

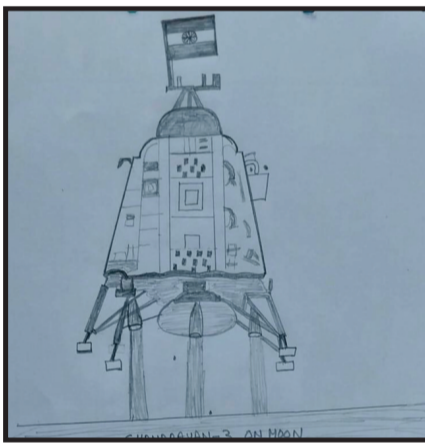


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In Brief



Cartoon by *Bharti Thakur*
(Sem 4) & *Janavi Gupta* (Sem 3)

NEP: PROMOTING ALL INDIAN LANGUAGES

India's education system has been facing numerous challenges, prompting the Central Government of India to implement a groundbreaking national education policy on July 19, 2020. The policy aims to enhance education for all students.

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THE CLIMATE CATASTROPHE IN J&K

As the 2003 UN report on catastrophic warming and climate change turn into reality and the scientific predictions regarding the ramifications of climate variation become even more accurate.

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Unraveling Naag Temple: The Serpent God

'Faith and Belief strengthen the inner soul of a human.'
Nestled amid the awe-inspiring and picturesque surroundings of Patnitop, a breathtaking hill station in the majestic temple city of Jammu, is the revered Naag Mandir.

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Nation will always remain indebted to supreme contribution of freedom fighters, says JU VC

Alina Shapoo

Jammu, October: On Independence Day, the University of Jammu organised a series of events to pay homage to the brave freedom fighters who fought for India's independence. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, paid tribute to these heroes and acknowledged their sacrifices. Additionally, the University highlighted its academic programs and how they contribute to the development of the nation. Overall, it was a exuberant celebration to mark India' greatness of 77th year of freedom and reminder of sacrifices made by those who fought for it. With great pride and patriotism, VC hoisted the iconic Tricolour.

During the momentous occasion, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the University's remarkable achievements and innovative initiatives, including the 'Design Your Degree' and 'College on Wheels' programs. These programs aim to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge and explore their capacities in workspace.

In collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Jammu University

organised a one-day event titled "Many Languages, One Expression: India" to showcase the linguistic and cultural diversity of Jammu & Kashmir. Students delivered speeches and sang patriotic songs in various languages, including Gojri, Dogri, Sharazi, Kishtewari, Hindi, Kash-

Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts' concluded with a vote of thanks.

In continuation of series of events organised by the University of Jammu to commemorate the 77th Independence Day, a Tiranga Rally



JU VC Flags off Tiranga Rally under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'

miri, Urdu, Bharderwahi, and Punjabi.

The event, showcased India's cultural and linguistic diversity, received unconditional support and encouragement from Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, dedicated to promoting and progressing the Jammu region.

was also held. The rally was led by The event was attended by teaching staff, officers, students, scholars, and employees of the University, along with many senior officials, including Prof. Rajni Kant, Prof. Anju Bhasin, Prof. Meena Sharma, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Prof. Rajeev Ratan, and HoDs of various departments.

AN AUDIENCE WITH GUARDIANS OF JU GALAXY

Alina Shapoo in conversation with Gulchain Singh, Head of Security at Jammu University New Campus

Q 1. Where is your hometown, and what do you miss most about it?

My hometown is Akalpur. The delicious homemade roti and chawal still tantalise my taste buds and make me long for home. Walking among mango trees we carefully tended to by the Chenab River is a cherished memory. Above all, I yearn to be reunited with my loved ones, who hold a special place in my heart.

Q 2. What are some of the challenges you face on a daily?

