

## Thursday Mind Meet held at CUJ



Faculty members along with students during the meet.

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JAMMU: Department of Economics in collaboration with School of Languages, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), organized a Thursday Mind Meet panel discussion focusing on the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020.

Kamal P. Patnaik, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh region was the Chief Guest and shared his thoughts on "New Education Policy for a New India".

Patnaik covered the genesis of the National Educational Policy 2020 and underscored the mechanism of taking the Indian knowledge system forward. He emphasised on 3 E's viz. Education, Ecology and Economy as foundation of NEP 2020.

He emphasised that a proper policy framework can bring

in desired transformative changes in our educational country.

Ananya Khajuria, Research Scholar of the Department focussed on taking inclusive approach by encouraging collaborative research and student exchange programmes for holistic development.

Janhavi Chohan, PG student of the Department appreciated the Government's initiative to integrate traditional knowledge and values into the modern education system thereby fostering the deeper connection between students and their cultural roots.

Kritika, UG student of the Department, showed concern about the education structure system wherein the inclusion of Indian regional languages has shown a positive impact on the students as well as on the teachers.

The Thursday Mind Meet programme is an outcome of consistent initiative by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain on research, dissemination and skill enhancement among the students.

He encouraged the Department to hold more events of this nature for the students' overall development. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar CUJ encouraged the Department to conduct more of these kinds of events.

Professor Aswini Kumar Nanda, Head, Department of Economics welcomed the gathering. Prof. Vandana Sharma, Convener of Thursday Mind Meet Programme moderated the event. Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor, Department of Economics outlined the overview of the Panel discussion and proposed the vote of thanks.

## Rekha inaugurates "Karva Chauth Ustav"



BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan after inaugurating Ustav.

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JAMMU: A women's weekend commenced on Thursday as per the Dogra ceremonies.

Jammu women geared up to commemorate "Karwa Chauth Utsav" in style in Zone by the park in Jammu.

The event exemplifies the enlightening of the traditional lamp in the esteem presence of BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, Sanjita Dogra BJP Mahila Moreha President, Anita Gandotra, Geetanjali Mahajan, Neeru Anand, Poonam Gupta, Pumi Choudhary, Mahila Moreha District President Divya Jain and other prominent women of the society.

The programme is blended and organized by a young enterprising woman Divya Abrol.

On the extravaganza occasion, Rekha Mahajan flanked by many women assembled to celebrate the Karwa Chauth Utsav in an extravagant slam style.

The Karwa Chauth Utsav in collaboration with many sponsors highlights the carnival event in the

shape of a grand mela to create a sparkle in the festival spirit of thousands of strong women and girls who will fast for their husbands on Karwa Chauth which is on 1 November.

Special features in this grand mela are a wide range of festive dresses, Jewellery and handmade Bangles, Wedding Trousseau packing, Handbags and clutches, and many more attractive items. Hundreds of

women and young girls were seen shopping in this grand event in their festive attires.

Rekha Mahajan, while speaking after inaugurating a celebration on the occasion of Karwa Chauth, asserted that the grand and outstanding function shows how we are connected with our traditional rituals.

She stated women are the reflection of ethics, loyalty, decisiveness, and leader-

ship in all formats.

Rekha said our Vedas and tradition have given a call that women should be able and capable of giving a new dimension to the nation under the clairvoyant leadership of PM Modi.

She counted that local vocal is also playing a crucial role in developing the confidence and upliftment of all women in J&K under the visionary supervision of PM Modi.

## Confederation of POJK Refugee Organizations to observe Oct 22 as "Black Day"



Confederation members briefing media in Jammu on Thursdays.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, the Confederation of All POJK Refugee Organizations declared plans to observe the 22nd of October as "Black Day" and host the "Shardanjli Samaroh" to pay homage to the martyrs of 1947, 1965, and 1971. This comes as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to seek justice for displaced persons (DPs) from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

On this fateful day in

1947, Pakistan launched an attack on the state of Jammu and Kashmir under the pretext of a tribal raid, leading to a tragic genocide of Hindus and Sikhs in the areas now under Pakistan's control. The annual "Shardanjli Samaroh" serves as a solemn remembrance of those who lost their lives during these events.

This year, the Confederation is preparing for a significant gathering of DPs to commemorate "Shardanjli Samaroh" on 22nd October, with the primary focus on paying tribute to the more than 70,000 men, women, and children who fell victim to the genocide in the POJK region.

The organization's press release emphasizes that the issues and demands of DPs, which have also been recommended by the PSC on Home Affairs in report 183 dated 22nd December 2014, remain unresolved

despite the passage of time.

The confederation is urging all DPs to join the event at Reen Palace, Chatha road on 22nd October 2023 at 10 am, as they seek to highlight the strength and unity of those who have suffered due to the events of 1947, 1965, and 1971.

After 76 long years of waiting for justice, the DPs are calling upon the government to promptly address their longstanding demands and concerns. Notable figures associated with the organization include Jagjit Singh Soodan, Rajiv Chuni, Adv. Amrik Singh, Capt. Yadvir Singh, Vinod Sharma, and Harpreet Singh, among others.

As the date approaches, the Confederation of All POJK Refugee Organizations aims to shed light on the struggles of these displaced persons and the need for justice and recognition for their sacrifices.

## Youth should take benefit of Modi Govt's youth-centric policies: Kavinder

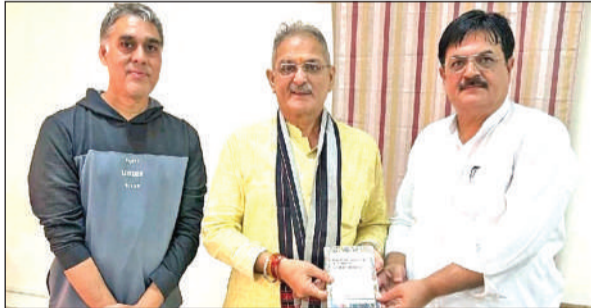
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RAJASTHAN: In the vibrant capital of Rajasthan on Thursday, a substantive discussion took place between Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, J&K UT, and Professor Anurag Sharma, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development at Rajasthan University, in presence of Ashutosh Joshi, National Coordinator of the Indian Youth Parliament.

During the meeting, Kavinder Gupta emphasized the youth-oriented policies introduced by the Modi government in India.

The BJP leader highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to empowering the youth of the nation.

He spoke passionately about the numerous initiatives and policies implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, which are designed to harness the potential of the country's young population.



Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader meeting Professor Anurag Sharma, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development at Rajasthan University.

Kavinder threw light on the key initiatives taken by the Modi government which include Skill India, Start-up India, Digital India, Make in India, etc.

He acknowledged the educational reforms aimed at providing quality education, modernizing curricula, and promoting research and innovation.

The senior BJP leader also stressed that these initiatives have collectively created an environment in which young Indians are encouraged to dream big, innovate, and contribute to the country's development. The meeting underscored

## Ch Manmohan urges Govt to compensate hailstorm-hit farmers for crop damages

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JAMMU: Ch. Manmohan Singh, President of the All India Jat Maha Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir, and former Mayor Jammu, has raised serious concern over the extensive damage to the standing crops of farmers due to recent rains and hailstorms in Jammu region.

In a statement issued here today, Ch. Manmohan Singh has urged both the State and Central Governments to take immediate action in compensating the affected farmers for their losses.

He asked government to immediately direct the officials of Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to assess the losses being faced by farmers due to recent rains and thunderstorm.

He stated that during the previous instance of crop damage, the promised compensation was not delivered, resulting in considerable distress among the farming community. With their livelihoods hinging solely on agriculture, the lack of compensation has exacerbated their challenges.

He mentioned that a farmer has spent a minimum amount of Rs 3000 to 4000 per kanal for sowing their crops. In light of this, he urged the government to provide a compensation of at least Rs 5000 per kanal to help farmers recover from their losses.

The Jat Maha Sabha President expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat by Rs 150 per quintal which seems to be a commendable step towards supporting the farming community. Ch. Manmohan Singh also raised concern over the plights of farmers whose land has come under the border fence due to which they are unable to cultivate their fields nor they have compensated till date. He urged the Defence Minister and Modi government to look into the matter and release adequate compensation to such farmers who land has come under the border fence.

Ch. Manmohan Singh underscored the urgent need to address the challenges faced by farmers in the region and support them during this critical time by granting compensation at the earliest. He further urged the government to waive off pump set and power bills of farmers to support them in the hour of crisis as they are the food growers of the country.

## Saini community challenges their categorization as social caste, HC seeks government's response

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant legal development, Justice Puneet Gupta of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in Jammu has issued directions to various government authorities to present their stance in a writ petition filed by members of the Saini Community. The petition challenges S.O. 537 dated October 19, 2022, issued by the Social Welfare Department of the J&K government, specifically the amendment to the J&K Reservation Rules, 2005, which added 'Saini' as a Weak and Underprivileged Class (Social Caste) at Entry No. 31 into Annexure-D attached to S.O. 537, dated October 19, 2022. Justice Puneet Gupta ordered Commissioner/Secretary of Social Welfare Department, Government of J&K; the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Deputy Commissioner, Samba; and Deputy

Commissioner, Kathua to submit their positions before the upcoming hearing. The writ petition was filed on behalf of the Saini Community by Suksham Singh, son of Vir Singh, a resident of Bishnah, District Jammu. Advocates S.S. Ahmed and Sheikh Najeeb represent the petitioners.

During the hearing, Advocate Sheikh Najeeb, with the support of Advocate Rahul Raina, asserted that, in response to a grievance raised on the J&K Grievance Redressal Portal, the Social Welfare Department had indicated on June 12, 2023, that S.O. 537 dated October 19, 2022, had been put on hold by the government until further orders. Advocate Sheikh Najeeb further requested interim relief by directing the Government of J&K not to issue caste certificates under the mentioned S.O. 537 in favor of Saini Community members, as he argued that the Saini caste is an upper caste.

Advocate Sheikh Najeeb presented historical and cultural information to support

his case, stating that the Saini lineage can be traced back to Maharaja Shoorsen, the grandfather of Lord Shri Krishna, who was the founder of the Saini Class. He also noted that the Sainis consider themselves Yaduvanshi Kshatriyas, directly related to Lord Shri Krishna. He further argued that the Saini Community is economically well-off in J&K, engaged in businesses and government services, and on par with other upper castes. He contended that the Backward Classes Commission had insufficient data to justify their inclusion in the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

Advocate Sheikh Najeeb emphasized that a single Saini family, consisting of four members, had initially represented to the Backward Classes Commission on December 30, 2020, seeking reservation under the OBC/OSC category. Later, on March 17, 2022, three more individuals claimed to represent the Saini Community and

requested their inclusion in the list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. Sheikh Najeeb argued that these individuals had acted without consulting the broader Saini Community, and the community as a whole was unaware of these representations.

The Saini Community expressed its resentment and protested the issuance of S.O. 537 dated October 19, 2022, with significant demonstrations and media coverage.

Following the submissions made by Advocate Sheikh Najeeb and Advocate Rahul Raina, who represented the Members of the Saini Community, Justice Puneet Gupta issued notices to UT Functionaries. These notices were accepted in open court by Advocate Vidushi Singh, who appeared on behalf of Senior AAG Monika Kohli, representing the Government of J&K. The Court directed the submission of objections by the next hearing date, which is scheduled for October 18, 2023.

## Drug awareness programme organized

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JAMMU: A Drug Awareness Programme was organised under Civic Action Programme at Government Girls High Secondary School, Satwari and a debate competition was also conducted to spread awareness on drug abuse.

Shaheen Wahid, SP South Jammu was the Chief Guest of the event. Various other staff members of the schools were also present.

SP South Jammu in her speech draw the attention of the participants and made them aware about the effects of Drug addiction, government policies to curb it, laws and police actions against the suppliers, also enlightened the participants on drug menace and motivated them to aware



Shaheen Wahid, SP South Jammu educating students.

their families and surrounding people, also it is the duty of every citizen of this country to contribute towards drug-free society and help Police to curb smuggling/ menace of drugs from the country.

She further added that police is committed towards public welfare and we urge the students to inform us if they suspect any illegal activity in the area.

She further added that students had to strongly come forward to make the area free from the menace of drug abuse.

She also spoke on the various matters like eve teasing, excess usage of mobile phones, importance of education, sports and exercise for all the students. SP South Jammu advised the students to channelize the energy in

sporting activities to make their future better.

She said that sports is the best way to be focused person in life. It not just keeps the physical health of a person well but also brings more mental robustness. It makes one disciplined in real sense and students should opt sports so that they can learn the sense of discipline that sports teaches us. She also highlighted that the journey of any addiction begins with the "use" and develops into "abuse" and very quickly graduates to becoming an addiction.

In the end, she asked students to be aware of their surroundings and come forward to actively contribute towards a drug free society and help Police to curb trafficking of drugs.

## HC orders authorities to address rising dog bite cases in Suo-Moto PIL

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JAMMU: In a noteworthy development, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, having initiated a suo-moto Public Interest Litigation (PIL) based on alarming facts brought to the attention of the Chief Justice, has taken note of the escalating number of registered dog bite cases in Ladakh. The fig-

ures show a dramatic increase, from 854 cases in 2017 to 2229 in 2022. Additionally, reports indicate that approximately 220 people fell victim to dog bites in January 2023 alone. This situation has instilled fear not only among the local populace but also among tourists. Furthermore, it has been reported that street dogs are now attacking wild herbivores, a matter of grave concern for both the local community and cattle owners.

A Division Bench of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, operating out of the Srinagar Wing, led by Chief Justice N. Kotishwar Singh and Justice Moksha KhajuriaKazmi, has directed the concerned authorities to submit a detailed affidavit outlining the steps

they have taken, accompanied by necessary data and figures. The submission is to be made without fail on or before the next date of the hearing.

During the PIL proceedings, the Division Bench noted that on March 29, 2023, various authorities and officials were made parties to the case, including the Union Territory of Leh-Ladakh, the Department of Animal Husbandry in Leh-Ladakh, the Deputy Commissioner of Kargil, the Municipal Committees of Leh and Kargil, the Director of Health Services in Kargil, and the Ladakh Legal Services Authority.

A status report detailing the course of action taken was submitted to mitigate the issues stemming from stray dogs, which were causing substantial inconven-

ience and harm to the public. The Court acknowledged and directed adherence to the proposed course of action in its order dated May 17, 2023, based on the status report submitted.

However, as of the present date, no compliance report has been submitted to the Court as previously directed.

Consequently, the Division Bench has issued a stern directive to the aforementioned respondent-authorities, instructing them to furnish a comprehensive affidavit regarding the measures they have implemented, complete with necessary data and figures.

They are required to comply without fail on or before the next scheduled hearing. The Division Bench has also made it explicit that any failure to provide this detailed affidavit will result

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