

SKUAST-Jammu celebrates Foundation Day

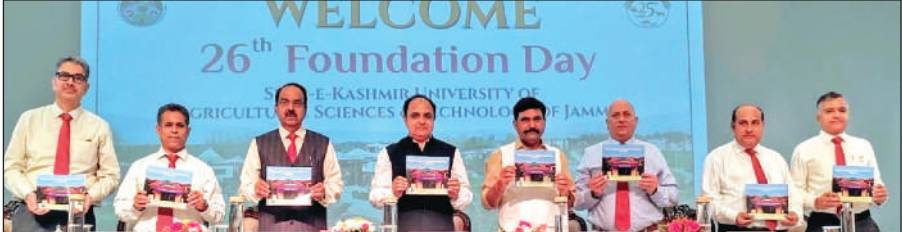
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu marked its 26th Foundation Day with a grand celebration highlighting its remarkable journey from its inception in 1999 to becoming a nationally and internationally recognized institution.

The event was graced by eminent personalities, including Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (DDG), Crop Science, ICAR as the Chief Guest and Dr. R.S. Chandel, Vice Chancellor of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan as the Guest of Honour.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare, SKUAST-Jammu. He briefed the audience on the establishment of the university in 1999 and its growth over the past 25 years.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu in his presidential address, congratulated all the employees and students for their contribu-



DDG Crop Science, ICAR, Dr. T.R. Sharma and others dignitaries at SKUAST-Jammu.

tion to the university's success.

He reflected on SKUAST-Jammu's impressive journey which began with just two faculties and has now expanded to six faculties, institute of Biotechnology, research stations and KVKs.

Prof. Tripathi acknowledged the efforts of past Vice Chancellors and employees in shaping the institution into a beacon of agricultural innovation and education.

He spoke about the university's expanding reach not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also on a national and global scale as evidenced by the admission of international students and collaborations such as the MoU with Western Sydney University, Australia.

Prof. Tripathi also highlighted the adoption of the

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the introduction of Professors of Practice from industries to enhance students' industry-readiness.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized the university's commitment to research with over 50 crop varieties released and more than 60% of papers published in journals with ratings above six.

Dr. T.R. Sharma, the Chief Guest congratulated SKUAST-Jammu on its 25-year journey and emphasized the importance of foundation day as a moment for retrospection and future planning.

In his Foundation Day lecture on "Innovation in Crop Science," Dr. Sharma underscored the need for climate-resilient varieties to meet the challenges of feeding an increasing population, which is projected

to reach 166 million by 2047.

He also spoke about the significance of bio-fortified crops to address malnutrition and the need for innovative agricultural practices, including genome editing and plant tissue culture to improve crop productivity and sustainability.

Dr. R.S. Chandel, the Guest of Honour praised SKUAST-Jammu for its achievements, particularly in developing high-quality crop varieties and fostering a culture of innovation through its startup ecosystem.

He stressed the need for natural farming and shorter supply chains to meet the challenges of modern agriculture.

In recognition of excellence, Dr. Anish Yadav (Veterinary Sciences) was awarded Best Teacher

2024, Dr. Vishal Gupta (Plant Pathology) received Best Scientist and Dr. Rakesh Sharma (Agricultural Extension Education) was honored as Best Extension Scientist. Dr. Moni Gupta (Biochemistry) was awarded Best Woman Scientist and Dr. Bharat Bhushan received Best Administrator.

The event also featured the release of several publications, including books on Kisan Credit Card, Soil Physical Properties, Navigating Tomorrows Frontiers Roof top farming, Dairy Kisan etc.

The Foundation Day celebration was attended by all statutory officers, Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension, faculty members, non-teaching staff and students of SKUAST-Jammu making it a memorable milestone in the university's history. Cultural performances by students, including dance, singing and Bhangra, added a vibrant touch to the celebrations. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anil Kumar, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu and Dean Faculty of Agriculture.

