

## 2-day annual 'Techvaganza' fest showcases tech, talent, and tradition at NIT Srinagar

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Two-day annual technological fest 'Techvaganza' concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday late evening. The mega event witnessed massive participation from students of various educational institutions from Kashmir Valley.

Techvaganza 2024 was organized by 'Student Gymkhana, and brought together students, tech enthusiasts, industry experts, and academia from all over the country to celebrate technology and innovation in a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere.

The concluding ceremony was attended by all Deans, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, DSW and Chairman of Techvaganza Prof. Abdul Liman, all HOD's, HOC's, faculty and administrative staff, other dignitaries were present during the second-day proceedings.

Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad was the Convener, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani as Coordinator, while Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran and Dr. Janani L were the Co-coordinators of the two-day event.

The theme for this year's Techvaganza was "Greener Innovation – Engineering a Sustainable World!". It focused on how engineering and technology can contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, congratulated the organizers for their excellent work in successfully conducting the two-day program.

He emphasized that such events offer students a valuable platform to explore and showcase their talents and interests. "Whether it's in technology, arts, music, dance, or other fields, students have the opportunity to engage in activities, competitions, and workshops that align with their passions," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said during the 2-day Techva-



ganza that witnessed the massive participation of students from across Kashmir.

"Techvaganza offered a range of workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities that allow students to develop and enhance their skills. They provided practical and experiential learning environment outside the traditional classroom setting," he said.

Dean Students Welfare and Chairperson of Student Gymkhana, Prof. Abdul Liman said that during the past two days, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural sessions allowed students to showcase their abilities and receive recognition for their accomplishments.

"Such fests celebrate the rich diversity of students from various backgrounds. They provide a platform for students to showcase their cultural heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions, he said.

The convener of the two-day fest, Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad, stated that the 'Techvaganza' event successfully concluded on Friday at the campus. "We received positive feedback from the student community across the Valley," he added.

Dr Parvez also highlighted that both faculty and students actively participated in the event, making it a collaborative and enriching experience.

"Faculty members and students also contributed by mentoring students and organizing various workshops, while students enthusiastically took part in a wide range of activities, from technical competi-

tion to cultural perform-

ances, fostering a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere on campus," he said.

In her concluding message, coordinator of the event, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani, expressed her appreciation for the success of the annual 'Techvaganza' fest, highlighting its celebration of innovation, creativity, and technological excellence.

Dr Iqra said that Techvaganza fest featured an exciting array of events that brought together students and faculty from diverse disciplines.

During the two-day event, students enthusiastically participated in activities like Remote Control Car Racing, Bombsquad, Structure Battles: Bridge Building, and the Treasure Hunt, all of which were met with great excitement and energy.

Technical events like the Civil Engineering Quizathon, Line Follower, Robo War Competition, and Aeromodelling showcased participants' engineering skills and creativity.

Workshops on Micro-controllers, Introduction to Drones, Solid Works, Machine Learning, and Python provided hands-on learning opportunities for attendees.

The fest also embraced themes of sustainability and innovation, with events focused on greener technologies, such as the Ecobuild Challenge, Electric Vehicles, Renewable Energy, and talks on AI and heritage preservation.

Creative competitions like Live Photography, Science Experiments, and essay writing underlined the

fest's diverse range of activities. Gaming enthusiasts participated in Valorant, BGMI, Tekken 8, FIFA, and more, while cultural performances like the UV Dance Competition added to the vibrant atmosphere.

Leadership workshops, financial literacy talks, and expert sessions further enriched the experience, making Techvaganza a comprehensive celebration of technology, creativity, and innovation.

Later in the evening, the magic and laser show captivated the audience with stunning performances, leaving everyone in awe. Students from across the country indulged in a culinary journey at the Food Court, which featured a diverse range of cuisines, from the rich flavors of Kashmir to the vibrant dishes of Kerala.

The event also offered an array of attractions beyond food. Various stalls were set up, offering everything from fashion and cosmetics to trekking equipment. Fun stalls and gaming zones added to the festive atmosphere, drawing large crowds.

In addition to these, Drone Soccer and e-football competitions, along with the magical shows, kept attendees thoroughly engaged, offering a dynamic mix of excitement and innovation.

These attractions, combined with the vibrant performances and diverse activities, made the event a perfect blend of entertainment and cultural celebration, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy.

