

SKUAST-J inks MoU with Bayer Crop Science

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
Jammu: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) signed Memorandum of Understanding with Bayer Crop Science Limited, a Multinational Company with its Registered office at Thane, Mumbai.

Bayer is a leading organization in agriculture sector and is engaged in manufacturing and marketing of seeds and crop protection chemicals.

The company aims to provide innovative product solutions to produce quality food, feed and fiber to meet the challenges of Indian agriculture and is committed to advanced research, innovation, and commercialization in the sector.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Anil Kumar, Registrar on behalf of SKUAST-Jammu and Gulshan Singh Rana, Head, Market Development and Commercial Capability, Crop Science Division, on behalf of Bayer Crop Science Limited with the objective to promote collaborative research and



SKUAST-J and Bayer Crop Science Limited representatives after signing MoU.

development projects in the field of agricultural sciences and technologies of the two institutes.

The MOU was signed in presence of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

At the outset, Dr. S.K. Gupta (Director Research), welcomed the team of Bayer Crop Science Limited and the officials of the University for the interaction programme and signing of MOU. During the programme, Prof. Tripathi in his remarks emphasized the importance of aligning efforts with the country's needs for collaborating with industry to scale up technolo-

gy advancements. He was of the opinion to create an ecosystem where both academia and industry can thrive together. He further stressed to enhance the curriculum to meet the evolving needs of the farmers and foster short term and long-term partnerships through such collaborations. Mr. Rana stated that collaborative efforts are essential to elevate both for SKUAST-Jammu and Bayer Crop Science Limited to achieve new heights.

It's crucial to showcase our strengths through concrete actions so that the significance of MoU is recognized on the ground.

Rana was accompanied by

Rajvir Singh Rathi, Director Public Affairs, Science and Sustainability and Dr. Ravinder Singh, Agronomy Services Manager, Weed Management, Bayer Crop Science Limited.

Through this agreement, SKUAST-Jammu and Bayer will identify and undertake research projects/PG research of mutual interest, focusing frontier areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Science, Dairy Technology, Agricultural Engineering and Basic Sciences. Bayer shall fund Ph.D. student research projects of mutual interests and will nominate a professor of practice for teaching gradu-

ates in area of their expertise.

Statutory officers of the university namely Dr. Anmrish Vaid (Director Extension), Dr. Rajinder Peshin (Director Education), Dr. Sanjay Khar (Director P&M), Dr. S.E.H. Rizvi (Dean, Basic Sciences), Dr. Rajesh Katoch (Dean, Veterinary Sciences & AH), Dr. J. S. Soodan (Dean, Dairy Technology), Dr. Vikas Tandon (Dean, Horticulture & Forestry), Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi (Dean, Student Welfare), Sh. Madan Lal (Comptroller), Er. Iqbal Singh (Estate Officer) Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Chief Scientist (Ag. Economics) were present during the occasion.

The program was co-ordinated by Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Professor (Biochemistry) and organized by the officers of Directorate of Research namely, Dr. Mahital Jamwal and Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Directors of Research and Dr. Ankit Magotra, Deputy Director Research. Prof. Guleria extended a vote of thanks.

Alumni of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organize Plantation Drive



Alumni of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar during a plantation drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, witnessed a significant and inspiring event on Thursday with the successful execution of the "Ek Ped Maa k Naam, Ek Ped Shaheed k Naam" plantation drive.

This initiative, spearheaded by the College's alumni, aimed to honor mothers and martyrs by planting trees in their names, reflecting a deep commitment to environmental preservation and respect for national heroes.

The event was graced by Principal SP Saraswat, who delivered a motivating speech

highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship and the symbolic gesture of planting trees as a tribute. The drive was attended by a distinguished group of alumni including President Radha Sharma, Vice President Dr. Davinder Kour, General Secretary Smt. Madhavi Sharma, Assistant Secretary Smt Sunita Bhagat, Joint Secretary Smt. Ambica Samnotra, and several prominent members including Ms Neerus Luthra, Dr Anjali Bhat, Prof. Archana Bakshi, Prof. Babita Jamiwal, Prof. Bindu Chib, Dr Anshu Sharma, Dr. Shalun Mahajan, Prof Anupama

Sharma, Prof Poonam, Dr. Chetna Mahajan, Dr. Kiran Kalra, and Dr Jagmeet Kour.