Mega SVEEP programme organized at GDC Khour



Faculty members speaking during a programme at GDC Khour.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: Under the aegis of SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation), Electoral Literacy Club in collaboration with NSS and NCC wing of GDC Khour organized a Mega SVEEP programme in which series of activities conducted on voter's education and electoral participation under the patronage of principal Prof. (Dr.) T. K. Sharma who is also the Nodal Officer of SVEEP, Assembly Constituency 82-Chhamb.

The event aimed to promote democratic values and increase voter's participation in the forthcoming Assembly election 2024.

The event began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Convener Electoral Literacy Club, who

emphasized the importance of voter's participation in the democratic process.

The NCC Cadets and NSS Volunteers along with the students from the various departments of the College participated with great enthusiasm. The students highlighted the importance of exercising one's voting rights through various speeches, songs and poetry recitation.

In the event, esteemed Principal Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma with all faculty members and students participated in a 'Selfie for Vote' activity. At the designated Selfie Point, Principal and faculty members clicked their photographs with a message, 'My Vote, My Voice.'

In the event, Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma encouraged the participants by saying, "Voting is the foundation of democracy and it is our responsibility to partici-

pate in the electoral process."

He also emphasized the significance of voting rights and highlighted the importance of voting as a responsibility and privilege. He, further, urged the students to cast their vote, and actively participate in the elections.

Moreover, he praised the efforts of Electoral Literacy Club, for organizing this event and encouraging students to participate in it with such great fervor. He, further, acknowledged the work of NSS and NCC unit of the college and encouraged them to continue their work and keep organizing such events in future with the same spirit.

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of GDC Khour played a pivotal role in organizing the event, ensuring quality and effectiveness.

Neenu Sharma brings laurels to GDC Marh



Principal GDC Marh, Prof Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul felicitating a winner student.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Alka Memorial Mathematical Competition (AMMC) is one of the major activities of the Jammu Mathematical Society (JMS) since 1992 and is conducted in the memory of a brilliant student of the Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu, Alka Gupta, who

unfortunately passed away at a very young age in 1991 while pursuing her Ph.D from ISI Delhi. A large number of students from various Universities and Colleges participated in this competition which was conducted on 18th of February, 2024. Neenu Sharma student of Sem-V from GDC Marh brought laurels to GDC Marh

by securing second position in this competition in UG category and was felicitated by Padma Shri Prof Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman Higher Education Council J&K UT and Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof Umesh Rai at the inaugural function of 31st Annual Conference on "Recent Trends in Analysis and Allied Areas" organized by JMS on 12th of September, 2024.

Principal of College Prof Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul applauded the efforts of student and encouraged her to participate in more such competitions in future too. The students of GDC, Marh participated in AMMC, 2024 under the guidance of Dr Ram Dayal, HoD Mathematics, GDC, Marh.

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JAMMU: Jammu University Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment (JUICCASH) initiated a series of awareness programmes on prevention of sexual harassment in Educational institutions for newly admitted students.

The first lecture in this series was organised for 1st semester students of faculty of life sciences in Department of Botany. Nanda Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Government of Jammu and Kashmir was the Chief Guest of the function.

JU organises awareness program on prevention of sexual harassment



JU faculty and students during an awareness programme.

Pooja Uppal , Advocate, High Court was the resource person.

Prof Namrata Sharma, Presiding officer, JUICCASH welcomed the guests and students and made them aware of the mandate of the committee. Pooja Uppal , Advocate made the

audience aware of the various provisions of laws regarding sexual harassment in Educational institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheetal Nanda emphasised the rights of every individual to complain against sexual

harassment. Her motivational address included her being an alumnus of Jammu University and her efforts to safeguard women against any sort of harassment.

Dr Bindu Sangra, a member of JUICCASH apprised the students

about intricacies of laws for safeguarding rights of every student.

The event was attended by 1st semester students of Departments of Botany, Zoology, Environmental sciences, and School of Biotechnology.

