

# International Seminar on 'Text, Tongue, and Technology: The Changing Face of Humanities (T3)' concludes

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Linguistics and Literature, School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), organized a Two-Day International Seminar on 'Text, Tongue, and Technology: The Changing Face of Humanities (T3)' on 21st and 22nd August 2025.

The event brought together distinguished academicians, researchers, and scholars from India and abroad to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue on the evolving role of humanities in the digital age.

The valedictory session, held on Friday, was graced by Vice Chancellor Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar as Chief Guest. He praised the initiative and emphasized the importance of such platforms in shaping the future of education and



Vice Chancellor CLUJ, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar posing with faculty and other dignitaries.

research. Prof. Umapati Dikshit from Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, as Guest of Honour, provided deep insights into the seminar's theme, highlighting the dynamic interplay between traditional linguistic knowledge and modern technological innovations.

Stuti Abrol welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude to all stakeholders. Dr. Reena Salaria presented a concise

seminar report, summarizing the key takeaways from 13 plenary sessions and 14 academic sessions, which saw over 80 paper presentations in both online and offline modes. Topics included digital archives, language preservation technologies, pedagogical innovations, and the ethical challenges of digital humanities. Distinguished plenary speakers included Dr. Loic

Renou (Japan), Dr. Rahul Awasthi (Calcutta), Dr. Serhi Petrenko (Ukraine), Prof. Veena Gupta, Prof. Sushant Mishra, Dr. Om Prakash, and Prof. Kavita Rastogi, among others, who enriched the discourse with global perspectives. Mementos and tokens of appreciation were presented to dignitaries, and the event concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

# IIM Jammu celebrates 10 years of academic excellence, innovation



IIM Jammu Director, Prof. B.S. Sahay honouring Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner Higher Education Department, UT of J&K.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu marked a decade of its existence with a grand inaugural ceremony held at its Jagti Campus on Friday.

The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries including Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, UT of J&K,

who delivered the inaugural address as chief guest. Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, was the guest of honor.

The ceremony began with a traditional Saraswati Vandana and lamp lighting, setting the tone for a celebration of IIM Jammu's journey of excellence. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the institute's 10-year logo by Shantmanu, symbolizing IIM

Jammu's commitment to innovation and transformation.

In his welcome address, Director Professor B.S. Sahay reflected on the institute's decade-long journey and its vision for the future.

Deans Jabir Ali and Nitin Upadhyay shared insights into IIM Jammu's academic and research initiatives, highlighting its position as a premier management institution.

A panel discussion on "Role of Educational Institutions in the Growth and Development of UT of Jammu and Kashmir" was moderated by Shantmanu, featuring eminent panelists from prominent institutions.

The discussion emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering innovation, talent development and sustainable growth in the region.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Shyam Narayan.

# RTI Activist seeks CBI probe into Rs 9 Cr wasteful lighting expenditure under Jammu Smart City Project

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Renowned RTI activist Balvinder Singh has demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into alleged financial irregularities under the Jammu Smart City project, highlighting wasteful expenditure of over Rs 9 crore on ornamental lighting with little to no functional value.

Singh, citing responses from RTI applications submitted to Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) and the Electric Division of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), expressed deep concern over the gross deviation of the project from its intended objectives.

"Although JSCL was set up in 2017 as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to implement the Smart City initiative, its execution has largely strayed from its core mission," he said.

According to Singh, instead of focusing on essential urban infrastructure and sustainable technological solutions, the



project has prioritized decorative elements that offer negligible benefits to the public. He pointed to short-lived 3D paintings and wall art as examples of misplaced priorities.

One of the most glaring instances, Singh noted, is the Tricolour lamination lighting installed on electric poles along various flyovers and rotaries. "Most of this lighting has already failed, with only a few poles barely glowing. It's nothing more than a failed spectacle," he said.

Singh also exposed exorbitant costs associated with under-bridge lighting across five key locations: Rs 3.14

crore on Sidhra Bridge, Rs 94.17 lakh on Gujjar Nagar Bridge, Rs 1.12 crore on Tawi Bridge A, Rs 1.25 crore on Tawi Bridge B, and Rs 1.69 crore on the Fourth Bridge—cumulatively amounting to Rs 9.05 crore.

"These figures are staggering for what is essentially decorative lighting," Singh asserted. "Meanwhile, basic civic issues such as replacement of damaged electric poles, removal of dangerous overhead wires, and underground cabling remain unaddressed."