Ensuring the safety and security of the university community is a top priority. The security staff faces numerous obstacles, including dealing with fraudulent entries, handling arguments with uncooperative individuals, and addressing commonly heard threats, especially the 'mera baap' threat. Despite these challenges, the staff remains dedicated and determined to keep everyone safe by pushing forward and staying strong.

Q 3. What keeps you positive?

"Sabka malik ek hai and duty is Malik ki seva"

It's essential to always strive to do good and encourage others to do the same. Humility is also vital, and it's important to remember that there are consequences for breaking the rules. Living a good life means following certain rules and guidelines, but the reward for doing so can be significant.



Q 4. Can you tell a funny story you recall?

When individuals display hot-headed behaviour, we kindly direct them towards the water cooler or get the water to them if necessary, and it is funny and unique how a refreshing cup of cold water pacifies people.

Q 5. Are there any problems you face that you want the authorities to address?

To better ensure our premises' safety, hiring additional staff may be necessary. I keep telling my team that if your salary is complete, so should be your duty, and they are compensated accordingly. Additionally, the installation of more CCTV cameras could discourage any potential misconduct.

Journalism and train connection

Dr. Ravia Gupta

Train journeys are indeed subtle educators in teaching travellers about the world. They are up above the platform that is capable of teaching people both positive and negative social behaviours as well as attitudes that they might not otherwise encounter personally sometimes.

Recently, the Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai announced a project "College on wheels: JK Gyanodaya Express," a rail journey, to different parts of the country in which 1,100 women students from different universities of J&K will take part. This editorial traces the train connection with the field of Journalism.

Journalism has a profound connection with train journeys. Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had a lifelong fondness for trains. His journey from Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to becoming the Mahatma had its beginning at the Pietermaritzburg railway station in South Africa where he was expelled from a first-class train compartment which later gave birth to Satyagraha. Gandhi ji boarded several trains and spearheaded multiple freedom movements in the country. Presently, Indian Railways are collecting information to be released in the public domain to sensitize the present generation of Gandhiji's journeys by train.

While tracing the roots of Public Relations, an offshoot of journalism, in India, one finds a connection with railways. One of the first national image cultivation activities post WWII was carried out by India in the US. Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company Limited (GIP Railways) carried out publicity as part of Public Relations campaign in England to promote tourism to India through mass media and pamphlets.

Pre-Independence Indian leaders understood the importance of Public Relations to further their cause for Independence. Gandhian struggle also had major Public Relations components in it. Gandhi, the great communicator, and a journalist looked upon journalism as a means to serve the people. According to him, "the aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper is a great power. It can be profitable only when the control is exercised from within."

"College on wheels" thus is a hope-filled instrument of education to not only motivate students towards self-discipline and good citizenship but will also act as an eye-opening experience for them.

TURNING VISION INTO REALITY

Dean Academic Affairs

Hemani Kandhari

Q 1: What is your philosophy of education?

I believe the blended mode of learning, such as flipped learning, is an excellent approach to education. It allows for student participation and discussion, leading to critical thinking and diversification of education. Creating good learners by encouraging interactive sessions with teachers and promoting discussions among students is essential.

Q 2: What according to you is vital for success as a whole?

The keyword for success is 'team-work', especially between teachers and students. When we work together, we can achieve so much more than when we work alone. Having team spirit and coordination between team members is essential,



JU Post in conversation with DAA

as this can lead to more tremendous success and progress. As a university, we must work together as a whole to uplift all departments and ensure that everyone is moving forward and reaching their full potential.

Q 3: How will implementation of New Education Policy in 2020 affect Jammu University's academic landscape?

Our goal is to create an environment where students can pursue their pas-

sions and become successful job-makers. While not everyone may be suited to be an entrepreneur or a teacher, we believe that every student should have the opportunity to find a fulfilling career. We are working towards this goal through changes in national education policy, degree programs, and teaching methods that encourage critical thinking and help students identify their interests. We want students to focus on their passions, rather than just following the expectations of others.

Q 4: Being the Dean of academics, what is your message?

