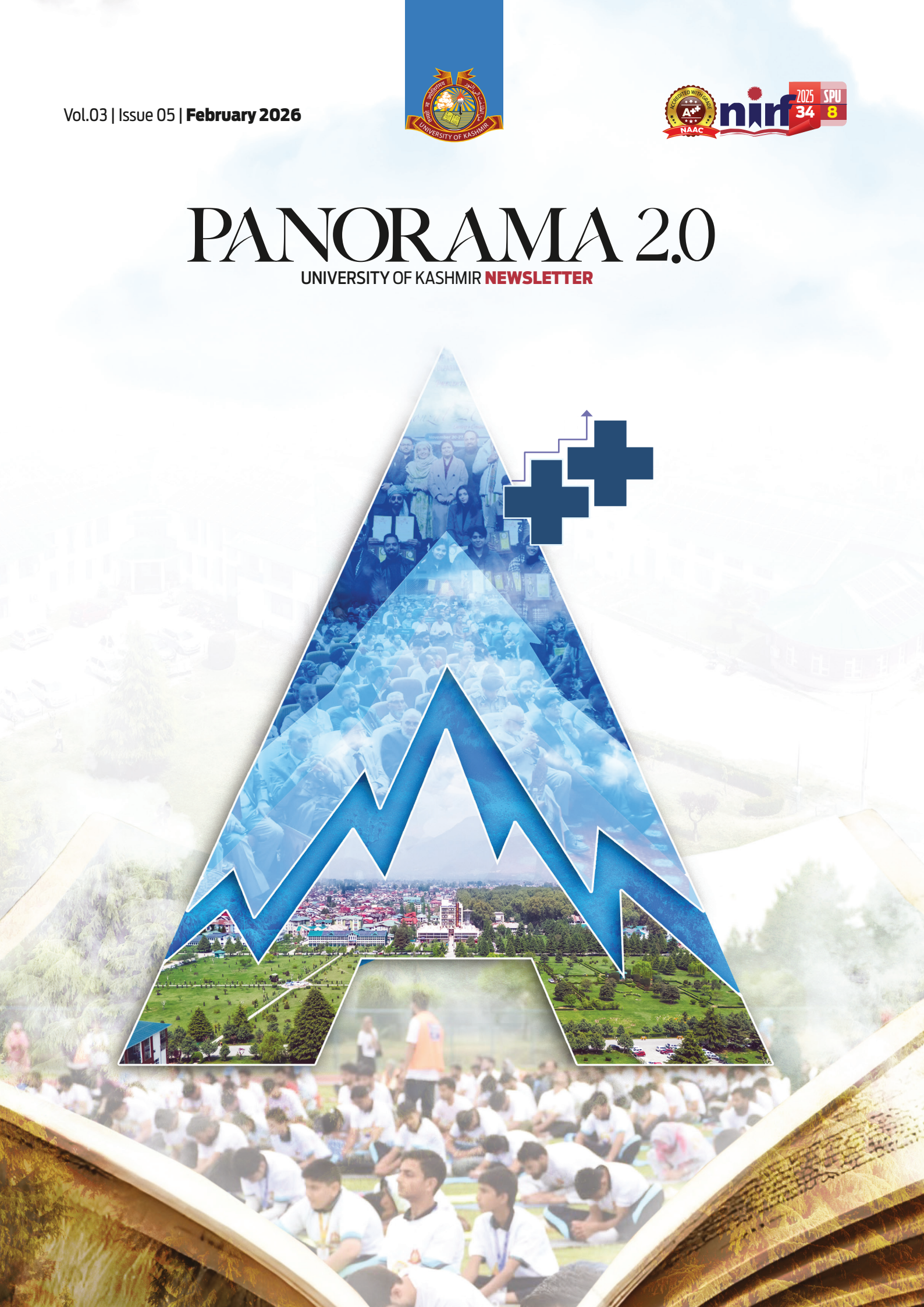




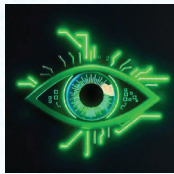
PANORAMA 2.0

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR **NEWSLETTER**





VISION & MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY



VISION

To be a world class University committed to create and disseminate knowledge for human development and welfare.



MISSION

To create intellectually stimulating environment, promote excellence in teaching, research and extension activities and facilitate academic freedom, diversity and harmony.



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○ Publisher

Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance,
University of Kashmir

○ Graphics/Layout

Aga Shahi
Nissar Ahmed Wani

○ Editorial Board

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A++ and Beyond

When the University of Kashmir secured the coveted A++ grade from NAAC, it was more than an upgrade in ranking. It was actually a moment of institutional reckoning. For a university shaped by geography, history and persistent challenges, the A++ accreditation signals not just excellence achieved, but resilience institutionalised.

In an era where rankings often reduce universities to numbers, Kashmir University's A++ stands out because it tells a deeper story. A story of persistence, reform and a deliberate shift from survival to leadership. NAAC's revised and far more rigorous framework does not reward optics; it evaluates systems, outcomes and intent. That the University of Kashmir emerged with a CGPA of 3.68, the highest in its history, places it firmly among India's most credible public universities.

What makes this achievement significant is context. Higher education in Jammu and Kashmir has had to negotiate uncertainties that most institutions never encounter. Like academic calendar disruptions, resource constraints and limited physical mobility. Yet quietly and consistently over the last few years, the university invested in what truly matters: governance reforms, research depth, digital systems and student-centric processes. The A++ grade is the cumulative result of those choices.

The NAAC peer team's assessment highlighted a university in motion—one that has modernised its infrastructure, strengthened IT-enabled learning, overhauled examination and evaluation systems, and embedded transparency into governance. Initiatives such as singlewindow student services, full integration with the National Academic Depository, zero-based budgeting, and automated library systems reflect an institution thinking beyond compliance and towards sustainability.

Equally compelling is the university's research renaissance. With more than ₹50 crore grant received under RUSA 2.0, over more than 3,300 quality publications, 12 patents granted, and global recognition of its scientists in platforms such as the Stanford University rankings, Kashmir University is no longer a peripheral academic space. It is increasingly a knowledge producer with national and global relevance, particularly in areas like Himalayan ecology, climate studies, biotechnology, nanotechnology, AI and public health.

The A++ grade also validates the university's early and confident embrace of the National Education Policy 2020. Flagship initiatives like Design Your Degree (DYD) have marked a decisive break by reimagining undergraduate education, placing student choice, interdisciplinarity and real-world problem-solving at the heart of learning. Complemented by cutting-edge programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and technology-driven research, the campus is consciously preparing learners not just for their first job, but for long, evolving careers in a rapidly changing world.

Perhaps the most understated yet powerful aspect of this transformation is the human dimension. Student satisfaction levels, strong women's participation across disciplines, grassroots innovation support, community outreach programmes and inclusive campus design all point towards a university that sees education as a public good, not merely an academic transaction.

For Kashmir University, the A++ is not an endpoint. It is a responsibility. It raises expectations, sharpens accountability and sets a new benchmark for higher education in the region. More importantly, it sends a message to students across Jammu and Kashmir that world-class education can, and does, emerge from within the Valley. As the university gears up for the 21st Convocation, one reality is clear. The University of Kashmir's journey to A++ has not been loud or hurried. It has been methodical, inclusive and deeply human. And that may well be its greatest strength.



Message from Vice Chancellor

Celebrating Excellence: NAAC A++ Grade for University of Kashmir

I am delighted to share with all stakeholders of the University of Kashmir — our dedicated faculty members, officers, non-teaching staff, students, alumni, and well-wishers — the proud and joyful news that our University has been accredited with the highest “A++” grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its most recent cycle of assessment.

This prestigious recognition marks a defining milestone in the University's journey toward academic and institutional excellence. It reflects the collective resolve, unwavering dedication, and exceptional contributions of our academic and administrative fraternity. The A++ grade not only affirms our progress but also reinforces our standing as a leading institution committed to quality, innovation, integrity, and inclusive development.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our distinguished faculty, officers, non-teaching staff, and all employees whose commitment has been pivotal in attaining this distinction. A special note of appreciation goes to the Prof. Manzoor A Shah (Director) and his team at Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) for their exemplary coordination throughout the accreditation process.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Directorate of IT&SS for their exemplary technical stewardship — ensuring end-to-end digital preparedness, flawless live streaming of sessions in hybrid mode, and robust infrastructural support — all of which were instrumental in ensuring a seamless and transparent NAAC visit.

My appreciation is due to the Education Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) for their valuable contribution in documenting key moments and producing impactful visual content with professionalism.

I also place on record my thanks to the Dean Academic Affairs, Dean Research, Dean College Development Council, Registrar, Controller of Examinations and all Statutory Officers of the University for their steadfast support, meticulous coordination, and commitment to institutional preparedness that were instrumental in this achievement.

A special word of thanks is extended to my Special Secretary and the dedicated team at the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes ensured seamless communication and elective coordination throughout the process.

Let us celebrate this proud moment together and reaffirm our collective resolve to carry the University of Kashmir to even greater heights — as a beacon of knowledge, research, and societal transformation at regional, national, and global levels.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Prof. Nilofer Khan





KU Crowned A++

The University of Kashmir (KU) has been awarded the prestigious A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its latest re-accreditation cycle. This remarkable achievement places the University among the top-ranking institutions across the country and marks a moment of great distinction and pride.

The University of Kashmir is the first higher educational institution in Jammu & Kashmir to be assessed under NAAC's revised accreditation framework.

According to the official results released by NAAC, the University secured an exceptional Institutional Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.68, the highest in its history, outperforming several leading universities across the country. This is the fourth accreditation cycle for the University of Kashmir. It had earlier been awarded Grade 'A' in 2002 and 2011, and Grade 'A+' in 2019. The current A++ grade signifies a substantial improvement and a firm commitment to academic quality and institutional excellence.

While congratulating the University fraternity, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, "This recognition is a tribute to the collective efforts of our faculty, students, and administrative staff. As the flagship institution of J&K, we are committed to aligning with NEP 2020 and advancing knowledge through cutting-edge research and inclusive education. From pioneering flexible degree programs to mobilising over ₹112 crores in research grants, this A++ grade strengthens our resolve to become a globally recognised knowledge hub, responsive to challenges of climate change, biodiversity, and society."

Prof. Khan further noted that during the assessment period, the University prioritised academic calendar restoration, timely conduct of examinations, and adherence to degree timelines. A single-window clearance mechanism was introduced

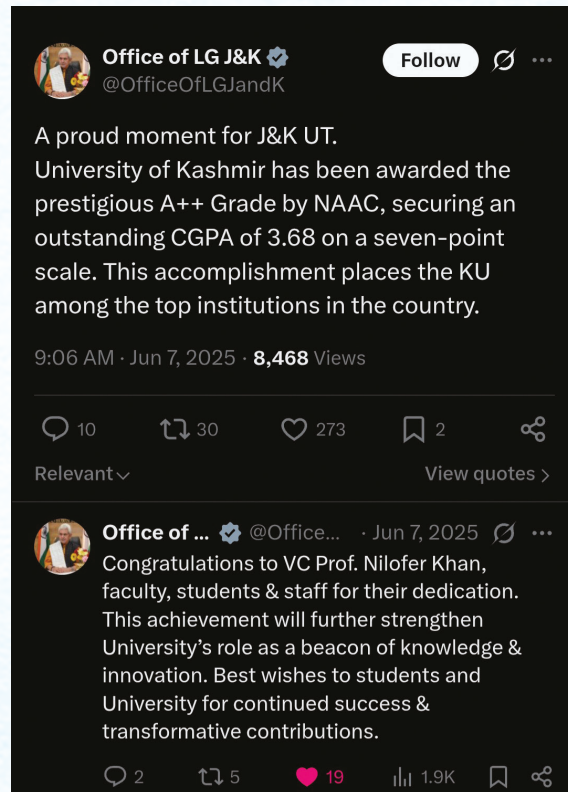


to streamline student services, and KU's strong integration with the National Academic Depository (NAD) ensures secure, digital access to student records, a key component of its digital governance framework.

The NAAC Peer Team, conducted a thorough evaluation during their visit from May 29 to May 31, 2025.

Following their review, the Peer Team lauded the University's research advancement, student-centric environment, upgraded infrastructure, and IT-enabled learning systems. Special appreciation was extended for the University's implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), especially initiatives such as the Design Your Own Degree (DYD) programme, and academic offerings like Artificial Intelligence and Data Science at KU's Zakura Campus.

The team also praised the University's use of DigiLocker for seamless access to student records, and the vibrant entrepreneurial culture fostered through the New Generation Innovation and





Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC) on campus.

A highlight of the accreditation was the Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), which recorded an impressive 78% satisfaction rate, based on OTP-verified feedback on teaching quality, mentorship, and academic support.

In individual criterion-wise assessment, the University was evaluated on Infrastructure and Learning Resources, Curricular Aspects, Teaching, Learning and Evaluation, Research, Innovations and Extension, Governance, Leadership and Management, Student Support and Progression, and Institutional Values and Best Practices.

The Peer Team also acknowledged KU's progressive strides in governance and administration, especially its zero-based budgeting system, strategic fund mobilisation, and decentralised, transparent decision-making as well as automated system at Allama Iqbal Library.

On the research and innovation front, KU has demonstrated exceptional output with over 3,300 high-quality publications, 22 patents granted, more than 87 grassroots innovations supported, and research funding exceeding ₹112 crores.

KU also houses two Centres of Excellence- one in Himalayan Biodiversity and the other in Glaciology, besides a very vibrant Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI), having created a holistic educational and research ecosystem.

Community engagement remains central to KU's mission. Through outreach programmes like the USHA Silai Schools for Women, menstrual hygiene awareness drives, and urban resilience campaigns, the University is actively strengthening



its societal linkages and promoting inclusive development.

With a presence across multiple campuses—including the Main Campus at Hazratbal, Zakura Campus, North Campus at Delina Baramulla, and South Campus at Anantnag, the University offers a robust academic and physical infrastructure. This includes 232 smart classrooms, 186 laboratories, a fully automated Allama Iqbal Library, a world-class Convocation Complex, green campus initiatives, energy-efficient systems, and inclusive facilities for differently-abled students. This milestone is a result of the collective dedication and hard work of the University's leadership, faculty, students, scholars, administrative staff, and all stakeholders who have contributed to making the University a nationally recognized institution of excellence.





ACADEMIC **EXCELLENCE &** **RECOGNITION**

From global research honours and national awards to strong showings in premier rankings, this section captures the University of Kashmir's growing academic footprint. The achievements reflect sustained excellence in research, teaching, and innovation, reinforcing KU's rising stature on the national and international academic map.



Stanford University Rankings 2025

14 KU scientists feature among world's top researchers

In a remarkable achievement that reflects its growing research prominence, 14 scientists from the University of Kashmir (KU) have once again secured a place in the prestigious Stanford University Rankings 2025, featuring among the world's top researchers whose scholarly contributions continue to impact global academia.

