

### **Revival of Basohli Painting under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), RCI IIT Jammu**

The UBA Regional Coordinating Institution (RCI) at IIT Jammu has undertaken a series of initiatives to revive and promote Basohli painting, a significant traditional art form of the Jammu region, while fostering community engagement and livelihood opportunities. The initiative began with village-level outreach activities and competitions conducted at Panjgrain on 4 February 2026, Tanda on 10 February 2026, and Pangali on 16 February 2026. The outreach team, along with noted artist Mr. Subash Langeh, conducted hands-on sessions to introduce participants to the fundamentals of Basohli painting. Each village witnessed an average participation of 20–25 local youth and aspiring artists. Based on their performance and creativity, seven participants from each village were shortlisted. The shortlisted participants from all villages were further screened, and the top 5–6 promising artists were identified for advanced mentoring and exposure opportunities at IIT Jammu. Simultaneously, a broader call for participation was circulated among institutions within the UBA network of RCI IIT Jammu.

As a culmination of these efforts, a Workshop-cum-Competition on the Revival of Basohli Paintings was organized on 14 March 2026 at IIT Jammu. The programme witnessed participation from around 80 participants, including students from MIET Jammu, Dogra Degree College Samba, SMVDU Katra, GGM Science College Jammu, ITI Jammu, Government Degree College Hiranagar, Government Degree College Kathua, MIER Jammu, the BBA Department of the University of Jammu, KCS Vidyashala, and SPMR College of Commerce Jammu. Youth from the adopted villages of Panjgrain, Pangali, and Tanda also participated in the programme. Faculty members, staff, and students of IIT Jammu were present, making the event a vibrant platform for interaction between academic institutions and local communities.

The workshop was conducted by resource persons Mr. Amardeep Singh and Mr. Subash Langeh, who shared insights into the history, techniques, and distinctive features of Basohli painting, along with live demonstrations. Participants gained valuable hands-on experience during the session.

The competition held thereafter showcased the creativity and skills of the participants. The winners were:

- **First Prize:** Sunita (Government ITI Jammu)
- **Second Prize:** Gitanjali Phounsa (Dogra Degree College Samba)
- **Third Prize:** Kritika Sangotra (SMVDU Katra)

All participants were awarded certificates.

This initiative created a structured pathway—from grassroots village-level engagement to institutional exposure—aimed at preserving cultural heritage, nurturing local talent, and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities. Efforts are also underway to facilitate the formation of a Basohli Painting Self-Help Group (SHG) in the adopted villages, reaffirming IIT Jammu’s commitment to community development under UBA.



## IIT Jammu holds activity on reviving Basohli painting at village Pangali



**GJ REPORT**  
**JAMMU, FEB 17:** The Outreach and Skill Development Department of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu organised an activity titled "Reviving the Traditional Basohli Painting" in its adopted village, Pangali (Dansal Block), under the aegis of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

The initiative focused on preserving and revitalising the rich heritage of traditional Basohli painting while strengthening community engagement and promoting sustainable skill development. The programme was conducted under the guidance of IIT Jammu Director Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Dean (Outreach and Skill Development) Prof. Meenakshi Rajeev, and Associate Dean Dr. Sameer K. S. Pachalla.

The outreach team visited the village along with



**Resource person giving tips to participants of painting activity at village Pangali, Dansal on Tuesday.**

noted state artist Subash Langeh, whose works are displayed at the Raj Bhavan (Governor House). Around 20 participants, including local youth and aspiring artists, actively took part in the hands-on activity and learned the art of Basohli painting.

Based on their performance, creativity, and overall

engagement, selected participants will be invited to IIT Jammu for advanced training and wider exposure opportunities. To ensure continuity and create livelihood avenues, IIT Jammu is also facilitating the formation of a 'Basohli Painting Self-Help Group (SHG)' in its adopted villages.





# IIT Jammu organizes Workshop-cum-Competition to promote revival of Basohli Paintings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Regional Coordinating Institution (RCI) at IIT Jammu organized a Workshop-cum-Competition on the Revival of Basohli Paintings at the IIT Jammu campus.

The initiative aimed to promote awareness and encourage the revival of Basohli painting, a renowned traditional art form that reflects the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region.

The programme was organized by the Outreach Department of IIT Jammu under the guidance of the Director, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur; Dean (Outreach and Skill Development), Prof. Meenakshi Rajeev; and Associate Dean, Dr. Sameer Kumar Sarma Pachalla.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 80 participants representing various educational institutions, including MIET Jammu, Dogra Degree College Samba, SMVDU Katra, GGM Science College Jammu, ITI Jammu, Government Degree College Hiranagar, Government Degree College Kathua, MIER



IIT Jammu faculty with winner students and other dignitaries.

