

National SC-ST Hub, MSME Min. sponsored NSD Prog. on Pharmaceutical Manufacturing commenced at CSIR-IIIM



Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr Zabeer Ahmed with other dignitaries and students at a programme.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Under the CSIR-Integrated Skill Initiative, an 11-week Skill Development and Capacity Building Programme on "Production Machine Operator (Non-Sterile Formulation) - Granulation, Packaging, Tablets and Capsules" was launched at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu. Sponsored by the National SC-ST Hub,

Ministry of MSME, Government of India, the programme has more than 30 participants, including a significant number of women, from across the country. A training manual covering lectures and hands-on sessions was also released. Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu and CSIR-NBRI Lucknow, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of skill develop-

ment, scientific training and exposure to modern pharmaceutical manufacturing. He said the programme would bridge the gap between academic learning and industrial requirements and equip trainees with skills for GMP-based manufacturing. Dr Ahmed also highlighted CSIR-IIIM's research in cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, natural products, drug discovery, phytopharmaceuticals and modernisa-

tion of traditional medicines. Giving details, Er. Anil Kumar Katare, Scientist-F, Quality Management & Instrumentation Division, said the course combines classroom teaching with practical modules covering GMP, extraction techniques and manufacturing of tablets, capsules, syrups and churna formulations. Trainees will also operate tablet presses, capsule-filling machines, sifters, extractors

and pulverisers, besides learning about boilers, chillers and cooling systems. Earlier, Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed, Scientist-E, RMBD&IST Division and Nodal Officer, CSIR-Skill India Initiative, delivered the welcome address and said the industry-oriented programme would provide practical knowledge and recognised certification. Kaushal Kumar, Controller of Administration, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, proposed the vote of thanks and urged trainees to utilise the opportunity for employment and entrepreneurship. Rajesh Gupta, Administrative Officer, and Dr. A. P. Gupta, besides scientists, officials and members of the organising team, were present.

DLSA Udhampur reviews preparedness for 3rd National Lok Adalat- 2026



Secretary DLSA Udhampur, Sumati Sharma chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: A meeting was convened on Monday at Court Complex Udhampur in connection with arrangements made for National Lok Adalat 2026. The meeting was convened by the Sumati Sharma, Sub-Judge/Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur in the Conference Hall of District Court Complex. The meeting was attended by the Bank Managers and their Advocates. The meeting discussed the matters likely to be taken up in the forthcoming National Lok Adalat 2026, particularly cases related to banks and other

recoverable claims. Emphasis was laid on the need for close coordination among all stakeholder so that a maximum number of cases could be identified and resolved amicably through the Lok Adalat mechanism. The representatives were requested to extend full cooperation for effective disposal of eligible matters. It was emphasised that National Lok Adalat is an important forum for speedy and amicable settlement of disputes. The DLSA reiterated its commitment to facilitating the successful conduct of National Lok Adalat 2026 in the interest of litigants and the justice delivery system.

Jamkash Vehicleades opens Bodyshop at Kaluchak



Amit Dubey, Area Service Manager - NEXA with others at Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Jamkash Vehicleades Private Limited, an authorised NEXA dealership, inaugurated its new state-of-the-art Bodyshop facility at Kaluchak, Jammu, on Monday marking another milestone in strengthening its after-sales service network and enhancing customer convenience. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted by Amit Dubey, Area Service Manager - NEXA, and Major General J. S. Ishar (Retd.), CEO, Jamkash Vehicleades. Senior managers of Jamkash Vehicleades, representatives of

partner insurance companies, surveyors and valued customers attended the event. The newly inaugurated facility has been established to meet the growing vehicle repair and service requirements of NEXA customers in Kaluchak and adjoining areas. Equipped with modern machinery, trained manpower and advanced infrastructure, the Bodyshop is designed to deliver quality, safety, efficiency and customer service in line with MSIL NEXA standards. The facility will offer comprehensive services, including accident repair, body repair, diag-

nostics and vehicle servicing, providing customers with a convenient, integrated solution under one roof. Speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson of Jamkash Vehicleades reiterated the company's commitment to investing in infrastructure, technology and skilled manpower to provide reliable and high-quality after-sales services. The new Kaluchak Bodyshop further reinforces Jamkash Vehicleades Private Limited's commitment to service excellence and an enhanced ownership experience for customers across the Jammu region.