Prof Susheel Verma, Head of Department of Botany, Professor Venu Kaul, Dr Sikander Pal, Dr Geeta, Dr Harish, Dr Skarma, Dr Sheetal, Dr Tarsem and other faculty members as well as all members of JUICCASH were also present.

The Stage Proceedings were handled by Ms Aroosa Matto, scholar member of JUICCASH.

ARC Hospitality Institute hosts Certification Ceremony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: ARC Hospitality Institute in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, celebrated the graduation of its second batch of Culinary Arts and Bakery Arts students with a certification ceremony. Affiliated with the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC), the institute is renowned for its commitment to excellence in hospitality education.

The event marked the successful completion of government-certified programs designed to equip students with the skills needed to pursue careers as professional chefs or to start their own bakery businesses. Graduates are now prepared to launch cloud kitchens, bakeries, cafes, or restaurants, with 100% job placement guaranteed in top hotel brands across India and abroad. Additionally, the NSQF-Level 4



Director of Skill Development, J&K, Om Prakash Bhagat posing with students and others.

certificates recognized by the Skill India department enable students to secure part-time jobs in the hotel industry overseas.

The ceremony featured the presence of Om Prakash Bhagat, Director of Skill Development, J&K, who served as the Chief Guest.

Bhagat awarded certificates to the graduates and delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of short-term, skill-based courses for the youth in today's competitive job

market. ARC Hospitality Institute is dedicated to providing rigorous training in global cuisines and extensive pastry curricula, complemented by hands-on experience. Students benefit from industrial visits, gaining insights into commercial kitchens and interacting with seasoned professionals in the hospitality industry.

The institute offers a variety of government-certified programs in Culinary and Bakery Arts, available to students with

minimum qualifications such as a 10th-grade education. This approach ensures guaranteed placement opportunities for graduates.

Directed by young women entrepreneurs Chitwan Khorana and Gurnehar Sethi, ARC Hospitality Institute aims to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir by imparting essential skills and employment opportunities.

Plans are underway to expand their presence to more remote areas, actively contributing to the burgeoning tourism industry in the region.

Kavinder slams Cong-NC Alliance for pushing Pak's agenda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today launched a seathing attack on the Congress - National Conference (NC) Alliance for allegedly aligning with Pakistan's narrative on Jammu and Kashmir. He strongly condemned recent remarks by Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khwaja Asif, which suggested that Pakistan and the Congress-NC alliance share common ground on restoring Article 370.

Speaking at the sidelines of a poll campaign in Bahu Constituency here today, Kavinder said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not allow their future to be dictated by forces with a vested interest in destabilizing

the region. He further asserted that the Congress-NC alliance has repeatedly demonstrated its intent to undermine the sovereignty and progress of J&K by attempting to bring back a regressive Article 370, a move which only serves Pakistan's agenda.

The senior BJP leader highlighted how the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has ushered in a new era of peace, development, and national integration for Jammu and Kashmir. "The abrogation of Article 370 liberated J&K from decades of turmoil and ensured that the region could move forward with the rest of the country. It is because of this decisive action that we are witnessing unprecedented growth and stability," he said.

Kavinder reiterated BJP's unwavering commitment to keeping Jammu and Kashmir free from separatist influences and ensuring that Article 370 remains a thing of the past.

These parties are playing into the hands of Pakistan, knowingly or unknowingly. But as long as the BJP is in power, we will not let such divisive agendas prevail. The unity, integrity, and development of J&K will always be our top priority," he affirmed.

The former Deputy Chief Minister urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain vigilant and not fall prey to the misleading rhetoric of the Congress-NC alliance.

Earlier today, Kavinder Gupta joined the poll campaign of Vikram Randhawa, BJP candidate from the Bahu constituency. Addressing a gathering, Kavinder encouraged the people to extend their support to Vikram Randhawa in the Assembly polls, emphasizing that his victory would further strengthen the BJP's mission of development, peace, and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged the electorate to vote for stability and continued growth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He called upon the nationalist citizens of the region to stand with the BJP in the ongoing fight for peace, progress, and prosperity.