The message is clear: we aim to grow our university and elevate it to a world-class institution. Our top priority is to make it student-centric, and we must work together as a team to achieve this goal.

PROMOTING ALL INDIAN LANGUAGES

Three Years of NEP

Janavi Gupta

India's education system has been facing numerous challenges, prompting the Central Government of India to implement a groundbreaking national education policy on July 19, 2020. The policy aims to enhance education for all students, regardless of their background, and replace the outdated education policy that has been in place for 34 years since 1986. It is built on four central pillars, including access, equity, quality, and accountability, and is structured as 5+3+3+4, consisting of 12 years of schooling. The ultimate goal is to transform India into a global knowledge superpower by providing both schools and colleges with a more flexible, holistic, and multi-disciplinary education system. The new education policy incorporates various reforms aimed at fostering a more inclusive, relevant, and engaging learning environment for students.

Changes in NEP

- Inclusion of coding and experimental learning in classes
- Reducing the curriculum load
- Technology and multi-lingual
- Education

School education reforms- focus on foundational literacy and numeric by 2025. Board exams will continue for 10&12 but will be redesigned. Mid-day meal scheme will extend to include breakfast and more focus on students' health. In 6 classes, coding will introduce to students, and experiment learning will be adopted. Reduce the curriculum load of the students and allow them to be more interdisciplinary and multi-lingual. School students will only go to attend the exams in classes 2, 5 & 8 instead of every academic year. This policy has various stages & is subdivided into two parts, three years of pre-schooling classes 1 to 2 in primary school. Covers 3

to 8 years of child education. Focus on activity-based learning; preparatory stage class 3to5 subject will introduce - speaking, reading, writing, physical education language at science and mathematics. Middle stage - classes 6 to 8 introduce more abstract concepts like mathematics, science, social science, arts and humanities; secondary stage- class 9 to 12 1st phase: 9to10, Second phase:11to13. Inculcate multi-disciplinary study with depth and critical thinking.

The policy is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the modern world, particularly in a rapidly changing global economy. These reforms set the stage for a brighter future for Indian citizens, ensuring that education remains a cornerstone of the country's continued growth and development. Early childhood care will be given to students. Students will get help having a white foundation for learning at a young age. Improve the reading, writing and understanding ability of the students. Students will get experimental-based learning at all stages of school.

Learning will be provided in a joyful manner which will help them understand the concept more clearly. Over-regulation has always been practised in Indian educational institutions, unlike Western institutions that practice self-regulation. Emphasis on e-learning to reduce dependence on textbooks and e-content to be translated into regional language. Development of virtual labs.

Through NEP, all higher education institutions will be granted gradual autonomy and accreditation. Foreign universities will be allowed to set up campuses in India. The policy's focus on access, equity, quality, and accountability is a significant step forward in transforming India's education system into a world-class one that can prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

Chandrayaan: 3rd Indian Lunar exploration

Karman Singh

The world is amazed as the emerging superpower India has successfully completed their lunar exploration mission under the operation of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) the mission aimed to further enhance understanding of the Moon's surface.

Embracing the country's achievement over the mission the incessant efforts, dedication and journey of every individual behind as a team has paid off.

Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed



Chandrayaan-3 at the launch pad

on 23 August 2023 wherein a rover on the lunar surface, equipped with advanced instruments to analyze soil composition, mineral distribu-

tion, and search for water molecules.

The mission's not only solidified India's position in space exploration but also contributed crucial data to global lunar research. With Chandrayaan-3's success India has become the 1st ever country to make a soft landing on the South Pole of moon and 4th country after the USA, China and USSR to reach the moon. Making a historic achievement ISRO has also demonstrated its continuous commitment to explore the ever evolving space technology.

