

ICSSR sponsored Research Project Consultative Meet held at CUJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Consultative Meeting was successfully organized by Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu today as part of the ongoing ICSSR-sponsored Research Project titled "Prospects and Challenges in the Implementation of Holistic and Multidisciplinary Approach under NEP 2020 in the Degree Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir" aimed at refining research tools and methodologies. The meet brought together a diverse group of experts, academicians, and field practitioners to deliberate on the relevance, structure, and effectiveness of the proposed tools designed for data collection.

The principal objective of the meeting was to seek expert opinions and sug-



gestions on the draft tools including questionnaires, interview schedules, and other data-gathering instruments to ensure their validity, reliability, and contextual appropriateness.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Dr. Jyoti Devi, Project's Research Assistant, followed by a brief presentation on the research project by Dr. Mohan Galgotra, PI of Research Project. The presentation outlined the project's background,

objectives, research questions, methodology, and proposed tools.

Eminent scholars and domain experts, including Prof. Ashwani Nanda, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Head of Department of Economics, Prof. Rajeev Rattan Sharma, Head, Department of Education, University of Jammu, Prof. Udhay Partap Singh, Associate Dean, Department of Mathematics, Central University of Jammu,

Prof. Asit K. Mantry, Head, Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, Prof. J. N. Baliya, Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, and Dr. Nidhi Sarraf provided constructive feedback on the tools, highlighting areas of improvement such as language clarity, cultural sensitivity, question framing, and sampling strategies. Several suggestions were also made regarding the inclusion of open-ended

questions, scaling techniques, and pre-testing protocols.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Yad Ram, Co- PI of the research Project who expressed gratitude to the experts and participants for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed the commitment to uphold methodological excellence throughout the research process and also expressed gratitude to Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu for promoting research culture in the University.

The research team acknowledged the support of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for funding and facilitating this important initiative and looks forward to further academic engagements as the project progresses.

NMC urges LG, CM to release 3 percent DA installment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), Subhash Shastri on Sunday appealed to JKUT LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate steps to Release 3 percent DA Installment due from July this year to employees and pensioners well before Diwali festival as the same have already been released by the Central Government as well as the states of Bihar and Rajasthan to its employees and pensioners.

In a statement issued here, Shastri stated that in view of the inbuilt provisions in the annual budget, there should not be any hitch for the UT Government in releasing it, more so when others States have already released the 3 percent DA installment. An early decision in this

regard would be genuine measure to provide some relief to the employees and pensioners enabling them to celebrate the Diwali festival with guest and fervor, he added.

Recalling recommendations of the Central 7th Pay Commission, Shastri said it also had recommendations that as soon as DA crosses more than 50 percent, the Centre is under an obligation to merge 50 percent DA into basic pay or pension.

"As the DA has already touched 58 percent now, we request for early merger of 50 percent DA into basic pay/pension with retrospective effect," he added. Referring to benefits given to UT Ladakh, he demanded that monthly amount for pensioners in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory be increased to Rs

1000, effective from April 1, 2020.

Additional demands highlighted by Shastri including early announcement for the appointment of the chairman and others members of the 8th pay commission, regularization of the services of all daily rated workers under SRO 64, reducing the pension commutation period from 15 to 12 years and granting an additional increase in pension at the rate of 5, 10 and 15 percent after the pensioner complete 65, 70 and 75 years of age, respectively.

These demands, Shastri said, are vital welfare of the employees and retirees who have served the Nation diligently.

He urged the government to consider them sympathetically and take prompt action to address the long standing concerns of the working class.

Timely PM-KISAN transfer a testament to Modi Govt's commitment to farmers: Dr. Parneesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, senior BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir, today expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government for their unwavering commitment to the welfare of farmers, following the timely release of the 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

In a press release issued here today, the senior BJP leader said that the advance transfer of funds clearly demonstrates the Modi Government's resolve to strengthen the rural economy and support the farming community, which forms the backbone of India's growth story. Under the latest instalment, approximately ₹171 crore have been directly transferred into the bank accounts of around 8.55 lakh eligible farmers across Jammu and Kashmir through the Direct



Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

"The timely release of the PM-KISAN instalment is a testament to the Centre's transparent, accountable and farmer-centric approach," he said, adding that such measures have ensured that even the remotest sections of the agrarian community receive the benefits of national schemes without delay or mid-dlemen.

