

Water Conservation workshop by KVK Samba witnesses enthusiastic participation

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SAMBA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Samba, a constituent unit of SKUAST-Jammu, organised a comprehensive Workshop on Water Conservation under the leadership of Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist (Agroforestry) & Head, KVK Samba.

The workshop witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a large number of farm women, who actively interacted with the scientists and gained practical knowledge on sustainable water management and climate-resilient farming practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sanjay Khajuria emphasized that water conservation has become the cornerstone of sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change.

He urged farmers to adopt scientific water management practices, rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation techniques, and integrated farming systems to enhance water-use efficiency and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

He also highlighted the role of KVK Samba in disseminating modern agricultural technologies for improving farmers' livelihoods.

Dr. Neerja Sharma, Chief Scientist (Horticulture), delivered an informative lecture on fruit plantation during the rainy season.

She explained the importance of selecting suitable fruit crops, proper pit preparation, planting techniques, nutrient management, and post-planting care to ensure better establishment and higher productivity of orchards.

Dr. Saurav Gupta, Senior Scientist (Entomology), delivered a detailed lecture on the management of Kharipests during the rainy season. He educated the



participants about the identification of major insect pests affecting Kharif crops and advocated the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, emphasizing eco-friendly and biological methods for effective pest control while reducing indiscriminate pesticide use.

Dr. Ajay Kumar, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), highlighted the growing prospects of digital media in agriculture.

He encouraged farmers to utilize digital platforms, mobile applications, social media, and online advisory services for accessing real-time weather information, market intelligence, government schemes, and improved agricultural technologies, thereby strengthening informed decision-making.

Dr. Shalini Khajuria, Scientist (Soil Science), elaborated on the role of various biofertilizers in enhancing agricultural production. She explained the benefits of biofertilizers in improving soil fertility,

nutrient availability, crop productivity, and environmental sustainability while reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers. She also provided practical guidance on the appropriate use of different biofertilizers in field crops.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which the participating farm women raised several queries, which were satisfactorily addressed by the scientists.

The participants appreciated KVK Samba for organizing such timely and need-based awareness programmes that promote sustainable agriculture and efficient natural resource management.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Saurav Gupta, who expressed his gratitude to Prof. Sanjay Khajuria for his visionary leadership, the participating scientists for their valuable technical inputs, and all Respected Sir/Mamthe farm women for their enthusiastic participation and commitment towards adopting scientific agricultural practices.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur felicitated by IIM for Pioneering Innovations in Arts Education

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JAMMU: Renowned theatre director and cultural visionary Padma Shri Balwant Thakur was felicitated by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu in recognition of his pioneering innovations in performing and visual arts education.

The honour was conferred by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, during the valedictory ceremony of the institute's Mega Performing Arts Festival held at the packed Mandapam Auditorium.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. B. S. Sahay lauded Balwant Thakur's exceptional contribution over the past three years in conceptualising and implementing a unique, management-oriented arts curriculum for IIM students.

He highlighted that Thakur has successfully redefined the role of arts in management education by introducing innovative pedagogical practices that seamlessly integrate performing and visual arts with leadership and personality development.

Prof. Sahay observed that the specially designed arts interventions have empowered students with enhanced self-confidence, effective communication skills, compelling storytelling abilities, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, emotional intelligence, and stage presence.

The remarkable transformation achieved through this initiative was evident in the students' performances during the festival, which displayed extraordinary confidence, originality, and expressive excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur shared his vision behind designing an entirely new



framework for arts education tailored specifically for management students.

He explained that instead of following conventional approaches centred on the history, evolution, and theoretical schools of performing and visual arts, he developed an application-oriented curriculum aligned with the aspirations and professional requirements of future managers and leaders.

"The objective was never to produce performers or artists,"

Thakur said. "The aim was to harness the transformative power of the arts to nurture confident, creative, emotionally intelligent, and socially aware individuals who can lead with empathy and communicate with conviction."

He further elaborated that every component of the programme was carefully designed to strengthen students' performance not only on stage but also in boardrooms, workplaces, public forums, and everyday life.



IIM-J concludes Management Development Programme on 'Leadership Skills for Managers'

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu concluded the three-day Management Development Programme (MDP) on "Leadership Skills for Managers" for officers of the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) Limited, held from July 16–18, 2026 under the aegis of the Executive Education & Consultancy Division.