The KU scientists who feature in the 2025 list include: Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo (Earth Sciences); Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada (Mathematics); Prof. Adil Gani (Food Technology); Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Mir (Bioresources); Prof. Idrees Ahmad Wani (Food Technology); Prof. Farooq Ahmad Masoodi (Food Technology); Prof. Mudasar Ahmad (Computer Science); ; Prof. Faheem Arjamend Sheikh (Nanotechnology); Prof. Shabir Ahmad Parah (Electronics); Prof. Ghulam Jeelani (Earth Sciences); Prof. Firdous Ahmad Shah (Mathematics); Prof. Arshid Bashir (Chemistry); Prof. Lateef Ahmad Malik (Chemistry); Prof. Reyaz Hassan Mir (Pharmaceutical sciences).



NIRF 2025 rankings

KU ranks 8th among State Public Universities



Riding the momentum of its NAAC A++ triumph, the University of Kashmir (KU) has marked another milestone in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 released by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The University of Kashmir has secured 34th rank (57.13 points) in the University Category of NIRF 2025, improving from 45th rank (54.43 points) last year.

In the Overall Category, the University moved up to 59th rank (54.31 points) from 69th rank (52.14 points) in 2024. It has also achieved an impressive 8th place among all State Public Universities (SPUs) across India, cementing its standing as a top-10 institution in this category. Notably, KU remains the only University from Jammu & Kashmir to feature among the nation's top-50 universities in the University Category.

The improvement is driven by stronger performance in Research and Professional Practices, with the RP score rising from 31.25 to 34.74. The IPR (Patents) score increased from 0.50 to 1.25, while Teaching, Learning and Resources improved from 71.14 to 74.05.



Global award for cancer research

In a remarkable achievement for the University of Kashmir, (KU) Umer Majeed Khaja, a researcher from the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, has been awarded the prestigious Global Scholar-in-Training Award (GSITA) 2025 by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

The highly competitive GSITA award, granted to only 15 researchers worldwide, recognizes Umer's outstanding contributions to colorectal cancer research. He is among just two researchers from India selected this year, the other being from AIIMS, New Delhi. The award provides full sponsorship for Umer to attend the AACR Annual Meeting 2025 in Chicago, USA (April 25–30), where he will present his research, engage with leading cancer scientists, and explore advancements in cancer research.

Umer investigated the chemopreventive potential of Rheum webbianum rhizome extracts in colorectal carcinogenesis, offering valuable insights into cancer biology and potential therapeutic strategies.



National Geoscience award



Prof. Ghulam Jeelani, Dean, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Head, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU) has been honoured with the prestigious National Geoscience Award by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, the award is one of the highest national recognitions in the field of geoscience. Prof. Jeelani received the honour for his research in isotope hydrology and Himalayan environmental studies, which has significantly advanced the understanding of water resources, glaciers, and climate change impacts in the region.

Prof. Ghulam Jeelani expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Mines, GoI, and the University, stating that the award is both an honour and a responsibility.



Dr. Riffat John selected as founding member of INSA Women Associates

Dr. Riffat John, Associate Professor at the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir (KU), has been selected as a member of the Founding Batch of INSA Women Associates (IWA) by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi.

The IWA initiative, recently launched by INSA, aims to foster greater inclusion and diversity by recognizing the outstanding contributions of top-performing women scientists across academia, industry, R&D, NGOs, and start-ups. Through this initiative, selected women scientists will actively connect with the academy and contribute to its ongoing and new scientific activities.

Dr. Riffat leads an active research group focused on the integrative understanding of plant responses to cold stress using genomic, proteomic, and physiological tools, with a focus on maize and Brassica species.





Documentary on cerebral palsy wins national award

The University of Kashmir's Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) has brought home a prestigious accolade as its documentary, 'Parenting Special Needs Children: Cerebral Palsy,' was awarded best programme in the Teacher Education category at the All-India Children's Educational e-content Competition (AICEECC) 2024-25.

The three-day national-level competition, organized by the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) and NCERT, was held in Meghalaya from March 26-28, 2025.

The 20-minute documentary, directed and edited by Inam-ul-Rehman from EMRC KU, explores the challenges faced by parents raising children with cerebral palsy, offering insights into their daily struggles and resilience. Competing against 670 entries from across the country, the film stood out for its impactful storytelling and educational value. The film fetched a cash prize, trophy, and certificate.

Director EMRC KU, Dr. Salima Jan, expressed gratitude for the recognition and highlighted the centre's dedication to producing impactful educational content.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan lauds achievements

Vice-Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan lauded the efforts of the achievers in getting recognition to University of Kashmir at national and international level. She said that these prestigious recognitions reflect the high-quality research emerging from the University of Kashmir in collaboration with reputed institutions. She also highlighted the University's growing stature in national and international research.

"It reflects the institution's achievements in scientific studies and its contributions toward addressing critical environmental challenges, while inspiring the next generation of scholars and researchers," the Vice-Chancellor said.

"The academic collaborations are going to be immensely beneficial for our academic community, especially students, to learn from leading experts in the field," she added.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan extended her gratitude to the varsity's leadership and congratulated the entire KU community on this impressive success.



Dean Academic Affairs Professor Shariefuddin Pirzada

"This recognition reflects the consistent quality of scholarship at the University and serves as a motivation for students and young researchers to pursue impactful research. KU's upward trajectory reflects a robust academic ecosystem driven by committed faculty, active student engagement, and the integration of research and digital resources across programmes."



Dean Research Professor Mohammad Sultan Bhat

"The recognition received by our respected faculty and researchers marks a significant step in strengthening interdisciplinary and high-impact research at the University. The consistent presence of KU faculty in the global list of achievers reflects a vibrant culture of research and scholarship at the university. KU's growing national visibility stems from steady gains in publications, patents and technology-led research, positioning the University to expand its impact on society and industry."



Registrar Professor Naseer Iqbal

"The latest recognition is both an honour and a responsibility and the repeated inclusion of KU scientists in top global rankings reaffirms the university's stature as a centre of academic excellence in the region. The annual rankings, prepared by Stanford University experts, assess over 1,80,000 researchers worldwide using standardised citation indicators including citations, h-index, co-authorship patterns, and composite scores. KU's consistent representation in this elite list over the years is an indicator of the university's sustained excellence in research across diverse disciplines.



RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

This section reflects the University of Kashmir's expanding research ecosystem, marked by new infrastructure, patents, national and international collaborations, and a steady flow of conferences, workshops, and scholarly exchanges. Together, these initiatives highlight KU's commitment to knowledge creation, interdisciplinary research, and aligning academic inquiry with national priorities.



Census Data Research Workstation inaugurated

The Population Research Centre (PRC), University of Kashmir (KU), inaugurated its Census Data Research Workstation (CDRW) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI) at the main campus here on Friday.

The Census Data Research Workstation will provide stakeholders including researchers and scholars with access to extensive census records and enable them to analyze population trends, socio-economic indicators, and developmental patterns. This initiative will support evidence-based research, helping in better policy planning and decision-making. On the occasion, the University also signed a MoU with the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI).

Workshop on Indian language machine translation

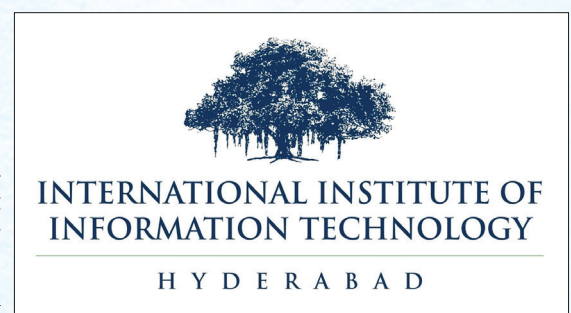
To advance research in Indian-language-to-Indian-language (IL-IL) machine translation, the University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Hyderabad), organised a four-day workshop on Developing IL-IL Benchmark Data at the varsity from February 25 to 28, 2025.

The workshop, part of the HIMANGY (Hindustani Machini Anuvaad Technology) consortium under the broader BHASHINI Project funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, aimed to create benchmark datasets for enhancing machine translation accuracy in multiple Indian languages.

Prof. Dipti Mishra from IIIT-Hyderabad, emphasized the importance of building strong linguistic benchmarks to support digital inclusivity for Indian languages.

Prof. Aadil Amin Kak, Department of Linguistics KU, stressed on the workshop's role in ensuring greater visibility for Kashmiri in the digital space.

The event saw the participation of 70 researchers from leading institutions across India, including IIT-Patna, Punjabi University-Patiala, IIIT-Bhubaneswar, CDAC-Noida, University of Hyderabad, DAIICT-Ahmedabad, and GCW-Jammu.





Patent for portable impedance meter

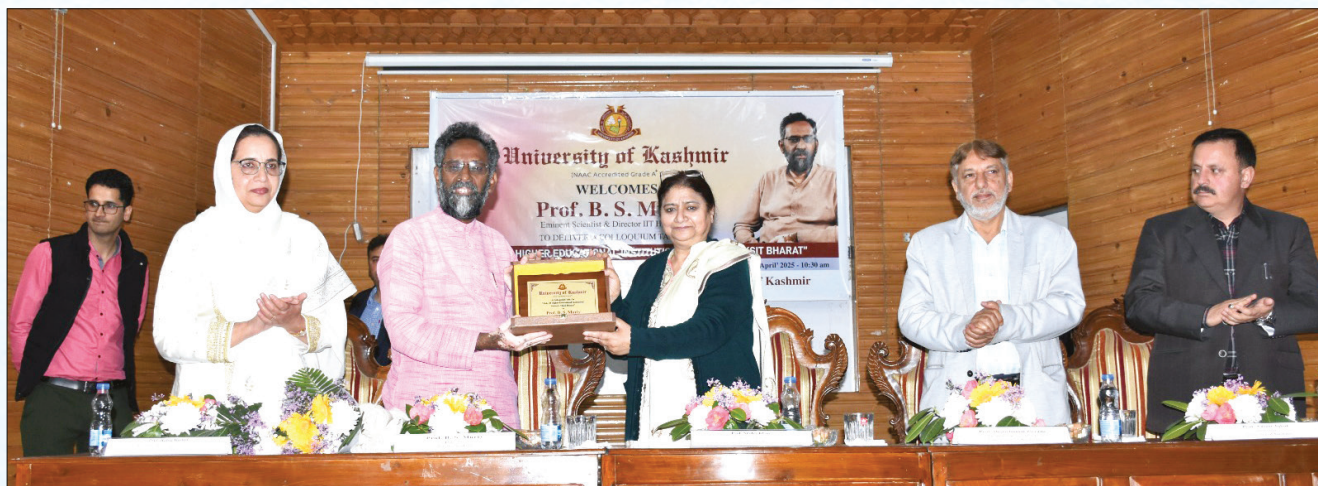
The University of Kashmir (KU) has achieved yet another significant milestone in scientific innovation as its faculty member, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Khanday and his team of researchers from the Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Technology (DEIT) KU, in collaboration with the University of Patras, Greece, has secured a patent for their Portable Microcontroller-Based Impedance Meter for Biological Tissue Analysis.

The team developed a portable impedance meter for accurate and affordable biological tissue analysis to address the limitations of bulky, inaccessible and expensive impedance analyzers.

The impedance meter provides high accuracy (97%), automatic signal adjustment, and real-time data collection with a built-in display, making it an efficient and cost-effective alternative to conventional systems.



The innovation led by Dr. Khanday includes research scholars from DEIT KU- Shaika Hassan, Insha Showkat, Jehangir Hameed Lone, Mudasir Ahmad Khanday, Shazia Rashid, Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Javeed Iqbal Reshi, and Qazi Iqra Nazir, and Prof. Costas Psychalinos from the University of Patras, Greece.



Director IIT Hyd delivers talk on Viksit Bharat

To deepen academic dialogue on the role of universities in national development, the Department of Nanotechnology, University of Kashmir (KU), hosted a colloquium talk by Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad on ‘The Role of Higher Educational Institutions towards Viksit Bharat’ at the varsity.

The talk aimed to highlight how academic institutions can contribute to the vision of a developed India by integrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development in line with India’s vision for a self-reliant and developed future.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, welcomed Professor Murty and highlighted the University’s focus on research-based learning and its growing interest in national collaborations.

“Such academic engagements are vital for institutional growth. We look forward to building partnerships with IIT Hyderabad to promote joint research, dual degrees and faculty-student exchange,” she said.

In his keynote address, Prof. B.S. Murty spoke about the evolving role of academic institutions in realising the vision of a developed and self-reliant India and stressed on the need to move beyond traditional teaching models by encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and strong linkages with industry.



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh addresses conference on dispute resolution



To deliberate on the significance of alternative legal frameworks for amicable dispute resolution and timely justice delivery, the School of Law, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, organised a one-day national conference on 'Need for Institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Jammu & Kashmir.'

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India who was chief guest on the occasion,

highlighted the potential of ADR in reducing legal conflicts through constitutional mechanisms in his keynote address. He also stressed on the importance of public awareness and active involvement of the legal community in strengthening ADR frameworks.

"ADR is firmly rooted in our legal system. Its effectiveness lies in how actively and sincerely the legal fraternity promotes and utilizes it," he said.

In her presidential address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the institution's commitment to promoting legal education and access to justice.

Dr. Amit Vaid, Member, Bar Council of India (BCI), underscored the importance of ADR in ensuring quicker resolution of disputes, while Senior Advocate Apurba Kumar Sharma, Executive Chairman, BCI, highlighted the need to institutionalize ADR in J&K both academically and administratively.

Adish C. Aggarwala, President, International Council of Jurists, and M.S. Latif, judicial member CAT Srinagar, also spoke on the occasion and emphasised ADR's role in strengthening the justice system.



MoU with NCBS-TIFR

Recognizing the growing need to develop a culture of scientific inquiry, innovation and collaborative research, the University of Kashmir (KU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Biological Sciences-Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCBS-TIFR), Bangalore.

The MoU was signed between Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, and Director, NCBS-TIFR, Prof. L.S. Shashidhara at main campus KU in presence of senior academics, officers and researchers.

The MoU aims to facilitate joint research and development in disciplines of mutual interest, promote student and faculty exchange, and enable collaborative academic events including seminars, workshops, and conferences. The collaboration is expected to create new opportunities for scientific advancement and interdisciplinary learning.





Special lecture on Dialogism

The Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir (KU) hosted a special lecture titled “Open World: Diverse Cultures and Dialogic Consciousness” at the university’s main campus on Wednesday.

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Lakshmi Bandlamudi, a distinguished Professor of Psychology at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. Prof Bandlamudi is an expert in cultural psychology and human development and is renowned for her work in Bakhtinian studies. In her engaging talk, Prof. Bandlamudi explored the concept of dialogism, as theorised by Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin. She discussed its broad relevance across disciplines and emphasized its importance in today’s interconnected and dynamic world.

Prof. Bandlamudi further explained that dialogism extends beyond language, representing a deep ethical and philosophical framework for human interaction and understanding.



CCAS holds national seminar on ethics, self-purification

To delve into the deeper philosophical underpinnings of ethics and self-purification, the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a one-day national seminar on the theme ‘Ethics and Self-Purification: Insights from Sufi and Indian Philosophers’ at the main campus.

The seminar witnessed participation of various faculty members, scholars and students to reflect on the philosophical and spiritual teachings rooted in Sufi and Indian traditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, who was the chief guest, highlighted the relevance of such discussions in contemporary times.