THE CLIMATE CATASTROPHE IN J&K



Alina Shapoo

Jammu, October: As the 2003 UN report on catastrophic warming and climate change turn into reality and the scientific predictions regarding the ramifications of climate variation become even more accurate, the prophesied disaster of Climate Change is upon us: soaring heat across the region, erratic weather phenomena increasing and devastating cloud bursts in J&K leading to deaths and damage across the UT which will only intensify with time. The human-induced Climate Change and Global Warming are a global pandemic with no substantial or absolute panacea, which makes it even more dangerous and a threat to humankind.

The UT of Jammu and Kashmir has also succumbed to the wrath of climate change.

In the last couple of years, we have witnessed devastating cloud bursts and Flash Floods in Sonmarg, Doda, Poonch, Kathua, and many other districts in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to deaths, injuring many, and damaging property.

The year 2023 was a period of one of the worst and most dreaded events of climate change we've witnessed, with several bridges collaps-

ing, roadways waterlogged due to erratic rain, deadly landslides and unusual weather conditions in several parts of the UT. All the region's major rivers, including Chenab, Tawi, Ujh, and Tarnah, were flowing near the danger mark. Due to the falling of boulders and inclement weather, the on-foot Yatra to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine from the Katra base camp was suspended several times during this season. Roadways remained closed for vehicular traffic movement due to landslides at several places, leaving the pilgrims stranded and terrified. We have been visiting Kashmir for business every year for the past decade. This year, June was much cooler than usual in Jammu, whereas in Kashmir, the weather was hotter than normal. It's as if the regions have switched weather patterns - says Mr. Rakesh Gupta, a business owner.

There were various bone-chilling reports of the consequences of Climate Change coming from all over the region in J&K. Kathua said that due to heavy rain in the remote Bani area, a Kucha house of one Mushtaq Ahmed collapsed in village Surjan where five members of a family were buried alive. As climate change continues, it will likely lead to more frequent and severe natural hazards.

The impact will be heavy. Climate change causes poverty and food shortages, forcing men, women, and children to flee their homes.

Policymakers and humanitarian and development organisations must address and lessen the fatal impact of climate change.

Dhanvantari Library: A Treasure Trove of Knowledge at Jammu University

Bharti Thakur

Jammu, October: Within the enlightening walls of the Dhanvantari Library, words transform into whispers of wisdom, guiding seekers on

erations. The library's dedicated staff members are well-versed in assisting students and scholars in their quests for knowledge, providing guidance on research methodolo-



Dhanvantri Library in all it's glory

a timeless journey through the corridors of knowledge. In J&K's picturesque landscape, JU houses the Dhanvantari Library, a beacon of education. At its core lies the tribute to Comrade Dhanvantari, an independence warrior. The library is more than books; it's a sanctuary for growth, boasting an extensive collection of resources spanning various disciplines. In step with the digital age, the library has embraced technological advancements to enhance the accessibility of its resources. In its pursuit of knowledge, the Dhanvantari Library also plays a role in preserving cultural heritage. It houses rare manuscripts, historical texts, and regional literature, safeguarding the rich cultural tapestry of the region for future gen-

gies, citation practices, and literature reviews. The serene ambiance of the library provides an ideal environment for focused study and contemplation, fostering an atmosphere of intellectual growth and innovation. Additionally, the library frequently hosts seminars, and guest lectures, inviting experts to share their insights and ignite meaningful dialogues. As Jammu University's Dhanvantari Library continues to evolve, it reinforces its legacy as a bastion of learning, research, and intellectual growth. Its commitment to embracing technology, fostering collaboration, and preserving cultural heritage makes it an invaluable institution not only within the university but also within the wider academic community.

