

3-day Multilingual Awareness Training for Primary Teachers concludes at SCERT Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) J&K, Jammu, under the leadership of Shantmanu, Director SCERT J&K, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT Jammu, concluded a three-day Multilingual Awareness Training Programme for Primary Teachers, organised from November 20 to 22, 2025 by the Multilingual Education Cell, Department of Education in Languages at the Divisional Office Jammu.

The programme aimed to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills required to implement multilingual and mother tongue-based education in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020, NCF-FS 2022 and the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

The inaugural session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp in the presence of Sanjeev Suri, Head Academic unit 1 and other senior faculty members.

It was followed by the address by Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, who underlined the significance of multilingualism as a natural asset of Jammu & Kashmir's rich linguistic fabric. She stressed that learning in familiar languages boosts children's confidence, creativity and classroom participation, reiterating SCERT's commitment to supporting schools with effective, policy-aligned training.



Primary Teachers with JKSCERT officials posing for a photograph.

Monica Sharma, Coordinator of the program, presented an overview of the key themes of the programme, highlighting multilingual approaches, inclusive pedagogy, home-language integration and play-based methodologies as essential components for improving foundational literacy and numeracy.

Across the three days, teachers participated in a wide range of interactive sessions covering policy perspectives of NEP 2020, NCF-FS 2022 and NIPUN Bharat; understanding language diversity in J&K as a classroom resource; language games and play-based multilingual activities; myths and misconceptions about multilingual education; and inclusive pedagogy for diverse classrooms.

The programme also featured sessions on the use of storytelling, songs and oral traditions across languages,

FLN-focused multilingual strategies, bridging home language with school language, and the development of multilingual teaching-learning materials such as story cards, picture dictionaries, charts and labels. In addition, participants explored digital tools for multilingual classrooms and shared group presentations along with practical classroom application ideas.

The programme was seamlessly conducted with strong support from Dr. Sandeep Singh, Associate Coordinator, Rakesh Chobber, Technical Coordinator and organising team.

The teamwork ensured smooth facilitation of sessions, demonstrations and hands-on work.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sandeep Singh, acknowledging the contributions of resource persons, participating teachers, organising team and SCERT Jammu administration. Certificates were distributed to all participants for their enthusiastic engagement during the valedictory.

The training marked a significant step towards strengthening multilingual, inclusive and child-centered practices in primary classrooms across the Union Territory.

Sangrash Samiti formed on issue of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College

Colonel Sukhbir Singh Mankotia unanimously elected as Convenor of Samiti

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangrash Samiti" has been formed on Saturday to address the issue of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College. In this regard, on the call of the Shri Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Jammu & Kashmir, a meeting of 60 different social, community, business, and religious organizations from the city was held in Geeta Bhawan under the chairmanship of the Sabha's president, Purushottam Dadhichi. In that meeting, the decision was taken to form the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangrash Samiti.

Retired Colonel Sukhbir Singh Mankotia was unanimously elected as the Sangrash Samiti's convenor.

Purushottam Dadhichi, President of the Sanatan Dharma Sabha, said that a meeting of various organi-



President SSDS J&K, Purushottam Dadhichi briefing media.

zations of the city had been organized because widespread opposition had emerged in society after students from a single particular community were selected for 42 out of the 50 MBBS seats in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College.

He said in the meeting, all the group leaders shared the opinion that a struggle was necessary for a lasting solution to this issue and therefore, by consensus, the Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi Sangrash Samiti was formed. Colonel Sukhbir Singh Mankotia was declared convenor by common consent.

All the leaders of the organizations present at the meeting assured that they would fully support every decision taken by the Sangrash Samiti. Everyone pledged that no effort would be spared in making this movement successful. The meeting ended with cheers for Mata Vaishno Devi.

Jammu hosts 18th Inter-District Musical Competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sat Yug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra organized the 18th Inter-District Musical Competition at Abhinav Theatre, where more than 580 students from 28 schools showcased outstanding talent in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts.

The programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp in the presence of dignitaries Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the participants, he emphasized the importance of awareness, discipline, and responsible digital behaviour. He urged the youth to refrain from sharing personal information on social media and reminded them of their crucial role in building a secure and progressive nation.

Guest of Honour Zorawar



DIG of Police, Jammu, Shiv Kumar Sharma being honoured at a programme.

Jamwal, Spokesperson, BJP (J&K) encouraged students to stay away from substance abuse and negative influences.

Sharing insights from his 15-year de-addiction mission, he noted that nearly 2,000 young individuals have been successfully rehabilitated. He appealed to educators and parents to guide students toward compassion, moral values, and responsible citizenship.

The event was attended by several notable personalities, including singer Raja Vijaypuria, Inspector Azad Manhas, social worker Dinesh Kohli, Dr. Atul Hans (Director Academics & Principal, International Delhi Rising School), Dr. Vishnu Govind Verma (Principal), and senior journalist Daljit Singh.

The judging panel comprised Prof. Ashwani Kathak, Adv. Ravinder

Kaur Reet (Artist & Model), and Vikram. Principal Deependra Kant highlighted that the competition aims to connect children with India's cultural roots, performing arts, and spiritual values-helping them cultivate positivity, discipline, and inner harmony.

He reiterated the commitment of Sat Yug Darshan Sangeet Kala Kendra, an initiative of Sat Yug Darshan Trust, to nurtur-

ing young talent through year-round cultural and educational programmes.

City Coordinator Prince Chhabra expressed gratitude to all guests, participants, and team members for their enthusiastic support.

In the Jammu round, Stephen's International School secured first place in Solo Singing (Classical), while Army Public School, Sunjwan won the Group Song (Devotional) category. International Delhi Public School claimed the top position in Solo Classical Dance, and Carmel Convent School achieved first place in the Group Dance (Folk) segment. Aryan Public Senior Secondary School emerged victorious in Group Dance (Devotional). Maharishi Vidya Mandir won the Nukkad Natak competition, and International Daily Rising School secured first place in the Rangoli Competition.

DLSA organises Special Lok Adalat on Criminal Compoundable Cases

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In compliance with the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, Special Lok Adalat on Criminal Compoundable Cases was held on Saturday under the Chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Jammu, R. N. Wattal and overall supervision of DLSA Secretary, Maleeka Sharma here in the Court complex Janipur.

In all, 18 Benches were



Chairman DLSA R. N. Wattal and DLSA Secretary, Maleeka Sharma at Lok Adalat.

constituted in different Courts to deal with the matters of Criminal Compoundable cases, with specific focus on the amicable settlement of the

cases, in line with the broader aim of reducing pendency and promoting access to justice for all.

The Special Lok Adalat stands as a testimony to

the commitment of the Legal Services Authorities to ensure that justice is not only delivered, but delivered efficiently, empathetically and economically. It also reinforces the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in strengthening the justice delivery system.

A total number of 141 cases pertaining to Criminal Compoundable Cases were taken up, out of which 60 cases were settled. The total Amount recovered was Rs. 14,47,720/-.

Govt GN Hospital hosts CME on Dental Sciences & Oral Health

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar on Saturday organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on Dental Sciences & Oral Health.

As many as 60 Dental Surgeons from four Districts- Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi participated in the event. The CME was divided into an opening ceremony and scientific Session. Director Health Services (Jammu), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar inaugurated the event in presence of Deputy Director Dentistry, Dr. Sanjay



Director Health Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar at CME.

Sharma; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Narinder Singh Bhatial and Sr. Consultant Dentistry, Dr. Rohit Kohli.

In his inaugural address, the Director Health Services

appreciated the work done by Dental Surgeons in the field and motivated them to take up the Administrative Job for better patient care. During the Scientific Session, Associate Professor

Indira Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu, Dr. Ajay Gupta spoke on "Fundamentals of Post and Core". Assistant Professor Dr. Amrit Pal Singh threw light on "Facial Infections", while Consultant GMC Rajouri Dr. Israr spoke on "Maxillofacial Injuries".

