

CSIR-IIIM pays tribute to Col Sir RN Chopra on 144th birth anniversary



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu today paid rich floral tributes to Col. Sir R. N. Chopra, the Founder Director of the Institute, on his 144th birth anniversary, remembering his pioneering contributions to pharmacology, medicinal plants and Indian systems of medicine. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu and Director, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, along with scientists, technical and administrative staff, research scholars and other employees, offered floral tributes at the statue of Col. Sir R. N. Chopra on the institute premises. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed recalled the remarkable contributions of Col. Chopra, who is widely regarded as the Father of Indian Pharmacology. He said Col. Chopra played a pioneering role in establishing a scientific approach towards the study of medicinal plants and traditional systems of medicine. Dr. Ahmed

highlighted Col. Chopra's contribution towards the preparation of Ayurvedic and Unani pharmacopeias, helping bring India's traditional knowledge systems within the ambit of scientific research and creating a pathway for their wider global recognition. He also recalled Col. Chopra's pioneering work on medicinal plants, and his role in introducing the commercial cultivation of mint in India in 1968. He said his efforts contributed to the development of India's mint industry, with the country today emerging as a global leader in mint oil production and related products.

“Col. Chopra carried forward his scientific work at a time when research facilities were very limited, yet he made remarkable contributions in the fields of pharmacology and medicinal plants. His passion for science and commitment to serving humanity continue to inspire us,” Dr. Ahmed said.

He said the best tribute to Col. Chopra would be to continue pursuing scientific

research with sincerity and dedication and work towards taking India's indigenous knowledge systems to the global stage. Dr. Ahmed further noted that CSIR-IIIM's ongoing work in medicinal cannabis research, lavender-based products, natural products and collaborations with national institutions and industry reflects the scientific vision and values championed by Col. Chopra.

The CSIR-IIIM fraternity reaffirmed its commitment to carrying forward the legacy of its Founder Director through innovative research in medicinal plants, natural products and traditional knowledge using modern science and technology.

Prominent among those present were Heads of various research divisions and senior faculty and staff, including Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Dr. Sumit G. Gandhi, Dr. Qazi Naveed Ahmed, Dr. Rajkishor Rai, Sh. Kaushal Kumar, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Dr. Shashank Kumar Singh and Dr. Amit Nargotra, among others.

BJP Govt failed to fulfil development promises in J&K: Rana

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Joint Secretary, Central Zone, M.K. Rana, today criticised the BJP-led Central Government, alleging that it has failed to fulfil its promises on development and public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a gathering at Lower Ranjan, Ward No. 4, Block Mathwar, Rana highlighted the development initiatives undertaken by the Omar Abdullah-led government, stating that the administration was working to accelerate development and address the concerns of different sections of society.

He referred to various ini-

tiatives, including smart city projects and welfare measures focused on women, youth, employment generation and senior citizens. He also highlighted enhanced pension support for widows and other eligible beneficiaries, describing such measures as important steps towards strengthening social security.

During the interaction, local residents apprised Rana of several issues confronting the area, particularly the shortage and irregular availability of electricity and drinking water. They urged the authorities to take immediate measures to address these basic public necessities. Rana assured the residents that their concerns

would be taken up with the concerned Minister and relevant authorities for appropriate action. He said the issues raised by the people would be pursued seriously and efforts would be made to ensure that their genuine demands are addressed at the earliest. He emphasised that development must be reflected in the everyday lives of people and that basic amenities such as reliable power and adequate drinking water should receive priority. Rana reiterated that the National Conference would continue to remain connected with the people at the grassroots level and work towards highlighting their concerns before the appropriate forums.

MLA Arvind Gupta listens to Ward 26 residents, assures swift resolution of civic issues

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, on Monday met a deputation of residents from Ward No. 26 and held a detailed discussion on various civic and developmental issues affecting the locality. The residents highlighted problems related to the construction and repair of lanes and drains, irregular electricity supply, waterlogging and inadequate drainage facilities. They urged the MLA to take up these matters with the concerned departments on priority.

