

National Conference on 'Transforming Education through Academic Leadership' concludes at CUJ

A nation can only be excellent through quality education: Shankaranand

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A national conference on the theme "Transforming Education through Academic Leadership" was organized to mark five years of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). The event was held under the joint auspices of the Central University of Jammu and the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Province), under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The Chief Guest of the conference was Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The Keynote Speaker was B.R. Shankaranand, All-India Organizing Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal. Prof. K.S. Chandrashekhar, Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University, Jammu, and Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, were the Distinguished Guests.

The event began with students performing the Saraswati Vandana. Research scholar Anshu Kumari recited the Dhyeya Mantra, and Indra Devi read the Dhyeya Vakya. Prof. Dilip



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain presenting memento to Shantmanu, ACS Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Kumar, an official from Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, presented the theme introduction, while Dr. Nareendra performed a solo song.

Vice Chancellor and President of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal (J&K & Ladakh), Prof. Sanjeev Jain, welcomed all guests and, in his address, highlighted the immense potential of leadership transformation in the new education policy. He emphasized the importance of developing India into a developed nation by the centenary of independence, a vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and stressed the crucial role of youth in this mission. He added that the NEP's core goal is personality development, which is primarily the responsibility

of educators, who must cultivate the true qualities of a guru (teacher) to prepare students for the service of the nation.

Keynote speaker B.R. Shankaranand in his address, stated that the development of education is only possible through a sensitive government and an alert society. Social transformation is only possible through the right leadership. Referring to the saying "Yatha Raja, Tatha Praja" (As is the king, so are the subjects), he emphasized that just as virtuous children come from virtuous parents, a quality nation can only be built through quality education. He described education as the axis of the nation, one that instills leadership qualities in every individual. He

called for individuals to be fearless, free from dilemmas, disinterested in selfish gain, and self-reliant for effective leadership. He also urged students to act selflessly with endurance (Titiksha), a core teaching of the Bhagavad Gita.

Chief Guest Shantmanu, said that the NEP is based on India's ancient knowledge heritage. He emphasized that language and attire are key to identity and preserving Indian languages and cultural dress is essential. He noted that the NEP focuses on language and personality development, and that the pursuit of knowledge should be for societal benefit, not merely personal or career gain.

Prof. K.S.

Chandrashekhar noted that the NEP has achieved much in the past five years. He said that with its implementation, students have come to understand the true meaning of education and its purpose. He emphasized that India can only become a "Vishwaguru" (global teacher) when its students and researchers are patriotic. The NEP emphasizes skill-based education for students and scholars.

The program was conducted by Vishal Sharma, State Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal. Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean of the Faculty of Languages, delivered the vote of thanks. Under her leadership, a brainstorming session followed, in which principals of various government colleges from the Jammu region participated. Attendees included Prof. Rajeev Ratan Sharma, Prof. Pragya Khanna, Prof. Sujata Salathia, Prof. Meeru Abrol, Prof. Sudhir Singh, Prof. Kundan Lal Dogra, among others.

On this occasion, the new coordinator and co-coordinators of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal (J&K and Ladakh) were announced by the state president. The event concluded with the national anthem.

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar organises student autobiography competition on Indian Constitution



Faculty posing with participating students.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Political Science, PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, on Monday under the guidance of worthy Principal Dr. Geetanjali Andotra Rana, organised an innovative and intellectually engaging student competition on writing autobiographical accounts reflecting how the Constitution of India has shaped their lives, aspirations and future agendas.

The event sought to deepen constitutional values among young citizens and generate personal reflections on the lived meaning of democracy, liberty, equality and justice. Undergraduate students from various disciplines enthusiastically participated and presented original narratives describing how constitutional principles guide their everyday decision-making, social com-

mitments and professional ambitions.

In the inaugural address, Head of Department, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary emphasised that "The Constitution should not be seen merely as a legal document, but as a living guide that inspires our choices and strengthens our democratic spirit."

