

CBP for officials of I&C Dept commences

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A two-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) was inaugurated here on Wednesday by Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh at IIT Jammu Campus.

As many as, 40 officers of the rank of Functional Manager, Project Manager and Industrial Promotion Officers participated in the training programme.

The training session commenced with welcome address by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu followed by inaugural speech by Commissioner Secretary, I&C Department.

The Commissioner Secretary said that the training program is aimed at providing comprehensive knowledge base to the officers of the department covering various topics related to Modern



Commissioner Secretary I&C, Vikramjit Singh lighting ceremonial lamp.

Industrial Ecosystem including Policy Implementation Strategies and intervention of technologies including Generative AIs. "The program will enhance critical thinking skills and providing Stress Management Techniques bringing in conducive working environment at workplace", said Vikramjit Singh.

He further highlighted the need for capacity building exercises and urged the

into theoretical and case study based practical exercises which will equip the officers in applying analytical approaches in executing their assignments.

Hosting Team headed by Dr. Amitash Ojha, Assistant Professor, department of Humanities and Social Science, IIT Jammu, distinguished speakers and SMEs possessing academic and industrial knowledge would contribute in deliberating on different topics.

Besides the participants, Joint Director (M&P), Joint Director (Dev), Chief Accounts Officer I&C, Deputy Director (Planning), Assistant Director and faculties from IIT Jammu were present in the program.

The inauguration session concluded with vote of thanks by Miss Garima Assistant Professor, IIT Jammu.

participants to upgrade their existing skill sets to cope up with the emerging demand and working environments.

Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, also addressed the participants and requested them to indulge in the interactions with the speakers and obtain maximum benefits from the program.

The intensive training session has been divided

T.R Magotra's Dogri Book "Jambunama" released



Dignitaries releasing Jambunama, a Dogri book penned by T.R Magotra "Sagar" at K L Sehgal Hall on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jambunama, a Dogri book penned by T.R Magotra "Sagar," was released on Wednesday at K L Sehgal Hall.

The book provides an in-depth literary exploration of Duggar's history, drawing references from ancient texts like the Vedas, Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and accounts of travelers such as Chinese visitor Hsien Tsang.

Former Minister Ajay

Sadhotra was the Chief Guest, while Padma Shri Jatinder Udhampuri, Sahitya Akademi awardee and former director of Radio Kashmir Jammu, presided over the function.

Other dignitaries included SSP Railways Jammu Shalinder Singh, also a Sahitya Akademi awardee, and Saroj Mahajan, noted social worker and Chairperson of KC Group of Educational Institutions.

The dais was further

adorned by Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President NDS, and Radha Rani, Assistant Professor of Dogri, Degree College Nagrota.

TR Magotra shared his experience and highlighted the core themes of his book. Capt. Lalit Sharma, IFS (Retd.), and Convenor of NDS, lauded the publication as a proud addition to Dogri literature. He emphasized Duggar's rich heritage and the significance of documenting its

Nitish Mahajan elected as President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal

Vows to work tirelessly for strengthening party base

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge of the Social Media Department, BJP J&K, has been elected as the Mandal President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, Bahu Constituency. The announcement was met with applause from party members and supporters, marking another milestone in Mahajan's dedicated service to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Nitish expressed his heartfelt gratitude to several prominent BJP leaders for their unwavering support and encouragement, including Vikram Randhawa (MLA Bahu), Narinder Gupta (Co-Returning Officer), Lucky Puri (Ex-Corporator), Neena Gupta (Ex-Corporator), Bharat Blushan (Vice Chairman, Cantonment Board), Ajay



Nitish Mahajan being felicitated for electing as Mandal President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal.

Gupta (Ex-Corporator), Neha Gupta (State Mahila Morcha General Secretary), Ankit Gupta (State Social Media Department Head), and Isshan Gupta (State IT Head).

Nitish said, "I am deeply humbled and honored to be entrusted with this significant responsibility. I pledge to work

with a deep understanding of the aspirations of the younger generation, has made him a popular figure among party cadres and supporters.

Nitish's extensive network with the youth has played a significant role in strengthening the party's grassroots presence, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. His approachability, vision, and commitment to the BJP's ideals make him a crucial bridge between the party leadership and the next generation of voters.

Currently, Nitish Mahajan holds several key positions within the party, including Co-Incharge, State Social Media Department, BJP J&K; Member, State Executive Committee and Chief Election Agent, Assembly Election Bahu Constituency 2024.

POJK 1947 SIF demands constitution of POJK 1947 People and Advisory Board under SWD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All J&K POJK 1947 Sharnarhi Intellectual Forum held a press conference to demand the constitution of a POJK 1947 People and Advisory Board under the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The forum stressed the urgent need for concrete measures to address the grievances of the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) who have faced neglect for over seven decades.

