

5 days Skill development programme concluded at IIM

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, successfully concluded the second 'Five-Day Skill Development Programme' in a series during this month under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III, with a focus on empowering women through scientific training in cultivation of aromatic crops, value addition, product development and rural entrepreneurship.



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu felicitating Dr. Ritu Singh, Chief Guest at Valedictory Session of 5 day Skill Development Programme.

The five-day training Program featured technical sessions, live demonstration of essential oil extraction and hands-on training on value addition of aromatic oils to form products.

A total of 25 women from the Sakhi Saheli Self Help Group, Bakshi Kothe (Zone-Mandal) actively participated in the training programme in the initiative promoting science-based rural development and empowering women through inclusive, skill-based programmes in the aromatic sector.

was to create a sustainable value chain in the aroma sector and build capacity among stakeholders for long-term income generation.

Dr. Ritu Singh, founding Chairperson of FICCI FLO, Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, was the Chief Guest, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM and Dr. Suphla Gupta, Nodal Scientist, Aroma Mission, were also present. Dr. Ritu Singh lauded the role of CSIR-IIIM in promoting the start-up and entrepreneurship in the region.

Dr. Singh offered insightful guidance to the prospective women farmers on branding, market linkages, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the aromatic sector.

Dr. Zabeer commended the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and urged them to apply their newly acquired skills toward livelihood generation and rural development.

He reaffirmed CSIR-IIIM's commitment to supporting women-led Agri-based startups and promoting science-driven entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Dr. Suphla Gupta detailed the programme structure, which ran from August 4th to 8th, 2025, comprising two days of field training at the CSIR Research Farm, Chatha, and three days of hands-on practical sessions at CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

Participants received hands-on training in aromatic crop cultivation, distillation techniques, aroma candle making, incense stick and dhoop preparation, fragrance blending, product packaging, marketing, and value chain development.

Practical sessions also covered dipping and packing of

agarbatti and dhoop, perfume formulation, and the use of lavender oil in value-added products.

On the concluding day, the dignitaries interacted with the participants, addressed their queries, and provided mentorship on transforming the training into viable entrepreneurial ventures. Certificates of participation were awarded to all participants in recognition of their commitment and active engagement.

The program was organised under the mentorship of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, coordinated by Dr. Suphla Gupta, with the support of team members, including Dr. Rajendra Bhanwaria, Dr. Sabhajeet, Dr. V.P. Rahul, and Dr. Siya Ram Meena. The Aroma project staff, including Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, Dr. Shifali Chib, Vanshika Bhagat, Neelisha Ambardar, Shiksha Sharma, Amulya Mansotra, and Sohail Khan, actively contributed to the successful conduct of the program.

Jodhamal students celebrate Raksha Bandhan with BSF at Suchetgarh Border



Students of Jodhamal Public School celebrating Raksha Bandhan festival.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of Jodhamal Public School celebrated the sacred festival of Raksha Bandhan in a truly patriotic and emotional manner by tying rakhis to the brave Border Security Force (BSF) officers stationed at the Suchetgarh Border. This heart-touching gesture was a symbol of gratitude, respect, and emotional bonding with the real heroes of the nation who selflessly guard the borders.

The students, accompanied by their teachers, presented handmade rakhis and greeting cards, expressing their heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice of the jawans. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, love, and pride as the young children tied rakhis and offered sweets, while the BSF officers blessed them and interacted with them warmly.

The school management expressed their appreciation for the BSF's unwavering service and encouraged students to always uphold the values of unity, service, and love for the nation.

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JU organises two-day Sanskrit Week celebration

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dhanvantri Library, the University of Jammu (JU) organized a two-day Sanskrit Week celebration from August 7-8, 2025.

The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra (Dean, Research Studies), Programme was organised by Dhanvantri Library Team under the guidance of Dr Sahi, I/C Librarian; Prof Sangita Gupta, Head, Department of Library and Information Science; Dean P and D. Parshotam Sharma, State President of Sanskrit Bharati was also present.

The event also featured an exhibition of rare manuscripts and miniatures curated by Suresh Abrol (Head, Shashvat Art Gallery). In addition, book stalls showcasing works on science and Sanskrit were set up by Sanskrit Bharati, Jammu and Kashmir.



Chief Guest Prof. Neelu Rohmetra lauded the organizers, stating, "It is a proud moment to be part of this Sanskrit Week celebration. Promoting our culture and the Sanskrit language is vital for the younger generation and all Bharatiyas. Sanskrit is the mother of all languages, and I congratulate the organizers for their commitment and enthusiasm."

Dr Ramnik was the leader of Exhibition under Sanskrit Bharti. Prof Sangita Gupta extended warm welcome to all guests and also appealed to the youth to participate in the programme and take pride in learning about Bharatiya Sanskriti and traditions.

The celebrations also included a plantation drive under the guidance of Prof. Piyush Malaviya and Prof. Deepika Sathia (Convener, Department of Arboriculture and Landscaping), emphasizing the significance of the natural environment in Bharatiya Sanskriti. Various dignitaries planted Gulmohar Plants near the Library.

District Jammu beats District Poonch, lifts football U/14 yrs trophy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Youth Services and Sports of District Jammu concluded Inter District Division Level Football U/14 Yrs. Boys on Friday at Khel Goan Nagrota, Jammu.

The competition was being organised under the patronage of Director General Youth Services and Sports JK UT Anuradha Gupta under the guidance of Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Vinakshi Koul along with Deputy Director Central Jetinder Mishra and under the overall supervision of DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

The competition providing a platform for young players to showcase their talents and vie for the victory in this esteemed tournament.



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

The primary goal of these competitions is to select the best talent for the next competition coming ahead.

DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma appreciated the participants and motivated them to participate in games and sports. He advised the competitors to compete with sportsman spirit to show their best.

The competition was being conducted by experts of the department Ajay Kumar, Taran Paul Singh, Rohit Gupta, Gurbachan

Singh, Rakesh Singh, Varinder Singh, Raman Kumar including different committees and other technical officials of the department.

Today Result: First Semi-final played between District Poonch and District Kathua in which District Poonch beat District Kathua by (4-3) goals plenty shoot out. Second Semi-final played between District Jammu and District Udhampur in which District Jammu beat District Udhampur by (5-

0) goals. Parbat Singh scored two goals including Damdeep, Manzoor and Khan Diad-UI-Abdeen scored one goal each.

Final Match played between District Jammu and District Poonch in which District Jammu beat District Poonch by 4-1 goals. Parbat Singh scored two goals, Shiva Gupta scored one goal and Khan Diad-UI-Abdeen also scored one goal for District Jammu. Aian Ahmed scored one goal for Poonch District.

IIM Jammu concludes 5-day MDP for Panchayati Raj Representatives, officials



IIM Jammu faculty with elected representatives, officials of PRIs at closing ceremony of a 5-day Residential MDP.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu successfully concluded a 5-day Residential Management Development Program (MDP) for Elected Representatives and Officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on Friday at the Vedanta MDP Centre, IIM Jammu.

Held from 4th to 8th August, the programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 24 representatives from across India, aiming to enhance their leadership, governance, and administrative capacities for more effective grassroots delivery.

The MDP is a flagship initiative to empower PRI leaders including Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Panchayats, Block Panchayat Samitis, and other officials by equipping them with tools for effective rural governance.

The curriculum covered a wide range of critical themes such as leadership, ethics, project management, rural innovation, resource mobilization, and AI integration in governance.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, addressed the gathering virtually, expressing gratitude to participants and the faculty.

He acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and emphasized that empowering PRIs is vital to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He encouraged PRI leaders to explore the practical use of AI beyond classrooms, noting the importance of vertical integration from village to district level for holistic rural development.

Sham Lal, Director, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, J&K, appreciated the program's impact and positive feedback. He highlighted that while capacity-building is crucial, its real test lies in translating learning into visible improvements in governance.

He expressed hope for further collaboration with IIM Jammu for future training programs.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, described the program as the beginning

of a transformational journey and reiterated IIM Jammu's commitment to supporting PRI members in creating a robust local governance ecosystem.

Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, underlined the importance of continuous learning and the value of modern management practices for PRI effectiveness.

The valedictory session featured a welcome and program report by Dr. Archana Sharma, Program Director, followed by participant reflections.

The ceremony concluded with certificate distribution, a vote of thanks by Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Program Director, and the National Anthem.

Dashmesh Bhartiya Vidya Mandir students tie Rakhis to Army brothers



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The girl students of Dashmesh Bhartiya Vidya Mandir, Dashmeshnagar, tied rakhis to the brave soldiers guarding the nation's borders and received their blessings. The students also offered sweets and expressed heartfelt gratitude for the soldiers' sacrifice and service. The Principal, Meenakshi Sambal, stated that the programme was organised to instill patriotism among the students and to honour the dedication of the soldiers. The army brothers, in return, blessed the students and encouraged them to excel in education and values.

Humanity Public School celebrates Raksha Bandhan

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: On the joyous occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Humanity Public School came alive with colours of festivity as it organized a heartwarming Special Assembly. The celebration was not just a tribute to Indian tradition, but also an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and deepen their understanding of cultural values and lifelong companionship between siblings.

The assembly commenced with soul-stirring poems presented by Suchita, along with Abhya, Yashika, and Kairav, who eloquently conveyed the emotional depth and cultural richness of Raksha Bandhan.



HPS students celebrating Raksha Bandhan.

Their expressions reflected not just learning, but genuine affection for the traditions that continue to bind communities and families together. This was followed by insightful speeches

by Nitara, Gurvandeep Singh, and Suransh, who explored both the historical and social dimensions of the festival, highlighting how Raksha Bandhan transcends the ritual

of tying a rakhi and symbolizes mutual respect, care, and trust. Adding a lyrical touch to the celebration, Radhika, Yukti, Anvi, and Abhelen delighted the audience with their rhythmically recited rhymes.

The spirit of Raksha Bandhan was further enriched by inspiring speeches delivered by Sonali, Seema Sharma, and two other devoted faculty members. Their heartfelt words spoke of the universal values that this festival upholds—compassion, unity, duty, and unconditional support.

The assembly seamlessly transitioned into a colourful cultural segment, showcasing the creative flair and enthusiasm of the students. Lively

dance performances by students of Class 3 and 4 brought cheer and applause, while a special group dance by Class 7 mesmerized the audience with its graceful coordination and cultural vibrancy. The musical dimension of the event was equally enchanting, as students from Class 6 and 8 rendered soulful songs that elevated the festive spirit and filled the air with harmony and celebration.

The highlight of the assembly was the inspiring address by the Principal, Gaurav Charak, who lauded the collective efforts of students and faculty in organizing such a meaningful and engaging celebration. He emphasized that festivals like Raksha Bandhan serve as

reminders of the values that make society strong—love, empathy, and mutual support.

The program concluded with the Vice Principal, Anku Charak, extending her warm wishes to all. She appreciated the zeal and teamwork displayed by the students and teachers, and commended the way in which the event reflected the school's philosophy of holistic development and value-based education.

The Raksha Bandhan celebration at Humanity Public School was more than just an event—it was a living example of how education can nurture not only intellect, but also emotional intelligence, social responsibility, and cultural pride.