Students engaged with themes such as gender rights, fundamental duties, secularism, respect for diversity, environmental responsibility and the challenges of practising equality in a stratified society. Many participants highlighted how Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and Article 19 (Freedom of Speech and Expression) give them the confidence to pursue education, voice opinions and imagine dignified futures.

A panel of faculty members consisting of Dr. Pooja Charak

and Prof. Paramjeet Singh evaluated the submissions on clarity, originality, and sensitivity to constitutional values. The best three writeups of Mahima Kumari, Tanishka Pandita and Akrida Mahajan were recognised and given certificates of excellence.

In the concluding remarks, the organisers noted that "Such reflective exercises are essential for nurturing active citizenship and making students conscious stakeholders in the democratic project of India." The competition successfully translated abstract constitutional ideals into meaningful personal narratives and helped students connect constitutionalism with their lives, aspirations and future agendas.

The Department extends its appreciation to all participants and encourages continued engagement with national development discourses.

Anti-Ragging Week Campaign GGM Science College organises Anti-Ragging Essay & Slogan Writing Competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Anti-Ragging Week Campaign at Cluster University of Jammu, GGM Science College, Jammu, on behalf of Department of Students Welfare of CLUJ organised an Essay Writing and Slogan Writing Competition to raise awareness about the menace of ragging and to promote a culture of harmony, dignity, and mutual respect on campus.

The event began with an inaugural session led by Prof. (Dr.) Romesh K. Gupta, Principal of the College in presence of Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Dean DSW CLUJ, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Neha Sharma.



Winner students posing with faculty.

In his address, Dr. Gupta stressed that ragging in any form is a grave offence and urged students to uphold discipline, dignity, and friendship. He called upon the youth to actively engage in such initiatives and spread the message of zero tolerance towards ragging. Students from various

constituent colleges and Schools of CLUJ participated, expressing their views through thought-provoking essays and powerful slogans.

In the Essay Writing Competition, Hafza Choudhary of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar secured the first position, while

Nandani Sharma and Parul Pawar of Govt. College of Education bagged the second and third prizes respectively. In the Slogan Writing Competition, Sonakshi of SPMR College clinched the first prize, followed by Tanika Chib of Govt. College of Education and Ruchira Verma of GCW Gandhi Nagar in the second and third spots.

The competitions were adjudged by Dr. Sunita Kumari, Prof. Kiran Bala, and Prof. Sheeraz Kousar. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Arti Heer, who appreciated the collective efforts of faculty members, students, and volunteers in pledging to create a ragging-free campus.

All India Bucchi Babu Invitation Cricket Tournament Qamran, Musaif slam splendid centuries as J&K in command against Railways

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: Displaying extraordinary batting skills and showing stellar grit and tenacity, gutsy opening batter Qamran Iqbal and gritty middle-order batter Musaif Ajaz notched up magnificent centuries, thus making a massive partnership of 216 runs to put J&K in command against Indian Railways at in Take Sports All India Bucchi Babu Invitation Cricket Tournament, being organised by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) at MRF Pachaiyappas, Chennai.

Put into bat, Jammu and Kashmir were comfortably placed at 393/5 at



stumps on day-1 today, with skipper Paras Dogra (30) and Sahil Lotra (11) at the crease.

Earlier, Qamran Iqbal while curbing his explosive instinct played with patience, solidity and sublimity scored

brilliant 138 runs off 249 runs, studded with 8 fours and 6 sixes. Musaif Ajaz, who came in at number-3 after the dismissal of opener Yawer Hassan (14), showed elegance and flamboyance with the willow to score splendid 114 runs off 166 balls with 5 fours and 2 sixes. Abdul Samad and Abid Mushtaq contributed brisk 37 runs each, hitting 2 and 4 sixes respectively.

For Indian Railways, Akash Pandey was the most successful bowler who took 3 wickets by conceding 109 runs in 24 overs, while Adarsh Singh claimed 2 wickets by giving away 68 runs in his 13 overs.