MBSCET organises three-day workshop on "Data Science with Python"

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), MBSCET, Jammu, organised a three-day workshop on "Data Science with Python" for students of the 5th and 7th semesters.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Amrik Singh, Principal, in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh, Administrator; Prof. Parveen Singh, Vice Principal/DAA; Jasmeen Kour, HOD, CSE, and faculty members of the department. The sessions were conducted by Vivek Mahajan, Principal Consultant - Learning and Development, BBC IT Services, who provided students with hands-on exposure to essential concepts and tools in Data Science. The workshop covered data handling and analysis using Pandas, data



MBSCET faculty and students during a workshop.

visualisation and statistical concepts, along with practical work on Matplotlib, SciPy and Seikit-learn, including Data Frames and CSV files. The sessions emphasised practical learning through demonstrations, coding exercises and hands-on practice, helping students connect theoretical concepts with real-world applications. On the concluding day, Vivek Mahajan also guided stu-

dents on accessing and effectively utilising online courses for continuous learning and skill enhancement. Workbooks and practice material were provided for further revision and hands-

on practice. During the valedictory session, Prof. (Dr.) Amrik Singh appreciated the efforts of the resource person and CSE Department and encouraged students to

continuously upgrade their technical skills and focus on employability and placement opportunities. Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Singh highlighted the importance of practical exposure and continuous skill development, while Prof. Parveen Singh encouraged students to convert their learning into innovative projects. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Marvi Abrol, Assistant Professor, CSE Department, who expressed gratitude to the resource person, college administration, faculty members and students for their participation.

GDC Bishnah organises awareness lecture on Cybersecurity

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BISHNAH: Government Degree College (GDC), Bishnah organised an awareness lecture on Cybersecurity under the aegis of the Cyber Security Cell and Science Club, under the guidance of Principal Dr. Shailu Samyal.

The programme was organised by Dr. Ashma Gupta, Convenor, Cyber Security Cell and Nodal Officer, Science Club, in collaboration with Dr. Sonika Khajuria, Nodal Officer, Science Club. Students from different semesters and faculty members participated enthusiastically. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Rohit Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications, GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. He sensitised participants about cyber threats, online frauds, phishing, password safety, protection of per-



Prof. Rohit Gupta, Asstt Prof, Department of Computer Applications, GCW Gandhi Nagar delivering lecture.

sonal information and responsible use of digital platforms. He also shared practical measures for adopting safe digital practices. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sonika Khajuria, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ashma Gupta, who expressed gratitude to the Principal, resource person, faculty members and students. Faculty members present included Dr.

Vasudha Chaudhari, Dr. Shrotika Rajput (IQAC Coordinator), Dr. Sunil Kumar Saliada, Dr. Sapna Bhargav, Dr. Kashab Sharma, Dr. Kusum, Dr. Shiv Kumar Khajuria and Dr. Geeta Lakhotra. The programme successfully sensitised the college community about emerging cyber risks and encouraged students and faculty to adopt safer, responsible and informed practices while using digital platforms.

MY Bharat to organise Khelo India Samvaad across J&K on Aug 27

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: MeraYuva Bharat (MY Bharat), under the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will organise Khelo India Samvaad across Jammu & Kashmir on August 27, 2026, as part of the nationwide celebrations of National Sports Day. A press conference in this regard was addressed by Nitin Hangloo, State Director, MY Bharat Jammu & Kashmir; Touseef, Incharge, SAI Training Centre; and Vivek Kumar, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Jammu. It was informed that the programme will be organised at around 50 institutions across J&K, including IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu and NIT Srinagar. The nationwide event will see the Prime Minister virtually address more than 8 lakh youth at around 1,600 institutions. The Prime Minister's address will be received simultaneously at identified venues. This will be followed by local interaction sessions involving sportspersons, youth and public representatives. Ministers, MPs and MLAs will also participate at various locations. A dedicated Yuva Samvaad will provide youth an opportunity to share ideas on four key themes: improving the sports ecosystem; nurturing talent for the 2036 Olympics; creating youth leaders and promoting participation in governance; and empowering youth for Viksit Bharat. Suggestions will be collected digitally through a QR code linked to the MY Bharat Idea Box. Participants will also be encouraged to take part in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027 Quiz.

Retired DySP Dara Singh with supporters joins BJP

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Retired DySP Dara Singh, along with his supporters, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Srinagar in the presence of J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Vice Presidents Rashpal Verma and Shehnaz Ganai, and General Secretaries Mohammad Anwar Khan and Gopal Mahajan. The joining programme was organised by Rash Paul Verma, Vice President, BJP J&K. Welcoming Dara Singh and his supporters, Sat Sharma said the joining reflected growing public confidence in the BJP's ideology, leadership and development-oriented approach. He said their association would



Retired DySP Dara Singh with supporters joining BJP.

strengthen the party's organisation and outreach in Kashmir. Sunil Sharma said the BJP provides a platform for people committed to national unity, development and democratic values, while Jugal Kishore Sharma said the party's expanding support base reflected growing appreciation for its focus on development and national interest. Dara Singh

thanked the BJP leadership and said he joined the party with a resolve to contribute to public welfare and nation-building. Those who also joined the BJP included Zohaib Ahmad, Mohd Ashraf, Mohd Syed Ullah, Ghulam Ahmad Kumar, Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Abdul Salaam Dar, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Ghulam Hassan, Aadil Ahmad and Rayees Ahmad, among others.