Jammu, the BBA Department of the University of Jammu, KCS Vidyashala, and SPMR College of Commerce Jammu.

Youth from the adopted villages of Pangrain, Pangali, and Tanda also participated in the programme. Faculty members, staff, and students of IIT Jammu were also present, making the event a vibrant platform for interaction between academic institutions and local communities.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Sameer Kumar Sarma Pachalla highlighted the importance of preserving traditional art forms and emphasized the role of UBA and the Ministry of Education, along with technical education institutions, in pro-

moting rural and cultural heritage. He noted that initiatives such as this workshop provide young people with opportunities to engage with regional art traditions while encouraging creativity, cultural awareness, and appreciation of indigenous knowledge systems. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Meenakshi Rajeev spoke about the historical and artistic significance of Basohli painting, which is widely recognized for its bold colours, expressive style, and distinctive visual elements.

She encouraged participants to explore and preserve such traditional art forms, noting that many indigenous artistic practices are gradually declining and require sustained efforts for their preserva-

tion and revival. The workshop session was conducted by resource persons Amardeep Singh, an experienced practitioner of Basohli painting, and Subash Langeh, a noted artist from the region.

During the session, they shared insights into the history, evolution, and distinctive features of Basohli painting and explained the techniques used in creating this unique style of artwork. The resource persons also conducted a live demonstration, guiding participants through the basic processes involved in preparing colours, outlining figures, and painting traditional Basohlimotifs.

The interactive session enabled participants to gain hands-on experience and a deeper understand-

ing of the techniques involved in this traditional art form. Following the workshop, a painting competition was organized in which participants applied the techniques they had learned.

The competition received an encouraging response and highlighted the creativity and artistic abilities of the participants. At the conclusion of the competition, Sunita from Government ITI Jammu secured the First Prize; Gitanjali Phounsa from Dogra Degree College Samba won the Second Prize; and Kritika Sangotra from SMVDU Katra secured the Third Prize. All participants were awarded certificates of participation in recognition of their involvement and enthusiasm.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and tokens of appreciation to the resource persons for their valuable contribution. The event served as an important step towards creating greater awareness about the cultural and artistic value of Basohli painting and reaffirmed the commitment of IIT Jammu to promote and preserve traditional art forms through community engagement and outreach initiatives.



**Participants at workshop-cum-competition on Basohli Paintings at IIT Jammu.**

## ***IIT Jammu organizes workshop cum competition on Basohli Paintings***

***Excelsior Correspondent***

JAMMU, Mar 15: The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Regional Coordinating Institution (RCI) at IIT Jammu organized a workshop-cum-competition on the revival of Basohli Paintings at the IIT Jammu campus.

The initiative aimed to promote awareness and encourage the revival of Basohli painting, a renowned traditional art form that reflects the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region. The programme was organized by the Outreach Department of IIT Jammu under the guidance of the Director, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur; Dean (Outreach and Skill Development), Prof Meenakshi Rajeev; and Associate Dean, Dr Sameer Kumar Sarma Pachalla.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 80 participants representing various educational institutions, including MIET Jammu, Dogra Degree College Samba, SMVDU Katra, GGM Science College Jammu, ITI Jammu, Government Degree College Hiranagar, Government Degree College Kathua, MIER Jammu, BBA Department of the University of Jammu, KCS Vidyashala, and SPMR College of Commerce Jammu. Youth from the adopted villages of Pangrain, Pangali, and Tanda also participated in the programme.

Dr Sameer Kumar Sarma Pachalla highlighted the importance of preserving traditional art forms and emphasized the

role of UBA and the Ministry of Education, along with technical education institutions, in promoting rural and cultural heritage.

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The workshop session was conducted by resource persons Amardeep Singh, an experienced practitioner of Basohli Painting, and Subash Langeh, a noted artist from the region. During the session, they shared insights into the history, evolution, and distinctive features of Basohli painting and explained the techniques used in creating this unique style of artwork. The resource persons also conducted a live demonstration, guiding participants through the basic processes involved in preparing colours, outlining figures, and painting traditional Basohli motifs.

Following the workshop, a painting competition was organized in which participants applied the techniques they had learned. At the conclusion of the competition, Sunita from Government ITI Jammu secured the first prize; Gitanjali Phounsa from Dogra Degree College Samba won the second prize; and Kritika Sangotra from SMVDU Katra secured the third prize. All participants were awarded certificates of participation in recognition of their involvement and enthusiasm.