Calling it a gross misuse of public funds, Singh urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to authorize a CBI inquiry into the administrative and financial decisions behind the lighting projects. He further appealed to the Chief Minister of J&K to direct the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to carry out a thorough audit of the Jammu Smart City initiative to ensure accountability and transparency.

# Orientation Programme organized by Department of Botany, CUJ



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), hosted an engaging Orientation Programme for newly admitted B.Sc. and M.Sc. students on Friday.

Prof. Sunil Dhar, Dean, School of Life Sciences, welcomed the students and emphasized that the NEP 2020-based curriculum at the University is designed to foster not only academic growth but also life skills.

Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Head, Department of Botany,

encouraged students to climb the pyramid from data to wisdom and become responsible, problem-solving citizens. Prof. B.S. Bhanu highlighted the crucial role of botany in human survival and motivated students to develop a passionate connection with the subject.

The orientation began with an address by Ayush Mehta, President of Eutierria - The Botanical Society. Several senior students shared valuable insights to help freshers

navigate university life. Palak from Semester 9 introduced the SAMARTH portal and MOODLE LMS. Shrowti from Semester 5 explained the benefits of online learning platforms. Akanksha elaborated on the university's examination pattern, while Afsana spoke about the energy and excitement of Sports Week. Nandini, the host of the programme, gave an overview of UDAAN, the University's cultural fest.

NCC Cadet Matoshree shared her experience to

encourage participation in the National Cadet Corps, and Anshika presented visuals of Eutierria's past activities. The event was a joint effort by faculty members including Dr. Samantha Vaishnavi, Dr. Vikas Srivastava, Dr. Ashok Kumar, and Dr. Sapna Devi, along with a student team comprising Akarshit, Sunit, Kritika, Anmol, Rahul, Manasvi, Shreyak, and Shivangi.

Earlier in the day, an inspiring guest lecture was delivered by Prof. Gautam Gupta from the University of Louisville, USA, on "The Adventure of Discovery: Why Science Matters."

He shared insights on his research in energy sustainability and innovations like Oxy-Cart, encouraging students to embrace curiosity, innovation, and scientific responsibility.

# Rising Dengue cases in Jammu serious matter, needs urgent action: Balbir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, has expressed concern over reports of alarming rise in Dengue cases across the Jammu region, calling it a serious public health concern that demands immediate and coordinated response from all concerned departments. Balbir Ram Rattan said that a total of 86 confirmed cases of Dengue have been reported in the Jammu division since January this year, with Jammu district topping the list. Other affected districts include Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, and Ramban, indicating that the threat is widespread and growing.

What is most alarming is that 10 new cases have been reported in just the last 48 hours, Balbir said, expressing concern over the rising graph and the



potential health hazards the situation poses to the people of the region. Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized the need for immediate fogging operations in vulnerable and densely populated areas, particularly in and around stagnant water bodies, drains, and residential colonies where mosquito breeding is most likely. Fogging should not be delayed or limited to a few places. A widespread campaign is needed to check the spread of Dengue-carrying mosquitoes, he added. He also stressed on

the importance of public awareness and education, urging health and civic authorities to run campaigns educating people about how Dengue mosquitoes breed, the symptoms of Dengue fever, and preventive measures such as covering water containers, using mosquito nets, and ensuring cleanliness in and around homes. Balbir Ram Rattan further said that the people must be vigilant and cooperative. He urged the Health Department and Municipal authorities to coordinate efforts with local bodies, schools, and resident welfare associations to ensure a unified and effective Dengue prevention drive.

Balbir Ram Rattan appealed the administration to treat the rising Dengue cases with the urgency and seriousness they deserve, fearing that ignoring early signs could lead to a full-blown health crisis.

# Power shutdown

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Gangyal, Domestic/Industry, Babliana, Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 25 from 6 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Sidhra, Sheetli, Dhouthly, Bahu Fort, Malhori-Jaggir and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 25 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Samba-1st, Samba-2nd, Sanoora, Old Mawa, BSF and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 23 and 24 from 7 am to 11 am.

# SVAPADA stages Rangyug's historic Dogri play Chanchlo



Organizers welcoming Padma Shri Prof Lalit Mangotra.

has been beautifully adapted into Dogri and seamlessly performed by RJ Dr. Juhie Mohan, an alumna of Jammu University.

