flourishing with some of the traditional and rural oriented games witnessing revival and comeback. This is imperative for youth to choose the game as per aptitude. In the recent years, the Nagrota Assembly Constituency has emerged as a premier destination for the sports lovers of the adjoining areas to watch budding sports persons participating in different competitions, he added.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has no dearth of talent but need of the time is to identify and polish their skills. In this context the role of coaches, mentors and organizations dedicated to various games becomes very crucial. It is heartening to note that Nagrota has a good number of sports enthusiasts, who have been not only providing a platform but organizing big events also. He complimented the organizers for holding the tournament, saying this will go a long way in motivating and inspiring youngsters to participate in various games. He exuded confidence that both the organizers and sports persons will come together to promote sports as a means of bringing young people closer, forging bonds that will last a lifetime.

Devender Rana congratulated the winner-up team for giving their best on the field and also complimented the participating teams for their enthusiasm towards the game. He is losing and winning are part of the game

and the important thing is that this is taken in a sportsman spirit. He also appreciated the response of the sports lovers in acknowledging good cricket by applauding every ball and stroke by batsmen. In all, 32 teams participated in the Kathar Premier League Tournament finals. Kathar Super Giants emerged as winners by defeating Badyal Rockers, which could only score 75 runs against 85 by the winners. While Ganesh Sharma was declared as Man of the Match, Shubham Gupta emerged as Man of the Series. Similarly Ashish Singh and Shami were respectively adjudged best bowler and best batsman. Rana gave away the winners and runners up trophies. He also hailed the contribution of the organizers Arun Kesar and Abhishek Kesar for holding the mega event.

Cluster Meet to foster Sports & Cultural excellence among Vidya Bharti Schools across Jammu Region

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A highly anticipated cluster meet featuring badminton, Shatranj (chess), and Yogasan activities will take place among the eight teams from various schools in the Jammu region.

This event marks the beginning of a series of competitions that will progress to the zone and national levels under the auspices of the Vidya Bharti chain of schools.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Col. Mahan Singh (Retd.), Vikram Singh, DDC Member, and Chandher Bhushan, President of the management committee.

Also in attendance were management committee members Anzreg Singh, Shastri Charan Das, Sudesh Gupta, School Pradhan Acharya Savita Devi, school staff, children, media persons, and other distinguished guests.



The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp, flag hoisting, and a prayer, followed by a vibrant cultural program. The Chief Guest, Col. Mahan Singh, officially declared the event open, setting the stage for a celebration of talent, sportsmanship, and cultural pride.

Col. Mahan Singh applauded the curriculum and educational practices being adopted by Vidya Bharti Schools across the country. He emphasized that along with adhering to the CBSE standards of education, Vidya Bharti Schools are dedicated to imparting Indian traditions and ethos to their students. He highlighted that the children are not only being educated to excel academically but are also being groomed as nationalists and patriotic citizens.

Col. Mahan Singh extended his best wishes to all the participants for the event.

Dr Jitendra holds Public Durbar at Chenani; inaugurates Mobile Telemedicine service, StartUp exhibition

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENANI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh held a Public Durbar in Chenani today, where he inaugurated the "Doctor on Wheels" mobile telemedicine service and an exhibition featuring StartUps and Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Addressing the gathering at Government Higher Secondary School, Dr. Singh highlighted the impact of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). He noted that the mission supports women SHGs in enhancing their livelihoods and creating self-employment opportunities for local youth. "These SHGs have become self-reliant and are also generating employment for others, transforming the rural economy," he stated.

Dr. Singh praised the DAY-NRLM as the world's largest initiative aimed at improving the livelihoods of the poor. He also discussed the infrastructure developments within the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency, emphasizing the rapid construction of roads and highways under PMGSY to



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a public rally at Chenani on Sunday.

improve connectivity in remote areas. He specifically mentioned the new National Highway from Lakhampur to Doda and the Gohakhelani-Khanabal National Highway as key projects that will enhance travel and connectivity. "The Modi government is focussed on consolidating the gains of the last ten years to transform the rural landscape", Dr. Jitendra stated.

During the event, Dr. Singh flagged off the "Aarogya-Doctor on Wheels" mobile telemedicine service. This initiative aims to provide healthcare services to remote villages at no cost. The service enables patients to receive medical consultations and prescriptions within approximately 45 minutes, compared to days required for physical hospital visits. The service supports multiple languages to cater to diverse local populations.

Dr. Singh encouraged widespread promotion of this healthcare start-up and advocated for increased Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions to sustain and expand the service. In the public durbar, Dr. Singh addressed grievances and demands from local residents, with many issues resolved on the spot. He directed district officers to ensure prompt action on people's concerns, reinforcing the government's commitment to addressing local issues effectively. The Union Minister also visited various departmental stalls showcasing products from DAY-NRLM and participated in the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative by planting a sapling at the school premises.

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'Repora' Kashmir's Grape Village With bumper crop, farmers looking for organic future

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Settled in the Lar area of Ganderbal district, the odd village of Repora has become synonymous with high-quality grape cultivation and almost every villager is busy harvesting grapes and markets are full of its various varieties.

Today, this village stands as a testament to that prophecy, with its vineyards producing grapes that rival even those from Italy. Repora has become a hallmark of grape production across J&K.

Due to high demand of Repora grapes in markets, almost every household in this beautiful hamlet is involved in grape cultivation, turning it into a profitable cash crop and now seen not only generating employment but earning good income.

Mohammad Sultan, a progressive farmer from the area says that about 90 percent of the population is engaged in this agricultural endeavour.

"Grapes are cultivated on approximately 160 hectares of land in Repora, providing a stable livelihood for hundreds of families," Sultan said.

This year, the grape harvest began earlier than usual due to warm weather conditions, with the season typically running from August to mid-October.

The village's history with grape cultivation dates back to the time of



Maharaja Hari Singh, who is said to have cultivated grapes on his land in Repora, now managed by the Horticulture Department. The village produces various grape varieties, including Sahibi, Hussein, and Thompson Seedless.

The size and quality of Repora's grapes are noteworthy. International standards consider a grape berry weighing 4-5 grams to be of high quality, but Repora grapes often weigh between 14-15 grams, exceeding these standards. "A team of experts visited our village a few years ago and weighed one of our grapes at 15 grams, which is unparalleled globally," farmer told.

The villagers attribute their success to the blessings of Mir Syed Shah Sadiq Qalandar (RA), a saint believed to have blessed the area with fertile land. "Our Sufi saints have blessed this place with extraordinary grapes.

These are not only tastier but also require fewer pesticides. We have reduced pesticide use from seven sprays to three, and we aim to go completely organic in the future," said, another local farmer.

Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal, emphasised Repora's significance in grape production.

"Repora is an exemplary site for high-quality grape cultivation, which provides employment opportunities for the youth. We plan to further promote grape cultivation and introduce new varieties to enhance production and employment," official told. He said that Ganderbal's grape production has reached an impressive 2000 to 3000 metric tons annually, with an average yield of 8 to 12 tons per acre, depending on the variety and cultivation practices.

The majority of grapes produced in Ganderbal are sold as fresh table grapes, with varieties like Thompson Seedless and Kishmish being particularly popular in local and regional markets for their sweet flavour and seedless nature. Horticulture remains a vital sector in J&K, contributing significantly to the region's economy and providing employment.

While J&K is famous for its apples, almonds, walnuts, and saffron, Repora's grapes are now emerging as a new cash crop, further enriching the region's agricultural heritage.