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan lauded the government's consistent efforts to empower farmers through multiple welfare schemes, including crop insurance, soil health initiatives, fertilizer subsidies, and improved access to credit and technology. He said that the PM-KISAN

scheme, by providing direct income support, has become a crucial pillar of the government's vision for Atmanirbhar Kisan, Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Reiterating BJP's commitment to the welfare of farmers, Dr. Parneesh Mahajan said that the Government's proactive initiatives have not only improved farm incomes but also restored confidence among rural families. "The farmer is at the heart of the Prime Minister's development model. Every instalment of PM-KISAN reflects that dedication to their prosperity and dignity," he remarked.

Dr. Parneesh urged all farmers to utilize the financial assistance effectively for enhancing productivity and adopting modern agricultural practices.

He reaffirmed that the BJP will continue to stand firmly with the farming community and work relentlessly for their overall progress and empowerment.

Atmanirbhar Bharat a mass movement for national self-reliance: Billawaria

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan has become the cornerstone of India's transformation towards economic, defence, and industrial independence.

Addressing a workshop organised by BJP Jammu South District, Kunjwani Mandal, Billawaria described Atmanirbhar Bharat as more than a production-boosting programme, calling it a "mass movement to position India as a global leader." He said that Prime Minister Modi's vision is to turn India from an import-driven economy into an export-oriented powerhouse.

Highlighting achievements in the defence sector, Billawaria said, "India



Former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria speaking at a workshop.

is now manufacturing and exporting defence equipment, a major milestone under the Modi government." He noted that by integrating private industries, MSMEs, and start-ups into the defence ecosystem, India has truly realised the Make in India spirit. Over 500 defence items, he said, have been placed under the import prohibition list, ensuring domestic production while generating employment

and innovation opportunities for the youth.

Billawaria also emphasised the critical role of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, describing it as the backbone of India's industrial framework. He stated that the Modi government has empowered MSMEs

through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, and CHAMPIONS Portal, enabling small businesses to become globally competitive.

Reiterating that the five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat - Economy,

Infrastructure, System, Demography, and Demand - are driving India's growth, Billawaria said the mission is shaping India into a resilient global economy.

He added that Jammu & Kashmir, with its rich natural and human resources, holds immense potential under this model. "If the youth embrace innovation in industries, agriculture, tourism, and handicrafts, J&K can emerge as a shining example of India's growth story," he said.

The workshop was presided over by Kunjwani Mandal President Ajay Pratap Singh. Prominent BJP leaders including Rakesh Sangral, Ranjit Singh, Divya Jain, and Rajinder Singh (Poppy) were also present.

Natrang presents Balwant Thakur's Dogri play 'Gatte-ch-Maanu'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balwant Thakur's Dogri play 'Gatte-ch-Maanu' (Man in the ditch) directed by Neeraj Kant staged here today at Rani Park, Jammu under its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. Based on Krishna Chander's famous Urdu classic short story 'Khadda', the play is a hard hitting satire on the decay of human values. Balwant Thakur has adapted it in such a contemporary manner that the audience is put to a situation in feel it as the happening of the day and much closer to their surroundings and life sufferings. Dogri play shows that one and all tend to shrink their own responsibilities and work and pass it on to others. Instead they indulge in high sloganism, claiming to be the redeemers of suffering masses. This is symbolized by a person falling into a ditch whose pleas to help him come out unanswered by one and all. Different people pass by him like surveyors, youngmen, religious leaders, cops, leader in power and a foreigner: The person in distress is given different excuses for their inability in