“The NEP 2020 lays strong emphasis on ethics, values and holistic education, which are integral to nurturing responsible, reflective and value-conscious citizens. This seminar is a step in this direction,” he said.



MoU with IISER Pune to boost collaborative research under ANRF-PAIR program

The University of Kashmir (UoK) and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the ANRF-PAIR (Alliance for Research and Innovation- Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research) program.

The agreement aims to strengthen research collaboration, promote innovation, and create opportunities for joint projects, resource sharing, and capacity building.

Speaking on the occasion, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan said the MoU represents a major step towards building strong partnerships with leading institutes like IISERs. “This collaboration will boost scientific capacity, foster innovation, and enable us to work collectively on regional and global challenges,” she said.

Prof. Sunil Baghwat underlined that the IISERs’ diverse research programs would open new avenues for faculty, researchers, and students alike while as Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya highlighted the importance of joint initiatives in high-altitude physics, biodiversity studies, and bird migration science, which can significantly advance both fundamental and region-specific research.

The collaboration aligns closely with national priorities, including the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).



Partnership with IIT Hyd for cutting-edge Nanotech Research at NBL-2025

In a significant move to accelerate research and innovation, the University of Kashmir (UoK) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen academic collaboration and drive breakthroughs in science and technology.

The event drew eminent scientists, academicians, industry leaders, researchers, and students from across India and abroad.

The MoU represents a landmark step towards long-term collaboration, paving the way for joint research projects in emerging and interdisciplinary areas of science and technology, faculty and student exchanges, enabling greater academic mobility and exposure, shared access to infrastructure and expertise between KU and IIT Hyderabad and innovation and commercialization opportunities, translating research into real-world impact.

“This collaboration is about building bridges between two premier institutions,” said VC KU Prof Nilofer Khan. She added “Together, we can push the frontiers of nanotechnology, foster innovation, and transform knowledge into solutions that benefit society.”



Workshop on Data Analytics and AI in Physics, Astronomy



To strengthen research capacity and enhance understanding of emerging technologies in the field of physical sciences, the Department of Physics, University of Kashmir (UoK), in collaboration with the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, organised a four-day workshop on ‘Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in Physics and Astronomy’ at the Main Campus. The workshop helped to equip young researchers and students

with practical knowledge of data-driven techniques and artificial intelligence tools that are increasingly shaping modern research in physics, astronomy, and related disciplines.

In her address at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the workshop represents the University’s continued focus on integrating advanced technologies into academic and research pursuits.

“Such programmes are vital in equipping our scholars with skills that match the evolving scientific and industrial landscape,” she remarked.

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Professor Emeritus at IUCAA, spoke about the increasing role of artificial intelligence in understanding complex astronomical data and expanding the frontiers of astrophysical research.



Week-long EconFest 2025

The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir (KU), held EconFest 2025, a week-long academic festival that brought together scholars, policymakers, alumni and students to deliberate on key issues related to economic research, innovation and public policy.

Organised from November 11 to 15 at the University's Main Campus, the festival aimed to strengthen research culture and promote collaboration through academic sessions, lectures, exhibitions and interactive engagements.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said the festival provided a vital platform for linking economic scholarship with regional and national developmental priorities. She said the initiative reflected the University's commitment to research-driven policymaking and to engaging students with contemporary economic challenges.

The festival featured several flagship events, including an alumni meet, a high-level panel discussion on Kashmir's economy, the Annual Economics Lecture by eminent economist Prof. Farzana Afridi (ISI New Delhi), the 9th Annual CECFEE Research and Policy Workshop of ISI New Delhi, exhibitions by local entrepreneurs, capacity-building workshops for young researchers, and a thematic painting competition on shrinking wetlands.

Meanwhile, to promote innovation and digital proficiency in academic research, the Department of Economics organised a week-long national workshop on "Tech-Enhanced Research: From Data Collection to Publication" at the main campus. The workshop aimed to equip scholars with advanced tools and methodologies in data handling, automation, visualization, and ethical research practices. It featured over 35 hours of hands-on sessions delivered by expert resource persons from reputed institutions such as University of Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, O.P. Jindal Global University, CRRID Chandigarh. Topics included AI-driven research platforms, bibliometric tools like VOSviewer, reproducible research frameworks in R, digital data collection via KoboToolbox, and academic writing with LaTeX.



DYD represents future of higher education: VC

Chairs high level review meet, pledges expansion

To review the progress, implementation, and future roadmap of the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUGP) under Design Your Degree (DYD) mode in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, a high-level meeting was held at University of Kashmir.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor KU Prof Nilofer Khan and attended by key university officers including Dean Academic Affairs KU Prof Shariefuddin Pirzada, Registrar KU Prof Naseer Iqbal, Controller Examinations KU Majid Zaman Baba, Dean School of Engineering Prof Muzaffar Andrabi, Director Admissions Prof Fayaz Ahmed, Director IoT Zakura Campus Prof Tariq Banday, and Coordinator DYD Centre KU Prof Syeda Afshana.

Chairing the meeting VC KU Prof Khan emphasised the visionary nature of the DYD mode and its significance in reshaping higher education in the region.

“I was keen to launch this program as it represents the future of higher education—where students design their academic paths based on their skills and interests, rather than conforming to conventional course structures. I am pleased with the way the programme is progressing and we are committed to expanding its infrastructure, engaging additional faculty and staff and ensuring that students receive the best possible learning experience,” the VC said.

During deliberations, the members discussed various aspects of the program’s implementation, recognizing that while DYD is a relatively new initiative, it holds great promise as a futuristic, skill-oriented and student-centric academic model. Prof. Syeda Afshana, in her detailed presentation, outlined the journey of the program since its inception a year ago. She highlighted the milestones achieved, challenges faced, and the way forward for enhancing the program’s impact.



DYD workshop engages educators, academic leaders across J&K



The National Education Policy (NEP) Cell in collaboration with Centre for Design Your Degree, University of Kashmir organized a workshop under its flagship Design Your Degree (DYD) program. The workshop brought together academic leaders, faculty mentors and NEP core committee experts from across Jammu and Kashmir to co-create a roadmap for the DYD program.

Inaugurating the workshop, Vice Chancellor KU

Prof Nilofer Khan emphasized the significance of DYD as a transformative academic model. “DYD is not just about breaking rigid structures; it is about building academic freedom. Our students must be given the space to dream, design and define their learning paths. This initiative, DYD, is close to my heart since it aligns deeply with the NEP’s call for innovative, student-led education”, she said.

The workshop brought together mentors and faculty members from all DYD Centres across J&K, facilitating thematic brainstorming sessions on curriculum design, project integration, skill-based learning and interdisciplinary frameworks. A highlight of the workshop was the participation of Prof. Shobha Bhagai, Director CIC, Delhi University, who brought a deep interdisciplinary lens to the discussion. She reiterated, “DYD offers a rare platform for building not only knowledge but insight. It promotes emotional intelligence, critical reflection and mental well-being — all of which are crucial for the youth of this century.”

Coordinator Centre for DYD KU Prof. Syeda Afshana, while presenting the vote of thanks said, “This workshop is not about tweaking formats. It’s about rewriting the script of education. DYD is a living curriculum, shaped by questions, not just answers. It aims to build thinkers, not just graduates.”



IoT organises three-day AI, robotics bootcamp

The University of Kashmir (KU) organised three-day bootcamp on “AI and Robotics: Designing Futures, Building Pathways” at the Institute of Technology (IoT) Zakura Campus.

The camp, which was organised by the Centre for Design Your Own Degree (CDYD), (IoT), Zakura Campus, aimed to equip students with emerging technological skills and hands-on experience in artificial intelligence and robotics.

The bootcamp featured practical sessions on AI prototyping, mini AI projects, and team-based problem solving, aimed at nurturing innovation, teamwork, and critical thinking.

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that such bootcamps are essential in preparing students for the rapidly changing technological landscape.

“We are committed to nurturing young minds with the skills, creativity, and confidence required to lead in the era of artificial intelligence and automation,” she said, commending the organisers for creating a collaborative learning platform.

Prof. Syeda Afshana, Coordinator, CDYD, IoT Zakura Campus, highlighted that the workshop aimed to introduce students to the fundamentals of AI and robotics through experiential learning and collaborative problem-solving.

Students from the Zakura Campus KU, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Amar Singh College, and Islamia College of Science and Commerce Srinagar participated in the bootcamp. They shared their learning experiences and key takeaways during the valedictory session, while expressing satisfaction over the opportunity to gain practical exposure to emerging technologies.



IoT organises Computer Numerical Control workshop

To equip students with industry-relevant skills in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology (IoT), University of Kashmir (KU), Zakura Campus, organised a two-week hands-on workshop titled ‘Mastering Innovative CNC Machining Practices.’

The workshop focused on practical training in CNC programming, machine operations, and precision manufacturing techniques. It aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and industrial applications, enhancing students’ technical competencies and preparing them for the evolving job market.



Speaking at the inaugural session, Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefudin Pirzada, emphasized the growing role of CNC technology in modern manufacturing and its significance for engineering students.

“This workshop provides students with the hands-on expertise needed to excel in advanced machining and automation, crucial for meeting industry demands,” he said.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, stressed on the importance of skill-based education and said, “Hands-on training is key to improving employability and practical exposure to CNC machining will give students a competitive edge in the manufacturing sector.”

Director, IoT Zakura KU, Prof. M. Tariq Banday, highlighted the institute’s commitment to offering high-quality technical education and industry-focused training to make sure students are well-equipped for emerging technological advancements. Coordinator, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IoT Zakura KU, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Najar, outlined the objectives of the workshop.

NEP cell holds leadership workshop for college principals

To strengthen leadership skills and enhance institutional governance in line with NEP 2020, the NEP Cell, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day capacity-building workshop on ‘Cultivating Visionary Leadership: Empowering College Principals as Catalysts of Institutional Transformation’ at the varsity.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasized the crucial role of college principals in shaping the higher education landscape.

“Leadership training is essential for driving meaningful change in our institutions. This program will equip principals with the necessary skills to effectively implement NEP 2020,” she said.



Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin

Pirzada and Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their remarks highlighted the importance of empowering academic leaders with strategic competencies to optimize resources and enhance institutional efficiency.

The workshop brought together college principals across the valley. Over two days, participants engaged in five technical sessions led by expert resource persons focusing on leadership development, resource optimization, and policy execution.



KU's engineering students secure prestigious BEL placement

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, has provisionally selected three final-year Electronics & Communication Engineering students from the varsity's Institute of Technology (IOT), Zakura Campus. The selected students- Amaan Abbas, Taaha Manzoor Shah, and Bhat Mufasir Nazir—will be joining BEL as Fixed Term Engineers (E-II Grade) at an impressive annual package of ₹12 lakh.

The on-campus recruitment drive, held for Electronics & Communication Engineering students, included a company presentation, a written test, and in-depth panel interviews conducted by a senior team from BEL's Bangalore unit.

Out of 21 participants, 16 were shortlisted and 3 secured final selection. The students are to be posted across BEL units in Srinagar, Leh, Awantipora, and Pathankot. Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the selected students on their exceptional achievement.

Earlier, Ahsan Imtiyaz, a final-year Mechanical Engineering student from IoT Zakura, was also selected by BEL with the same CTC, reinforcing KU's growing profile in national PSU placements. This achievement has been widely appreciated as a motivating benchmark for aspiring engineers across the region.



KU organises teachers training camp on Mathematical Olympiad



The Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)-TIFR Mumbai and the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM), DAE, Government of India, organised a four-day Teachers Training Camp on Mathematical Olympiad.

The programme is aimed at empowering selected school teachers from across Kashmir to guide and nurture young mathematical talent for Olympiads and to promote advanced problem-solving skills at the school level.

The teachers received expert training from Prof. Amitabha Tripathi (IIT

Delhi), Prof. Shanta Laishram (ISI Delhi), and Mr. Alok Kumar (HBCSE, Mumbai).

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, "Mathematics is a discipline of universal relevance and forms the backbone of all sciences and social sciences. Training teachers in advanced problem-solving and Olympiad methods is a crucial step towards building a strong foundation of mathematical talent in our schools."

She further said that such initiatives not only enhance teachers' capacities but also enable them to inspire and mentor students to think critically and competitively at the national and international level.



KU awards ₹56 lakh grant to promote student startups

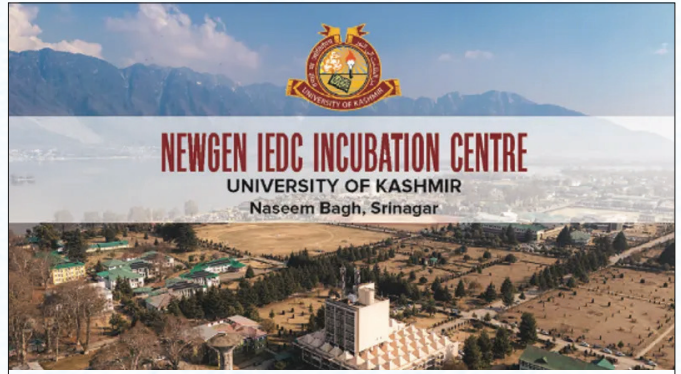
The University of Kashmir's NewGen IEDC Incubation Centre has sanctioned ₹56 lakh in Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to seven promising startups under the TIDE 2.0 and GENESIS schemes, supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, personally handed over the GIA selection letters to the startup founders. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Khan reaffirmed the university's commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

"The varsity is dedicated to empowering young innovators by providing financial, technical, and mentorship support.

"These grants will help our student entrepreneurs transform their ideas into successful ventures," she said.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal emphasized the significance of startups in driving economic growth and employment, and said, "The university is committed to providing young innovators with the necessary resources and support to transform their ideas into impactful businesses."

This event marks an important milestone in the University's efforts to promote entrepreneurship, positioning it as one of the leading and reliable hubs for startup incubation in the region.



KU-Intel India exchange MoU, launch AI courses



The University of Kashmir (KU) launched two new courses 'AI for Agriculture' and 'AI for Future Workforce' in collaboration with Intel India, marking a major step towards integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in diverse fields of study and practice. The initiative is being coordinated by the varsity's Department of Electronics & Instrumentation Technology. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between KU and Intel India on the occasion.

The newly introduced programmes are designed to train students and researchers in applying AI-based

solutions to local and global challenges, particularly in areas like sustainable farming, food security, and workforce preparedness for emerging industries. The courses are part of Intel's Digital Readiness Program and will be supported by the establishment of an AI Skill Lab at the campus, enabling hands-on training, innovation, and interdisciplinary research in the field.

Speaking at the launch of courses, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that the introduction of AI-driven courses with Intel India reflects the University's vision of preparing students for future-ready skills while simultaneously addressing local and global challenges.

Ms. Shatarupa Dasgupta, National Program Manager, Intel Digital Readiness Program, said that the collaboration emphasizes the ethical use of AI and its role in building socially impactful solutions for the future.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Director DIQA KU, and Dr. Farooq Ahmad Khanday, Head, DEIT KU.



Workshop on patent commercialization underscores growing culture of innovation & IP protection

The University of Kashmir (KU) organised a workshop on “Intellectual Property Rights: Commercialization and Licensing of Patents”, underscoring its growing commitment to innovation, technology transfer and protection of intellectual assets at a time when patenting and IP-led growth are assuming centrality in national and global economies.