This plantation drive not only served as a tribute to beloved mothers and martyrs but also marked a collective effort towards enhancing green spaces in the community. The alumni's dedication to this cause reflects the college's ethos of fostering social responsibility and environmental consciousness among its students and alumni.

The event was met with enthusiastic participation and serves as a reminder of the positive impact that such initiatives can have on both the environment and societal values.

LEAD delegation meets Piyush Goyal, advocates for investment package expansion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU, Aug 22: A delegation from LEAD-LJK Economic Growth & Development Dialogue met the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, to discuss the evolving industrial investment landscape in J&K. The meeting focused on the success of the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS), which has significantly transformed the region's industrial investment scenario.

Backed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the NCSS has seen an overwhelming response, with numerous investment proposals already materializing on the ground.



LEAD-LJK members presenting memorandum to Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal.

LEAD acknowledged the significant role the scheme has played in attracting investors and accelerating development in the region and also highlighted the need for the expansion of both financial outlay and

timelines for the NCSS.

These extensions are crucial for those who are still stuck in the land acquisition process or awaiting necessary clearances, ensuring they too can benefit from the scheme's incentives.

Concerns were also raised regarding potential amendments to the GST-linked incentive component.

LEAD strongly advocated for retaining the current structure, which provides gross GST incentives rather than shifting to GST incentive on value addition component only.

They highlighted that such a change would undermine investor confidence in the region.

The delegation further called for a more efficient and transparent evaluation process to expedite approvals. They also stressed the importance of prioritizing small and medium-sized investment proposals, ensuring that the scheme's resources are not disproportionately allocated to large-scale projects.

The LEAD delegation included key members such as LEAD Directors Sunil Shah and Manish Ahluwalia, along with Harinder Gupta, LEAD's Manufacturing Sector Incharge, and Praveen Pargal, State Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharti.

Minister Piyush Goyal commended LEAD's proactive efforts in promoting the scheme, noting the organization's key role in inspiring investors across the country to explore opportunities in J&K.

Informative session delivered by K.K Wadhwa at DBN Vidya Mandir



Social activist, K.K Wadhwa and others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A special assembly organized by the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel House at DBN Vidya Mandir saw an engaging and informative session delivered by the

social activist, Kewal Krishan Wadhwa.

The session, held under the guidance of Principal Vishu Dogra and teachers Mehak Sharma, Anandita Thakur, and Priya Sharma, emphasized

the importance of environmental preservation.

Wadhwa highlighted the critical need for keeping the environment green and clean, advocating for the adoption of eco-friendly practices.

He stressed the importance of banning single-use plastics and promoting the use of handmade bags as part of the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative. His lecture effectively sensitized the students on adopting sustainable practices and contributing to environmental conservation.

The session concluded with a token of thanks presented by Principal Vishu Dogra, who expressed gratitude for the insightful lecture and the impactful message delivered.

Natrang artist wins National Scholarship



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang's proud artist Priyal Ashok Gupta brought pride for Jammu and Kashmir by winning the National Scholarship in Theatre from Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Priyal Ashok Gupta will undergo theatre training under the eminent theatre director of Indian Theatre, Sh. Balwant Thakur. She will continue to receive this award of National scholarship every year till she attains the age of 20. Every year thousands of young artists compete at the National level for this prestigious National honour and Priyal is the only girl from the state of J&K who has been awarded this scholarship in the field of Theatre.

Born to Ashok and Dimple Gupta, Priyal Ashok Gupta started her acting career from Natrang's children theatre workshops and later got selected for her participation in Natrang's blockbuster plays like Bawa Jitto, Mata Ki Kahani, Panchi Aise Aayenge, Badi Shararat Karte Thhey, Pollution Ka Solution,

The Wizard of Oz, Vocal For Local, Rehearsal, Papa Jab Bacche Thhey, The Uncrowned Poet, Vishwa Guru Bharat and Chandni Ka Chamcha.

