

"Contemplation on Indian Languages and Their Future Prospective Direction" organized at DSRS JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Senior Leader and Patron-in-Chief Samadhaan Foundation, Pawan Sharma emphasized the need for equal respect for all languages today, stressing that no language should be imposed or opposed.

Pawan Sharma expressed these views at the thought-provoking program "Contemplation on Indian Languages and Their Future Prospective Direction" hosted by 'Shri Abhinav Gupta Study Center' at DSRS Department Jammu University (JU).

Pawan Sharma, presided over the event, which featured Naresh Raina, a renowned writer, translator, as the keynote speaker, and drew enthusiastic participation from students and scholars of Sanskrit, Dogri, Hindi, Punjabi, and other departments.

During the discussion, Amresh Chouhan, a Hindi postgraduate student, pointed out that despite being the national language, Hindi has been neglected for a long time. Although



BJP Senior Leader, Pawan Sharma posing with students and others at JU.

Hindi is a subject in primary school up to the matric level, the government has not created sufficient posts during the current recruitment drive.

Komal Parihar, a senior Sanskrit scholar, noted that despite being the scientific language of the world, Sanskrit has not been introduced at the primary level, and desired posts have not been created to date. This language has been studied globally, even by renowned scientists.

Sudershan Dogra, a postgraduate student of Dogri, also expressed similar sentiments, addressing the gathering and stating that Dogri, the language of the

nationalist Dogras, has been neglected during the recent advertisement of the Jammu and Kashmir government. Amandeep Kaur, a Punjabi scholar, observed that Punjabi, an Indian language, is being studied by various scholars, but their future remains uncertain due to the lack of duly advertised posts.

In his address Pawan Sharma highlighted the critical importance of promoting and preserving Indian and regional languages to safeguard India's rich cultural heritage. Sharma underscored the urgent need for the government to create new academic and administrative posts

for these languages, ensuring their survival and growth. Sharma emphasized that education in mother tongue, as advocated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, plays a pivotal role in nurturing the linguistic heritage and connecting future generations with India's glorious past. Pawan Sharma also called on the government to eliminate discrimination against Indian and regional languages and prioritize their integration into mainstream education and policy frameworks. They stressed that such measures are essential for empowering linguistic diversity and fostering a sense of pride

and identity among the youth. Advocate Naresh Kumar Raina, a writer, translator, researcher, and thinker, while addressing the scholars, as a keynote speaker, told that Article 343 of the Indian Constitution including eighth schedule and NEP, 2020, gives people right to study in Indian languages from primary school to further higher studies but even then the government is not creating posts in these languages at par with other Indian languages described in the Constitution. Government needs further work out on the decision of recruitment of posts of lecturers in School Education Department.

This type of contemplation must be carried on to flourish Sanskrit, Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi languages among general masses. This is the first contemplation ever organised in the University of Jammu.

Rannik Sharma, a PhD scholar in the Sanskrit department at Jammu University, moderated the entire programme.

Arya Samaj Mandir donates 102 plates, bags



Arya Samaj Mandir, Jammu City members donating plates (thalis) and bags (thailas).

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the Harit Kumbh Abhiyan under the "Ek Thali Ek Thaille" initiative, the Arya Samaj Mandir, Jammu City, made a significant contribution to environmental conservation efforts by donating 102 plates (thalis) and bags (thailas).

The donation ceremony took place at the Arya Samaj premises and was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Arun Kumar Gupta, President of Arya Samaj Dayanand Marg, City Chowk, Balwan Singh (Secretary), Dr.

Kulbhushan Mahotra, and Ravi Kumar.

The items were handed over to Atul Suri and his team from the Raghunath Jila Sanyojak Environment Protection Activity Team, who are actively engaged in promoting environmental preservation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative emphasizes the need to reduce the usage of single-use plastic and encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives.