Organised jointly by the University’s Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), NewGen IEDC and IPR Cell, the programme brought together innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs to deliberate on the patent filing process, licensing frameworks and pathways for successful commercialization.

Vice-Chancellor KU Prof Nilofer Khan, who inaugurated the workshop, said the University is making significant strides in filing and securing patents, which reflects KU’s larger vision of fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

“In today’s knowledge-driven economy, safeguarding innovations through patenting and licensing is not merely a legal requirement but a strategic imperative for national development and for enabling our youth to transform ideas into viable enterprises,” she said.

Director DIQA, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Shah, said the workshop was designed to blend theory with practice by offering insights into patent filing, claims drafting, commercialization strategies and licensing modalities.

During the technical sessions, Ms. Kiran from IIT Delhi and Dr. Gauri Gargate from IIT Kharagpur guided the participants through case studies, practical exercises, and expert discussions to help them understand patent claims, filing processes, and strategies for commercialization and licensing.



KU organises capacity building program on 'NextGen Libraries'

To enhance professional competencies of library and information science professionals, the Allama Iqbal Library (AIL), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a capacity building program on 'NextGen Libraries: Skill Upgradation for Library and Information Science Professionals'. Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that libraries are the intellectual heartbeat of academic institutions and must keep pace with emerging technologies and user needs.



"Our libraries must evolve into dynamic knowledge hubs, integrating traditional resources with modern digital services to meet the aspirations of 21st century learners," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said the program would provide a timely platform for librarians to upgrade their skills.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, appreciated the initiative, stating that professional development in the library sector is vital for sustaining academic excellence and ensuring students' easy access to quality information resources.

A key highlight of the inaugural was the launch of a mental fitness and wellness division 'Beyond Books' at AIL, designed to promote holistic well-being among students and staff.

IoT holds awareness programme on cybersecurity



The Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day awareness programme on "Cybersecurity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" at the university's Main Campus, aligning with the observance of global cybersecurity awareness month.

The programme aims to raise awareness and build capacity among students, researchers, and professionals on emerging challenges in cybersecurity, particularly in the context of rapidly evolving AI-driven technologies.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that technological progress must be accompanied by strong awareness about cyber ethics and data safety.

"As AI becomes deeply integrated into our lives, understanding cybersecurity is essential for responsible digital citizenship," she said, adding that the varsity is committed to preparing its students to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly, and with critical awareness.

DIG Traffic Kashmir, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood (IPS), highlighted the growing threat of cybercrimes in the digital era and urged students to act as informed digital citizens who can identify, prevent, and report such crimes responsibly.



KU launches AIM NITI Aayog ATL Sarthi

Speaking at the launch of ATL Sarthi at University of Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is transforming India into a society driven by innovation.

He said India is a global leader in Artificial Intelligence, AI-driven solutions for various sectors and expanding its reach to design and development.

The University serves as a nodal institution for the ATL Sarthi initiative, collaborating with NITI Aayog to establish robust monitoring mechanisms and strong institutional linkages with Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across J&K. The initiative will focus on providing mentorship, capacity building for ATL teachers, and guiding students in transforming ideas into commercial prototypes.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the ATL Sarthi initiative aimed at connecting every Atal Tinkering Lab to a larger ecosystem of guidance and mentorship.

“The Atal Tinkering Lab is a fitting tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These Labs are empowering our young students and providing them with the tools for new discovery and self-development, and imparting skills like problem-solving. By nurturing the curiosity of India’s ‘Amrit Generation,’ ATL labs are laying the foundation for a developed and aspirational nation,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the steady transformation taking place in J&K’s innovation ecosystem at the school level by Atal Tinkering Labs.

He also visited the stalls showcasing the innovative projects by the students of ATLs and interacted with the young innovators.

The occasion also witnessed the release of the coffee table book celebrating the successful innovations by the ATL students from Jammu Kashmir. The representatives of Corporate and Foundation partners also briefed on their CSR initiatives aimed at fostering a stronger innovation ecosystem in the UT of J&K.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy & Space also graced the launch ceremony.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Deepak Bagla, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education; Ms. Deepali Upadhyay, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission; Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, Kashmir University; senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members, teachers, and students of Atal Tinkering Labs were present.



STUDENT EXCELLENCE YOUTH & CULTURE

This section captures the vibrant spirit of student life at the University of Kashmir, marked by national-level achievements, youth leadership, cultural expression, and academic enrichment beyond the classroom. From debates and competitive exams to literature, arts, and youth parliaments, these highlights reflect a campus culture that nurtures talent, creativity, and confident young voices.



Annual youth festival 'Sonzal-2025' held, VC felicitates winners

The University of Kashmir (KU) organised its annual youth festival Sonzal 2025 at the Main Campus. The week-long festival was organised by the varsity's Division of Youth Affairs under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare (DSW). This year's edition brought together hundreds of students from varsity's main and satellite campuses, alongside participants from affiliated and constituent colleges across the Valley. Over the past seven days, students engaged in a range of cultural, literary, and creative competitions, turning the festival into a space for expression, collaboration, and artistic exchange. It featured events including quiz, debate, elocution, collage-making, poster-making, painting, rangoli competition, cartoon-making, clay-modelling, Indian and Western vocals and other activities.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, applauded the dedication shown by students throughout the festival.

"Sonzal is both a festival and a meeting ground for diverse voices and emerging talent. Our students have participated with exceptional energy. We must now aim to scale it into a national-level event by inviting universities from across the country," she said.

She also congratulated participants, jury members, and organisers for the smooth conduct of the festival and noted that platforms like Sonzal help youngsters articulate ideas, share experiences, and discover new strengths beyond academics. Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, highlighted the significance of cultural forums in shaping confident and socially aware youth. Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Ideel Saleem (JKAS), appreciated the artistic range displayed by the participants and reaffirmed the Academy's support for such initiatives.

The festival was sponsored by J&K Bank, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and Cemtac Cements.



IKU lifts IAPPD National Debate Championship trophy in Delhi

The University of Kashmir (KU) has emerged victorious at the IAPPD National Debate Championship held in Delhi, defeating some of the most prestigious universities across the country.

The KU national debate team, led by Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer, KU comprised outstanding debaters Syed Noha H. Balkhi and Jazza Bhat. Their exceptional performance secured the championship trophy, marking a historic win for the university.



Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, while congratulating the team said, “This remarkable achievement reflects the academic strength and debating prowess of our students. I congratulate the team and their mentor, Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, for bringing this national honor to the University of Kashmir. Their success inspires our entire student community to aim higher and excel on national and international platforms.”

Prof. Pervez Ahmed, Dean Students Welfare, KU said, “This championship win showcases the power of knowledge, dialogue, and informed debate. Our students have made us immensely proud with their outstanding performance. Such achievements strengthen the university’s reputation and motivate future generations to strive for excellence.”

Congratulating team KU, Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, New Delhi said. “The University of Kashmir team displayed exceptional debating skills, critical thinking, and confidence that truly set them apart. Their arguments were not only well-researched but also delivered with remarkable conviction. KU’s victory is well deserved, and IAPPD applauds their excellence in intellectual discourse. We look forward to seeing them continue to shine on national and international platforms.”

KU celebrates Hindi Diwas with great enthusiasm



The Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a special event to celebrate Hindi Diwas, highlighting the significance of Hindi as a link language and its role in strengthening India’s linguistic and cultural diversity.

The aim of the event was to create awareness about the importance of Hindi in promoting national integration, encourage students to appreciate its literary richness, and to promote dialogue on preserving and nurturing Indian languages in academic spaces.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan said, “Hindi, as

one of the official languages of our country, not only connects people across regions but also reflects our shared cultural heritage. Celebrating Hindi Diwas inspires our students to appreciate the richness of Indian languages and literature.”

Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature, Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, highlighted the importance of promoting Hindi at the academic level, noting that such celebrations create awareness about the language’s role in education and communication.



National Youth Festival

KU students shine, win top prizes in fine arts



The University of Kashmir (KU) continues its winning streak, with its fine arts team securing two prizes at the 38th Inter-University National Youth Festival, organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by Amity University, Noida.

Suhail Muhammad Khan bagged the second prize, while Heena Mushtaq, accompanied by Jaza Bashir, clinched the third prize in the Mehendi design competition.

Congratulating the winners, Vice Chancellor, KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, said the university takes immense pride in the achievements of its students. “Our

students continue to make a mark at national platforms, demonstrating their talent, dedication, and creativity. This success reinforces our varsity’s commitment to fostering excellence in all spheres,” she said.

Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, lauded the students for their commendable performance, stating that winning at such a prestigious festival reflects their immense potential.

Dean Students’ Welfare KU Prof Pervez Ahmed, also congratulated the team, emphasizing that the university will continue to encourage and support students in their pursuit of excellence in cultural and artistic domains.



38 CCPC KU students qualify JKCE-2025 prelims

The University of Kashmir’s Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC) has recorded a remarkable achievement as 38 out of 45 candidates presently enrolled at the Residential Coaching Academy (RCA) of the centre have successfully cleared the Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE) Prelims- 2025, the results of which were recently announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC).

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the successful candidates and lauded their dedication and hard work.

“This achievement reflects the perseverance of our students and the quality of coaching provided at CCPC. The university remains committed to equipping aspirants with the best possible guidance and resources to excel in civil services examinations,” she said.

Prof. Khan also held an interactive session with the qualified students at CCPC and encouraged them to remain focused and dedicated in their preparation for the mains exam. She assured them of the university’s full support in ensuring they have access to the necessary coaching and resources without any hurdles.

The CCPC at KU has been playing a pivotal role in mentoring and training students for various competitive exams. Through expert faculty, structured guidance, and comprehensive study material, the centre has been instrumental in helping students achieve their professional goals.





Viksit
Bharat



Youth Parliament -2025

To encourage youth engagement in various democratic processes and policy discussions, the National Service Scheme (NSS), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament-2025 under the initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

The event, themed 'One Nation, One Election: Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat,' aimed to develop critical thinking and leadership skills among young participants.

While presiding over the inaugural session Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the significance of such platforms in shaping responsible and visionary youth.

"Our young minds are full of potential and innovative ideas. Engaging in discussions on national policies will empower them to contribute meaningfully to society and bring laurels to the university," she said, while wishing the participants success in the competition.

Program Coordinator NSS KU, Dr. Wakar Amin Zargar informed that the district-level competitions were held in Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Budgam, targeting the 18-25 age group, with winners progressing to the next stage.

During the two-day deliberations the participants presented their views before a panel of judges, who evaluated them based on clarity of thought, articulation, and understanding of the topic.



Yuva Connect programme



To empower youth voices and engage them in nation-building, the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, organised a three-day programme on Viksit Bharat 'My Bharat- Yuva Connect'.

Financial Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, UT of J&K, Shri Shantmanu (IAS), who was the chief guest at the valedictory function, highlighted the significance of Yuva Connect in promoting love for the nation and preparing the youth to contribute meaningfully towards making India a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

"Youth are the driving force for a progressive India, and such platforms help channel their potential in constructive directions," he said.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and urged them to remain proactive in addressing societal challenges.

"Our youth must be prepared to lead with vision, compassion, and responsibility, as they are the architects of Viksit Bharat @2047," she said.

A pledge was also taken on the occasion, and a short film on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Yuva Connect was screened. The event also saw a skit on drug addiction performed by the University Drama Club, conveying strong messages about healthy lifestyle choices. The winners of the various competitions were also felicitated on the occasion.



KU's Youth Parliament team secures spot among top 8 national finalists

The University of Kashmir's (KU's) Youth Parliament Team has emerged victorious in the group-level competition of the 17th National Youth Parliament, organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India. With this commendable achievement, the team has now qualified for the final round of the National-Level Youth Parliament, marking a proud moment for the University and the region.

Held under the banner of promoting democratic values, leadership and parliamentary knowledge among students, the competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from leading institutions across the country. The KU team stood out for its powerful presentation, clarity of thought and spirited debate, reflecting the University's commitment to nurturing talent and youth leadership.

The selection of the team to the final round of this prestigious national competition is a testament to their hard work, dedication and the vibrant culture of student engagement promoted by the Division of Youth Affairs, under the aegis of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir.

VC KU Prof Nilofer Khan while applauding the team said "This achievement reflects the intellectual potential and disciplined energy of our youth. I commend the team and the mentor for bringing such laurels to the University and the region. The Youth Parliament is vibrant platform that cultivates leadership, civic awareness and the ability to articulate one's vision for the country. I am proud of the way our youth parliament team has represented the University and of the efforts made by the Department of Students Welfare in nurturing such talent."



Seminar on 'Shiksha, Sahitya aur Sanskriti'

To develop critical engagement with the themes of education, literature, and culture, the Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with Sahitya Sanchay Shodh Samvad Foundation, New Delhi, organised a two-day International Seminar on the theme "Shiksha, Sahitya aur Sanskriti".

The inaugural session was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who commended the Department of Hindi for organising meaningful academic and socially relevant programmes that draw student and scholarly participation.

"Literature and education are integral to nurturing culturally aware and socially responsible individuals. It is through such platforms that we strengthen our academic foundations and cultural roots," Prof. Khan said in her address.

Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature KU, Prof. Aejaaz Mohammed Sheikh, underscored the intrinsic connection between education, literature, and culture, and their role in shaping societal values.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Sahitya Sanchay Shodh Samvad Foundation, delivered the keynote speech, emphasising how education, literature and culture can foster inclusive development and critical thinking in modern society.

Renowned academician Prof. Rajesh Srivastava also addressed the gathering and encouraged academic institutions to continue playing a key role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage through scholarship.

Prof. Rubi Zutshi, Head, Department of Hindi KU, delivered the welcome address, introducing the theme and appreciating the collaboration that made the event possible.



Workshop on creative writing, soft skills



To enhance students' writing skills and professional communication, the Department of English, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University, Andhra Pradesh, organised a one-week workshop on 'Creative & Academic Writing and Soft Skills Development' at the varsity.

The workshop was held under the sponsorship scheme of the Higher Education Council.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasized the importance of creative and academic writing in today's professional world.

"Our university is committed to the holistic development of students and this workshop will help them refine their communication skills. Soft skills development is a key focus of NEP 2020, and such initiatives will prepare students to express their ideas effectively," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the significance of the workshop in enhancing students' and scholars' ability to engage in structured and impactful writing.

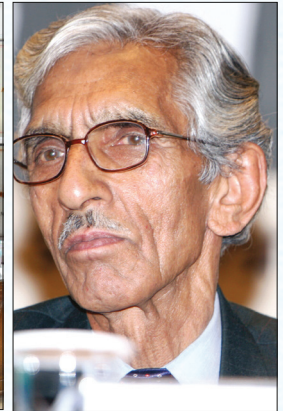
Resource person of the workshop, Dr. Ananya Dasgupta, Director, Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University, underlined the importance of writing in shaping careers.

"This workshop is designed to help students develop clarity in creative and academic writing while also enhancing their soft skills for a well-rounded learning experience," she said.

Prof. Iffat Maqbool, Head, Department of English, stressed on the growing importance of soft skills and effective communication in today's fast-evolving world.