The forum highlighted that, for the past 76 years, the POJK 1947 Sharnarhi community has been peacefully advocating for their legitimate rights through hunger strikes, rallies, and other democratic measures. In 1947, over ten lakh people were displaced due to Pakistan's aggression in Jammu and Kashmir. The displacement led to the loss of over 40,000 lives and the abandonment of significant moveable and immovable properties in POJK. Despite these sacrifices, successive governments have failed to recognize or compensate these losses. In stark contrast, the forum pointed out that families displaced from Kashmir due to militancy in 1989 received due claims and compensation, both in cash and kind. Meanwhile, POJK displaced persons have only received Rs 5.50 lakh per family as ex-gratia relief, which the forum described as discriminatory and inadequate.

The forum emphasized the need to establish a J&K Advisory Board for the development of POJK displaced persons, modeled



All J&K POJK 1947 SIF President, Advocate Amrik Singh talking to reporters.

after the Pahari Speaking Advisory Board constituted in 1989. Additionally, the forum called for granting Pahari Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to POJK displaced persons, recognizing their unique cultural and historical identity. The forum demanded the sanction of the pending ex-gratia grant of Rs 24.50 lakh per family to address the financial hardships faced by the displaced community. They also called for the regularization of unrecognized Sharnarhi Basties in line with the commitments made by the Union Territory Government.

A key demand was the provision of admissions for children from the POJK displaced community in All India Professional Colleges. The forum highlighted that similar opportunities are already extended to Kashmiri Pandit families and stressed the importance of educational empowerment for the younger generation of the POJK community.

In their concluding remarks, the forum urged both the Union Territory

Government and the Central Government to address these long-standing issues promptly. They stressed that the constitution of an advisory board and recognition of their legitimate demands are essential for ensuring justice and equality for the POJK displaced community.

The press conference was attended by prominent members of the forum, including Advocate Amrik Singh (President), Surjit Singh (General Secretary), S. Kuldeep Singh (Vice President), and others such as S. Paranjit Singh (Ex-Corporator), Charanjit Singh (Ex-Director, Citizens Cooperative Bank), Nasib Singh (Ex-Chief Manager, J&K Bank), Prof. K.D. Singh, Jagdish Kumar (Retired Principal), and H.S. Sudan (Retired Group Captain, IAF), among others.

The forum reiterated their commitment to peaceful advocacy and called for urgent action to rectify decades of neglect and discrimination faced by the POJK displaced community.

Work with principle of "Nation First, Party Second, Self-Last": Sat Sharma to new Mandal Presidents

BJP elects 190 new Mandal Presidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In continuation with the election process under the party's ongoing 'Sangathan Parv', Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, today completed the election process of 190 new Mandal Presidents.



President J&K BJP, Sat Sharma with new Mandal presidents and party leaders.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, congratulated the whole team of Returning Officers and assistant Returning Officers for the completion of maximum Mandal Presidents elections in a cordial atmosphere. He also asked them to complete the remaining in the elections in the stipulated time. He emphasized that every BJP worker reflects an institution in himself and herself and this level of extended election exercise within the

party to select the new office bearers can only be seen in a dedicated party like BJP. He congratulated all the new Mandal Presidents and directed them to work with the principle of "Nation First, Party Second, Self Last".

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, said that this Mandal President election witnessed the emergence of many new, young and ener-

getic faces consisting of a remarkable number of activists representing women, SCs, and OBCs, STs and other communities, giving an impression of colourful umbrella. He expressed confidence that these new Mandal Presidents will take the party ideology and mission forward and work to their maximum in the service of society.

Rakesh Mahajan, Returning Officer for J&K

BJP, while sharing details about the election, said that out of a total 209 recognized Mandals, 198 Mandals were found eligible for the election process, out of which election process for 190 new Mandal Presidents were completed today. He also shared that the 'Mandal Pratinidhi' were also chosen, who along with Mandal Presidents, will participate in the election process of district Presidents in the coming days.

SKUAST-TAJ urges to waive off review system for enhancing retirement age of university professors

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: "The superannuation age of the Professors of erstwhile State universities was enhanced from 62 to 65 years in the year 2023 with the provision of review system by the Committee headed by Chief Secretary with Vice-Chancellor of the concerned University and other members from J&K Government, for the extension in the initial year, followed by subsequent reviews for grant of further yearly enhancement by the Vice Chancellors of the respective Universities. This review system has created a syco-phancy / biased pick and choose of teachers at initial stage as well as subsequent stages of the review, result-



ing in humiliation, anguish and frustration amongst the Professor fraternity", said President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma in a press statement.

Dr. Vikas stressed that there should be unconditional 65 years retirement age of University Professors without any review and riders, thus, bringing uniqueness in superannuation age of all the universities of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as the review system for a Professor, who served the Institution for decades in the capacity of Dean, Director and even I/c Vice Chancellor, is not acceptable at all cost.

President SKUAST-TAJ pointed out that on one side, all the recommendations of the UGC related to appointment and CAS of teachers has been adopted by the Universities and on the other side, a rider has been put to enhance the age of the superannuation of the

Professors from 62 to 65 years, in only erstwhile State Universities of J&K namely S K U A S T - J a m m u , S K U A S T - K a s h m i r , University of Jammu and University of Kashmir.

He further informed that there is always a dearth of experienced faculty at the level of Professor & equivalents in the Universities. The posts remain vacant due to non-availability of the candidates with the prescribed experience required for the position and to overcome the shortage of experienced Professors in the University, it is also imperative to enhance the retirement age of the experienced teachers / scientists from 62 to 65 years without any condition, for utilizing their expertise in long term solution of the problems related to the research and academics.

An increase in retirement age of Professors without any review process will greatly support skilled / learned manpower and create a progressive atmosphere where senior faculty can contribute to sustain the New Education Policy and this will also be a positive and contributing step towards taking Indian science to the global platform, besides strengthening Indian Economy as well.

Vishwa Bharati School shines at Ist J&K UT Bukido Martial Art



Vishwa Bharati School faculty felicitating winner students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vishwa Bharati School Udhewywalla has brought immense pride to the institution by excelling at the recently concluded Ist J&K UT Bukido martial Art held in K.B Hall Rehari Jammu under the aegis of Bukido Federation (India).

The school athletes displayed exceptional skills and returned with medals showcasing their superior

strength and technique.

The school won one gold and one silver medal. Gold medal was secured by Vansh Lal studying in class 9th and Silver medal was claimed by Sushant Sharma from class 6th. The management of Vishwa Bharati School along with Principal Annapurna Koul congratulated the students and their parents for their success.

DEO inspects EVM-VVPAT warehouse construction

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Election Officer Sachin Kumar Vaishya, inspected the construction of the EVM VVPAT Warehouse at Bhagwati Nagar on Wednesday.

The facility is going to have state of the art facilities, besides lifts, advanced security arrangements and hi tech surveillance system.

Speaking to the concerned officers, the DEO directed them to ensure timely completion of the project without compromising on quality standards.

Director (IT) NIC/District Informatics Officer Sanjeev Kapoor, Deputy DEO Rameshwar Kumar, Executive Engineer PWD and other officers accompanied the DEO during the inspection.

Sixth day of NSS National Integration Camp filled with cultural exchange

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 6th day of the NSS National Integration Camp was filled with enthusiasm, learning and cultural exchange.

Participants from various states joined to engage in diverse activities that fostered unity and camaraderie. The day started refreshingly with a nutritious breakfast, energizing participants for the exciting day ahead at the GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. As the sun arose so did the spirits of the campers, eager to partake in the planned activities

To encourage teamwork and a sense of friendly competition at GCW, Parade Ground Jammu, the group engaged in a lively spoon-lemon race.

Participants showcased their agility and competitive spirit, running with lemons balanced on spoons while cheering each other on. The laughter and joy echoed



Arunima Sinha, senior faculty of Art of Living and others at a programme.

throughout the venue, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and unity among diverse participants.

Following the spirited games, the camp transitioned into an enriching session of academic discussions.

Speaker Arunima Sinha, senior faculty of The Art of Living, visited GCW, Parade to conduct an interactive session on "Mind Management".

She focused that mind management refers to the process of effectively directing one's thoughts, emotions

and actions to achieve personal and professional goals. It involves developing awareness of one's mental habits and patterns enabling individuals to cultivate positive thinking and reduce stress by mastering the art of Mind Management.

The second session was led by Ankur Sharma, Coach, Martial Arts. He demonstrated self-defence techniques that empower individuals to protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations.

Self-defence through martial arts equips individuals

with the tools not just to defend themselves, but to cultivate a sense of security and empowerment in their daily lives.

Another session was held on youth parliament where participants from various contingents represented themselves as debaters, policymakers and opinion makers. This activity inspires the participants to express their views in an organised way.

The grand finale of the Day-6 was a vibrant cultural evening where participants showcased their talents.

Various performances, including Beauty pageant where participants of different contingents showcased their beauty and culture. The day was a vivid reminder of the power of Integration through shared experiences and learning. As we move into the last days of NSS National Integration Camp, the spirit of unity and togetherness continues to flourish.