Complimenting her for her rarest achievement Natrang Director Balwant Thakur said that Priyal will inspire many young children to join theatre. It's a proud moment not only for Natrang but the entire UT of J&K that she has become the only artist to secure this scholarship award. She is an exceptional talent and wished that she would scale the ultimate heights in the field of acting in theatre.

On the occasion he also complimented her parents for this big achievement.

GDC Marh organizes Maiden Internship for Students

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GDC Marh organized Maiden free of cost Internship for all the B.A/ B.Sc/ B.Com students of semester 5th for 15 days in alignment with NEP 2020 with various organizations/ industry of Jammu under the leadership of Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul and faculty members.

20 students of science i.e., Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics did their internship at ITI Jammu w.e.f. July 15 to Aug 1, 2024 under able guidance of Principal Er. Abdul Rashid Sheikh. Industry related skills, practical training of computer hardware and network maintenance were given to the students. Students worked as



GDC Marh students during internship for plastic waste management and recycling.

interns as per the directions of the supervisors.

20 students of Education completed their internship in two phases w.e.f. July 10 to 16, 2024 at GCOE Jammu under the able supervision of the Principal of the college Dr. Jyoti Parihar and w.e.f. July 18 to 27, 2024 at GMHSS Marh where the Principal of the school

Parshottam Dutt Sharma cooperated whole heartedly. There students learned about micro teaching its various skills, prepared lesson plans and delivered lessons to class 8th and 9th in the subject of Hindi and SST. The students also collected the data related to the history of the school, infrastructure, strength of students and attended morning

assembly also thereby working as members of the school fraternity.

28 students of Commerce, English and Geography underwent internship at Krishna Milk industry Unit-I (Sangrampur) and Unit -II (Karloop) w.e.f. July 13 to 27, 2024 under the mentorship of R.K Gupta and Veena Gupta (owner of the industry). The students worked as interns in processing of milk and its products with different machines such as boiler, water cleaner, bulk milk cooler, khoya machine, cream separator, curd packing, cold room, hot room, etc.

The students of Sociology had their internship at RUDA (08 students) and Samast Eco Alternatives Pvt. Ltd Jammu, (10 stu-

dents) for plastic waste management and recycling w.e.f. July 8, 2024. There the students worked as interns and prepared reusable sanitary napkins, cloth bags and handmade diyas. The resource persons were Rajat Salgotra (Director), Samast Eco-Alternatives and Sanjeev Arora (CEO RUDA). Students also interacted with locals, tourists and made them aware about plastic waste management so that they can become green champions in the near future.

The Principal along with concerned faculty personally visited all the internship venues and interacted with their heads for future planning for the welfare of the students and thanked them.

BIG FM celebrates business excellence and innovation at the BIG Impact Awards Jammu



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh honouring a participant.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BIG FM, one of India's leading radio networks, hosted the second season of BIG Impact Awards Jammu, celebrating entrepreneurial excellence and the exceptional contributions of change makers in the city. The awards acknowledged and honoured businesses known for their innovative approach and societal contributions across various sectors.

With title partner- Ruchika Makeovers, presented by Semparia, Banking partner J&K Bank, the event unfolded with grandeur at the Four A Resort. The awards witnessed an impressive assembly of leaders from various industries who felicitated the winners with the prestigious BIG Impact trophy.

The city of Jammu,

renowned for its rich cultural heritage and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, provided the perfect backdrop for an event that celebrated the convergence of tradition and modernity.

The evening commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a mesmerising Ganesh Vandana performed by Natya Roots, led by famous choreographer Akash Dogra. This set the stage for an event that artfully integrated cultural legacy with present-day accomplishments.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who graced the event as the Chief Guest, highlighted the importance of acknowledging the contributions of local businesses in fostering economic growth and societal development. He underscored

the powerful impact of celebrating these entrepreneurs which leads to more innovation and determination across various sectors, including automotive, real estate, hospitality, health and wellness, education, fashion, lifestyle and more.