KU, Sahitya Akademi honour Jnanpith laureate Rehman Rahi



Jnanpith awardee Kashmiri poet, translator and critic Rehman Rahi (1925–2023) was the focus of a two-day national seminar jointly organised by the Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir (KU), and the Sahitya Akademi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Widely regarded as a major literary voice, Rahi's Kashmiri poetry and literary scholarship bridged regional, national and international literatures, while his role as a translator, critic, and author of the University anthem cemented his place as a cultural icon.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who was the chief guest at the inaugural session, recalled Rahi's lasting impact on literary and cultural life and announced a dedicated hall in his name at the University.

She urged the Department of Urdu to organise more such scholarly and cultural events to keep literary traditions alive.

"Honouring Rehman Rahi is our duty as an academic community; his work teaches us how literature can bridge languages and shape identity," she said.

Dr. Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address, highlighted Rahi's national stature and the significance of holding the commemoration in Kashmir.

"Rahi's poetry and critical work occupy a distinct place in Indian letters; celebrating his life here recognises both his art and the region that shaped him," he said.

The seminar was organised as part of events marking Rehman Rahi's birth centenary, which brought together eminent scholars and writers to critically examine his contributions to Kashmiri verse, Urdu criticism, and comparative literature. The event—part literary tribute and part scholarly engagement—featured technical sessions, paper presentations and panel discussions that explored Rahi's legacy and his role as a link between diverse cultural traditions.

National seminar on Rahi

The Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Shri Pran Kishor Koul Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), KU organised a two-day national seminar on "Prof. Rehman Rahi's Contribution to Kashmiri Literature" at the Main Campus.

Conceptualised as both an academic and cultural tribute, the seminar reflects on the life and work of Prof. Rehman Rahi—Kashmir's most distinguished poet, critic, translator, and the only Kashmiri writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "Remembering Prof. Rehman Rahi is also a reminder of how literature shapes cultural memory. His work continues to inspire generations, and it is our responsibility to keep such voices alive through research and academic engagement."

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that the seminar offers an important platform to revisit Rahi's contributions and encourages young scholars to explore Kashmiri literature with renewed academic interest.

Prof. Shafi Shauq, former Head, Department of Kashmiri KU, Dr. Habibullah Shah, Principal, IMFA KU, Prof. Aadil Amin Kak, Head, Department of Kashmiri paid glowing tributes to Rahi. Prof. Kak also highlighted the department's long standing role in preserving and promoting Kashmiri language and literature.

Two significant academic publications were also released on the occasion: Anhaar—the latest volume of the Department's annual peer-reviewed research journal, and the Kashmiri translation of the Nilamata Purana, an important cultural and historical text.



KU celebrates timeless legacy of Dr. Rahi Masoom Raza

A three-day international seminar celebrating the literary and cinematic legacy of Dr. Rahi Masoom Raza, an acclaimed Urdu and Hindi poet, novelist, and celebrated Bollywood lyricist, was organised at the University of Kashmir (KU). The event was jointly organized by the varsity's Department of Students Welfare (DSW) and IDEA Communications, drawing together noted scholars, poets, and creative practitioners to explore Dr Rahi's contributions to Indian literature and cinema.

Throughout the seminar, scholars reflected on Rahi's unique writing that seamlessly blended lyricism with social consciousness and poetry with popular culture.

Speakers highlighted how his works, from evocative novels to iconic Bollywood scripts, continue to illuminate themes of identity, community, and social consciousness in India's cultural fabric.

The three-day literary event commenced with the inaugural session graced by Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K and Chancellor of the University, Shri Manoj Sinha, who highlighted the continuing significance of Rahi's writings in shaping India's cultural and intellectual consciousness.

He emphasized that Rahi's works transcended linguistic boundaries, reflecting the composite spirit of Indian society and its deep human values.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, reflected on the relevance of Rahi's writings in contemporary times. "Rahi Masoom Raza's legacy reminds us that literature and cinema are not confined to art, they are mirrors of society that inspire reflection, unity, and compassion," she said.

Renowned Bollywood lyricist Sameer Anjaan, described Rahi as "a poet who wrote not just with ink but with empathy," adding that "Rahi's words found rhythm in the struggles of ordinary people and became an anthem for unity and humanity."

The seminar witnessed the participation of several distinguished scholars and writers, including Prof. Abu Bakar Abad (Delhi University), Dr. Noor Amrohvi (USA), Aziz Nabeel (Qatar), Prof. Shafey Kidwai (Aligarh Muslim University), Prof. Arun Hota (West Bengal State University), Prof. Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad), and Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh (University of Kashmir), among others.

Over 40 Urdu and Hindi scholars presented their papers, engaging with Rahi's vast work that seamlessly bridged literature, poetry, and film.

As part of the seminar's cultural component, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) hosted a grand International Urdu Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, which drew an overwhelming response from the Urdu literary fraternity. Presided over by Prof. Navin Chandra Lohani, a noted Hindi poet and scholar, the Mushaira brought together voices from across India, celebrating the linguistic and poetic diversity that Rahi championed throughout his life.

The three-day event concluded on a reflective note, reaffirming Rahi Masoom Raza's position as a creative visionary who blurred the lines between literature, poetry, and cinema, inspiring generations to find art in the everyday and meaning in the ordinary.



National workshop on Sharda script

The Department of Persian, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a 15-day National Workshop on Sharda Script (Basic Level) at the Main Campus.

The workshop helped familiarise participants with the fundamentals of the ancient Sharda script, promote its preservation, and encourage research on Kashmir's rich manuscript heritage.

The event is sponsored by the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India under Gyan Bharatham initiative. The workshop featured expert sessions on the fundamentals of Sharda script, manuscript preservation, palaeography, and transcription techniques.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the University remains committed to preserving and promoting India's linguistic and cultural heritage.

"The Sharda script holds immense historical and cultural value for Kashmir. By reviving interest in it, we are not only safeguarding a tradition but also reconnecting with a vital part of our identity," she said.

Shri Samar Nanda (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, and Dr. Anirban Dash, Director, NMM, Ministry of Culture, in their virtual addresses, commended the University's initiative and emphasised the need to train young scholars in traditional scripts to expand manuscript research in India.





SPORTS, FITNESS & **INCLUSIVITY**

This section highlights the University of Kashmir's vibrant sports culture, marked by national-level championships, mass participation events, and a strong emphasis on fitness and inclusivity. From competitive tournaments to awareness runs and wellness initiatives, these activities reflect KU's commitment to building resilience, unity, and healthy lifestyles across the campus community.



Youth of Kashmir inspiring the nation: Union MoS Raksha Khadse

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Smt Raksha Khadse, graced the inaugural day of the Annual Inter-College Athletic Meet 2025 at the University of Kashmir (KU), celebrating the record participation of over 500 athletes from 25 affiliated colleges, including KU's postgraduate contingent.

The three-day event, organised by the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports (DPES), KU, features more than 20 track and field events across Men's and Women's divisions.

Attending the medal ceremony and distributing prizes among winners, Smt Khadse lauded the enthusiastic participation of students, particularly young women athletes.

"The energy and determination of youth in Kashmir is inspiring," Ms. Khadse said. "Active involvement in sports will not only bring laurels at national and international levels but also strengthen India's journey towards becoming a Viksit Bharat."

KU Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan inaugurated the championship as Chief Guest, congratulating the contingents and reaffirming the University's commitment to developing modern sports infrastructure for budding athletes.

"Sports is central to our vision," Prof. Khan said. "We aim to create platforms that nurture talent and prepare our students to excel at local, national and global levels."



Red Run Marathon to raise awareness on HIV AIDS, drug abuse



Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo flagged off 5-KM Red Run 2025 to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote healthy lifestyles. The race was organised by Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in collaboration with University of Kashmir to spread awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and break the stigma associated with the disease.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena

Itoo emphasized the importance of collective action in combating stigma and promoting awareness around HIV/AIDS. The minister further said that the Youth of J&K have a pivotal role to play in eradicating drug menace, besides fighting other societal issues and problems. She highlighted that the energy and excitement among the young participants reflected their strong commitment toward spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease. Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Dr. Nilofer Khan and Project Director, JKACS, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of continued youth engagement and community-driven awareness campaigns to achieve the vision of an AIDS-free J&K.

The Red Run 2025, a 5-kilometer awareness run commenced from the scenic Foreshore Road and concluded at the University of Kashmir witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 500 students representing various colleges across the Srinagar district.

On the sidelines of the Run, a 2-kilometer Walkathon was also organized by the JKACS in collaboration with the Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, which saw the participation of more than 300 students from the University of Kashmir. The Walkathon served as a powerful symbol of unity, compassion, and shared responsibility in combating HIV/AIDS and promoting inclusivity.

The winners of the Red Run were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding performances, celebrating both their athletic achievements and their commitment to the cause.



All India Inter-University Powerlifting Championship held at KU

To celebrate sportsmanship, strength, and determination, the University of Kashmir (KU) hosted the All India Inter-University Powerlifting Championship 2025 at the varsity.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, UT J&K, Shri Satish Sharma, who graced the event as Chief Guest, praised the varsity for successfully hosting the championship and declared the event open.

“This powerlifting event is not just about physical strength; it represents the inner resilience and determination of our youth. The inclusion of separate competitions for men and women in this championship will set a new benchmark in promoting inclusivity and empowerment in J&K,” he said.

Organised by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPES), KU, in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the four-day event witnessed participation of over 1000 athletes from 160 universities across the country. Separate powerlifting events are being held for men and women.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her address, expressed pride in hosting the championship and extended her best wishes to all participating athletes. She also highlighted the University’s notable achievements in sports and its ongoing commitment to promoting athletic excellence.

“It’s a historic moment for our university. We are proud to bring together some of the country’s strongest and most determined athletes. This event reflects our commitment to inclusivity, equality, and sporting excellence,” she said.

“This event has etched the University of Kashmir into the annals of national sports history. The passion and perseverance displayed by athletes from every corner of India show how sports continue to unify and empower youth,” Prof. Khan said.

Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, also spoke on the occasion and emphasised the importance of sports in building character, promoting physical fitness and national unity.



Inter-department road race

To develop a spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and gender inclusivity among students, the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports (DPE&S), University of Kashmir (KU), organised an Inter-Department Road Race for Men and Women.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from various teaching departments and satellite campuses, filling the early morning air with energy and competitive spirit.

The men's race began from the historic Nishat Garden and the women's race from scenic Shalimar Ghat, both culminating at the University's Rumi Gate. The races were flagged off by Dr. Surjeet Singh, Coordinator, DPE&S. KU.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chishti, Director, Directorate of Distance Education and Online Learning KU, who felicitated the winners, said such events play a vital role in student development and encouraged youth to actively engage in competitive sports. The event concluded with a medal distribution ceremony.



Special marathon for differently-abled students

To promote the values of inclusion, empowerment, and dignity, the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a Special Marathon for Differently-Abled students at the main campus.

The marathon started at the varsity's Maulana Rumi Gate and concluded at the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) KU. A valedictory and felicitation ceremony followed, honouring all the participating students for their inspiring spirit and perseverance.

While addressing the gathering and felicitating the participants, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, praised the efforts of the students and said, "Our differently-abled students have not only completed a marathon but they have also led a movement of courage, dignity, and inclusion. Our varsity remains deeply committed to building spaces where every student, regardless of ability, feels respected, celebrated, and empowered."

While flagging off the Marathon Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal said the event symbolised resilience and hope. He added that such initiatives remind the campus community of the deep strength and potential residing in every student, and reaffirmed the University's commitment to inclusivity.

In his welcome address, Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Parvez Ahmad, highlighted the importance of such platforms in developing a spirit of confidence and recognition among differently-abled students.



Inter-college volleyball, weightlifting tournaments

The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPE&S), KU organised Inter-College Volleyball and Weightlifting tournaments, organized by the More than 320 athletes from various colleges participated across men's and women's categories.

Held under the University's Annual Sports Calendar, the tournaments showcased outstanding talent, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit, providing a platform for students to qualify for All India and North Zone Inter-University Championships under the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.

Women's Volleyball



Inter-College Table Tennis tournament at KU



Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPE&S), KU organised the annual Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament (men) as part of its annual sports calendar.

Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar, lifted the trophy after an impressive final performance (3-0). The tournament, held over three days, witnessed participation from 16 affiliated colleges across Kashmir, bringing together over 100 talented paddlers who displayed remarkable skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

In the grand finale, Islamia College Srinagar defeated GDC Anantnag with 3-0 to clinch the title. The

third-place match (bronze) was played between GDC Uri and GDC Baramulla, wherein GDC Baramulla emerged victorious. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Dr. Surjeet Singh, Coordinator, DPE&S KU, congratulated the winners and runners-up teams and emphasised the Directorate's continuous efforts to enhance the competitiveness and excitement of these tournaments by ensuring the involvement of all affiliated colleges.



International Day of Yoga-2025 at KU

To mark International Day of Yoga 2025, the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM) organised a vibrant yoga session under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" on the university's athletic track at sports ground, under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

It began with the live telecast of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 11th consecutive International Day of Yoga address to the nation, following which the yoga session commenced under the morning sun in the scenic campus setting. The session was synchronised with over one lakh locations across the country as part of the nationwide 'Yoga Sangam' initiative' which promotes collective participation and harmony. Participants performed the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), designed by the Ministry of AYUSH to ensure a standardised and holistic yoga experience across all centres.

The atmosphere was filled with energy, mindfulness, and collective spirit as more than 1,500 participants joined the session at the university sports grounds. These included senior university officers, faculty members, non-teaching staff, NSS KU volunteers, students from the main and satellite campuses including North and South Campus, students from KU hostels, representatives from RRIUM, and students from nearby schools.

A team of three certified yoga trainers- Mr. Mohammad Tahir Bhat, Mr. Tahir Hussian, Mr. Zahid Shah, led the gathering through a structured series of asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques.

The Public Relations Centre and Directorate of IT & SS, KU, facilitated the live streaming of the event across social media platforms to enable a wide virtual participation.

In her message, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the transformative potential of yoga in contemporary life.

"Yoga is not just a physical discipline; it is a way of life that promotes balance, peace, and strength. As we celebrate this day, let us commit ourselves to the daily practice of yoga for a healthier and more resilient society," she said.



World Bicycle Day marked with ‘Sundays on Cycle’ event

The University of Kashmir (KU) celebrated World Bicycle Day 2025 with a special edition of ‘Sundays on Cycle’, organised by the varsity’s Department of Students’ Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.

The event aimed to promote a healthy lifestyle, sustainability, and community engagement on campus. Students, faculty members and officers of the varsity actively participated in the cycle rally, demonstrating a shared commitment to well-being and environmental consciousness.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, said, “Cycling is not just a mode of transport, it is a symbol of our commitment to the planet, to our well-being and to shared community values. It is encouraging to see such strong participation in initiatives that promote sustainable and healthy living.”

The cycle marathon was jointly flagged off by Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, HEALTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This section reflects the University of Kashmir's deep engagement with society through community outreach, health initiatives, awareness programmes, inclusive services, and community outreach. From mental health and de-addiction efforts to support for vulnerable groups and large-scale service drives, these initiatives underline KU's commitment to compassion, public well-being, and socially responsible education.