Alumni Speak: From Campus To Civil Services

Hemani Kandhari

Jammu, October: Through this newspaper, I will share my journey from an aspirant to a civil servant and the role Jammu University played in shaping my career. My name is Abhilove Mahajan and I am JKAS Probationer. As I sit back and reminisce about my journey towards becoming a civil servant, I am filled with gratitude for the pivotal role that Jammu University played in shaping my professional trajectory. As a political science scholar, this esteemed institution not only endowed me with a wealth of knowledge but also honed my soft skills and work ethic, which have been instrumental in my career growth. Thanks to the university's unwavering commitment to fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, I am now better equipped to navigate complex challenges that come my way. I was a political science student which was also my optional subject in JKAS CCE Exam. Being a civil servant, communication skills are



Abhilove Mahajan, JKAS

Soft Skills

'Critical thinking helps me analyse and evaluate issues better.'

very important to me. I have learnt to communicate in a better way and have developed a larger understanding of the people which will be helpful in field jobs I am going to do in future. My university experience was further enriched by a plethora of extracurricular activities, which allowed me to participate in numerous sports events and other events. This helped me to develop a

well-rounded personality and taught me how to work effectively in a team. The campus library was my go-to resource for information, with its vast collection of journals, magazines, and books providing me with the necessary resources to excel in my studies. Overall, I am deeply grateful to Jammu University for providing me with such an enriching and transformative experience that has prepared me to tackle whatever challenges the future may hold. I am excited to take this opportunity to reflect on my journey to becoming a civil servant and how crucial a role Jammu University played in shaping my career. The University has been unwavering in its efforts to nurture me as a learner and a future worker, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills that have been invaluable in my professional journey. I am deeply grateful to The University of Jammu for providing me with such an enriching experience that has prepared me to tackle whatever comes my way in the future.

In Conversation with Directorate of Sports and Physical Education: Dawood Iqbal Baba

Alina Shapoo & Mahajan Rohan

Q: What achievements did the Department of Sports and Physical Education at the University of Jammu accomplish in 2023?

The Department of Sports and Physical Education at the University of Jammu achieved several accomplishments in 2023. We organised events such as the "All India Inter-University Fencing Championship," where we won a bronze medal and had 16 students qualify for the Khelo India University Games. We also hosted the Inter-University "Chancellor's Trophy," where they were the overall champions.

Q: What will be upcoming sports activities organised by the department?

We recently organised a tournament for the employees which had around 300 employees, and an inter-departmental tournament for students, where over 500 students showed their sporting talent. We also organised over 40 inter-college sports events from all the colleges under Jammu University. The upcoming significant events will be conducted in the Jammu University campus itself, including the four matches of the Ranjit Trophy in January 2024.

Q: What resources does the department have regarding funds and infrastructure, and how does it prioritise its plans?

We have allocated special funds in the CAPEX budget 2023-24 to transform Jammu University into a sports hub. The department has made signif-



icant progress in developing sports infrastructure, including constructing a world-class 400-meter synthetic athletic track, kho-kho grounds, handball and basketball courts, and a cricket ground of international standard. JU is the first institution in J&K to have a synthetic athletic track, and they have several inter-university, and national-level tournaments in their pipeline.

Q: What are the challenges before the department, and how is the department trying to overcome them?

The Directorate's first significant challenge is the need for more human resources. For this, we asked the Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, Prof. Umesh Rai, who has also been requested and shown his full interest in it. The second big challenge is the need for a sports policy, but now we have our own first sports policy, prepared by the department's officials for two years, which will be implemented from this academic session.

Interdepartmental sports tourney at JU

Vineet Gupta

Jammu, October: The inter-departmental Tournaments for the session 2023-24 held at Directorate of Sports of Physical Education, University of Jammu, organized by Chairman Campus Sports Committee.

The tournament featured a diverse array of activities, including Cricket matches, Badminton (M&W), Volleyball (M), Chess (M&W), Carrom (M&W) & Table Tennis (M&W). The main focus of this tournament were cricket matches in which Physical Department won over Urdu Department in the finals.



Victors in Jubilant mood

The tournament concluded with an awards ceremony, where the top-performing teams were recognised. However, the true victory was the sense of unity. Participating in an inter-departmental tournament helps to foster a sense of unity among different departments promoting sportsmanship and teamwork.