Sharing his thoughts, Sunil Kumaran, COO, BIG FM, said, "At BIG FM, we have always championed the power of innovation and creativity as the driving forces behind progress. Keeping up with the same spirit, the BIG IMPACT AWARDS has been honouring the contributions of businesses and changemakers across the country. With the second edition in Jammu, we are once again celebrating the visionary minds and businesses that play a pivotal role in setting benchmarks for the future and empower the Jammu

community. My sincere congratulations to all the award winners for their remarkable efforts."

This year's event was further supported by esteemed partners and sponsors, including J&K Bank, Ujala Cygnus, AS Marketing, whose contributions were instrumental in making the evening a resounding success. Those who received Big Impact Awards includes Monalisa, Gupta & associates LLP, V Group of Industries, Aroma Family Restaurant, First Step, Swasthya Shashtra, The Shri Ram Universal School, Anaya Communication Pvt. Ltd., Rivazo Royal Homz, A One Ultrasound Clinic, Dr. Vijant Singh Chandail, Duggar Haveli, Career Edge, Branding Elves, The Grandstand and Shriya Gupta.

GGM Science College organizes Expert talk on organ donation and transplant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU, Aug 22: An expert talk was organized by career counseling & placement cell and Debates and Seminars committee of GGM Science College Jammu in collaboration with Sate Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO), on organ donation/transplant to educate and raise awareness among the audience on the critical importance of organ donation, the process involved, and its impact on saving lives. The event was organized under the guidance and patronage of Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college. The event started with the formal welcome address by Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma, Convener of the Career Counseling and Placement Cell. Anshu Sharma consultant IEC from



GGM Science College faculty and students at an expert talk.

media team SOTTO, was resource person on the occasion. The lecture began with an overview of organ donation and its definition, after which the speaker emphasized the stark disparity between the number of patients in need of organ transplants and the supply of donated organs. The speaker said that organ donation is described as a life-saving intervention that not only extends lives but also significantly enhances the quality of

life for recipients. Answering questions focused on the safety and long-term health outcomes for living donors, the speaker provided reassuring responses backed by data and research. The speaker made several concepts clear about deceased organ Donors and Living organ Donors to dispel misconceptions among the audience. More than 100 students were in attendance. The students pledged to raise awareness about the impor-

tance of organ donation in their villages and communities. Among the faculty who attended the programme included Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Prof. Lekh Raj, Dr. Narinder Kumar, Dr. Sunil Dutt, Dr. Rahul Kait, Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Dr. Anshu Sahney (Convener Debates & Seminar Committee), Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Prof. Brinder Kumar, Dr. Chaman Lal (Staff Secretary), Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Akansha Parihar, Dr. Arjun Singh, Dr. Pawan Sharma, Dr. Sukhdeep Singh, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Arti Sharma, Dr. Neha Sharma, Dr. Reetika Rani, Dr. Nisha, Prof. Arvind Kumar and Prof. Ram Krishan. The program concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Bal Krishan, Assistant Professor in Zoology.

Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest assembly elections in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has received the green light from the party's high command to participate in the upcoming assembly elections in the region. Following a comprehensive meeting at Sena Bhavan, Mumbai, party MP Anil Desai released the

party manifesto, known as the 'Vachan Nama,' along with the first list of candidates for Jammu and Kashmir. The mandate was issued with best wishes for victory. According to Manish Sahni, chief of the Jammu and Kashmir unit, the party leader Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray expressed deep

concern over the unmet promises to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including the violation of local rights and the failure to ensure the safe return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley. The state unit was instructed to participate in the assembly elections with a firm resolve to restore the

rights of the sons of the soil. After the announcement of the election dates, the state core committee presented the list of candidates and the manifesto, which were then finalized by the party high command.

The names of the party's candidates will be announced in Jammu on August 23.