The play has been designed and directed by eminent theatre personality Deepak Kumar. Applauding the initiatives, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu, said: "Chanchlo is not merely a play; it is a compelling voice for those who often remain unheard and unseen. I wholeheartedly congratulate Rangyug, Dr. Juhie Mohan, and the team for this bold, thoughtful, and artistically

rich performance in Dogri. This production is a shining example of how regional theatre can combine social relevance with artistic excellence."

In his address, Prof. Khwaja Md. Ekramuddin from JNU, New Delhi lauded SVAPADA, IMFA and Zamin Foundation for their initiative in promoting regional languages and theatre.

"Chanchlo is a voice of society itself. Theatre of this kind holds a mirror before us and also becomes a catalyst for self-realization and social change. I congratulate Rangyug for their meaningful commitment to regional the-

atre, and Dr. Juhie Mohan for her remarkable adaptation and solo performance, which brought Dogri's beauty and strength alive on stage. Such initiatives strengthen our cultural identity while also giving it a global resonance", he said.

Prof. Khwaja Ekramuddin also hailed Prof. Shohab for steering the School towards becoming a vibrant hub of creativity.

Earlier, Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik highlighted the importance of staging such productions in universities: "Performances like Chanchlo bring cultural and social engagement to the campus. It enriches students' appreciation of literature and performance and also strengthens our commitment to regional languages and cultural identity. I am delighted that SVAPADA, IMFA and Zamin Foundation could bring such a meaningful production here. Under the vision of our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, we are committed to make JU a vibrant hub of art, culture and creativity."

# Shri Vasuki Naag Kailash Yatra concludes with age-old rituals



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: The revered three-day Shri Vasuki Naag Kailash Yatra, organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, concluded here today with the solemn performance of traditional rituals, preserving the sanctity of this ancient pilgrimage.

The Charri Mubarak (Holy Mace) returned from the sacred Kailash Kund to the historic Vasuki Nag Temple in Gathia, Bhaderwah, marking the suc-

cessful culmination of the Yatra. All rituals were performed according to traditional practices, preserving the sacred heritage of this annual journey. In a statement issued here today, Dr. PS Pathania, President of the J&K Dharmarth Trust, said that the Yatra commenced on August 20 with traditional prayers, invoking blessings for the cultural prosperity of Bhaderwah. He commended the invaluable contribution of the Bajantiris,

the traditional folk musicians of Bhaderwah, whose devotional music added a unique spiritual dimension to the Yatra.

Ashok Sharma (IPS Retd), Trust's Secretary expressed deep appreciation for the District Administration of Doda, whose exemplary support ensured the smooth conduct of the Yatra. "The administration's provision of essential services such as food, water, and electricity at Kailash Kund, perched at an altitude of 14,500 feet, played a pivotal role in the success of the pilgrimage," he said. He further emphasized the Trust's unwavering commitment to preserving this sacred tradition and invited devotees from across the nation to partake in the divine and cultural heritage of Bhaderwah.

Arjun Singh, Manager of the Dharmarth Trust, also conveyed his gratitude to the District Administration and SSP Doda for their necessary support.

# Two-day workshop on Cyanobacteria inaugurated at JU



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A two-day hands-on training-cum-workshop on "Cyanobacteria: Culture Techniques and Applications" was inaugurated today in the Department of Botany, University of Jammu (JU), under the aegis of the Botanical Club. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

In her inaugural address, Prof. Rohmetra emphasized the critical role of such training programmes in promoting research that benefits society and contributes to sustainable development. She noted that skill development is a cornerstone of meaningful research and that workshops like these align with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences, introduced the resource person, Dr. O. N. Tiwari, an international-

ly acclaimed scientist from the Microbiology Division of ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Research. He highlighted Dr. Tiwari's significant contributions to cyanobacterial research, especially in the fields of biofertilizers and biotechnology. Prof. Sharma stressed the need for developing scientific competencies through such hands-on training for young researchers.

Prof. Sushel Verma, Head, Department of Botany and Convener of the workshop, formally welcomed all participants and dignitaries.

He explained the workshop's relevance in the current sce-

nario of environmental sustainability and agricultural innovation, where cyanobacteria offer promising solutions.

Participants from the University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu, and affiliated colleges joined the workshop.

Other dignitaries present included Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Venu Kaul, Dr. Sikander, Dr. Geeta, Dr. H. C. Dutt, Dr. Skarna Nonzom, Dr. Abhishek, and Dr. Komal. Puranamrita conducted the proceedings, and Dr. Ronica Verma delivered the vote of thanks.