Arvind Gupta patiently listened to the deputation and assured that all genuine public concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He said the issues raised by residents would be immediately taken up with the concerned officials and that the progress of the required works would be regularly monitored. “Providing reliable basic amenities and improving civic infrastructure in every locality of Jammu West is my foremost priority. People should not



have to suffer because of damaged lanes, blocked drains, waterlogging or electricity-related problems,” Gupta said. He added that development must be visible on the ground and directly improve the quality of people's daily lives. “Our focus is not limited to making announcements. We are committed to ensuring that developmental works are properly planned, executed transparently and completed within the stipulated timeframe,” he stated. Gupta said regular interaction with residents helps identify ground-level difficulties and enables the administration to respond more effectively. He appealed

to the concerned departments to maintain close coordination and adopt a proactive approach while addressing public grievances.

“Every ward and every locality deserves equal attention. No area of the Jammu West Assembly constituency will be left behind in the development process. We will continue working with dedication to provide better roads, drains, electricity and other essential civic facilities,” the MLA asserted.

The residents thanked Arvind Gupta for patiently hearing their concerns and expressed confidence that the highlighted issues would be resolved at the earliest.

Jammu Police executes PIT-NDPS warrant against lady drug peddler; lodged in District Jail Amphalla

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

Jammu Police has taken stringent preventive action against habitual drug trafficking by executing a detention warrant under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (PIT-NDPS Act) against a lady drug peddler and lodging her in District Jail Amphalla. On August 17, 2026, a joint police team of Police Station Bahu Fort and Police Post Narwal executed the PIT-NDPS detention warrant issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu,

against Shivani Kumari, daughter of Darshan Lal and wife of Arun Kumar, resident of Rajiv Nagar, Narwal, District Jammu.

The detainee has been identified as a habitual drug peddler involved in the possession and transportation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and has been booked in multiple NDPS cases registered in Jammu and Rajouri districts. Her criminal record includes FIR No. 249/2025 under Sections 8/21/22/27-A/29 of the NDPS Act, Police Station Bahu Fort. FIR No. 97/2025 under Sections 8/21/22/29 of

the NDPS Act, Police Station Nowshera. In view of her continued involvement in activities related to drug trafficking, a detailed dossier was prepared by Jammu Police and submitted to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, seeking her preventive detention under the PIT-NDPS Act, 1988. After due consideration, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, issued the detention warrant under the provisions of the PIT-NDPS Act. The warrant was accordingly executed by Jammu Police, and the detainee has been lodged in District Jail Amphalla.

JKAACL folk performances enthrall audience at Lok Bhawan, Shillong

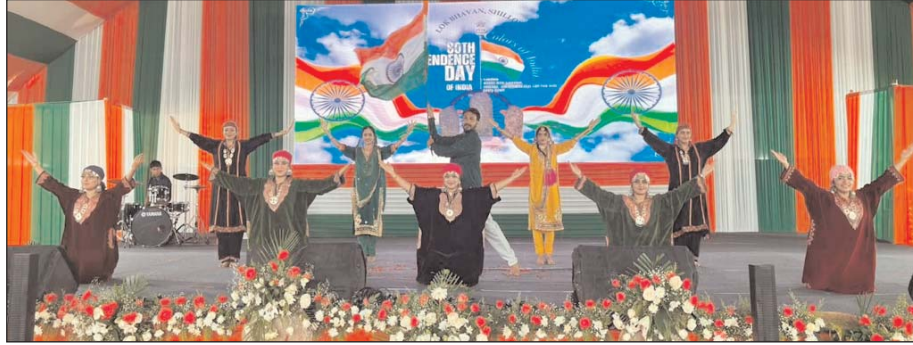
JKAACL showcases Rouf, Jagarna and Gojri Dance at Lok Bhawan, Shillong

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) showcased the vibrant and composite cultural heritage of the Union Territory through a captivating presentation of traditional folk dances at Lok Bhawan, Shillong, as part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations. The programme was organised by Lok Bhawan, Shillong, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Shillong, on August 15 and 16, 2026.