The programme was designed to strengthen leadership capabilities, strategic thinking, and managerial effectiveness among participants, enabling them to address the evolving challenges of the infrastructure and public sector ecosystem.

During the reflection session, participants expressed their appreciation for the thoughtfully curated programme, describing it as an enriching and transformative learning experience.

They highlighted that the sessions introduced them to contemporary perspectives on leadership and management, many of which were directly relevant to their professional responsibilities. Participants appreciated the practical, tailor-made nature of the programme and expressed their commitment to implementing the key learnings in their respective organizations.

They also lauded the engaging pedagogy, opportunities for peer learning, and interactions with faculty members, noting that the programme rekindled the spirit of college life while providing a refreshing break from routine professional responsibilities.

ADDC Jammu reviews Mission YUVA implementation, DLIC approves 253 cases

JAMMU: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jammu, Sher Singh Saturday chaired a review meeting of Mission YUVA in the district to assess the progress of implementation and discuss strategies for achieving success across all key parameters laid down by the UT Administration.

During the meeting, the ADDC undertook a detailed review of the on-ground implementation of Mission YUVA across the district and directed the officers to intensify their efforts to achieve the prescribed targets within the stipulated timeline.

He emphasised effective coordination among departments, proactive field-level outreach and regular monitoring to ensure that maximum eligible youth benefit from the flagship entrepreneurship initiative. Various strategies were discussed to streamline the implementation process and facilitate seamless access to the scheme for aspiring entrepreneurs. Discussion was also held on facilitating around 21,000 Lakhpati Didis of Jammu, through Udyam Jagriti, to avail Mission YUVA benefits to help them expand and scale their enterprises through the scheme's financial and institutional support. The meeting further deliberated on onboarding retail stores across Jammu on the Mission YUVA Seller App to enhance their market access and strengthen digital commerce opportunities.

The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Danish Rasool, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other concerned officers, who held threadbare discussions with the Chair on various aspects of the scheme and shared feedback on its implementation at the grassroots level.

Veteran Journalist OP Sharma honoured with 'Jammu Yoddha' Award by Shiv Sena



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JAMMU: As part of its 'Jammu Yoddha Abhiyan', the Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) honoured veteran journalist, author and retired State Information Officer O.P. Sharma with the prestigious 'Jammu Yoddha' Award in recognition of his more than four decades of distinguished service to journalism, literature and public life, as well as his remarkable contribution to the preservation and promotion of Dogra culture and the Dogri language.

Presenting the award, Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K President Manish Sahni said that O.P. Sharma has upheld the highest

standards of fearless, impartial and public-interest journalism throughout his career, significantly strengthening the social, cultural and democratic fabric of Jammu & Kashmir. He also highlighted Sharma's scholarly contribution as the author of the acclaimed book "Doyens of Dogri Literature", noting that his extensive research and literary work earned him the prestigious Senior Fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Expressing his gratitude after receiving the honour, O.P. Sharma said that journalism is the fourth pillar of democracy and that the media's responsibility extends beyond reporting news to guiding society with truth and responsibility.

Army organise photography cadre at Banihal, Ramban



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RAMBAN: In its continued efforts to promote youth empowerment, skill development and constructive engagement, the Indian Army organised a Photography Cadre at Banihal.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth who were keen to enhance their photography skills and explore creative career opportunities.

The event commenced with opening address by the Indian Army officials they welcomed all participants

and highlighted the importance of photography as a powerful medium for storytelling, creativity, communication and preserving culture and heritage.

He encouraged the participants to make productive use of such training program to develop their talent and contribute positively to the society.

The cadre will be conducted by an experienced Photography Instructor, Mr. Arif Muzaffar. During the training, participants will be trained on comprehensive theoretical and practical

instructions on the following topics:- Basics of camera and Exposure Triangle (Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO).

Camera Modes and Metering. Focusing and Depth of Field, White Balance and Color Management. Lenses and Focal Length Lighting Fundamentals. File Formats and Basic Workflow, Practical Shooting Projects and Assignments.

The instructor will cover the fundamental principles of photography through interactive sessions, demonstrations and practical exercises.

Participants will be given hands-on experience in operating different camera settings, understanding lighting conditions, composing creative photographs and applying professional photography techniques in real-life situations.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for organising such a meaningful and informative program.