PoJK DPs hold protest, demand rehabilitation and settlement

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) held a protest rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park here, demanding resolution of their long-pending rehabilitation, compensation, land and political representation issues. The protest was led by PoJK DPs Front President Captain (Retd.) Yudhvir Singh Chib, General Secretary J.P. Sharma and Mahila Wing President Sakandaya Devi. Protesters attempted to march towards the Secretariat but were stopped by police near Dogra Chowk. The Front



PoJK DPs raising slogans during protest.

demand implementation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) recommendations of 2013, including compensation of Rs 30 lakh

per displaced family, against Rs 5.5 lakh already provided. It urged the administration to take up release of the remaining amount with the Centre.

The protesters also sought allotment of six acres of irrigated or eight acres of non-irrigated agricultural land to eligible displaced families, particularly non-camp families, from land recently retrieved by the government. They demanded implementation of government orders issued in August 2024 regarding ownership rights over already allotted agricultural land. For 1971 non-camp displaced persons, the Front demanded residential colonies, at least 10 marlas of land for house construction and financial assistance under PMAY. It also sought timely release of pending compensation through DBT and extension of welfare

benefits available to other displaced communities. The protesters further demanded greater political representation for PoJK displaced persons and urged the government to address their grievances. Prominent participants included J.P. Sharma, Sakandaya Devi, Varinder Singh Chib, Sukhdev Singh, Kehar Singh, Master Raghunath Singh, Ch. Rattan Lal, Kulbir Singh Chib, Sham Singh Chib, Kamal Sharma, Hoshnaki Ram and Ranjit Singh Chib. The leaders appealed to the community to remain united and continue their democratic struggle until their demands are addressed.

Kashmiri Pandit Sabha calls for action against repeated threats

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS), Ambhalla, under the leadership of its President K. K. Khosa, has expressed serious concern over repeated threats issued by a terrorist organisation against members of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community. The Sabha appealed to the Government of India and the Union Territory administration to take serious note of the threats, expose the designs of terrorist organisations seeking to create communal disharmony in the Valley, and bring those responsible to justice. It said advanced digital technology available with security agencies should be effectively utilised to trace such elements. The Sabha observed that despite sustained efforts by agencies including the NIA, SIA, ED, Central security forces, J&K Police and the Indian Army, the continued threats indicate that the terrorist ecosystem remains active and needs

to be decisively dismantled. The Sabha also urged the governments to formulate and implement a robust return and rehabilitation policy for Kashmiri Pandits without further delay. It appreciated members of the community currently living in the Valley for standing firm and assured them of its support. The Sabha said the present situation is different from 1990, expressing confidence in the Central government led by Narendra Modi, Home Minister and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to deal firmly with any such challenge. The meeting was attended by Sh. Deepak Dhar, Sr. Vice-President; Ashwani Koul; G. J. Kampassi; Subash Dhar; Rajinder K. Tikku; Dr. Usha Tickoo; Jitender Parimoo; Prof. R. K. Ganjoo; S. K. Koul; V. K. Bakshi; V. K. Mukhi; Bharat Bushan Gosain; Vinod Bhat; Nimmi Braroo; Asha Kitchloo; Dr. Sujata Sathoo; and B. L. Rawal.

2-Day seminar on Dogri Drama begins

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A two-day seminar on "Dogri Drama", jointly organised by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, began on Monday at K. L. Saigal Hall, Writers Club, Jammu. The seminar, being held on August 24 and 25, aims to deliberate upon the rich tradition, evolution and diverse dimensions of Dogri drama. The inaugural session commenced with the welcome and introductory address by Mohan Singh (Padma Shri), Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi Shiv Dev Sushil, eminent Dogri writer and playwright, delivered the keynote address, while Sonali Arun Gupta, Special Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, delivered the remarks as Chief

Guest. Dr. Om Goswami, noted Dogri writer and playwright, delivered the presidential address. The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Reeta Khadyal, Dogri Editor, Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The first academic session, chaired by T. R. Mangotra Sagar, noted Dogri writer and playwright, focused on the development of Dogri drama up to 1990. Radha Rani spoke on Dogri drama up to 1960, Mukesh Kumar presented his views on Dogri drama from 1961 to 1980, while Shalu Sharma discussed the period from 1981 to 1990. The second academic session, chaired by Dr. Padam Dev Singh Nandan, Sr. Assistant professor Deptt. of Dogri, Jammu University, examined the subsequent development of Dogri drama.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Contractors Association of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) will begin a membership drive from Wednesday in preparation for the election of the association's office-bearers. Association President Vikrant Singh appealed to the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, to conduct the elections at the earliest so that a fair and democratically elected body can be constituted.



JMC contractors during a programme.

Singh said timely elections were necessary for the proper functioning of the association and for maintaining effective coordination between the

Jammu Municipal Corporation and contractors. He said the membership drive would provide all eligible contractors an opportunity to

enroll themselves and participate in the forthcoming election process. Contractors seeking membership have been asked to carry

an allotment or work order for any work allotted during the last five years, along with a valid and renewed contractor card. Appealing to contractors to participate in large numbers, Singh said their active involvement would help ensure that the election process was conducted in a fair, transparent and democratic manner. He urged all eligible contractors to come forward and make the membership drive a success.