

# JU's Literary Club hosts 'Speak Your Mind' Extempore Competition under UTSAAH

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Literary Club of the University of Jammu (JU), under the aegis of UTSAAH, organised an enriching and thought-provoking event titled "Speak Your Mind: Extempore Competition" at the Padma Sachdev Sur Sanwad Rangsthal (Open-Air Theatre, Amphitheatre). The programme aimed to foster spontaneous thinking, articulate expression, and confident public speaking among students while resonating with the theme "Voices of Today, Ideas for Tomorrow."

The event was honoured by the presence of esteemed judges-Prof. Posh Charak,



Literary Club of JU members and students with dignitaries after competition.

Retired Professor, Department of English, JU, and Prof. Parmeshwari Sharma, Retired Professor, Department of Hindi, JU. Both judges, respected for their academic contributions and literary insight, motivated the participants

to think courageously and communicate with clarity and conviction. Prof. Meena Sharma, Convenor of UTSAAH, welcomed the judges, participants, and attendees, emphasising the significance of platforms that

allow young minds to speak freely and build self-confidence. She highlighted that, in alignment with NEP 2020, communication skills remain one of the most essential competencies in the contemporary world, and events like this play a vital role in nurturing such skills. Guided by Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator of the Literary Club, the competition saw participation from students across diverse departments including Law, Mathematics, Design Your Degree, Five-Year Integrated Programme, Botany, Zoology, History, Dogri,

Hindi, and others. Participants showcased exceptional presence of mind and the ability to speak impromptu on a variety of thought-provoking topics. Their speeches reflected strong linguistic competence, analytical thinking, and awareness of social, cultural, and global issues. The competition concluded with the announcement of winners: Sabreena Ayoub from the Law School secured the first prize, Kashish Parihar from the Design Your Degree Programme won the second prize, and the third prize was bagged by Daleep Singh from the Dogri Department. The event wrapped up with a vote of thanks by Prof. Sadaf Shah, who expressed gratitude to the judges, organising team, volunteers, and participants. She appreciated their collective efforts in upholding the spirit of literary engagement and intellectual vibrancy at the University of Jammu.

## ACS Shantmanu visits Examination Centers at GGM Science College



ACS, Shantmanu visiting examination center.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner, Higher Education Department, visited various examination centers established for the conduct of undergraduate university examinations as well as IGNOU Examinations at GGM Science College, Jammu, to assess the ongoing examination arrangements and ensure smooth and transparent conduct of examinations. During his visit, he

inspected the facilities, interacted with the supervising staff, and reviewed the overall security and administrative measures put in place for the students. He expressed satisfaction over the well-coordinated arrangements and lauded the efforts of Principal GGM Science College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, for maintaining high standards of discipline, efficiency, and academic integrity within the institution. Shantmanu appreciated

the college administration for creating a conducive environment for students and ensuring that all guidelines issued by the Higher Education Department were implemented effectively. He also highlighted the importance of maintaining fairness and transparency during examinations, stating that such initiatives strengthen the credibility of academic institutions across the Union Territory. Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, while expressing gratitude for the visit, stated, that we are committed to providing a secure, comfortable, and academically vibrant atmosphere for our students. The guidance and support from the Higher Education Department encourage us to further enhance our institutional standards. He added that the college will continue to work towards excellence in academic and administrative domains.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu-Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, inaugurated a new branch of Capital Small Finance Bank at Digiana, Jammu. The ceremony was attended by senior bank officials, staff members, social activists, business community representatives, and a large number of local residents. Speaking at the inaugural event, Billawaria said that Capital Small Finance Bank has consistently worked to provide simple, reliable, and accessible banking services to common citizens, small traders, farmers, and budding entrepreneurs. He noted that the bank has already established a



BJP J&K General Secretary, Baldev Singh Billawaria with others at inauguration of new branch of Capital Small Finance Bank at Jammu.

