

Jammu Expo 2026 commences at Gole Market-Gandhi Nagar

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JAMMU: Jammu Expo 2026 - A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine commenced Friday at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, providing a vibrant platform to local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, women-led enterprises, startups and businesses to showcase their products and connect directly with consumers and wider markets.

The three-day exhibition, organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir will continue till September 20, 2026.

The first edition of Jammu Expo provides a vibrant platform for local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, women-led enterprises, startups and businesses to showcase their products, engage directly with consumers and explore new market opportunities. The Expo is being organized under the tagline "Discover Local, Experience Dogri Cuisine, Connect with Markets", highlighting the rich cultural her-



itage, local products and entrepreneurial potential of Jammu.

The Jammu Expo follows the recently concluded Kashmir Expo 2026, organised by JKTPO at Zabarwan Park, Srinagar, from September 11 - 13, which brought together artisans, entrepreneurs, businesses and other stakeholders to showcase Kashmir's products, craftsmanship and cultural heritage. Together, the two initiatives reflect JKTPO's efforts to create regular, market-oriented platforms across Jammu and Kashmir for pro-

moting local enterprises and connecting them with consumers and wider markets.

A key attraction of the Expo is the dedicated "Taste of Jammu" Food Corner, showcasing traditional and popular local cuisines, snacks, beverages and value-added food products. Cultural Evenings featuring local cultural performances will further enhance the visitor experience and celebrate Jammu's rich cultural heritage.

The exhibition also provides dedicated space for ODOP and

local-product showcases, participation by rural women Self-Help Groups, startups and emerging enterprises, along with branded exhibition stalls and opportunities for direct consumer interaction, networking and market exposure.

The event took off in presence of Managing Director JKTPO Sudershan Kumar; Director Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu Mr. Mohammad Nazir Sheikh; Managing Director, J&K Handicrafts and Handloom Corporation Pradeep Singh Manhas.

The Managing Director informed that the Jammu Expo has been designed as a consumer-oriented and experience-driven platform combining enterprise promotion with Jammu's cultural and culinary heritage.

"JKTPO remains committed to organising regular editions of such exhibitions across Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen market linkages, promote local brands and provide our entrepreneurs, artisans and emerging enterprises greater opportunities to connect with consumers, buyers and markets," he added.

PM-Vishwakarma awareness prog held; DC pushes for effective hand holding of artisans



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KATHUA: A one-day awareness programme on the PM-Vishwakarma scheme and other government schemes for artisans and traditional craftsmen was organised today in the conference hall, DC Office Kathua. The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner said the aim of organising such awareness programs was to sensitise artisans and prospective beneficiaries about the benefits available under PM-Vishwakarma and other government initiatives.

"Eligible artisans and traditional craftsmen shall be adequately informed about government support schemes to enable them to avail the benefits without facing procedural difficulties," he emphasised.

He also underscored the need for effective branding, packaging and marketing of locally produced goods to enhance their market reach and improve income opportunities for artisans.

During the interactive session, participants raised queries regarding PM-Vishwakarma registration, eligibility, toolkits, credit support, branding and marketing, which were addressed by the resource persons and concerned officials.

BGSBU inaugurates Super 30 IAS, JKAS coaching in collaboration with Admin

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RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri, inaugurated the Super 30 IAS/JKAS Coaching Initiative under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign at the Department of English, BGSBU.

The initiative aims to provide free coaching to 30 female students for IAS/JKAS and other civil services examinations.

The programme is being implemented under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme in coordination with the District Social Welfare Department, Rajouri, headed by Abdul Raheem. The coaching will be provided by Drishti IAS, Delhi. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Abhishek Sharma (IAS), Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Rajouri, as the Chief Guest and was presided over by Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU.

The programme began with the reception of the dignitaries, followed by a



welcome address by Dr Tanvir Ahmed, who welcomed the guests and participants and introduced the objectives and broad contours of the Super 30 Girls initiative.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Titi Xavier, Dean Academic Affairs, BGSBU, highlighted the importance of focused academic mentoring and institutional support in enabling students to prepare effectively for competitive examinations. Ravi Kumar Sihag (IAS), Registrar, BGSBU, in his special address, shared insights on civil services preparation and emphasised the importance of discipline, consistency, strategic preparation and perseverance while preparing for competitive examinations.