Training programme on psychosocial interventions in drug de-addiction

To equip professionals with practical skills in drug de-addiction and psychosocial interventions, the Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir (KU), inaugurated a one-week training program on 'Psychosocial Interventions in Drug De-Addiction.' The training is being held under the sponsorship scheme of the Higher Education Department, J&K Government.

The program addressed the growing concern of substance abuse by training participants in evidence-based counselling techniques, community outreach strategies, and intervention methodologies. It included expert-led sessions, interactive

discussions, and practical exposure to enhance hands-on learning.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in tackling substance abuse at the grassroots level.

"Drug addiction is not just an individual struggle but a deep-rooted societal issue. We need to reach communities, educate people, and work collectively to build a support system that helps in rehabilitation and prevention," she remarked.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, stressed on the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing addiction.

In his keynote address, Head, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS Srinagar, Dr. Mohammad Maqbool Dar, spoke about the alarming rise in substance abuse cases in the valley.

"Drug addiction is a global health crisis and combating it requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society. This training will provide participants with the necessary knowledge and methodologies to address addiction effectively," he said.



Workshop-cum-awareness programme on combating drug abuse

The University of Kashmir (KU) continued its sustained efforts to raise awareness against substance abuse with two impactful events organised by its National Service Scheme (NSS) and Institute of Technology (IOT), Zakura Campus.

NSS, KU organised a one-day workshop-cum-awareness programme on 'Empowering Youth: Combating Drug Abuse and Prioritising Mental Health'. The workshop featured interactive sessions, case studies and open discussions with a panel of distinguished experts in clinical psychology, law enforcement, psychiatry and social work.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the growing drug menace in the region is a grave concern that demands urgent and united action.

"Our youth are the backbone of society, and it is our responsibility to protect them from this threat by equipping them with awareness, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose," she said.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, stressed on the importance of sustained awareness programmes in curbing drug abuse and promoting mental health.

Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Majid, HOD Psychiatry, Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), spoke about the role of parenting in prevention, while Mr. Hilal Khaliq Bhat (JKPS), SP Hazratbal, emphasised collective responsibility to curb the problem. Coordinator NSS KU, Dr. Wakar Amin Zargar, in his welcome address, highlighted the role of youth-driven initiatives in creating awareness.





Free medical camp for Persons with Disabilities

To promote inclusive healthcare and support the well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the Health Centre, University of Kashmir (KU) organised a day-long free medical camp at its main campus.

The camp was organised under the aegis of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir. It was exclusively held for PwD students and staff of the University. The camp provided free specialist consultations in general medicine, ENT, and orthopaedics, in addition to free diagnostic services, eye check-ups, and essential medicines.

In her message, Vice Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan, while reiterating that the Varsity remains deeply committed to inclusive growth and community well-being and said, “This free health camp for PwD’s reflects our resolve to serve all sections of society with compassion and responsibility. We believe that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and through such initiatives we aim to create a more supportive and equitable environment for everyone.”



KU receives electric carts for specially-abled students from J&K Bank

The University of Kashmir received five electric carts from Jammu & Kashmir Bank to facilitate easy mobility of specially-abled students across the campus. The initiative is aimed at making the university environment more inclusive and accessible, ensuring that students with special needs can move conveniently between departments, hostels, and other facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, “This generous support from J&K Bank reflects a strong commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in higher education. The University is determined to create a learner-friendly campus where every student feels supported and empowered.”

She further added that the university has taken several steps to strengthen student support services and will continue to work in partnership with institutions and organisations to enhance facilities for specially-abled students.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day held

To mark the global observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day the Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Aging (CISA), Moul Mouj Foundation (MMF), Srinagar, organised a day-long programme here at KU main campus.

Aimed at sensitising people about the rising concerns of elder abuse and the need to safeguard the dignity and rights of older adults, the programme was attended by faculty, scholars and students of the campus.

During the programme speakers highlighted the importance of elder care, community responsibility, and policy advocacy in addressing the physical, emotional, and financial abuse often faced by elderly people.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, highlighted the importance of compassionate elder care and said, “Our elders are the moral anchors of our society. Protecting their dignity and ensuring their safety is not just a legal responsibility but a cultural and emotional one. The University is committed to promoting a society where elders are valued and respected.”

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in his remarks, said that institutions of higher education must take the lead in shaping youth consciousness around elder care.

Dean, School of Social Sciences KU, Prof. Aneesa Shafi, reflected on the changing social dynamics and the need to cultivate sensitivity among youth regarding elder issues.

Prof. Syeda Afshana, faculty at MERC and Project Head, Intergenerational Communication, spoke about the communication breakdown with elders and emphasized the need to rebuild intergenerational bonds through dialogue and meaningful engagement.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the rights of elderly persons and promote an age-friendly and compassionate society.

Exhibition on Indian Knowledge System

The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), KU, hosted an exhibition at the Central Asian Museum, Allama Iqbal Library, highlighting India’s rich intellectual traditions and cross-cultural exchanges.

Inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor KU Prof Nilofer Khan the exhibition featured ancient coins, bronzes, manuscripts, rare texts, and artifacts from India and Kashmir, as well as exhibits showcasing historic linkages with Central Asia.

The Vice Chancellor said that the initiative aimed to raise awareness among students and scholars about India’s enduring knowledge systems and its deep-rooted cultural connections with Central Asia.

Director CCAS, Prof Wahid Nasru highlighted the significance of such exhibitions on the occasion.





Camp on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

On the blessed occasion of Friday following of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the University of Kashmir's Department of Students' Welfare organised a Social Service Camp at the Sir Syed Gate for the devotees visiting the Hazratbal shrine. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nilofer Khan, personally distributed refreshments, calling the initiative a humble gesture of compassion and care. The devotees expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University for its meaningful contribution on this sacred day.



Social service camp at Kheer Bhawani temple



To promote the spirit of selfless service, unity and harmony among youth, the University of Kashmir (KU) organised a Social Service Camp at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal, on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

The special camp was organised by the varsity's National Service Scheme (NSS) in collaboration with the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW). More than 40 NSS volunteers participated in the camp and distributed refreshments among the devotees attending the mela.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan, in her message, said, "Social service is a powerful expression of human values and

community strength. Through such initiatives, our students not only learn compassion and responsibility but also contribute meaningfully to the inclusive ethos of our society."



Camp at Imambada Zadibal on Ashura

As part of community outreach and activities, the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU) organised a social service camp at Imambada Zadibal, Srinagar. The initiative was aimed to commemorate the great sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions on the day of Ashura.

This great sacrifice was for safeguarding human values, spreading the message of universal brotherhood, harmony and peace.

A dedicated team of student volunteers, under the supervision of Dean Students Welfare KU, served sharbat, juice, and drinking water to thousands of mourners throughout the day and extended a warm sense of care to those attending the spiritual gathering.

Vice Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan, in her message, lauded the efforts of the DSW team and student volunteers, stating, "This act of selfless service reflects the spirit of our university rooted in compassion, community and commitment to societal wellbeing. I am proud of our students who have shown how education extends beyond classrooms into meaningful action."

Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, KU appreciated the initiative and said, "Our students have demonstrated tremendous empathy and responsibility by stepping up to serve the community with humility and grace. Such efforts shape them into well-rounded individuals and responsible citizens."





Inauguration of Tobacco Cessation Center to promote health & well-being on campus

To strengthen its commitment to student health and promote a tobacco-free campus environment, the University of Kashmir (KU) today inaugurated a Tobacco Cessation Center at its University Health Center in collaboration with the Government Dental College, Srinagar.

The center, primarily aimed at supporting students in quitting tobacco, seeks to reduce the risk of tobacco-related diseases, including cardiac and respiratory issues, and enhance the mental well-being and academic performance of students.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed on this occasion between the University and Government Dental College to formalize the partnership.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, while inaugurating the center, said, “This center sends a strong message that the university is committed to the health and wellbeing of its students and employees. It contributes to creating a campus culture that discourages the use of tobacco and related products and.”

Principal, Government Dental College, Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kour Bali emphasized that educational institutions play a broader role in public health, adding that by implementing effective tobacco cessation programs, we actively reduce the social burden of tobacco-related disorders.



North Campus hosts special awareness program on drug de-addiction

To raise awareness and strengthen collective efforts against drug abuse, the NSS Wing, North Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with District Administration Baramulla, J&K, organized a Special Awareness Programme under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The event focused on highlighting the growing concerns around drug addiction and the urgent need to tackle it through education, community involvement, and institutional support. Experts and resource persons from the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare, Police, and Rehabilitation Services shared their perspectives and shed light on the psychological, social, and legal dimensions of substance abuse.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, emphasized the role of awareness and community engagement in curbing the menace.

“Addiction is not just a personal problem; it is a social challenge that demands a collective and compassionate response. We must empower our youth with knowledge and a strong value system to resist such harmful influences,” she said.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Director, North Campus KU, said that prevention begins with conversations at home, in classrooms, and within communities, where young people feel seen, heard, and guided in the right direction.





SEWA PARV 2025

KU organises cultural exhibition, eye camp, student welfare initiatives

The University of Kashmir (KU) joined the nationwide observance of Sewa Parv 2025—a week-long celebration of service and community welfare—with a series of events coordinated by the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW). The celebrations included an exhibition on Indian Knowledge Systems, a two-day free eye screening camp for students and staff and a fruit distribution drive.



Free Eye Screening Camp

A two-day Eye Screening-cum-Awareness Camp was organised at the University Health Centre in collaboration with Kashmir Eye Hospital. More than 600 students, scholars, faculty members, and staff—including women and persons with disabilities—benefited from free services such as vision testing, auto refraction, keratometry, intraocular pressure measurement, slit-lamp examination, and dilated fundus examination.

Specialists also guided participants on preventive eye care, early detection of vision problems, and healthy lifestyle practices to maintain good vision.



Fruit Distribution Drive at KUMHS

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, distributed fruits among students of the Kashmir University Model High School (KUMHS) at Naseem Bagh. Wishing the Prime Minister on his birthday, she said: "The University is committed to nurturing values of care and compassion among students. Such small gestures instil in them the importance of sharing and empathy." The event was attended by Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Dean Students' Welfare KU Prof. Pervez Ahmad, Chairman KUMHS Prof. Adil Amin Kak, and Cultural Officer DSW KU Dr. Shahid Ali Khan.

Festival of service

Part of a countrywide initiative, Sewa Parv (Festival of Service) is observed annually to mark Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's birthday. Across India, the celebrations emphasize volunteerism, compassion, and community engagement, encouraging citizens and institutions alike to contribute to the greater social good.

KU organises health, wellness, environment activities under Sewa Parv 2025.

As part of the Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations, the University of Kashmir (KU) organised a series of health and wellness activities, including a free health camp for female students and staff, a three-day yoga event and a plantation drive on the campus. In addition, KU's Kupwara Campus successfully conducted a large-scale cleanliness and environmental awareness programme. The events were coordinated by varsity's Department of Students' Welfare (DSW).

The health camp, organised by the University Health Centre in collaboration with DSW under the aegis of the Block Medical Officer, Hazratbal, focused on women's health screening with special emphasis on conditions such as anaemia and PCOD. A team of medical experts evaluated the participants, conducted diagnostic tests, and provided counselling on preventive healthcare and lifestyle management.

Dean, DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, said that the initiative was part of the University's efforts to promote the wellbeing of its students and staff. Coordinator, Health Centre KU, Dr. Khalid Nazir, said that the camp provided essential medical support and counselling to the participants.

The camp was managed by Medical Officers KU, Dr. Surayyah Jan and Dr. Azhar Wani. A large number of female students and staff members availed the services and appreciated the University's effort to bring healthcare facilities closer to its community.



Three-day yoga event

The Department of Physical Education & Sports (DPES), KU, organised a three-day yoga event aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental wellbeing, and holistic health among students. The event included daily practice sessions and awareness activities highlighting the benefits of yoga as a lifestyle discipline.



Plantation drive

A plantation drive was also held on the campus by the University Landscape Division in which students and staff actively participated. Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Dean DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed and other officials were present on the occasion. The drive was aimed at promoting environmental consciousness and adding to the campus greenery, further strengthening KU's commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly initiatives.



Cleanliness, environmental awareness programme at Kupwara campus

At KU's Kupwara Campus, a large-scale cleanliness and environmental awareness drive was also organised as part of Sewa Parv 2025. Students, faculty, and non-teaching staff took part in a campus-wide cleanliness campaign, a poster presentation session, and a speech competition on environmental themes. The programme concluded with prize distribution by Director Kupwara Campus KU, Prof. Mubashir Hussain Masoodi. These activities formed part of KU's broader initiative to integrate health, wellness, and awareness into campus life under the nationwide Sewa Parv 2025 programme.





Cleanliness drive, field visits, literacy programme

To mark the ongoing Seva Parv 2025 celebrations, the University of Kashmir (KU) organised a series of community outreach initiatives, reflecting its commitment to social responsibility, inclusivity, and civic awareness. The events were coordinated by varsity's Department of Students' Welfare.

Weeklong cleanliness drive

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of KU launched a weeklong Cleanliness Drive across the main and satellite campuses. The programme was flagged off by Prof. Shazia Manzoor, Head, Department of Social Work KU, who underlined the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining hygiene and sustainability. Dr. Waqar Amin, Coordinator NSS KU, highlighted the role of such initiatives in nurturing civic sense and environmental consciousness among students.

KU NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Humaira Showkat and Dr. Aijaz Ahmad, also motivated the volunteers. A large number of NSS volunteers and staff of the varsity's Environment and Hygiene wing actively participated in the drive.



Field visits to senior citizen home, SOS village & ICDS centres

The Department of Social Work organised a field visit to Ahati Waqar Senior Citizen Home, SOS Children's Village and ICDS Centres. Students engaged with elderly people and children through life skills activities, storytelling, and interactive sessions, aiming to spread joy and instill compassion through meaningful interactions.





Adult literacy and career counselling programme

The Directorate of Lifelong Learning (DLL), in collaboration with Phaag Development Forum, organised an Adult Literacy Programme and Career Counselling Session for Youth at Darbagh, Harwan. The programme aimed to empower local adults with basic literacy skills while guiding young people on career opportunities, skill development, and future prospects.



India Skills 2025 orientation, donation drive

The University of Kashmir (KU), through its Directorate of Lifelong Learning (DLL), organised an Awareness-cum-Orientation programme on India Skills 2025.

The event was held under the banner of Seva Parv-2025 in collaboration with the Mission Directorate, J&K Skill Development Department (JKSDD), and coordinated by the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW).

Presiding over the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor Professor Nilofer Khan, reaffirmed the University's commitment to strengthening skill-based learning and entrepreneurship.

"Equipping our students with modern skills is vital not only for their personal growth but also for the economic and social development of J&K. Platforms like India Skills offer our youth a chance to showcase their talent at national and international levels," she said.

Mr. Shahzad Alam (IAS), Director JKSDD, presented an overview of the India Skills 2025 competition. He also highlighted entrepreneurship as a key driver for sustainable livelihoods.

Mr. Syed Tabasum Geelani, OSD, Mission Directorate JKSDD, described skill enhancement as a "visa to new opportunities" in a highly competitive environment.