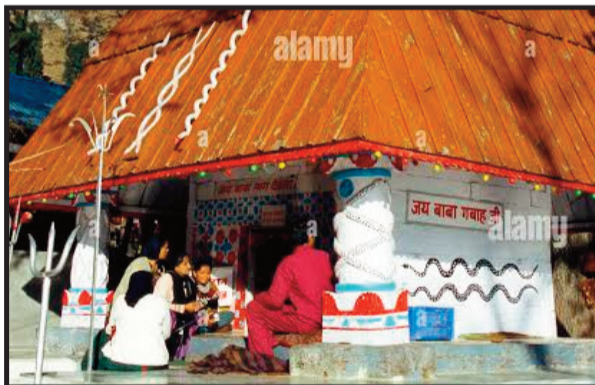
Unraveling Naag Temple: The Serpent God

Karman Singh

Jammu, October: 'Faith and Belief strengthen the inner soul of a human.'

Nestled amid the awe-inspiring and picturesque surroundings of Patnitop, a breathtaking hill station in the majestic temple city of Jammu, is the revered Naag Mandir temple. This ancient structure traces 600 years in time, steeped in history and mythology. It is dedicated to worshipping the esteemed serpent deity Naag Devta and has been a pilgrimage place for countless devotees throughout the centuries. It's believed that Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati married in this magnificent temple yet unfortunately it remains under emphasized.

The majestic Mandir is situated in the serenity of hills surrounded by the aroma of greenery of Pine trees, integrated with beautiful weather and is believed to be one of the few most ancient temples in the country.



Visitors in the line of faith

Visitors from all walks of life flock to this serene sanctuary to offer prayers and seek divine intervention for their desires and aspirations. As per traditional customs, devotees tie a sacred red thread upon completing their prayers to symbolise their profound devotion and faith. Additionally, they express their gratitude by offering langar in

the name of Naag Devta, a heartfelt gesture reflecting their deep reverence and respect for this sacred shrine.

Since the deity of this temple is Naag Devta- the serpent god, it is recommended to visit during the day. The traditional religious beliefs of this place don't allow women to enter this temple as it may make them feel intrusive due to high energy.

On the temple's premises is a metal snake replica representing Naag Devta. Locals spiritually believe in worshipping the Naag Devta for their betterment and protection from evil vibrations and energies. On the occasion of Naag Panchmi, the holy premises of this temple are graced by hundreds of devotees.

Temple's serene atmosphere, rich history, and spiritual significance make it a must-visit destination for anyone seeking a peaceful and experience in the enchanting region of Patnitop.

KALHARI: Staple delicacy of Udhampur

Janavi Gupta

Jammu, October: Kalhari is a well-known culinary delicacy hailing from the Udhampur district in Jammu. It has garnered immense popularity among food enthusiasts in Jammu and Kashmir, thanks to its distinct cheese. The cheese used in Kalhari is made from cows' or Buffalo's milk by boiling milk and adding sour-type yeast, which gives it a semi-soft texture. It is rich in nutrients, making it a healthy choice



Kalhari a taste to behold

for foodies. One of the most famous street foods in the region is Kalhari kulcha, which is a must-try for anyone visiting the area. The Kalhari is

indigenous to Ramnagar, It is an authentic dogra cuisine originated from Ramnagar and is not available anywhere in the world It comes from adjoining villages like Pancheri and Ghordi in the udhampur district of the Jammu division which is mostly known for its renowned Vaishno Devi Temple but what most people do not know is that it is also a foodies' heaven and home to one of the world's most unique cheeses, "The Kalhari".

Editorial Team

Chief Editor

Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal

Managing Editor

Dr. Garima Gupta

Editor: Dr. Ravia Gupta

Sub-Editors: Alina, Karman,

Vineet, Tehraz, Janavi &

Hemani

Assistant Designers: Vineet &

Hemani

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