Ashok Koul chairs BJP organizational meetings

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AKHNOOR: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chaired a series of organizational meetings in Akhnoor district to review the party's grassroots structure and strengthen preparations for upcoming organizational programmes.

The meetings were held with the Mandal team of Maira Mandrian at MS Resort, Akhnoor, followed by interactions with Shakti Kendra Pramukhs and Booth Presidents of Gandharwan and Bharda Kalan.

BJP Akhnoor Prabhari Vinay Gupta, District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma, MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat, former DDCs Suresh Sharma and Sushma, and Mandal President Depesh Singh, besides senior party functionaries and booth-level workers attended the meetings.

Ashok Koul, addressing the party leaders and workers, emphasized that the BJP's greatest strength lies in its disciplined organizational structure and committed grassroots cadre.

He said that every booth worker serves as the face of the party and plays a decisive role in taking the policies, programmes, and welfare initiatives of the Narendra Modi-led government to every household.

Koul asked the cadre to remain in constant touch with the public, identify local issues, and ensure that the benefits of Central Government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He stressed that organizational expansion, effective communication, and continuous public outreach are essential for further strengthening the party across Jammu and Kashmir.

He also called upon the workers to remain active throughout the year and work with dedication to reinforce the BJP's ideology of nationalism, good governance, and development.

Vinay Gupta said that the organizational meetings provide valuable direction to the party cadre and help strengthen coordination between different levels of the organization.

He urged the workers to maintain regular

contact with the public and actively participate in all organizational activities.

Kuldeep Raj Sharma said that a strong booth structure is the foundation of every electoral success. He appreciated the dedication of party workers in Akhnoor and appealed to them to further intensify organizational activities at the grassroots level.

Mohan Lal Bhagat said that the BJP government has transformed the development landscape of Jammu and Kashmir through transparent governance and people-centric policies. He urged the workers to effectively communicate these achievements among the masses and continue serving the people with commitment.

Suresh Sharma appreciated the enthusiasm of the party workers and said that continuous interaction with booth-level teams enhances organizational efficiency and ensures better public engagement.

He called upon every worker to remain united and work collectively to further strengthen the BJP at the grassroots.

Civil Society holds peaceful protest, appeals to Centre to save Sonam's life

JAMMU: Members of Civil Society Miran Sahib on Saturday organised a peaceful sit-in protest expressing solidarity with noted education reformer and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, urging the Union Government to immediately initiate dialogue with him to safeguard his life and health.

Carrying the National Flag and placards reading "Initiate Dialogue with Sonam Wangchuk," "Save Life of Sonam Wangchuk, Save Democracy," and "Ideas Can Change the World, Courage Makes Them Real," the demonstrators appealed to the Centre to adopt a humane and compassionate approach by opening immediate channels of communication with Wangchuk.

Expressing serious concern over his prolonged hunger strike and deteriorating health, the protesters said every possible effort should be made to prevent any loss of life. They maintained that timely dialogue remains the most effective and democratic way to resolve differences and strengthen public trust.

Addressing the gathering, civil society members said Sonam Wangchuk has consistently followed peaceful, constitutional and non-violent means to express his views.

They stressed that democratic values are reinforced when concerns are addressed through constructive engagement, mutual respect and meaningful discussions.

The participants urged the Union Government to act without delay and initiate sincere dialogue with Wangchuk, expressing hope that such an initiative would help safeguard his health and pave the way for a peaceful resolution.

They reiterated that protecting human life must remain the highest priority and appealed to all stakeholders to uphold the spirit of democracy through dialogue and understanding.



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KATRA: The Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan at Panchayat Ghar, DD Morh, Katra.

The programme aimed to educate local residents and youth about the serious physical, mental, social and economic consequences of substance abuse.

During the interactive session, participants were informed about the dangers of drug addiction, early warning signs, preventive measures and the importance of timely counselling and rehabilitation.

The speakers encouraged young people to stay focused

on education, sports and constructive activities while adopting a disciplined and healthy lifestyle.

The lecture also emphasised that families, teachers, community leaders and local institutions must work together to prevent drug abuse and support affected individuals without stigma.

Residents actively participated in the discussion and expressed their commitment to spreading awareness in their neighbourhoods.

The initiative reflected the Indian Army's continued commitment to youth empowerment, social responsibility and community welfare.