In his welcome remarks, Director DLL KU Prof. M.I. Geer spoke about the Directorate's initiatives to promote lifelong learning through diverse training programmes. He reiterated its commitment to strengthening industry-academia partnerships.



Donation drive at KU

The Institute of Home Science launched a donation drive for clothing and stationery. Counters for books, clothes, and stationery were set up across the campus to encourage student and staff participation.

The initiative aimed to promote compassion and community service values as part of Sewa Parv 2025.



NSS begins service-driven youth connect

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the University of Kashmir (KU) launched the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme – Sewa Pakhwada Edition in collaboration with the varsity's Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) at the Main Campus. The programme, running up to October 2, 2025, aims to engage youth in activities promoting nation-building, community service, and social responsibility, in line with the larger vision of Sewa Parv 2025.

The programme included volunteer-led activities designed to strengthen youth participation in social development.



Sewa Parv concludes with cultural, creative events

The University of Kashmir successfully concluded the Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations, which commenced on September 17 and culminated on Gandhi Jayanti, October 02. The concluding programme was organised by the varsity's Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with Shri Pran Kishor Koul Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA).

The concluding programme featured a series of events at the Main Campus, including the reveal of a wall painting on themes of environment, youth power and patriotism; a homage to Mahatma Gandhi; a symposium on 'Gandhian Vision of Sewa: Relevance in Today's World'; the launch of the Sonzal-2025 poster; and a cultural programme presented by students.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "The activities held today highlight how art, dialogue and collective participation can inspire a deeper understanding of service and responsibility in contemporary society. They also reinforce the relevance of Gandhi's vision in present times."

Throughout the Sewa Parv celebrations, the University remained deeply committed to the spirit of the initiative, ensuring widespread participation and collective contribution.





World **Mental** Health Day



Stress-busting activities held at KU

The Department of Psychology, University of Kashmir (KU), celebrated World Mental Health Day 2025 with a series of engaging and reflective activities aimed at promoting emotional well-being and stress awareness among the campus community.

Held near the lawns of the varsity’s Allama Iqbal Library, the event created a vibrant and calming space where students, faculty, and staff participated in activities such as digital detox, mindfulness corners, wall of gratitude, tree of hope, and interactive counselling sessions. Informative displays helped participants understand the difference between anxiety, worry, stress, and depression, encouraging open conversations around mental health.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who visited the activity stalls, appreciated the department’s initiative to engage students in experiential learning. “Mental well-being is essential for personal and academic growth. Initiatives like these remind us to pause, reflect, and take care of our minds,” she said.

The day-long celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across disciplines who shared notes of gratitude, practiced short meditation exercises, and interacted with counsellors.

The event concluded with an open discussion on how small, mindful practices can make a big difference in managing stress and building emotional resilience.



PCOS awareness, free consultation camp at KU



The Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology, SKIMS Srinagar, organised a day-long awareness and consultation programme on “Understanding and Managing PCOS” at the Main Campus.

The initiative aimed to address the growing prevalence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) among young women in the region by offering scientific awareness, early intervention strategies, and free clinical consultations. A free PCOS consultation camp was also held at the Diagnostic Centre, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, where students and staff received medical assessment and guidance.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that spreading awareness about women’s health concerns is an institutional priority.

“Access to accurate medical guidance empowers young women to make informed health decisions. Universities must create more spaces where students feel supported in managing such conditions,” she said.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Ashraf Ganaie, highlighted the importance of strengthening PCOS research and community outreach, noting that people must stay away from misinformation and depend on credible, evidence-based medical advice. “There is a need to debunk myths and recognise PCOS as a manageable condition. Awareness at the community level is as important as medical treatment,” he said, highlighting the role of collaborative academic–medical efforts.

The event featured expert lectures by Dr. Cimona Lyn Saldanha, Professor & Head, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, SKIMS; Dr. Farah, Associate Professor, Dermatology, SKIMS and Dr. Saleem Baba, DM Endocrinology, SKIMS. They discussed the gynaecological, dermatological, and metabolic dimensions of PCOS, offering practical guidance for students and participants.



ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION

This section highlights the University of Kashmir's growing engagement with environmental stewardship through climate research, sustainability initiatives, ecological awareness programmes, and community-led action. From biodiversity conservation and green campus practices to glacier studies and climate resilience, these efforts reflect KU's commitment to safeguarding fragile ecosystems and shaping a sustainable future.



Earth Day celebrations 2025

To raise awareness about climate change and promote sustainable practices, a two-day celebration of Earth Day -2025, themed “Our Planet, Our Power” started here at the University of Kashmir (KU) on Tuesday. The event, organised by the Department of Earth Sciences (DES) KU in collaboration with the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) KU, was sponsored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India (GoI).

The two-day event served as a platform to engage young minds in meaningful conversations and creative expressions around environmental protection, while encouraging practical action to address the growing ecological challenges in the Himalayan region. Activities included debate competitions, painting contests, cultural performances, and a student rally, with participation from campus students and school children from various schools of district Srinagar.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her presidential address, stressed on the importance of involving youth in environmental stewardship. “The impact of climate change in the valley is visible and alarming. Our young generation must understand their responsibility in protecting the earth and preserving it for those who come after us,” she said, urging collective efforts to address ecological challenges.

Commissioner Secretary, Department of Science & Technology J&K, Saurabh Bhagat (IAS), in his address, highlighted the region’s environmental vulnerability and stressed on the urgent need for proactive measures to safeguard the planet.



South Campus celebrates Chinar Day with plantation drive

The South Campus of the University of Kashmir celebrated Chinar Day, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and conservation.

The event, aimed at promoting ecological awareness, was marked by the launch of a Chinar plantation drive to enrich the green cover of the campus. The occasion was attended by the Director of Floriculture, Kashmir, Shakeel-ul-Rehman as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Rehman emphasised the cultural and ecological significance of Chinar trees in the region and called for collective efforts in their preservation.

He highlighted the necessity of sustainable environmental practices to safeguard Kashmir’s rich natural heritage.

Addressing the gathering, the Director of South Campus, Prof Waseem Bari underscored the importance of engaging in environmental conservation.

The Chinar plantation drive saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and environmental enthusiasts.

The initiative aims to plant Chinar trees across the campus, further enhancing its natural beauty and ecological balance.

The Chinar tree, a symbol of Kashmir’s heritage, holds great environmental value by providing shade, supporting biodiversity, and contributing to climate resilience.





KU joins hands with Yok Solutions for eco-friendly campus

To promote environmental sustainability and set new standards in campus management, the University of Kashmir (KU) has partnered with Delhi-based Yok Solutions Pvt. Ltd. to launch a holistic Green Campus Initiative.

The MoU was signed between the two institutions, marking an important step towards implementing scientific and sustainable waste management practices across the campus. The initiative aims to achieve zero waste to landfill by managing wet, dry, and green waste effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, “The Green Campus Initiative is a long-term commitment to embedding sustainability into the core values of our institution.”

She further said that this collaboration reflects the varsity’s dedication to setting an exemplary model of environmental responsibility in the region.

Director, Yok Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Mounica Kavya Podilapu, while expressing enthusiasm, said, “We are proud to partner with the University of Kashmir on this ambitious initiative and our expertise in decentralized waste management will help set up a model that can be replicated by other institutions.”

Symposium on glacier preservation, sustainable water management

To highlight the pressing issue of glacier conservation and water security, the Department of Environmental Science (DES), University of Kashmir (KU), organized a one-day symposium on ‘Glacier Preservation’ in observance of World Water Day 2025.

The event, held in hybrid mode, brought together experts to explore the challenges of glacier conservation in the Himalayan region and the pressing need for sustainable strategies.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, highlighted the importance of glacier preservation for the region’s water security.

“Glaciers are vital sources of freshwater, supporting ecosystems and livelihoods and their preservation is essential. We must work collaboratively for their conservation”, she said. Speaking at the inaugural session, Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada emphasized the responsibility of academia in addressing climate challenges through scientific research, policy advocacy and community engagement.

Dean, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences KU, Prof. Ghulam Jeelani, underscored the importance of glacier preservation for water security, highlighting the Himalayan region’s vulnerability to climate change.

The symposium featured technical sessions led by experts, covering topics such as sustainable Himalayas and water security in India, glacier-related hazards and the cryosphere in the Western Himalayas. The event attracted over 150 participants from academic and research institutions across the country.





Renowned Earth Scientist, Secretary MoES Dr. M. Ravichandran delivers special lecture

In a major step towards promoting earth sciences and climate resilience in the region, the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU), hosted a special lecture by Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India (GOI), during which he officially announced the establishment of a Student Chapter of the Indian Geophysical Union (IGU) at the University.

In his lecture titled “Earth System Science: Vision 2047”, Dr. Ravichandran highlighted the urgent need to transition from conventional weather forecasting to a more proactive model of “weather management”, envisioning a future where India is both “weather ready” and “climate smart” by 2047.

Dr. Ravichandran provided deep insights into India’s scientific roadmap for the coming decades. He stressed the importance of integrated earth system science approaches in combating the effects of climate change, and emphasized the critical role that academic institutions and youth must play in shaping the country’s scientific future.

The establishment of the IGU Student Chapter at the Department of Earth Sciences KU, he said, would create a platform for young scientists to engage with frontier research, connect with national and international experts, and contribute meaningfully to India’s Earth science mission.

In her remarks, Vice Chancellor, KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, while reflecting on the theme of the lecture, underlined the importance of engaging and sensitizing the student community right from the school level about the impacts of climate change and other pressing ecological issues.

“Meaningful collaborations like this can benefit society in mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing disaster management capabilities—especially when we involve students, women, and other stakeholders in such initiatives,” she said.



Seminar on International Biodiversity Day



To celebrate the rich biodiversity of the valley and promote sustainable practices, the Department of Botany, North Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), organized a one-day seminar on ‘International Biodiversity Day’.

The seminar focused on the theme of conserving and cultivating medicinal plants, emphasizing their ecological, cultural, and economic significance. A diverse group of experts, academicians, and students, participated in the event, creating a platform for knowledge-sharing and community engagement.

Distinguished speakers from reputed institutions, including CSIR-IIIM Srinagar and the Jammu & Kashmir

Medicinal Plants Board, shared their valuable insights on the occasion.

Dr. Wahid-ul-Hassan, J&K Medicinal Plants Board, while delivering the talk on the occasion, highlighted the biodiversity’s potential for income generation.

“Medicinal plants are not just part of our natural heritage, they hold the key to sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment, especially for our rural and tribal communities,” he said.

Dr. Shakir P. Sultan, Department of Plant Biotechnology, CSIR-IIIM Srinagar, highlighted the importance of promoting entrepreneurship through the cultivation and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants, while Dr. Azra Anjum emphasized the need to explore the potential of medicinal plants in developing value-added nutraceutical products.



MoU on Watershed Development

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Rural Development Department, J&K, signed an agreement with the University of Kashmir (KU) for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Springshed Rejuvenation Projects under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).

The agreement was signed by Mr. Rajnish Kumar (JKAS), Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, J&K, and Prof. Ghulam Jeelani, Dean School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, KU in presence of Dean Research KU Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat.



As per the agreement, the University will undertake advanced hydrogeological assessments, map spring recharge zones, and develop integrated natural resource management and livelihood strategies to support scientific rejuvenation of identified springs across J&K.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, appreciated the partnership and said it is “a significant step towards using scientific expertise for the benefit of rural communities and ecological sustainability.”

Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat said, “This collaboration shows the University’s commitment to applied research that contributes directly to environmental conservation and rural livelihoods.”

The initiative aims to ensure sustainable water availability, boost agricultural productivity, and improve livelihood security in hilly and rural regions of the valley.

National capacity building programme in glaciology



To strengthen research capabilities in cryospheric science and address the pressing impacts of climate change, the University of Kashmir (KU), under its Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Glacial Studies in the Western Himalaya, inaugurated the 3rd three-week Capacity Building Programme in Glaciology at its main campus.

Supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, under its Climate Change Programme, the initiative aims to train early-career researchers in theoretical and applied aspects of glaciology, with a special focus on Himalayan cryospheric transformations. The programme is part of a three-year national project

(2023–2026), providing intensive training in research methods, instrumentation, and field studies.

In her message Vice Chancellor KU Prof Nilofer Khan while stressing upon the significance of such programs said “In the face of accelerating climate change, the fragile glacial ecosystems of this region demand urgent scientific attention and informed stewardship and programmes like these on Glaciology play a crucial role in equipping our young researchers, scientists, and policymakers with the tools, knowledge, and collaborative frameworks necessary to monitor, understand, and mitigate the impacts of glacial retreat.”

While inaugurating the programme Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) and Coordinator of the Summer School, said, “The Himalayan cryosphere is vital for sustaining India’s food, water, and energy security, and there is an urgent need to strengthen cryospheric science and monitoring in the Himalaya in view of accelerated climate change.”

About 20 participants from premier institutions across India attended the programme, which featured expert lectures, hands-on training, and project-based learning in areas such as glacial mass balance, hydrological modeling, remote sensing, glacial hazards, and climate change impact assessment.



World Environment Week celebrated with focus on ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’

To mark World Environment Week (05–12 June 2025), the Department of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Department of Students’ Welfare (DSW) and Wular Conservation & Management Authority (WCMA), organised a series of awareness events under the theme “Empowering the Next Generation” with a special focus on “Beat Plastic Pollution.”

The event was supported by the Jammu & Kashmir Science Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Govt. of J&K. The week-long programme began with a signature-cum-pledge campaign and an environmental awareness survey, followed by the screening of a documentary film based on the survey’s findings. These initiatives saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, sparking meaningful dialogue on sustainable practices and pollution control.

Delivering the presidential address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan stated.

“We must change our mindset and adopt strategic approaches to keep our planet as pristine as it was bestowed upon us. Our youth should also be equipped to address the environmental issues with innovation, responsibility and leadership”. The seminar on plastic pollution featured two invited talks, oral and poster presentations by students and faculty from KU and other institutions including SKUAST-K, NIT Srinagar, Central University of Kashmir, and Cluster University Srinagar.

The week-long activities culminated with a cleanliness drive at Wular Lake, jointly organised with WCMA, involving students from local higher secondary schools and government degree colleges.

IoT Zakura holds campus cleanliness drive

To promote environmental responsibility and foster civic awareness among students, the Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), conducted a cleanliness drive with The National Service Scheme (NSS) at the campus.

The one-day drive saw active participation from students and faculty members across departments. Volunteers carried out campus-wide cleaning activities, waste management drives, and awareness, aiming to instil a sense of collective responsibility and encourage sustainable practices.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, lauded the efforts of the students and faculty involved in the drive.

“Environmental consciousness must begin at our educational institutions. Initiatives like these promote cleanliness and build a strong sense of social responsibility among young citizens,” she said.





37th National IGI Conference on Geomorphology & Climate Challenges held at KU



The Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a three-day 37th Annual National Conference of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) at the Main Campus.

Themed “Geomorphology, Environmental Change, Weather Extremes and Disaster Management”, the conference brings together leading scientists, geomorphologists, and research scholars from across the country.

Delegates from the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) and the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) will deliberate on pressing challenges in geomorphology and their impact on environmental change and disaster management, particularly in the Himalayan and South Asian regions.