rendering help to him. The unemployed youth are unable to find out of their fixed schedule of hunting for girls. The 'Sadhu' showers blessings and prays for his peace in as and where condition. The police cop lodges an FIR and asks him to report to the police station. The foreigner lady enquires about his choice between India and Pakistan, which side he would like to take? The situation becomes more dramatic when a minister after a complaint from the public about the worsening of the road condition, makes a round of the area. The workers of the public works department instead of taking

out the man from the ditch put wooden planks over the ditch and create a stage for minister's public speech. The play reflects the plight of the poor masses who continue to suffer for want of help from those at the helm of affairs. Natrang actors who acted in the play included Neeraj Kant as Neta, Pawan Vena as Aadmi, Mohd. Yaseen as Karamchari-1, Kartik Kumar as Karamchari-2, Aadesh Dhar as Sadhu, Aryan Sharma as Ashiq-1 and Policeman, Brijesh Avtar Sharma as Foreigner, and Kushal Bhat as Ashiq-2 and Chela. The show was presented by Tanisha.

Nalwa condemns desecration of Guru Granth Sahib in Samba, demands investigation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Minority Morecha (BJPMM), J&K UT President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa on Sunday strongly condemned the shocking incident of desecration of the holy Guru Granth Sahib that took place in Samba district and demanded strict action and a high-level probe into the matter.

The incident occurred on the night of October 7, 2025, at Gurdwara Singh Sabha in Koulpur village, Vijaypur tehsil of Samba district, where the accused, identified as Manjit Singh alias Billa, allegedly used an inflammable substance to set ablaze five sacred saropis (copies) of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Chairing a meeting of party workers to discuss the incident, Nalwa termed the act as "unforgivable" and "a deliberate attempt to hurt



BJP MM J&K UT President Ranjodh Singh Nalwa addressing party workers meeting.

the religious sentiments of the Sikh community."

He said the BJP Minority Morecha stands in complete solidarity with the Sikh community and will ensure that justice is served at the earliest.

"Our team will visit the Gurdwara tomorrow to assess the situation, meet the management committee, and issue a strong statement condemning this heinous act. Such acts are not just a crime against a faith but a direct assault on the social and communal harmony of

Jammu and Kashmir," Nalwa said while addressing the workers.

He further alleged that the act appeared to be part of a "deep conspiracy" aimed at disturbing peace and brotherhood in the region.

"This sacrilegious act is not an isolated incident. It reflects a larger conspiracy to divide communities and create unrest. Those behind this shameful act must be dealt with exemplary punishment," Nalwa added.

Calling for a high-level investigation, Nalwa

demanding that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be constituted to probe the incident thoroughly and bring the culprits to justice at the earliest.

"We demand a time-bound investigation by an SIT to uncover the real motives and masterminds behind this attempt to vitiate peace," he said.

Expressing deep pain and anguish, Nalwa appealed to the people to maintain peace and not fall prey to divisive forces.

"The Sikh community has

always stood for peace, humanity, and brotherhood. We must remain united and not allow anyone to succeed in their designs to divide us," he urged.

In view of the incident, Nalwa also issued a directive to all Gurdwaras worldwide to strengthen their security and implement round-the-clock vigilance.

"All Gurdwara committees must install 24x7 surveillance systems and ensure strict monitoring to prevent any such attempts in the future," he said.

He reiterated the BJP Minority Morecha's commitment to upholding communal harmony and ensuring justice.

"No one will be allowed to play with the sentiments of any religious community. The government must ensure the harshest punishment for those responsible," Nalwa asserted.

Jodhamal Youth Conclave 2025 concludes



Participating students with dignitaries at closing ceremony of JYC'25.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jodhamal Youth Conclave 2025-the 3-day intellectual extravaganza concluded with a glittering Valedictory Function. JYC'25, as it is popularly referred to in the School circuits, witnessed a gathering of about 350 teen-aged like-minded student-leaders with global perspectives and an immense knowledge of geopolitics to discuss, deliberate and debate on the national and international issues.

The Chief Guest in the Valedictory Function was Dr. Sumita Sharma Joint Registrar, University of Jammu.

This year, in the 8th

Edition of JYC, a dozen leading schools participated. The theme of this year's JYC was: 'Fiat lux ex tenebris' which translates in: Let light emerge from darkness.

There were six Committees: Lok Sabha, UNW, UNSC, MEBCD, International Press and UNODC with their topical agenda. Each Committee saw vigorous debating and rounds of diplomacy. Their respective Agenda were dissected and discussed to the hilt. The day's rigorous intellectual fatigue was relieved by the organization of socials for the students.

Over the course of three days, the conclave featured

multiple committees and interactive sessions that encouraged students to express their opinions confidently and think critically about real-world challenges. The delegates showcased exceptional communication skills, diplomacy, and teamwork throughout the event.

As per the past practice and being the host school, the Jodhamal delegation was not eligible for awards. The Overall Best Delegation Trophy was won by K C Public School, Jammu.

The conclave came to a closure by declaration of JYC'25 as closed by the Secretary General of JYC'25, Guhika Sachdev.

KC Public School holds charity marathon to mark founder's week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Public School marked the commencement of Founder's Week with the Meraki Marathon 3.0 - not merely a race, but a heartfelt celebration of a legacy.

The event embodied the vision of the school's Founder Chairman, Sudarshan Mahajan, who believed in empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through education, sports, and holistic development.

To honour his vision, the Meraki Marathon was organised on October 12th beginning from the school premises. The event was flagged off by Principal Amarendra Kumar Mishra, while the Chief Guest, Kameshwar Puri, Superintendent of Police (SOG), appreciated the initiative and encouraged the students to remain engaged in community welfare activities. He also enlightened the gathering with valuable insights on cyber security.

The Guests of Honour,



KC Public School faculty felicitating Kameshwar Puri, Superintendent of Police (SOG).

Chandeep Singh Sudan, a national gold medalist para-athlete, and RJ Rohit from Radio Mirchi, added enthusiasm and inspiration to the event with their presence.

The Vice Principal, Sanjay Pandey, and the Headmistress, Sophia Rana, were also present to cheer for the participants and motivate them throughout the marathon. The marathon witnessed spirited participation from students across various categories. Nitish,

Prakash, and Vishal secured the first, second, and third positions respectively.

In the 5 km category, Samar Chaudhary, Kartik Kumar, and Shivam Sharma bagged the top three spots. In the 3 km category, Vishal Singh Bhau, Jogesh Majodhra, and Jatin Kumar stood first, second, and third respectively.

A special mention goes to Vidhi and Harshita Jalali, who secured the first position in the women's category,

showcasing remarkable determination and spirit.

The event was successfully conducted under the guidance of PGT Jaya Chowdhary and Rahul Thakur, who led the organising committee with great dedication. The entire Organising Committee team, headed by Lakshay Rehan and Samrat Singh, were instrumental in the planning and execution of the event, ensuring its smooth and successful conduct.

The primary motive of the marathon was to spread smiles among underprivileged children and make this Diwali a true 'Khushiyon Ki Diwali' for them. The proceeds from the event will be utilised to support a community service programme.

KC Public School regularly organises diverse service activities and encourages students to participate in Round Square service projects both within India and abroad, nurturing compassion, leadership, and global citizenship.

Medical-cum-Knee Check-up camp held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Brahma Kumaris Jammu, in collaboration with Government Ayurvedic Hospital Indira Chowk, organized a Free Medical and Knee Check-up Camp on Sunday at Brahma Kumaris Ashram, B.C. Road, Anphalla. The camp was held in the presence of Rajyogini Sudarshan Didi, Incharge Brahma Kumaris J&K/Ladakh. Around 150 people benefitted from free medical consultations, Ayurvedic medicines provided by Government Ayurvedic Hospital, and acupressure services by expert Munish Sharma. A special knee check-up was conducted by Dr. Ranjit Singh, Senior Consultant at Livasa Hospital, Amritsar, and SPS Hospital, Ludhiana. Held from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, the camp aimed to promote community health and wellness by offering free, accessible healthcare services to those in need.