strong presence in Kathua and Jammu city, and the launch of the Digiana branch marks another significant milestone in its expansion across the region. Billawaria expressed confidence that the new branch would offer improved access to essential financial services, making banking more convenient

for the local population. He added that the branch is expected to support small traders, startup entrepreneurs, and the youth by boosting economic activities in the area. Linking the initiative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of financial inclusion, Billawaria said the government is committed to ensuring that banking facilities reach every citizen without discrimination. He highlighted key initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, promotion of digital payments under Digital India, and the MUDRA scheme, all designed to strengthen the financial

ecosystem for the masses. He emphasized that sustainable economic development is only possible when regions have adequate banking infrastructure. The new branch, he added, will help generate local employment, uplift small-scale businesses, and accelerate economic growth. Bank officials announced that the Digiana branch will provide a full spectrum of modern banking services, including digital banking, micro loans, savings and current accounts, and fixed deposits. The management thanked Billawaria for his support and reaffirmed their commitment to offering transparent, secure, and customer-friendly services to the people of the region.

## Rekha Mahajan felicitates women entrepreneurs, urges public to adopt Swadeshi products

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BARI BRAHMANA: In a strong push toward empowering local women and promoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, BJP J&K UT Vice President and Prabhari Samba District, Rekha Mahajan, along with District Seh Prabhari Mannohan Singh, Mandal President Sushil Singh Charak, and General Secretary Satpal, felicitated women entrepreneur Sapna Kumari and her team at Durga Papad Cooperative Limited, Bari Brahmana. The programme aimed to recognise the remarkable contribution of women engaged in producing pickles, papad, spices, and other homemade essentials. Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan expressed pride in the women-led cooperative and highlighted how such initiatives are shaping India's journey towards self-reliance.



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan felicitating women entrepreneur Sapna Kumari and her team.

"These women are not just running small businesses; they are strengthening our rural economy and setting an example of true empowerment. Aatmanirbhar Bharat begins at the grassroots, and the dedication of these entrepreneurs proves that women are capable of leading India's economic transformation," she said. She emphasized the importance of adopting Swadeshi products in daily life, urging people to prefer locally made goods over imported alternatives. "Every time we buy a Swadeshi product, we sup-

port a family, a village, and the spirit of self-reliance. Prime Minister Modi's initiatives-from Vocal for Local to Make in India-are designed to uplift local talent and revive traditional industries," Rekha Mahajan added. The event also shed light on how small-scale units like Durga Papad Cooperative are creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for women in semi-urban and rural pockets. The cooperative's products, made using traditional methods, continue to gain popularity for their quality and

authenticity. Felicitating the women, Rekha Mahajan said, "Your hard work, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit are inspiring hundreds of others. You are proof that when women progress, the entire society moves forward." District Seh Prabhari Mannohan Singh and Mandal President Sushil Singh Charak also appreciated the efforts of the cooperative members, acknowledging their contribution to strengthening local production chains.

## Sat raises alarming climatic challenges of J&K in RS, seeks immediate financial, technical support from Centre

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP and J&K BJP President Sat Sharma today highlighted the grave climatic challenges confronting Jammu & Kashmir during the Zero Hour in the Upper House. Expressing deep concern over the region's growing vulnerability to extreme weather conditions, he urged the Central Government to extend enhanced financial and technical assistance to enable the Union Territory to effectively tackle natural disasters. Sharma noted that Jammu & Kashmir is experiencing visible and worrying shifts in climate patterns, including rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and a surge in cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides. Citing the recent flash flood in the Chashoti area of Padar in Kishtwar district-which led to loss of lives and property-he stressed the urgent need for scientific interventions and preventive strategies to avert such tragedies in the future. While acknowledging the significance of national initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), Sharma said that



J&K requires focused attention and sustained Central support. He called for advanced resources to implement climate-resilient measures tailored to the region's unique topography and ecological sensitivity. Emphasizing the need to strengthen monitoring capabilities, Sharma urged the Government of India to upgrade climate-monitoring and early-warning systems in vulnerable areas. He sought the deployment of Doppler Radar systems, satellite-based surveillance, and ground sensor networks to improve atmospheric monitoring and ensure timely alerts, which he stressed would

significantly reduce damage to life and infrastructure during emergencies. The MP expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President JP Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for their leadership and the effective measures taken by the Central Government during past natural calamities. He said their proactive approach has consistently ensured timely relief and rehabilitation for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Reaffirming his commitment to safeguarding the region, Sat Sharma said strengthening climate resilience is essential not only for disaster management but also for protecting livelihoods and ensuring sustainable development. He appealed for comprehensive Central assistance so that Jammu & Kashmir can face future climatic challenges with greater preparedness and confidence.

## 2 week training for Legal Assistants of Ladakh concludes

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy on Friday concluded the two week training programme for Legal Assistants of the Union Territory of Ladakh. The programme was conducted from December 1 to 12 at the J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu. The valedictory session was graced by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for the J&K Judicial Academy. His presence served as a source of encouragement for the participants and



Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, HC of J&K and Ladakh speaking at a programme.

the Academy. During the programme, the participants were trained on a wide range of legal, administrative and governance-related subjects. These included constitutional framework, administrative structure of UT governance, land laws, vigilance mechanisms, RTI, CCS Rules, provisions of BNSS/BNS applicable to public servants, drafting skills, tendering and e-procurement procedures, GFR rules, contract law and drafting of government

notifications and orders. A field visit was also organised for the participants to provide them practical exposure to the institutional functioning. The resource persons for the programme included eminent jurists, senior advocates, academicians, former judges and domain experts. They enriched the sessions with their expertise, practical insights and interactive teaching methodology. During the valedictory session, Justice Rajnesh Oswal interacted with the

participants and enquired about their learning experience, key takeaways and suggestions for future programmes. The participants expressed satisfaction with the structure and quality of the training and appreciated the Academy for organising a highly informative and engaging programme. In his address, Justice Rajnesh Oswal underscored that honesty, dedication and punctuality must remain the key attributes of every public

servant, emphasising that these values form the foundation of efficient and accountable public administration. He commended the initiative of the Judicial Academy in designing a comprehensive, practice-oriented training module. He encouraged the participants to apply their newly acquired skills to enhance institutional efficiency in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Later, he distributed certificates among all the participants. Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar expressed gratitude to all the resource persons and participants for their active engagement. He reaffirmed the Academy's commitment towards supporting the training needs of various institutions and departments of the UT of Ladakh.

## JKTF voices strong opposition to appointment of teachers as Nodal Officers for stray dog monitoring

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), J&K UT, convened an important meeting today in Jammu under the patronage of its Chief Patron, Ganesh Khajuria, to deliberate on the growing unrest among all cadres of the School Education Department. The discontent stems from the recent directions of the Supreme Court regarding reporting the presence of stray dogs in school premises and surrounding areas. Teachers have been designated as Nodal Officers for this task, a decision that has triggered serious concerns within the teaching fraternity. Speakers at the meeting unanimously expressed that assigning teachers the responsibility of monitoring stray dogs undermines their primary role in classrooms and adversely affects the academic interests of students in government schools. They argued that diverting teachers to such non-academic

assignments results in irreparable and irreversible learning loss for children, who are already affected by frequent deputations for non-teaching duties. Addressing the gathering, Ganesh Khajuria emphasised that while the teaching community respects all decisions of the Apex Court and institutions of law, the future of millions of students cannot be compromised. He stated that teachers are already overburdened with non-teaching duties such as election work, surveys, census assignments, and management of mid-day meals. Adding another responsibility unrelated to education, he warned, would further diminish classroom teaching time and hamper academic outcomes. Khajuria urged the Government to review the decision and exempt teaching staff from being appointed as Nodal Officers for stray dog monitoring. He recommended that the responsibility be handed over to concerned

agencies such as the Wildlife Department, Municipal Corporations, Municipal Committees, Panchayats, with support from the Animal Husbandry and Health Departments, alongside law enforcement agencies. He strongly advocated restricting teachers strictly to teaching duties, cautioning that if such burdensome non-teaching assignments continue, the teaching fraternity may be compelled to initiate a decisive struggle to protect the academic environment of government schools. The meeting also saw detailed participation from several prominent members, including Surat Singh Toofani, Gopal Singh, Darshan Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Jamat Ali Agah, Ravinder Singh, Raj Singh, Kuldeep Singh Bandal, Surinder Sharma, Kuldeep Verma, and many others, who echoed similar concerns and reaffirmed support for the Forum's stance.