In her inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said “This conference comes at a very critical juncture when climate change and extreme weather events are posing new challenges to fragile mountain ecosystems. The discussions here will help generate knowledge and strategies for sustainable environmental governance and disaster resilience in our region.”

Prof. A. R. Siddiqui, Secretary General, IGI, appreciated KU for hosting the conference and providing a vibrant academic platform. He emphasized that the event would make a significant contribution to advancing geomorphological studies across India.

In their remarks, Prof. Ramkrishna Maiti, President, IGI, and Prof. Sunil Kumar De, President, IAG, highlighted the need for interdisciplinary approaches to tackle challenges related to environmental change and natural hazards.

They also stressed the conference’s potential to contribute to international research on geomorphology and disaster risk reduction.

Five-day workshop on hydrological modelling



A five-day workshop on Hydrological Modelling was organised at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU), aimed at enhancing the technical skills of students and research scholars in understanding hydrological processes under changing climatic conditions.

Organised by the varsity’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the workshop features expert sessions by Dr. A.K. Lohani, Head Surface Water Hydrology Division, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee.

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message said, “Workshops like these bridge the gap between academic learning and field-based applications, equipping our scholars with the necessary technical expertise to address the challenges of water resource management in a changing climate.”

Dr. Lohani delivered a series of lectures and hands-on training sessions on advanced hydrological models and analytical tools used for simulating water flow, predicting floods, and managing catchment hydrology.



World Tourism Day | KU champions green tourism



The Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Studies (DTHLS), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) and Pahalgam Trade & Civil Society Alliance, organized a one-day event to mark World Tourism Day 2025 at Pahalgam. The programme focused on sustainable tourism and the revival of Kashmir's tourism sector.

The event witnessed participation of civil administration officials, tourism scholars, environmentalists, industry stakeholders, and students, that facilitated a comprehensive dialogue on the future of tourism development in the region.

Chief Guest, Muhammed Saleem Beg, Former Director General Tourism J&K highlighted the need for systematic planning, environmentally sensitive development, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. He praised the varsity's Tourism Department for efforts in training professionals capable of addressing the challenges of sustainable tourism.

Pirzada Fayaz, Convenor Responsible Tourism Society of India, stressed on the role of young tourism students in shaping sustainable practices. Advocate Nadeem Qadri, environmental lawyer and Executive Director Wildlife Conservation Fund, urged stakeholders to adopt responsible tourism measures. Mushtaq Pahalgami, President Himalayan Welfare Organization, spoke about the cultural and touristic importance of Pahalgam, calling for balanced development of the region.

The event featured cultural performances, including Kashmiri folk dance, ladishah, and a skit by students emphasizing the need for responsible and sustainable tourist practices and the importance of eco-friendly habits.



GOVERNANCE, INTEGRITY & INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

This section reflects the University of Kashmir's commitment to transparent governance, institutional integrity, and a strong academic culture. From quality assurance and policy reviews to constitutional values, ethical awareness, and national observances, these initiatives underline KU's focus on accountability, inclusivity, and responsible institution-building.



KU team completes Kashmiri translation of the Constitution

On the eve of the Constitution Day, the President of India, Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, released translated versions of the Constitution in nine Indian languages— Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia and Assamese at Samvidhan Sadan, New Delhi.

Among these, the Constitution of India has been translated into the Kashmiri language for the first time, marking a historic moment for the region and its linguistic heritage.

The Kashmiri translation has been carried out by a team from the University of Kashmir (KU) under the Ministry of Law, Government of India, and executed through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore.

The project, initiated in September 2023 and completed in March 2025, was coordinated by Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, Professor, Department of Linguistics; Head, Department of Urdu; and Dean, School of Arts, Languages & Literature.

The translation and review team included Afaq Aziz: Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir. Basher Bashir: Shaikh-ul-Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Kashmir. Ghulam Nabi Haleem: Department of School Education, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Iftikhar Hussain Bhat: Department of Law, University of Kashmir. Irshad Shamsi: Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Khurshid Ahmad Mir: Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Mir Junaid Alam: Department of Law, University of Kashmir. Mir Mubashir Altaf: Department of Law, University of Kashmir. Ratan Lal Talashi: Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir. Satish Vimal: All India Radio Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who keenly monitored and supported the work throughout, congratulated the team for completing this nationally significant assignment.

“This is a moment of immense pride for the University and for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Bringing the Constitution into Kashmiri will greatly strengthen constitutional awareness and linguistic inclusion. I commend the team for their scholarly dedication and hard work,” she said.

The University extends its appreciation to all contributors and reiterates its commitment to advancing academic excellence, multilingual scholarship and national development.



National flag hoisted at main, satellite campuses



The University of Kashmir (KU) hoisted the national flag at the main and satellite campuses with full honour and respect to celebrate the Independence Day marking 79 years of freedom. This year's celebrations were held under the theme 'Naya Bharat', symbolising the nation's vision of progress, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, led the flag-hoisting ceremony here at the Main Campus. The national anthem was sung while the national flag was being hoisted, followed by

a ceremonial guard of honour presented by a contingent of the KUG Coy police personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Khan said, "Independence Day is a celebration of our freedom and also a reminder of our responsibility to build a stronger, united and progressive nation. Let us work together to preserve the values of justice, equality, and harmony that form the foundation of our democracy."

Prof. Khan also condoled the sad demise of people who lost their lives in a cloudburst at Kishtwar on Thursday expressing solidarity with the bereaved families and assuring that the University will try its best to help and support them in this hour of grief.

The Vice-Chancellor further felicitated members of the Coy, Proctorial Wing, and Watch & Ward staff for their commitment and dedicated service in ensuring the safety, discipline, and smooth conduct of campus activities.

Dean Academic Affairs, Dean College Development Council, Dean Research, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Dean Students Welfare, deans of schools, heads/directors/coordinators of departments/centres/institutes, officers of the administration, faculty, and other staff members participated in the ceremony.

Post the flag-hoisting ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor led all the participants to the grand ceremony scheduled at the Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the varsity's satellite campuses at Anantnag, Baramulla, and Kupwara also celebrated the 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervour. Director North Campus, Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad and Director South Campus, Prof. Waseem Bari led the flag-hoisting ceremonies at their respective campuses, witnessing overwhelming participation of officers from the administration, faculty, staff, and students.

The University had organised a series of events under the 'My Bharat, Viksit Bharat' campaign to instill a sense of national pride and inspire future generations to protect India's heritage by connecting with the land and honouring national heroes.

Participation in Tiranga Yatra

The University of Kashmir (KU) participated in the Tiranga Yatra organised as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

The rally, held on the scenic banks of Dal Lake and culminating at the Botanical Garden, witnessed enthusiastic participation from university authorities, students, faculty, and staff.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, said that the University's enthusiastic involvement in such events reflects its deep commitment to nurturing patriotism and national pride among the youth.

"Our active participation in these initiatives reaffirms our profound respect for the nation and inspires our students to contribute meaningfully towards building a progressive, united, and self-reliant nation," she said.

A key highlight of the event was the live rendition of the National Anthem by students from the University's Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), which drew wide appreciation from the audience. Students also created an impressive rangoli artwork depicting the Tiranga and the national spirit, adding vibrancy to the celebrations.

The University's participation in the Tiranga Yatra shows its commitment to patriotic spirit and celebrating the nation's rich heritage.





'Sardar@150' unity march to celebrate togetherness, integrity

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the University of Kashmir (KU) organised a 'Sardar@150' Unity March 'Padyatra' from the Main Campus to Nishat Garden, joining the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The march was flagged off by Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana, Member of Rajya Sabha, in presence of Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Coordinator NSS KU, Dr. Wakar Amin Zargar, and Deputy Director My Bharat Srinagar, Mr. Pradeep Kumar. Hundreds of students from the university, affiliated colleges, and local schools participated enthusiastically, carrying placards and banners promoting the message of unity and national integrity. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana said that Sardar Patel's vision of a united India continues to inspire generations. "His statesmanship, courage, and commitment to national integration are lessons in leadership and service to the nation," he said.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said the University remains committed to promoting the values of unity, peace, and collective responsibility among youth. "Events like these remind us that education is not just about knowledge, but also about nation-building and social harmony," she said.

The event concluded at Nishat Garden with a collective resolve towards unity and national progress.

KU observes Constitution Day 2025, upholds duty towards democratic governance

The School of Law, University of Kashmir (KU), celebrated Constitution Day 2025 at the Main Campus to promote constitutional literacy and highlight the core values of democracy, justice, equality and liberty enshrined in the Constitution of India. The event marked the adoption of the Indian Constitution on November 26, 1949.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the relevance of understanding the Constitution both as a legal document and as a moral guide for civic life.

"Every principle laid down in the preamble is crafted with wisdom and vision that continues to steer our nation," she said, urging students to engage meaningfully with constitutional values.

Dean College Development Council KU, Prof. Khursheed Butt, stressed on the role of constitutional awareness in shaping responsible citizenship, adding that "learning about constitutional provisions and respecting the law strengthens the collective fabric of the nation."

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, reflected on the Constitution as a guarantor of dignity and equality for all citizens and emphasised that its guiding principles must be upheld in everyday life to preserve justice and fairness.

Dean and Head, School of Law KU, Prof. Shahnaz, spoke about the historical significance of Constitution Day and acknowledged the contributions of the leaders and freedom fighters who shaped the foundational document. Students from the School of Law also presented brief reflections on the relevance of the Constitution in contemporary times.





Vigilance Awareness Week organised at KU to promote integrity, transparency

The University of Kashmir (KU) launched Vigilance Awareness Week at the Main Campus underscoring the Varsity’s commitment to promoting ethical conduct and institutional integrity across all levels of administration and academics.

Observed under the theme “Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility,” the programme was organised in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K.

The aim of the initiative was to strengthen transparency, accountability, and collective responsibility among university employees and students.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her address, reaffirmed the university’s commitment to ethical governance.

“Integrity must guide every decision we make as individuals and as an institution. Vigilance should prevent wrongdoing and nurture trust, transparency, and accountability in our daily work. Each of us shares the responsibility to uphold these values for the progress of our university and society,” she said.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that the University’s active participation in Vigilance Awareness Week reflects its commitment to promoting good governance and ethical practices.

“Vigilance begins with self-discipline and awareness. Upholding integrity in every action strengthens our collective commitment to good governance and institutional trust,” he said.

SSP, ACB, Javaid Hassan Bhat, stressed on the significance of public vigilance in curbing corruption.

During the event, officers from ACB delivered a detailed presentation on vigilance awareness and discussed a case study on disproportionate assets.

Participants engaged actively by sharing their feedback and taking part in an interactive quiz on the Kahoot app, designed to test their understanding of vigilance practices and ethics.



DIQA organise orientation workshop for new faculty



The Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a one-day orientation workshop on “Integrating New Faculty into the University Quality Culture”.

The workshop aimed to familiarize newly inducted faculty members with the university’s quality assurance framework, policies, and web-based systems. It also focused on enhancing understanding of teaching, research, and service quality standards that guide the institution’s academic environment.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, “Building a culture of quality begins with awareness and accountability. Our goal is to ensure that every faculty member understands their role in strengthening institutional standards and contributing to continuous improvement.”

She added that such initiatives reflect the University’s collective commitment to excellence and transparency in academic and administrative functioning.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, highlighted the need for consistent efforts to align individual teaching and research practices with institutional benchmarks.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that quality assurance is a continuous process that demands collective commitment and highlighted that every member of the academic community has a vital role in strengthening the university’s quality culture.

Director DIQA KU, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah, in his welcome address, said that the workshop serves as a platform for new faculty to understand the university’s expectations, quality mechanisms, and avenues for academic growth.

The event proceedings were conducted by Prof. Aijaz Akbar, Deputy Director, DIQA KU, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Sakib Rashid, Research Assistant, DIQA KU.



ALUMNI, LEGACY & INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

This section celebrates the University of Kashmir's enduring legacy and the lifelong bond it shares with its alumni. From the landmark Mega Alumni Meet to department-level reunions, these moments honour shared histories, distinguished achievements, and the role of alumni in mentoring, collaboration, and shaping the University's future.



KU hosts Mega Alumni Meet–2025, celebrates 77-year legacy

The University of Kashmir hosted its Mega Alumni Meet–2025, bringing together generations of alumni in a grand celebration of the institution's academic legacy, shared memories, and enduring bonds. The event marked a significant step towards strengthening alumni engagement and fostering long-term collaboration between the University and its former students.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Chief Justice of India B R Gavai were among the dignitaries who addressed the gathering, calling for deeper alumni involvement and highlighting the University's contributions to education and nation-building.

Addressing the alumni, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha urged them to actively contribute their expertise, resources, and professional networks to the development of higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the University of Kashmir.

"Alumni is not just a network of former students, but a network of human potential dedicated to nation-building," the LG said.

He stressed the need for a formal institutional mechanism within the University to channel alumni contributions in areas such as mentorship, internships, and infrastructure development.

"I believe the alumni must extend handholding to young students, guide and empower them to build a better future for the next generation," he added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his address, said the University of Kashmir has consistently matched national benchmarks in both research output and alumni achievements.

"The two main criteria to judge any academic institution are its research output and the achievements of its alumni. By both measures, this university is on par with the best in the country," he said.

Encouraging alumni to maintain active ties with their alma mater, the Chief Minister noted that even modest contributions could have a lasting impact.

"Kashmir University has given you a lot. Even occasional contributions in the form of mentoring or institutional support



would benefit current and future students,” he said, urging alumni to serve as role models for the next generation. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofar Khan, described the Mega Alumni Meet as both a celebration and a reflection of the University’s academic journey since its inception in 1948.

“This Mega Alumni Meet is a historic step in reconnecting with our extended university family. Our alumni have made remarkable contributions across sectors, and their presence will inspire our students and strengthen the University’s future directions,” she said.

Highlighting the institution’s growth, Prof. Khan said the University wanted its alumni to witness its progress in academics, infrastructure, and vision.

“Their feedback, memories, and aspirations matter deeply to us,” she added.

She further noted that the meet aims to establish a sustainable alumni network through the Kashmir University Alumni Association (KUAA), which would serve as a strong pillar of support for academic collaboration, student mentorship, and knowledge-sharing across domains.

The Mega Alumni Meet celebrated the University’s 77-year legacy and the achievements of thousands of its graduates who have excelled in fields such as judiciary, governance, academia, media, healthcare, law, and entrepreneurship. Prominent alumni, including Dr Karan Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and several High Court judges, were felicitated during the event. Former Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey delivered the welcome address.

The event witnessed a high-profile gathering, including Supreme Court Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal, and Rajesh Bindal; Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli; former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad; MP Mian Altaf Ahmad; and several current and former judges of the J&K High Court. Beyond the formal proceedings, the meet was marked by moments of nostalgia as alumni revisited familiar corridors, classrooms, and open spaces of the scenic Srinagar campus, reconnecting with batchmates and reliving memories that shaped their academic and personal journeys.

The presence of top dignitaries from the judiciary, executive, and academia underscored the stature of the event, which emerged as a blend of reminiscence, celebration, and renewed belonging for the University’s extended family.







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