

SMVDU convened 39th Academic Council meet with prog expansion towards Multidisciplinary University

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KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) convened its 39th Academic Council Meeting under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar wherein several important academic, administrative, and policy matters were deliberated to strengthen the academic framework and expand academic offerings of the University.



Dean, Academic Affairs.

All Deans, Heads of Schools, Dean Academic Affairs, Program Coordinators, Registrar, Finance officer, Executive Director Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), Principal Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Librarian, Director (Quality Assurance), Training & Placement Officer and CEO (TBIC), were also present to discuss and review academic improvements and future initiatives.

The meeting began with welcome remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, followed by agenda presentations by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, and Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate

A major highlight of the meeting was the consideration of proposals aimed at expanding and diversifying the University's academic portfolio. The Academic Council deliberated on the introduction of a five-year integrated B.A., LL.B. (Honors) programme from AY 2026-2027 to provide a strong interdisciplinary foundation in law and allied social sciences.

The Council also considered the launch of a B.Tech. Food Technology, B.Sc. (Honours) in Chemistry and a PG Diploma in Sustainable Energy Management, from AY 2026-2027.

These initiatives reflect the University's

commitment to align its academic offerings with contemporary educational needs, technological advancements, and national priorities in areas such as sustainability and innovation.

Further, the Council deliberated upon the introduction of a range of skill-based programmes under the Centre for Innovation, Emerging Skills and Entrepreneurship Development (CIESED). These programmes are intended to equip students with industry-relevant skills, promote entrepreneurship, and enhance employability by aligning academic training with evolving market and technological demands.

The Council also

reviewed progress on NEP implementation and initiatives for interdisciplinary learning, skill development, and industry collaboration.

The Council also took note of the Joint Degree Ph.D. Programme with Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, marking a significant step towards strengthening academic collaboration and research excellence.

The meeting concluded with extensive and constructive deliberations on a wide range of academic and administrative matters, reflecting the collective commitment of the members towards strengthening the academic ecosystem of the University.

Sat asks BJP Mahila Morcha activists for stronger grassroots engagement

BJP aims to strengthen grassroots network across J&K

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir Mahila Morcha, led by its President Neha Mahajan, held a crucial organizational meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma chiefly addressed the meeting.

Party General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Gopal Mahajan, Secretary Reema Padha, Treasurer Prabhath Singh and senior members including Poonam Gupta, Neeru Anand, Aarti Sharma, and Chakshu Kapoor among other prominent leaders were also present.

Sat while addressing the meeting, emphasized the importance of regular organizational review and strategic planning.

He stated that the detailed assessment of previous outreach programmes, awareness



campaigns, and initiatives undertaken considering recent budget announcements reflects the party's commitment to effective governance and public engagement.

He added that constructive feedback and collective inputs are essential to refine future programmes and ensure their impactful execution on the ground.

Sat Sharma prompted the Mahila Morcha members to ensure their active participation in the ongoing training, and to imbibe the party's core values and translate them into meaningful service at

the grassroots level.

He also reiterated the pivotal role of women in nation-building and stressed dedication, discipline, and proactive involvement in all organizational activities.

Sanjita Dogra said that the Mahila Morcha has consistently played a key role in connecting with women at the grassroots through well-structured outreach and awareness campaigns.

She said that the review of past programmes provides an opportunity to further strengthen coordination and improve execution, ensuring that

every initiative reaches the intended beneficiaries effectively.

Earlier in the meeting, Neha Mahajan presented a thorough detail of programmes conducted by the party's Mahila Morcha during the recent months. She said that the Morcha is committed to empowering women workers through continuous engagement, training, and leadership opportunities.

She emphasized that the ongoing training initiatives will help members better understand the party's ideology and enhance their effectiveness in public service.

Priya Sethi holds special Women's public Darbar

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader, former minister, and Vice President of BJP J&K, Priya Sethi organized a special public Darbar exclusively for women in Jammu, aiming to provide a direct platform for women to voice their concerns and seek redressal.

The Darbar witnessed an overwhelming response, with hundreds of women from different areas of the city and adjoining localities participating in large numbers. Women openly discussed a wide range of issues, including civic amenities, sanitation, water supply, healthcare, and other day-to-day challenges affecting their lives.

During the interaction, former minister Priya Sethi patiently listened to each grievance and took immediate steps to resolve several issues on the spot by coordinating with the concerned officials. She assured the participants that all genuine cases requiring further intervention would be pursued with the relevant departments to ensure timely and effective solutions. Women attending the darbar appreciated Priya Sethi's initiative and lauded her for her compassionate approach, attentive listening, and commitment to addressing public concerns. They described the darbar as a meaningful step toward empowering women and strengthening

their participation in governance.

Speaking on the occasion, Priya Sethi emphasized the importance of such outreach programs in understanding grassroots issues.

She reiterated her dedication to public welfare and stated that continuous engagement with citizens, especially women, is essential for inclusive and responsive governance.

The event highlighted the growing need for accessible public platforms and was widely regarded as a positive effort toward bridging the gap between the administration and the people, particularly in addressing women-centric issues in the region.

Director Agriculture reviews final works of Centre of Excellence at Krishi Bhawan, Jammu

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JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today reviewed the final stage works of the Centre of Excellence (COE) for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming being established at Vegetable Improvement Scheme, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu.

The Centre of Excellence (COE) is being developed under the NABARD RIDF-XXX scheme with a total investment of Rs. 5.92 crore. The project features a state-of-the-art polycarbonate greenhouse covering an area of 3511 square meters.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director stated that the construction of the Centre of Excellence has been completed and the facility will be inaugurated shortly to make it operational for the farming community. He added that the Centre will soon be opened



to provide advanced services to farmers across the Jammu Division.

The Centre of Excellence is expected to play a transformative role in strengthening the agricultural sector by supplying high-quality, high-yielding vegetable and floriculture seedlings. It will also facilitate the adoption

of modern and precision farming techniques, thereby enhancing productivity and improving crop quality for farmers in the region.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Anil Gupta emphasized that the Centre will serve as a platform for promoting entrepreneurship in vegetable and floriculture farming. It will

equip farmers with modern tools, technical know-how and sustainable agricultural practices, enabling them to increase income and ensure long-term agricultural growth.

The project aligns with the government's vision of promoting innovation, technology-driven agriculture, and sustainable development. The Centre will function as a hub for training, research, and development, benefitting farmers throughout the Jammu Division.

Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma, Assistant Botanist, Ajit Singh, I/c COE/Floriculture Dev. Ast. Surinder Radotra along with other officers from Vegetable Improvement Scheme and staff of the Agriculture Department accompanied the Director. Representatives from other concerned agencies were also present on the occasion.

Bharat Priye greets people on Eid-ul-Fitr

JAMMU: Chairman of the JKPC Kissan Department, Bharat Priye, has extended his greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his message, Bharat Priye expressed hope that this sacred festival brings peace, happiness, and prosperity to every household across the Union Territory.

He said that Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan, reflects the timeless values of compassion, charity, self-discipline, and brotherhood, inspiring people to care for the underprivileged and strengthen bonds of humanity.

Highlighting the unique cultural ethos of Jammu & Kashmir, he noted that such festivals serve as a powerful reminder of the region's rich traditions of communal harmony, unity in diversity, and peaceful coexistence.

He urged people to continue nurturing these values and work collectively towards maintaining harmony and mutual respect in society.

Bharat Priye also made special prayers for the well-being and prosperity of the farming community, acknowledging their vital contribution to the economy and sustenance of society.

He expressed hope that farmers across Jammu & Kashmir are blessed with good harvests, favorable weather conditions, and better opportunities, enabling them to lead secure and dignified lives.

DDC Poonch reviews progress of VVP-II, emphasizes saturation in border villages

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POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Vibrant Village Programme-II, an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at transforming the socio-economic landscape of border areas.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on achieving full saturation across key thematic areas identified under the programme. The DDC emphasized the need to bridge critical gaps in essential sectors, including network connectivity, road accessibility and household electrification in border villages.

Stressing accountability and timely execution, the District Development Commissioner directed all

departments to upload details of ongoing works on the designated portal for effective monitoring and transparency. He also underscored the importance of promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in border villages under public livelihood initiatives.

The DDC further instructed departments to conduct comprehensive gap analyses across all thematic areas and submit detailed reports to the DC Office for necessary action.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the Vibrant Village Programme is poised to become a transformative initiative for the border district. He reiterated that the district administration remains committed to ensuring inclusive development and significantly enhancing the quality of life for residents of border villages.



GGF J&K organises Ifrat Party in Jammu

JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) Jammu & Kashmir, organised an Ifrat Party at its headquarters in Jammu, bringing together people from different religions and walks of life to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan and break the fast together.

The event was presided over by eminent Punjabi poet Khalid Hussain, who highlighted the importance of communal harmony, cultural unity and mutual respect among communities.

Dr. S. P. Varma, President Gandhi Global Family J&K, emphasised that such events strengthen the bonds of unity and brotherhood among diverse communities.

He reiterated that the organisation believes in celebrating diversity and promoting cultural harmony, adding that the strength of society lies in its religious unity.

The Ifrat commenced with prayers and concluded with interfaith prayers for world peace. The gathering reaffirmed GGF's commitment to promoting peace, brotherhood and Gandhian values in society.

DSEJ extends Eid Greetings

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JAMMU: The Director School Education Jammu (DSEJ), Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary extended his heartfelt greetings to students, their parents, the teaching fraternity, and all staff members of the Directorate.

In his message, Dr. Chowdhary observed that Eid is not confined to rituals or festivity alone; it is, at its core, a reminder of compassion, gratitude and the dignity of sharing. It calls upon individuals to look beyond themselves, to acknowledge the unseen, to uplift the unheard and to strengthen the quiet bonds that hold communities



together.

Addressing the student community, he emphasized that the essence of Eid resonates deeply with the purpose of education, instilling discipline, nurturing empathy and guiding individuals toward becoming responsible and conscientious members of society.

To the teaching fraternity and staff, he acknowledged their steadfast commitment in shaping not only academic growth but also the moral and social fabric of the younger generation.

Extending his wishes to parents, he recognized their invaluable role as the first guides and mentors, whose influence continues to shape values and character far beyond the classroom.

He expressed hope that the spirit of Eid would inspire all to carry forward its message in their daily lives, not merely as a moment of celebration, but as a sustained commitment to kindness, harmony and mutual respect.

DC Kathua Rajesh inspects LPG distribution, assures adequate supply

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Friday visited Vimal Gas Agency to review the availability and distribution of domestic LPG in the district.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner stated that there is no scarcity of domestic LPG and adequate stock is available to meet the demand of consumers. He reassured the public that the supply chain is functioning smoothly and there is no need for panic. The DC informed that teams have been constituted to keep a close vigil on LPG distribution and to ensure that no hoarding or black marketing takes place. He emphasized that strict action will be taken against any such violations.