The artists from Jammu and Kashmir presented the rich folk traditions of the region through Kashmiri Rouf, Dogri Jagarna and Gojri Dance, offering the audience a colourful glimpse into the diverse cultural identity, traditions and social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. The performances were particularly appreciated by the audience and dignitaries present on the occasion. The presentation also received appreciation during the ‘At Home’ hosted by the Hon’ble Governor of Meghalaya, Sh. C. H. Vijayashankar, at Raj Bhavan on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, along with other dignitaries, senior government officials, defence and police personnel, artists, cultural representatives, distinguished guests and other invitees, attended the programme. The presentation beautifully brought together the cultural traditions of Kashmir, Jammu and the Gujar community, underlining the spirit of “Unity in Diversity” that



defines the cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and India as a whole. Kashmiri Rouf, one of the most celebrated traditional dances of Kashmir, reflects the grace, beauty and festive spirit of Kashmiri society. Traditionally performed by women during marriages, religious festivals and social gatherings, Rouf is characterised by graceful movements and rhythmic footwork, with dancers performing in rows while dressed in colourful traditional attire.

Representing the Jammu region, Dogri Jagarna offered a lively portrayal of the traditions, humour and feminine camaraderie associated with wedding celebrations. Traditionally performed by women when the men of the family go to bring home the bride, Jagarna is marked by playful exchanges, laughter, Boliyan and the rhythmic beats of the Dholak. The folk form also serves as a medium through which cultural values, humour and traditional wisdom are passed from one generation to another.

The presentation also featured the soulful Gojri Dance, representing the rich cultural traditions of the nomadic

Gujjar community of Jammu and Kashmir. Closely connected with the seasonal movement of the community between the plains and mountainous regions, Gojri traditions reflect a deep relationship with nature, forests, pastures and the pastoral way of life. The popular Gojri “Koonjadiye” portrays a touching and imaginative conversation between a Gujar woman and a bird of the hills, expressing longing, affection and the emotional world of pastoral life.

Adding another dimension to the presentation, Natya Rang also presented the Jammu and Kashmir Fusion, “Jammu Kashmir, Mera Jammu Kashmir,” conceived around the theme of “Unity in Diversity.” The presentation portrayed the remarkable harmony, cultural coexistence and shared traditions of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Through a vibrant fusion of regional cultural expressions, the performance conveyed the message of togetherness and celebrated the pluralistic cultural identity of the Union Territory.

The Independence Day celebrations provided a wider platform for cultural

exchange, with artists and cultural groups from different parts of the country presenting their traditional and contemporary artistic expressions alongside the Jammu and Kashmir artists. The programme featured Bhawai Dance and Kalbelia “Kesariya Balam” by the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Rajasthan; “Milke Saare Bandhan Todenge Hum” by Karnataka Sangha, Mandya; “Ka Shad Mastieh,” the traditional warrior dance of the Khasi tribe; the Wangala Harvest Dance of the Garo tribe; Bharatanatyam presentation of “Vande Mataram” by Prajna Kashyap from Mysore, Karnataka; “Chad Kheit Soh,” a traditional folk dance of the Jaintia tribes; and a “Cultural Melting Pot” performance from Bengal.

The celebrations also witnessed special musical presentations by the Jazz Band and Symphony Band of the Assam Rifles and the Assam Regimental Centre Band, adding a distinctive musical dimension to the cultural programme. The entire cultural presentation from Jammu and Kashmir was performed by Natya Rang, a Jammu-based

cultural and theatre organisation, which represented Jammu and Kashmir at the national platform during the Independence Day celebrations. The group of artists was led by Mohd. Yaseen, with Sunny Mujoo serving as performer and choreographer. Pankaj Sharma, an official from Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages deputised with the team, accompanied the artists and coordinated the arrangements for the contingent during the celebrations in Shillong. The participating artists included Musarat Bano, Vipashu Sharma, Pallvi Sharma, Isha Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Muskaan Thakur, Janvi Biloria, Depika Jangral and Chinky Behal, who presented the carefully prepared repertoire showcasing the diverse folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The presentation provided an important platform for artists from Jammu and Kashmir to share the region's rich cultural heritage with audiences from different parts of the country. It also contributed to strengthening cultural bonds between Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, demonstrating how traditional art forms can serve as a powerful medium of cultural exchange, national integration and unity. The successful presentation of Jammu and Kashmir's folk traditions at the Independence Day celebrations in Shillong reaffirmed the enduring spirit of “Unity in Diversity”, highlighting the role of cultural traditions in bringing people and regions closer and celebrating the shared cultural fabric of the nation.