In his address, Abhishek Sharma (IAS), Deputy

Commissioner Rajouri, highlighted the objectives behind the initiative and interacted with the aspiring candidates. He encouraged the students to make optimum use of the opportunity and pursue their civil services aspirations with commitment and confidence. Delivering the presidential address, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU, underscored the University's commitment to promoting inclusive educational opportunities and supporting students in their academic and professional aspirations. He appreciated the collaborative initiative of the District Administration and the University aimed at empowering young women through education and career-oriented guidance.

Shri Radhashtami to be celebrated on Saturday: Mahant Rohit Shastri

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JAMMU: Shri Radhashtami is celebrated on the Ashtami Tithi (eighth lunar day) of the Shukla Paksha (waxing fortnight) of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada.

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust (Regd.), Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, informed that according to Hindu scriptures, the Shri Radhashtami fast and worship should be observed during the midday period of Bhadrapada Shukla Ashtami.

This year, in 2026, the Bhadrapada Shukla Ashtami Tithi will begin on Friday, September 18, at 1:02 PM and conclude on Saturday, September 19, at 3:28 PM. Since the Ashtami Tithi prevails at sunrise as well as during the midday period on Saturday, September 19, the Shri



Radhashtami fast and worship will be observed on this day in accordance with scriptural tradition.

Auspicious Time for Worship: The auspicious time for Shri Radhashtami worship will be from 11:50 AM to 1:20 PM on Saturday, September 19.

Appearance of Shri Radha: According to religious tradition, Shri Radha appeared during the Dvapara Yuga in Rawal village near Mathura. She is believed to have appeared near the sacrificial altar (Yajna site) of Vrishabhvanu Ji. King Vrishabhvanu and his wife Kirti Ji accepted the divine girl as their daughter and raised her

with great affection.

On this day, devotees should worship Shri Radha Rani, Lord Shri Krishna and Lord Vishnu. According to scriptural beliefs, observing the Shri Radhashtami fast brings eternal marital blessings, happiness, prosperity and peace to the household, along with the blessings of children and the continued presence of Goddess Lakshmi.

It is also a religious belief that devotees who observe the fast on Shri Krishna Janmashtami should also observe the Radhashtami fast. It is believed that doing so completes the spiritual observance of Janmashtami and enables devotees to receive its full religious merit.

Mantras of Shri Radha Rani: Om Vrishabhnanujaya Vidmahe Krishnapriyaya Dhimahi Tanno Radha Prachodayat.

Om Hreem Shri Radhikayai Vidmahe Gandharvikayai Dhimahi Tanno Radha Prachodayat.

CSIR-IIIM launches Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, Dir Zabeer calls for cleanliness, collective responsibility

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JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, has launched a series of activities under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, focusing on cleanliness, hygiene, environmental conservation and greater participation of the institute community in maintaining a clean and sustainable campus.

The campaign, being observed from September 17 to October 2, commenced with a cleanliness pledge administered by Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu and Director, CSIR-NBRI Lucknow.

Addressing scientists, students, technical and administrative staff, Dr Zabeer Ahmed emphasised that cleanliness should not be treated as a one-time activity or confined to a particular campaign.

He called for making cleanliness and proper upkeep a part of the institute's everyday working culture. He urged every member of the institute to take personal responsibility



for maintaining cleanliness in their respective rooms, departments, laboratories, offices and common areas, stressing that collective efforts at the individual level can make a significant difference to the overall campus environment.

Dr Ahmed also highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and presentation across the institute, particularly as CSIR-IIIM is a national research organisation that regularly interacts with scientists, students, visitors and other stakeholders.

He encouraged the institute community to contribute ideas and sustained efforts towards improving cleanliness and environ-

mental practices on the campus.

As part of the environmental component of the campaign, Dr Zabeer Ahmed led a tree plantation activity under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, with the participation of members of the institute.

The plantation reinforced the message of linking cleanliness and environmental responsibility with the creation of greener institutional spaces.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr Premnarayan Gupta, Scientist-G, Pharmacology Division, who acknowledged the participation and support of the institute community.

Central University of Jammu holds Ecogiri-2026 on the occasion of World Ozone Day

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JAMMU: The Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Jeev Jain, conducted a comprehensive two-day event, Ecogiri-2026 in celebration of World Ozone Day.

The event, held across the DD Building and the Aryabhata Building, aimed to foster deep environmental consciousness among youth, advocate for sustainable living practices, and highlight the critical global efforts required to preserve the stratospheric ozone layer. The event highlighted the official global theme for World Ozone Day 2026,



"Global Action for a Cooler Planet - Celebrating 10 Years of Sustainable Cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol," emphasizing the international frameworks guiding local ecological action.

In a major highlight of the two-day initiative, the students of the Department of Environmental Sciences uniquely conceptualized

and hosted an innovative exhibition featuring products created entirely from waste materials. Showcasing practical entrepreneurship aligned with sustainability, the students successfully sold these handcrafted eco-friendly items, decorative pieces, and household utilities to visitors, effectively demonstrating the commercial viability of a circular economy.

Strengthen organisation from Mandal to Booth level, maintain constant public connect: Ashok

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KISHTWAR: J&K BJP State General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chaired an organizational meeting of Dhadpeth Mandal in Kishtwar, focusing on strengthening the party organization at the grassroots level, reviewing ongoing activities and chalking out preparations for upcoming organizational programmes.

Kishtwar Prabhari Gajay Singh, District President Ravi Kumar Parihar, Kishtwar MLA Shagun Parihar and other senior leaders and office-bearers were also present during the meeting.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, stressed the need for every



organizational unit to remain active, disciplined and closely connected with the people.

He said that the strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party rests on its dedicated cadre and well-knit grassroots organization, and called upon party workers to further strengthen coordination and ensure effective implementation of all organizational programmes.

"Every Mandal and every booth is an important link between the organization and the people. Our workers must remain active on the ground, maintain regular public contact and ensure that the party's organizational activities reach every section of society. Upcoming programmes should be undertaken with proper planning, coordination and collective responsibility," Ashok Koul said.

SMVDU organises workshop on Big Data Tools and Technologies

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KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, organized a two-day workshop on 'Big Data Tools and Technologies'.

The workshop aimed to provide participants with practical exposure to emerging Big Data technologies and their real-world applications and covered key technologies, including Hadoop, Hive, Apache Kafka and Apache Spark, with dedicated hands-on sessions to provide participants with realistic experience in using these tools.



ated and sponsored by the Transdisciplinary Research and Innovation Hub Project (RP-127) set up under a grant from J&K Higher Education Department (JKHED).

The Workshop featured two prominent resource

persons Dr. Shiva Dixit from Amity University, Gurugram, Haryana, and Devashish Kumar, Founder and Director, CodroidHub Pvt. Ltd., Ambala, Haryana.

Devashish Kumar conducted the sessions on the introduction and hands-on

applications of Hadoop, Hive and Kafka, while Dr. Shiva Dixit delivered sessions on Apache Spark, including practical

hands-on activities. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, who addressed the participants and encouraged them to continuously upgrade their technical knowledge, develop practical skills and remain prepared for the evolving requirements of industry and future careers.

He motivated the participants to keep abreast with the latest softwares and tools which will help them to shape their future career paths.

IIM Jammu concludes Nurturing Future Leadership Prog (Batch-22) under Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Prog

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu concluded the five-day Nurturing Future Leadership Programme (Batch-22), conducted under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme under Ministry of Education, Govt of India, on September 18, 2026.

The programme was held from September 14-18, 2026, at the Vedanta MDP Centre, Academic Block, IIM Jammu.

The programme was designed to foster leadership capabilities, encourage reflective learning, and equip participants with per-



spectives and skills relevant to their professional and academic roles.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with the welcome address by, Dr. Jaganth G., Program

Director, followed by reflections from the participants. Presenting the programme report, Dr. Jaganth G., Program Director, highlighted the key components and learning experiences of

the five-day programme.

He encouraged the participants to carry the learning forward into their future professional endeavours and remain connected with IIM Jammu for upcoming academic and professional development programmes.

Sharing their experiences, participants described the programme as an enriching and well-organised learning journey.

They highlighted the value of classroom sessions, the practical takeaways, the opportunity to learn collectively, and the sense of camaraderie and brotherhood developed during the five days.