Divisional Level Inter-District Handball Tournament commences



STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Department of Youth Services & Sports, Udhampur, today organized the Divisional Level Inter-District Handball Tournament for Boys under 14 and under 17 years at the historic Mini Stadium, Udhampur. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Deep Kumar, ZPEO Udhampur, as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Jyoti Rani, ZPEO. The tournament saw the enthusiastic participation of nearly 123 athletes from five districts of Jammu Division, reflecting youthful energy, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Addressing the gathering, Deep Kumar extended a warm welcome to the participating teams, coaches, and departmental staff. He urged the athletes to compete fairly, respect rules, and uphold the spirit of sportsmanship. Emphasizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle, he highlighted the need to avoid substance abuse in line with the nationwide mission of Nasha Mukta Bharat. On this occasion, all athletes collectively took a pledge supporting the initiative, reinforcing the commitment to a drug-

free society.

The tournament is being adjudicated by a selection committee comprising Surinder Singh, Sourabh Sharma, Jyoti Sharma, and Roshni Sharma from the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K UT. The ceremony also included a solemn two-minute silence to honor the martyrs of the recent cloudburst tragedies in Kishtwar and Kathua, expressing solidarity with the bereaved families. The proceedings were coordinated by the Activity Section under the supervision of the departmental staff, and the vote of thanks was extended by the I/c Activity Section.

In the Under 14 Boys category, District Poonch defeated District Udhampur 9-2, while District Jammu secured a victory over District Rajouri with the same scoreline. In the Under 17 Boys category, District Rajouri outclassed District Kishtwar with a dominant 13-2 win. All matches were conducted professionally by the technical experts of Youth Services & Sports, ensuring fairness and discipline throughout the tournament.

The event underscores the

Department of Youth Services & Sports, Udhampur's commitment to nurturing young talent, promoting physical fit-

ness, and instilling values of camaraderie, discipline, and resilience among the youth of the Union Territory.

Mansoon Cup Season-1 Anti Drug Cricket Tournament Shourya, Ruhaan, Karanveer, Akshay, Lovish score fifties as Janta Sports drugs MIER Academy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Brilliance with the willow was on display as Shourya Chaohan, Ruhaan Raj Kalra, Karanveer Sharma, Lovish Bali and Akshay Sharma notched up magnificent half-centuries in the inaugural match of the Moonson Cup Season-1 Anti Drug Cricket Tournament, wherein formidable Janta Sports Club outplayed MIER Cricket Academy in an easy contest by 6 wickets at Jammu Sports Club Ground, here on Monday. Opting to bat first, MIER Cricket Academy posted a fighting total of 245 runs in the stipulated 50 overs. Shourya Chaohan top scored with magnificent 96 runs off 115 balls, studded with 10 fours and 1 six, while Ruhaan Raj Kalra played a brilliant innings off 51 runs off 71 balls. Both the batters showed solidity, sublimity, elegance and flamboyance. For Janta Sports Club, Lovish Bali and Rigav Anand took 2 wickets each. In reply, Janta Sports Club rode on a splendid batting display by a trio of Akshay Sharma, Karanveer Sharma and Lovish Bali, thus chasing the target in just 40 overs by losing 4 wickets. Karanveer Sharma (70 off 51, 9 fours, 3 sixes) provided a fiery start, while skipper Lovish Bali (51 off 70) anchored the chase. The star of the innings was Akshay Sharma, who remained unbeaten on 84 off 77 balls. Mehran Ibrahim took 2 wickets for MIER Cricket Academy. For his all-round display, Lovish Bali was adjudged as the man of the match. The tournament is being organised by Deepak Dogra (Ranji & ISPL Player), Sourabh Bali (Social Worker), Mukesh Sharma (Sports Promoter), Gurdeep Singh (Ex Cricketer) and Sumit Kumar (Cricket Coach).