Pain & Palliative Care Specialist, Dr. Rohit Lahori acquainted the participants on "Trigeminal Neuralgia" while Sr. Consultant Dentistry, Dr. Rohit Kohli spoke on "Osseo Integration in Dentistry" and Dr. Bhavneet Kaur, Consultant Dentistry talk covered "Pedodontic Sutras".

Where accountability, transparency has gone in Omar government: Sharma

Former Mayor exposes Rs 7-8 cr scam in JMC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a new development on Saturday, senior BJP leader and former Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma has exposed a scam in Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) involving Rs 7-8 crore.

During a visit to Kot Bhalwal garbage dumping site Sharma told reporters that money is being spend on dumpers and tippers without applying mind.

"In 2023-24, expenditure on garbage disposal was Rs. 5-6 crore which has now touched Rs. 13 crore," he maintained adding: "In papers, total garbage of 350 metric tonnes is collected from Jammu daily but in reality it is only 300 metric tonnes and the city garbage alone is about 410 metric tonnes in Jammu, of which only 300 metric ton is being lifted. Sharma further informed that 60 tippers



Former Mayor, Rajinder Sharma visiting dumping site.

were engaged for garbage disposal in 2023-24 and every tipper used to make 2 trips to Kot Bhalwal daily to dispose the garbage but today same amount of garbage is removed by 130 tippers and every tipper is only making a single trip to Kot Bhalwal. Moreover if we have 130 tippers and dumpers than every hours

must empty 26 vehicles in one hour as only 5 hours working can be done from 7 a: m to 12 o'lock. We are here for more than two hours but we have not seen 52 tippers getting empty.

So where these are getting empty. It is a big question. "I question the clause put in the tender for

allowing the work of garbage collection to tippers that the vehicle will run only for 30 km daily and due to this it makes only one trip to Kot Bhalwal," he continued adding that someone is really benefitting from all this.

The former Mayor said in whose pocked these extra Rs. 7-8 crore are going.

"This is the money of Jammu people who give Rs. 100 as user charges per month for garbage collection, No Objection Certificates charges and fee for building permission," he further said.

Sharma said that when whole of the JMC only got Rs. 24 crore capex money, the shifting of Rs. 7-8 crore in illegal hands is a matter of grave concern. "I want to know this from the Chief Minister who is heading this department that where

the accountability and transparency has gone in his government," he said adding:

"The Administrative Secretary Mandeep Kour in Local Bodies Department herself remained JMC Commissioner and if she has no knowledge of all this then it is a matter of concern." Why she be not held responsible as it is her duty to implement policies and procedures in letter and spirit. What administration she is good at?

The senior BJP leader informed that they are going to meet the CM soon in this regard and demanded probe into all this to fix the accountability.

Ex- Corporators Pappu Choudhary, ward 43, Jaideep Sharma, ward 22, Kapil Singh Chib, ward 62 and Yaush Pal Sharma ward 35 accompanied former Mayor.

Week long training for Aapda Sakhis concludes at CTI Kot-Balwal



Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn, Zahid Naseem Manhas with other dignitaries and participants.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The one-week training programme on "Capacity Building and Training of Women as Aapda Sakhi for Disaster Management" successfully concluded on Saturday at the Central Training Institute (CTI) HG/CD, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The weeklong training course was inaugurated by Zahid Naseem Manhas, IPS, Commandant, SDRF 2nd

Battalion Jammu on Nov 17, 2025. DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu Mohammad Arshad was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function which was also attended by SO to Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K Rafi Giri; Dy.SP, SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu Dinesh Gupta; Dy.SP, Area Commandant HG Jammu Naseem Akhter; Dy.SP, Dy. Controller Civil

Defence Jammu Zia-ul-Haq; Dy.SP, Principal CTI HG/CD Kot Bhalwal Jammu Dev Raj & Assistant Commandant NDRF along with Area Commandants of Home Guards Samba, Rajouri and Kathua.

The training programme aimed at empowering women by enhancing their skills and preparedness in disaster management, thereby strengthening community resilience.