During the ceremony, Arun Kumar Gupta emphasized the significance of fostering a balance between

humanity and nature, underscoring the community's moral responsibility to protect the environment.

He also pointed out that such initiatives are a reflection of the Arya Samaj community's commitment to sustainability and collective action for a greener future.

This act of contribution highlights the Arya Samaj Mandir's dedication to supporting local and global environmental preservation movements, and serves as an inspiration for others to take action in safeguarding the planet for future generations.

New KVs to foster unity, national integration: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The establishment of new Kendriya Vidyalyayas (KVs) in Jammu and Kashmir will not only widen the scope of quality education in remote and far-flung areas but also foster a sense of unity and national integration.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader and former Vice Chairperson, commended the Modi government for approving 13 new KVs in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest allocation among the 85 new KVs planned across the country. He termed the move as a significant step in prioritizing the Union Territory (UT) in national development initiatives. Balbir highlighted that these KVs will provide standardized and uninterrupted education to the children of Central Government employees, including defense and paramilitary personnel, who are often transferred across the country. He emphasized that such schools ensure a consistent curriculum and



quality education irrespective of location.

He further added that the new KVs reflect the government's commitment to making education accessible and affordable in Jammu and Kashmir. These institutions cater to all sections of society, with special provisions for children from disadvantaged and economically weaker backgrounds.

By offering quality education at nominal costs, the KVs help bridge educational disparities and contribute to national integration.

Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, Justice Mehar Chand Trust hold free ENT camp

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable initiative under the auspices of Maharaja Hari Singh foundation and Mehar Chand Mahajan trust a two day charitable ENT camp was inaugurated at Hear Clear centre at Trikuta Nagar Jammu today.

The camp was led by Dr. (Prof.) Sanjay Sachdeva, Principal Director of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery, Max Group of Hospitals, New Delhi and the Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan Trust.

The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary of Health & Medical Education, J&K (UT).

A total of 203 patients were examined by him on day one. The camp particularly benefited children from J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra Secondary School for Hearing Impaired, Ved Mandir, and the far flung areas of Jammu, Katra, and Reasi.

The day-long camp patients received free medicines, ear drops, and hearing



Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary H&ME J&K and others at a programme.

aids. 43 patients underwent free hearing tests.

There is going to be a follow up for hearing and speech disabled patients who need special tests for further diagnostics tomorrow. Patients who would be needing hearing aids would be attending the centre in the following week and would be provided hearing aids and further assistance

free of cause.

Nutritious meals were also distributed by Hear Clear Clinic. Akanksha Kapahi from Baniya Super Shoppe toy world sent beautiful toys for all the children from the orphanage and deaf dumb school.

Dr. Shah lauded the efforts of Dr. Ritu Singh, Dr. Sanjay Sachdeva, Maharaja Hari

Singh Social and Education Foundation and Justice Mehar Chand Trust for carrying out the noble outreach for Jammu region.

He remarked, "This initiative demonstrates the power of collective action in addressing healthcare needs, especially for marginalized communities. It sets a commendable example for others to follow."

Dr. Sanjay Sachdeva lauded the contribution and visionary leadership of Dr. Ritu Singh in fostering meaningful connections with society. He pledged to extend his support to the rural communities of J&K.

The event commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a recitation of the Gayatri Mantra, led by Dr. Ritu Singh.

She was joined in by Dr. Sanjay Sachdeva and his wife, Anushree Mahajan from justice Mehar Chand Trust, Dr. Paul, Dr. Shina Khosla, Chief Medical Officer, ESIC, Dr. Sandeep Khosla, Chief Medical Officer, and Principals and staff from DPS schools in Jammu, Nagbani, and Katra.

Prominent guests, including Rajni Sehgal, Dr. Sandeep Khosla, Esha Modi, Seema Murthy, Rupika Sahai, and Ankita Bansal also graced the occasion with their presence.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony honouring the efforts of all contributors and organizers.