## 'International Girl Child Day' celebrated at Govt Girls High School Drugmulla Kupwara

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Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Department of Social Welfare Kupwara in collaboration with Govt. Girls High School Drugmulla, Kupwara celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child with various activities.

The event was presided over by Deputy CEO Kupwara. CDPO Kupwara, ZEO Drugmulla and Principal Govt Hr Secondary School Hatmulla were present on the occasion.

Highlight of the programme was a debate on girls' rights. On the occasion,



stationery kits were distributed among students and meritorious students were felicitated. Sports activities such as

cricket, badminton, carrom and ring and rope matches aimed at breaking stereotypes, fostering teamwork, and promoting physical fit-

ness were also organised. The event was a step towards empowering young girls and encouraging their holistic development.

## Injustice to Karnataka in tax devolution, will fight it out: D K Shivakumar

BENGALURU, OCT 12:

Alleging that the Centre has done injustice by allocating less funds to Karnataka in the tax devolution, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said that the Congress government in the state would fight it out.

Shivakumar, also the state Congress chief, attacked BJP MPs and union ministers from the state for remaining silent on the issue and termed it "shameful." "Injustice has happened to Karnataka. They have given more to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We were given less than even Andhra Pradesh, which doesn't contribute much in tax. We will fight and protest this in the days ahead," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "We will formulate a programme to fight for - our tax, our right".

"Why have BJP MPs and Central ministers not raise



their voices? Despite having five Central ministers from the state, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, they remain silent even though injustice is happening to the state. This is shameful," he said.

When pointed to the BJP's reported defence that the population of the states being used as a criterion for devolution of taxes and comparison to the figures related to the Manmohan Singh-led UPA tenure,

Shivakumar said, "Let's discuss all those in the Assembly....let them join the protest with us for now." The union government on Thursday released tax devolution of Rs 1,78,173 crore to the state governments, including one advance instalment of Rs 89,086.50 crore in addition to the regular instalment due for October 2024.

Karnataka got Rs 6,498 crore in the state-wise distribution of net proceeds of

union taxes and duties for October 2024.

Responding to a question on the opposition's criticism of the term "evil forces" as used in the state government's advertisements, Shivakumar said, "Based on what we have seen and the information we have, we have tried to express our feelings to the people. I can only say this much now. Let's discuss the rest in the Assembly." The government's Dasara advertisement in newspapers on Friday read, "May goddess Chamundeshwari bestow upon us the strength to bring peace and prosperity to the people of Karnataka and courage to slay the evil forces that try to destabilize the state with deviousness and deceit." The advertisement was seen as a dig at the opposition BJP and JD(S), which are targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the MUDA scam and demanding his resignation.

## Deplorable, follow systematic pattern: India on attack on pandal, theft at temple in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, OCT 12: India on Saturday said it has noted with "serious concern" the reported attack on a Durga Puja pandal and theft at a revered Kali temple in Bangladesh, as it requested Dhaka to ensure the safety and security of Hindus, all other minorities and their places of

worship in the neighbouring country.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the incidents as "deplorable events" and flagged that these follow a "systematic pattern of desecration" of temples and deities in Bangladesh.

"We have noted with serious concern the attack on a Puja mandap in Tantribazar, Dhaka and the theft at the revered Jeshorehwari Kali temple at Satkhira," the MEA said.

Bangladeshi daily "Prothom Alo" has reported an incident of a "crude bomb" allegedly thrown at a Durga

Puja pandal in the Tantribazar area of Old Dhaka. Though the bomb caught fire, nobody was injured, the report said, adding that the incident took place on Friday night.

Friday marked the ninth and last day of Navratri, the nine-day sacred period for Hindus.

## 'Where would one go to satisfy sexual urges if not their partner': Allahabad HC quashes dowry FIR

NEW DELHI, OCT 12:

Quashing dowry charges against a man, the Allahabad High Court ruled that the allegations in the case were likely motivated by personal disputes and asked "where would a person go to satisfy their physical and sexual urges" if not their partner in a "morally civilized society."

Justice Anish Kumar Gupta dismissed the case against Pranjali Shukla and two others, finding that the evidence presented in the FIR and witness statements did not support the claims of dowry harassment.

The court noted that the primary allegations centred around disagreements related to the couple's sexual relationship and the wife's refusal to engage in certain activities. It concluded that these disputes were not indicative of dowry demands and were more likely driven by personal differences.

"It is apparent that the dispute is with regard to the sexual incompatibility of the parties for which the dispute was there between the parties and due to the said dispute the instant FIR

has been lodged by the opposite party making out the false and concocted allegations with regard to the demand of dowry," the court stated.

"If a man were to demand sexual favours from his own wife and vice versa, where would they go to satisfy their physical sexual urges in a morally civilized society?" the court questioned.

The FIR had accused Shukla of demanding dowry and engaging in abusive behaviour, including forcing his wife to watch porn and engage in

unnatural sex. However, the court found that these allegations were not supported by credible evidence.

As per fact of the case, Meesha Shukla got married to the applicant Pranjali Shukla on December 07, 2015, as per Hindu rites and customs. An FIR was lodged by Meesha alleging demand of dowry by her in-laws namely Madhu Sharma and Punya Sheel Sharma. However, it has been categorically stated in the FIR that prior to marriage there was no demand of money.

## IIT Jammu 5th Convocation marks milestone: Over 271 degrees awarded

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In recognition of academic excellence, Rimjhim Agarwal from the Department of Chemical Engineering earned the President of India Gold Medal for achieving the highest CGPA among undergraduate students.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu proudly celebrated its 5th Convocation Ceremony on 12th October, 2024, a momentous occasion that underscored the institution's unwavering commitment to nurturing innovation, academic excellence, and leadership. Held on the picturesque campus, the event brought together a distinguished gathering of esteemed guests, faculty, proud family members, and graduating students, creating an atmosphere of shared pride and joyful commemoration that will be cherished for years to come.

This year, IIT Jammu conferred degrees upon a distinguished cohort of 271, spanning 178 B.Tech, 63 M.Tech, 14 MSc., and 16 Doctorates of Philosophy. The grand ceremony was presided over by Sh. Srikanth Nadhamuni, Founder CTO Aadhaar, CEO Khosla Labs, Managing Trustee eGov Foundation, whose compelling and inspiring address resonated deeply with the graduates. With words that soared to the occasion, Sh. Srikanth Nadhamuni encouraged the new graduates to boldly embrace the challenges of the future, cultivate a spirit of lifelong learning, and dedicate themselves to the advancement of the nation. The address was met with resounding applause, underscoring the shared commitment to excellence that is the hallmark of IIT Jammu.

Sh. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu addressed the residing with his inspiring and uplifting words congratulating



the Class of 2024 on their marvelous achievements, "As they embark on their next journeys, I wish them all the best for their future endeavors, knowing that they will continue to illuminate the name of IIT Jammu and make us proud," said Sh. Manoj. IIT Jammu proudly unveiled a magnificent new sculpture,

titled 'Arise: Ascent towards Excellence' dedicated to the graduating class of 2024. This awe-inspiring work of art signifies the transformative power of education, guiding students to rise above limitations, embrace challenges as opportunities and shine with intellectual curiosity, creativity,

and critical thinking. It teaches students to pursue excellence with unrelenting passion, dedication, and discipline and become beacons of inspiration, illuminating the path for others.

In recognition of exceptional academic achievements and dedication, the President Gold Medal was awarded to Rimjhim

Agarwal from the Department of Chemical Engineering, while the Director Gold Medal was conferred upon Devin from the Department of Mechanical Engineering for his remarkable contributions. The Institute Gold Medal was awarded to Soham Naik for the interdisciplinary program offered jointly by Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

The Institute Silver Medals celebrated students with the highest CGPA in their respective programs, acknowledging their outstanding academic performance. Recipients included Ravnish Jandial for Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering, Aryan for Computer Science & Engineering, Rajyavardhan Singh for Electrical Engineering, Prakriti Gupta for Materials Engineering, and Devin for Mechanical Engineering. Additionally, Paras Gandotra received the silver medal for the Master of Technology in Civil Engineering, Arunav Arya for Electrical Engineering, and

Sovan Sundar Dhauria for the Master of Science in Chemistry.

These prestigious accolades highlighted the dedication, intellectual rigor, and drive for excellence of these distinguished graduates, who have set exemplary standards in their fields and are poised to make meaningful contributions as they embark on their professional journeys.

IIT Jammu's 5th Convocation filled the air with immense enthusiasm and a never ending academic spirit to achieve excellence with dedication and diligence. As the ceremony drew to a close, it left a lasting impression on all present, a reminder of the remarkable achievements of the graduates and the boundless potential that lies ahead. With renewed vigor and a profound sense of purpose, IIT Jammu's graduates are now prepared to embark on their next chapter, poised to make meaningful contributions to society and drive innovation on a global scale.