National Youth Exchange-2025 inaugurated at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Youth Exchange Programme 2025 was inaugurated on Monday at the University of Jammu (JU), jointly organized by the Department of Home Science, JU and Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation.

The three-day programme, being held at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, is themed "Role of Youth in Viksit Bharat @2047 by Fighting Against Drug Menace."

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Garib Dass, ADGP & Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy, who in his address emphasized the cultural richness of India and motivated youth to take pride in the nation's diverse heritage.

He underlined that it is through the acknowledgment and celebration of this diversity that the youth can find the strength to lead India towards becoming a developed nation.

Devyani Rana, Vice



Participating students posing for a photograph with faculty and other officials.

President, BJYM, highlighted the urgent need to curb the drug menace and called upon the youth to play an active role in spreading awareness and building healthier communities.

On the occasion, a special video address by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai was also shared with the gathering. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies and Officiating Vice Chancellor, JU, stressed the

importance of instilling the spirit of "Nation First" among young people. She also spoke about the significance of goal-setting in enabling the youth to achieve their aspirations and contribute to nation-building.

Prof. Rajni Dhingra, former Dean Research Studies, JU, appreciated the collaborative effort of the University and the NGO in mobilizing youth for a greater cause.

Earlier in her welcome

address, Prof. Sarika Manhas, HOD, Department of Home Science, said, "The active participation of youth in such platforms reflects their commitment towards shaping a healthier and more responsible society. Collaborations like these create awareness, build confidence, and strengthen the collective resolve against social evils like drug abuse."

Vivek Parihar, Director of Live For Others - Being

Helpful Foundation, remarked, "This programme is not just an event but a movement to unite youth against the rising menace of drugs. Our vision is to empower young minds so that they can contribute meaningfully to the mission of Viksit Bharat @2047 and become torchbearers of a progressive, drug-free nation."

Eminent dignitaries Prof. Prakash Anthal, Dean

Students Welfare, JU, Padamshree Mohan Singh, Prof. Shashi Manhas, Prof. Samridhi Arora, and Dr. Hema Gadotra also graced the inaugural ceremony.

The academic events of the day included a Symposium Competition on the theme "Role of Youth in Viksit Bharat @2047 by Fighting Against Drug Menace" and a Poster-Making Competition on "Role of Youth Against Drug Menace."

Students from across institutions showcased their creativity and critical thinking. Ascesabjot Kour (GCW Parade) bagged the first prize in the symposium, followed by Aarti (Chandigarh) and Madhavi Gupta (Shiksha Niketan School). In the poster-making contest, Piyush Kushwah (Uttar Pradesh) secured the first position, Zaahran Ali (Shiksha Niketan School) stood second, while Tanisha Sharma (GCW Parade) bagged the third prize, and Diksha Kumari received the consolation award.

Adjudicators for the symposium were Prof. Komal Nagar, TBS, and Dr. Hema Gadotra, NSS Coordinator, while the poster making competition was judged by Prof. Samridhi Arora, Deptt. of Home Science and Prof. Deepika Salathia, Head Department of Environment Science.

In the evening, a vibrant cultural showcase was organized, featuring folk dances and performances representing the cultural diversity of

India. The event was presided over by Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson CCC, JU as Chief Guest. She stressed on the importance of supporting individuals already affected by drug abuse and the need for compassion and community solidarity.

Guest of Honour Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson J&K and Secretary, Jammu Club, emphasized on acknowledging the immense potential of Indian youth. He said, "It is time that the youth of the country cherishes the rich heritage of our nation and contributes meaningfully to the process of nation building."

The programme also featured the presence of Ranjeet Kour (JKAS) as Guest of Honour, Amitpal, NSS Coordinator, Cluster University of Jammu, as Special Guest, along with Parul Bhatnagar, Director Bhavishya Academy & Principal Sanfort School, and Tarvinder Kaur, Regional Director, Sanfort Group of Schools.