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma honoured with ‘Vande Mataram Rashtriya Kala Ratna Samman’ in New Delhi

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS JAMMU, AUG 17:

Eminent senior contemporary and internationally acclaimed sculptor from Jammu and Kashmir, Ganesh Kumar Sharma, has been honoured with the prestigious ‘Vande Mataram Rashtriya Kala Ratna Samman’ by Kala Kunj Foundation, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, in recognition of his significant contribution to the field of sculpture and Indian art. The honour was conferred during the ‘Vande Mataram National Art Camp and Workshop’, organised by Kala Kunj Foundation to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram. The two-day national art event was held on August 15 and 16 at B.N. Pandey Hall, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Raj Ghat, New Delhi.

Around 42 eminent senior and young artists from different parts of the country participated in the national art

camp, presenting a diverse range of creative works inspired by the spirit of the national song and India's rich artistic heritage. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, in the presence of Guest of Honour and eminent artist Roop Chand, Vijay Pal Bhagri, Founder, Colour Canvas, and Kamal Seth, Camlin Colors. Ganesh Kumar Sharma participated in the event as a Guest Artist and was the only participating sculptor from Jammu and Kashmir, bringing distinction to the Union Territory's rich tradition of art and sculpture at the national platform.

The award ceremony was held on August 16 in the presence of Chief Guest Rajesh Kumar Dedha, educationist, eminent artist and Director, COSMO, Delhi. Eminent artists Laxman Kumar, Hari Singh and Deepak Sharma

were also present on the occasion.

The participating artists showcased their creative works in an exhibition and were felicitated for their valuable contribution to the national art event. The exhibition reflected the diversity of contemporary Indian art while highlighting the creative expression of artists from different regions of the country. Rajni Sharma, Director, Kala Kunj Foundation, congratulated Ganesh Kumar Sharma and all participating artists for their contribution and extended her best wishes for their continued creative achievements. The recognition of Ganesh Kumar Sharma at the national event has brought further recognition to the artistic talent of Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the contribution of its artists to the broader landscape of contemporary Indian art.

Congress gets shot in the arm in Ramgarh as dozens join party at Tarindi



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS RAMGARH, AUG 17:

The Congress party staged a significant show of strength in Tarindi village of Ramgarh, where dozens of people joined the party in the presence of senior Congress leader and former minister Yash Pal Kundal and District Congress President Sanjeev Sharma. The development is being viewed by Congress leaders as a boost to the party's grassroots presence in an area traditionally considered a BJP stronghold. They claimed that the latest induction reflects growing dissatisfaction with the BJP ahead of the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections. Addressing the gathering, Yash Pal Kundal launched a sharp attack on the BJP, alleging that the party has repeatedly attempted to divide society along religious and caste lines since coming to power. Referring to the recent controversy surrounding the alleged “purification”

of a stage associated with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Kundal termed the incident “shameful and regressive”. He alleged that treating a platform associated with a Dalit national president as impure amounted to an insult to the dignity of the Dalit community. Kundal accused the BJP and RSS of promoting what he described as an “anti-Dalit and casteist mindset” and called for greater social equality and dignity. “Dalit society will not remain silent anymore. The people will respond through democratic means,” he said. Unemployment also remained a major focus of Kundal's criticism. He questioned the government's employment policies and targeted the Agnipath scheme, alleging that instead of creating stable employment opportunities for young people, the government introduced the Agniveer system in the armed forces.

He also raised concerns over alleged NEET paper

leaks and protests by young people demanding employment and their rights. Kundal alleged that instead of addressing the concerns of unemployed youth, the government had responded to protests with force.

“Today, the biggest concern among our youth is employment. Young people are demanding jobs and a secure future, but their concerns are not being adequately addressed,” he said. Kundal claimed that public dissatisfaction with the BJP was increasing and that Congress had begun making inroads into the party's traditional support base in Ramgarh. The joining programme witnessed the participation of a large number of local residents and youth. Congress leaders said the expansion of the party's grassroots support would strengthen its organisational network ahead of the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections.