

# Three-days workshop on Capacity Building in Innovative Pedagogy for implementation of NEP 2020 concludes at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Valedictory Function of the three-day workshop on "Capacity Building in Innovative Pedagogy for Implementation of NEP-2020" was successfully held today at the Seminar Hall, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu. The event marked the conclusion of an insightful and engaging workshop aimed at equipping educators with innovative teaching methodologies aligned with NEP-2020.

The Chief Guest, Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor delivered a compelling address emphasizing the vital connection between education and employability. He pointed out that in today's rapidly evolving job market, academic knowledge alone is insufficient. Highlighting the importance of skill development, adaptability, and innovative thinking, he urged educators and students to adopt a forward-looking approach. He spoke about the transformation in educa-



Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani along with JU officials and others during the programme.

tion and employment landscapes over the years, underscoring the need for timely and informed decision-making. He advocated for a holistic education system where degrees serve as gateways to real-world opportunities rather than just academic credentials.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies elaborated on the core values of the Design Your Degree (DYD) program. She emphasized the program's focus on liberty, flexibility, and informed decision-making, allowing students to take charge of their

academic journey. She stressed the need for nurturing critical thinking and enabling students to make well-informed choices.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director SIIEDC, University of Jammu, provided an insightful overview of the DYD program. She highlighted its objective of integrating skill-based learning within a societal and cultural framework, moving away from traditional blackboard teaching and emphasizing hands-on, experiential learning.

Earlier, the event commenced with a welcome

address by Prof. S.K. Pandita, who extended warm greetings to all dignitaries, resource persons, and participants. Other distinguished guests included Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Charak, Dr. Jitender Manhas, office bearers of associations.

The day featured engaging sessions. The first session, titled "Beyond Traditional Exams: Exploring Evaluation Methods under NEP 2020," was led by Prof. Jyoti Sharma. She explored the transition from conventional examination methods

to a more holistic assessment framework under NEP-2020, integrating domain-specific knowledge, vocational skills, professional aptitude, and soft skills.

The second session focused on group presentations, where participants showcased their projects, outlining abstracts, objectives, expected outcomes, and evaluation criteria. These presentations received valuable feedback from resource persons. Following this, an exclusive one-hour interaction with DYD students allowed for a deeper exchange of ideas and insights.

The workshop concluded with the distribution of participation certificates, acknowledging the attendees' active involvement. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Sh. Ranjeet Kahra, Deputy Director MMTTC, who expressed gratitude to all contributors for making the event a resounding success. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Prof. Sarika Manhas.

# Modi Govt prioritizing development at people's doorstep: Randhawa

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JAMMU: In a significant step towards enhancing local infrastructure, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa inaugurated the much-awaited lane and drain construction work at Panchayat Narwal Bala, Ward No. 3, aiming to address the long-standing demands of the residents for improved civic amenities and better drainage systems. On the occasion, Rohit Sharma (Panchayat Secretary) along with Surjeet Singh (Mandal President), Amit Gupta, Mohinder Pal, Vinod, Ram Paul, Raman, Tarun Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Ajay, Gulshan, Ajay Sharma, Parmaan Khatana, Rohit Dharam Pal and others were present. The lane and drain work at Ward No. 3, Narwal Bala, is expected to be completed in a stipulated time frame, bringing much-needed relief to the residents and improving overall sanitation in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa emphasized the BJP government's commitment to grassroots development and ensuring that basic infrastructure reaches every



MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa inaugurating civic works at Panchayat Narwal Bala, Ward No. 3.

corner of the constituency. He highlighted that the construction work will not only provide relief from waterlogging and unhygienic conditions but also uplift the overall living standards of the residents.

"The BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritized development at the doorstep of the common man. We are ensuring that all pending civic works are completed in a time-bound manner; and every household gets access to basic infrastructure," he said. The senior BJP leader reiterated his commitment to accelerating development works and ensuring that every household benefits from Modi government's welfare schemes. He urged the

residents to actively participate in the development process and keep their surroundings clean. He reaffirmed that the BJP is dedicated to the welfare of the people and will continue to work relentlessly for the progress of Jammu & Kashmir. Local residents expressed their gratitude to the MLA for fulfilling their long-pending demand. They lauded the BJP's efforts in bringing tangible improvements in the area, which had been neglected for years.

Randhawa assured the people that more development projects are in the pipeline for Bahu constituency, focusing on roads, sanitation, and overall urban planning.

## Hura Ashtami celebrated with religious fervour

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JAMMU: Hura Ashtami was celebrated with religious fervour at various places on Saturday. Shree Shree Jagat Amba Sharika Chakreshwari Sanastha, Hari Parbat Srinagar Kashmir celebrated Hura Ashtami at Bhawan under the Presidentship of Ranjeet Gurkha. Special Pooja and chanting of mantras of Shree Chakra were held under the supervision of religious person Leela Dhar Koul. The Pooja started at 7:00 PM and culminated in late hours on same day. Bhajan Kirtan was held whole night in the Bhawan. After Pooja, prashad in the form of pretibooj was served among the devotees.

Meanwhile, similar Pooja was held at Camp Office Paloura Dhok Jammu of Shree Yanthra under the supervision of Jai Krishen Khar (Vedic Guru), Senior Member of Sanastha. The pooja started at 8:30 PM and concluded at 11:30 PM followed by Bhawani shastrinamawali.