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GCW Gandhi Nagar organises Quiz Competition



GCW Gandhi Nagar students and faculty at Quiz Competition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly Elections, on Thursday, a Quiz Competition on the Theme "Understanding Indian Electoral System" was held in the PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar as a part of SVEEP activities under Electoral Literacy Club.

Three teams, each with three members participated in the competition making nine talented students engaged in academic showdown. Quiz mistress Pratishtha announced the rules and held all the rounds fairly maintaining the enthusiasm among participants. Quiz had

15 oral rounds and one miscellaneous round. The Competition was tough and the contestants held their nerve and contested keenly. The event was conducted with fair rules and time limits to maintain a competitive yet friendly atmosphere.

After a fierce battle of wits, first place was held by team-A, comprising of Sukriti, Lavanya Janwal, and Anisha Kour. Team-C, stood second comprising of Manvi Rajput, Tamana Sharma and Dhanshika Sharma. Team B, stood third comprising of students Suhana Sharma, Nikita Sharma and Riya Choudhary.

The students displayed

ecstatic spirit and enjoyed the quiz to the fullest. Quiz was very informative and knowledge enriching for the participants as well as the audience.

Principal Dr. S.P. Saraswat appreciated the efforts of the students for their zeal, enthusiasm, competitive spirit and encouraged students for participation. Score board was maintained by Khushi Sambyal. Sanjeevani Bhardwaj assisted in logistics. Dr. Jagmeet Kour Khajuria mentored the students. Dr. Anuradha, H.O.D Punjabi graced the occasion and motivated the students. The program was concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Jagmeet Kour Khajuria.

Four-day induction ceremony concludes at The Law School, JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Law School, Jammu University (JU) organized a comprehensive four-day induction ceremony for first-semester BA LLB (5 Year) students.

Aimed at fostering a sense of belonging and guiding students in their academic journey, the program included expert-led sessions on various aspects of student life, emphasizing academic excellence, human values, and professional ethics as part of the UGC's Mulya Pravah 2.0 initiative on ethical education.

After formal introduction by the newcomers and getting an idea regarding their motivations for pursuing a career in law, the first day of the induction ceremony commenced with an orientation on National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), and Bharat Scouts & Guides, led by experts like Prof.



Faculty and students of The law School, University of Jammu at a programme.

(Dr.) Vishav Raksha (Convener, NSS, JU), Prof. (Dr.) Renu Nanda (Commissioner, Rangers J&K and Ladakh), Haroon Malik, and Dr. Isha Sharma (Coordinator, NCC) highlighting the activities available under these programs.

The second day featured a crucial interaction on "Nurturing Caring Lawyers: Professional Ethics & Responsibility" led by Senior Advocate D.S. Chauhan, who emphasized the lawyer's role as a

guardian of the Constitution and the importance of integrity and knowledge. Following this, Prof. (Dr.) Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women Studies, JU conducted a session on Gender Sensitization, addressing gender roles and their societal implications.

The third day was dedicated to an engaging alumni interaction with seven distinguished graduates who shared their experiences and insights viz. Naveed Anjum (Senior

Prosecuting Officer), Advocate Meenakshi Slathia, Arshad Noomani, Advocate Nitin Parihar, Dr. Pallavi Mathavan Puri, Advocate Meenu Padha and Dr. Nitan Sharma. They provided a beautiful analogy comparing the diverse offerings of law school to the sea, where each student can find something valuable, whether it be knowledge, skills, or memories.

The induction program concluded with an important awareness session on

Drug Abuse and its Prevention, organized by JKSPYM in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The session featured discussions on the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, Drug education, and the legal framework surrounding narcotics, led by experts like Ms. Pallavi Singh, Project Director JKSPYM, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Sr. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Central University of Jammu and Advocate Kapil Sharma, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School, JU, highlighted the importance of such programs in fostering responsible citizenship. By exposing students to diverse perspectives in social, legal, and political realms, these initiatives contribute significantly to their overall personal development.