Dr. Ritu Singh, a guiding

force behind the initiative, expressed her gratitude to Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Dr. Sanjay Sachdeva, and the partnering trust.

She informed everyone that this camp will run in continuity for two years to assist patients suffering from hearing impairment from Jammu and adjoining areas.

The rural areas of Jammu will be adopted in a phased manner to add maximum beneficiaries of this program.

The camp witnessed active participation from the Principals and supporting teams of all three DPS Schools of Jammu, Nagbani and Katra. DPS Nagbani was led by Principal, Rajkumar Verma, Headmistress Bhawna Madan and Harshita. DPS Katra was represented by Administrator, Simmi Sharma and staff members - Ruby Sharma and Poonam. DPS Jammu was led by Principal, Ruchi Chhabra, accompanied by Anu Bali, Kamal Nain, Esha, Satnam, Anita and others.

Natrang presents new Dogri play 'Chetta'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its rich tradition of showcasing meaningful and impactful theatre, Natrang today presented a new Dogri play, 'Chetta', at its weekly Sunday Theatre series at Natrang Studio Theatre.

The play was based on a Dogri story of the same name, written by renowned writer Joginder Chhatrapal, was skillfully adapted by Dimple Sharma and directed by Pawan Verma. Joginder Chhatrapal received Sahitya Akademi Award for this work in the year 2016. On the occasion Director Natrang Balwant Thakur informed that in their new endeavour of showcasing the outstanding works of celebrated Dogri Sahitya Akademi Awardees, today's play was the second of the series after brilliantly staging Madan Mohan



Natrag artist presenting Dogri play Chetta.

Sharma's 'Diary Kuse Lok Nath Di'. This initiative is aimed at promoting Dogri through the powerful medium of theatre.

Chetta is a poignant and thought-provoking narrative that delves into the mental and emotional struggles of old age, shedding light on the challenges faced by the elderly, including societal indifference and insensitivity. The play resonates

deeply with the audience, encouraging a heightened sense of empathy and awareness.

The story follows an elderly, retired schoolteacher who is determined to attend the wedding of a friend's daughter in a distant village.

Struggling with memory loss and ridiculed by his family for his forgetfulness, he embarks on the journey alone, carrying a simple gift of a saree and a bag

of rajma beans. The narrative poignantly explores his mental fog, the ridicule he faces from his family and society, and his internal struggle with feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. Moments of anguish are intertwined with past memories, including incidents where his failing memory caused him shame and humiliation.

As the old man waits at the bus stand for his friend Abrol, he is haunted by memories of being taunted by his family. Unable to remember essential details, such as the name of his destination or his friend's phone number, he faces further challenges at the ticket counter.

His struggles evoke both sympathy and frustration with society's lack of understanding toward dementia. When his friend Abrol finally arrives, a brief moment of relief is overshadowed by sarcastic remarks and added pressures, deepening the protagonist's sense of humiliation. Chetta not only tells a moving story but also sparks important conversations about the emotional and social

toll of aging. Its impactful presentation underscores Natrang's commitment to using theatre as a medium to address significant social issues.

The production featured an exceptional cast who brought the story to life with their powerful performances. Neeraj Kant, a seasoned theatre artist, portrayed the storyteller with depth and authenticity, captivating the audience with his compelling narrative style.

Mohd. Yaseen delivered a remarkable performance in the dual roles of BR Damle and Abrol, showcasing his versatility and mastery of his craft. The central character of the old schoolteacher was powerfully performed by Pawan Verma, whose nuanced portrayal of a man grappling with dementia was both heart-wrenching and profoundly relatable. The cast was further supported by Gopi Sharma as a passerby and Aryan Sharma as the ticket agent.

The play's lighting and sound were expertly executed by Brijesh Avtar Sharma.

NMC demands release of pending installment of 3 pc DA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Stressing on the need for immediate release of pending installment of 3% DA due since July, president of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), Subhash Shastri on Sunday appealed to chief minister Omar Abdullah to announce the same instalment of DA to employees and pensioners at the earliest so that salaried class and pensioners get relief in view of increasing prices of essential commodities.

Addressing a meeting of NMC workers here, Shastri stated that in view of the inbuilt provisions in the annual budget, there should not be any hitch for the state government, more so when others states have already released the 3% DA instalment since long. An early decision in this regard would be genuine measure to provide some relief to them, he added.



NMC President, Subhash Shastri speaking in a meeting.

Recalling recommendations of the central 7th pay commission, which was implemented in January 2016 by the NDA government, Shastri said it also had recommendations that as soon as DA crosses more than 50%, the Centre is under an obligation to merge 50% DA into basic pay or pension.

He said now as the DA has already touched 53%, they request for early merger of 50% DA into basic pay/pension with retrospective effect Grant of 20% interim relief

in favour of both Centre and state government employees and pensioners till constitution of 8th pay Commission, release of salary of daily rated workers besides their immediate regularisation, enhancement in the wages of daily wagers to Rs 18,000 per month, increase in medical allowance to Rs 1,000 per month and implementation of CAT decision with regards to removal of pay anomalies of clerical cadre were other demands highlighted in the meeting.

BJP Membership drive extends by one more week: Rekha



BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan at membership drive.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan emphasized the significance of BJP Membership Drive which extends by one more week, initially scheduled to conclude on 8th Dec will now run until December 16 as this empower the masses and promote the party's ideology.

The BJP membership drive

camp was organized by Gandhi Nagar Mandal at Sanjay Nagar in esteemed presence of Seh Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, District Vice President and Mandal Prabhari Narinder Gupta Kokky, Mandal President Bharat Bhushan and team Gandhi Nagar Mandal. Rekha highlighted the importance of such public-friendly camps in connect-

ing with the common masses and enhancing the BJP membership drive.

These membership drive camps are open to all citizens who share the party's vision and values. She appealed to the people, and interested individuals can join the party by giving a missed call on 8800002024. Rekha appreciated Gandhi Nagar Mandal team for reaching out door-to-door and interacting directly with the people has been instrumental in creating awareness about the party's goals and encouraging larger participation in the political process.

Tarsem Sharma, Vinod Abrol, Mandal General Secretaries Rachit Khosla and Suraj kumar, Vinod Sharma, Ritika Dhiman, Lovisha Gupta, Rajesh Sharma and other team members were present in the camp.

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JAMMU: The Anganwadi Workers Welfare Association (AWWA), affiliated with the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh, held a one-day conference at Trikuta Yatri Niwas, Ambhalla, here on Sunday.

The event, attended by hundreds of workers, focused on various demands concerning the welfare of Anganwadi workers and helpers. Neelam Sharma, Vice President and State General Secretary of the Association, criticized the government for not revising its share for Anganwadi workers since 2010.

Currently, workers receive

AWWA elects new office bearers



AWWA members with newly elected team at Jammu on Sunday.

Rs. 5,100 per month, while helpers get Rs. 2,550, which is significantly lower than the amounts paid in neighboring states, she said.

Other demands included granting Anganwadi centers summer and winter holidays, ensuring promotion to supervisor posts based on seniority,

and making the graduate seniority list public for promotion.

Workers also highlighted the outdated mobile phones provided to them, demanding replacements, and requested that a retirement policy be framed, offering monetary compensation and old age pension as provided by other

states.

Ashok Choudhary, State Sangathan Mantri of BMS, shared that the government had disengaged workers aged over 60 without providing any benefits, but BMS had successfully fought for the gratuity claims of over 300 workers, securing amounts ranging

Other executive members included Abli Devi, Bandana Janwal, Rekha Rani, Neelam Choudhary, and Urnila Devi. Swarna Choudhary, Roshu Sharma, Shobha Sharma, Dy General Secretary Sanjogita, Reeta, and Chander Prabha also spoke on the occasion.