Special Bhajan Kirtan was held during the whole night. After Pooja, prashad was served to devotees in the form of Pritibooj. In a similar event, Amrit Kund Pokhribal Camp Office Kralbab Nagar celebrated Hura Ashtami under the presidentship of Ashok Raina.

Special Pooja and chanting of Vedic mantras were held by Sanastha under the chairmanship of Jai Krishen Khar (Vedic Guru), member of the Sanastha. The Pooja started at 4:30 PM and concluded at 7:30 PM followed by Bhawani shastrinamawali with Samohik Arti. Whole night bhajan kirtan was organised. After Pooja, prashad was served to devotees. Hura Ashtami was also celebrated at Ram Shaiv Ashram Naseeb Nagar Jammu.

Pooja was started at 9:30 PM and was chanting religious mantras during whole night under the supervision of Sanjay Raina and was culminated in morning.

## Congress demands judicial probe into death of 3 persons in Kathua

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Saturday demanded a judicial probe into the recent death of three persons in Kathua district. The demand for the judicial probe was raised by Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra at a workers' convention in the Kathua district.

Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were found strangled at village Batheri in Billavar on February 16, while Makhan Din (25) of Billavar ended his life by consuming some insecticide at his home on February 4 to protest alleged harassment by police.

"We condemn the unfortunate incidents of the mysterious killing of two persons in Billavar besides the death of Din and demand a judicial inquiry to bring out the truth," Karra said, addressing the convention which was organised as part of its ongoing 15-day campaign to press for the restoration of statehood to J-K.

He constituted a team of senior leaders and asked them to visit the area and prepare a detailed report before submitting it to the party. Alleging delay in finalising the "business rules" in the Union Territory, he said "there is confusion in the administration over the defining and distribution of powers".

"Non-restoration of statehood is also coming in the way of solving various issues of different sections of people who had taken part in the elections with a hope of getting their pending issues resolved," Karra said. He also criticised the local leadership of the BJP and asked them to clarify their stand over the delay in the restoration of statehood to J-K. "The J-K BJP and its elected representatives are observing criminal silence over the vital right of the people, forcing the Congress to launch this movement which shall be intensified in the days to come," Karra said.

## Dr Jitendra calls for greater synergy between private, government sector hospitals



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating Neelkanth Healthcare & Hospital at Akhnoor.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today called for greater synergy between private and government sector hospitals to render better and quality medical service to the masses. He said successful hospitals in the private sector are a result of synergy.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the government has been encouraging collaborative efforts between hospitals and nursing homes from the two sectors to

provide preventive healthcare to citizens in remote parts of the country. The Minister was speaking after inaugurating Neelkanth Healthcare and Hospital in Akhnoor.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the hospital's inauguration takes place at a time when the health sector is not confined to care of health only, but has become a flagship programme of wellbeing. He said the NDA government has opened 1.5 lakh wellness centres to strengthen the healthcare system in the country. Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned that his Parliamentary constituency has a rare distinc-

tion of having three Centrally-funded medical colleges in Kathua, Udhampur and Doda. Noting that India which was not taken seriously for curative healthcare has now emerged as a global leader in preventive healthcare.

Describing Ayushman Bharat as the world's largest health insurance scheme, the Minister stated that it has created a win-win situation both for healthcare providers and patients. Dr Singh urged hospitals and nursing homes to win the trust of their patients, and come up with a module to provide charitable services, including free treatment to some patients, frequently. He also asked people to avail over 30 life saving drugs and medicines being provided free of cost in hospitals.

Satish Sharma, J&K Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K; Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA, Akhnoor and Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA, Reasi were among those present on the occasion.

## DIET Kud completes five days in-service teacher training on inclusive education

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The five-day training programme for in-service teachers on Inclusive Education under NISHTHA, organized at the CEO Office, Udhampur by JK SCERT Jammu collaboration with DIET Udhampur concluded successfully under the guidance of Principal DIET Kud Sh R. K Vashishta. In this training programme the Chief Education Officer Udhampur K.K. Badyal who appeared as Chief Guest and he emphasized the importance of inclusive education in fostering an equitable learning environment. He encouraged educators to embrace inclusive teaching strategies for the benefit of all the learners.

During the event, he also launched the Flip Book of the Training Module and motivated all participants to explore the Quiz on Inclusive Education available on the DIKSHA platform.

The training program



DIET officials along with participants during the training programme.

aimed to strengthen inclusive education initiatives across the region and was conceptualized under the guidance of Director SCERT J&K, Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas and Joint Director SCERT Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor. Over the five days, 18 orientation sessions were delivered to 155 participants by resource persons, including Dr. Kalpana Jasrotia (Deputy CEO Udhampur), Vivek Jandial (Academic Officer, SCERT Jammu), Richa Mahajan (Teacher), Urvasi Parihar and Anita Pandoh (Special Educator). Principal DIET

Udhampur. The team of Experts from SCERT Jammu comprising of Dr Satya Devi Assistant Prof. Jeeven Singh AO, Neeraj Janwal AO highlighted the importance of Inclusive Education for whole five days training programme. Sh. Romi Vashishta, encouraged the participants to implement the key takeaways of the programme in their classrooms. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the resource persons by the Chief Guest. The efforts of the faculty of JKSCERT Jammu and DIET Kud in organizing such a meaningful training

program were highly appreciated. The Chief Guest felicitated the resource persons and participants for their contributions. The training program was moderated by Neeraj Janwal and concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Satya Devi, Assistant Professor, JKSCERT Jammu, followed by the National Anthem.

Coordinator Programme Farooq Shan Sr. Lect. Raj Kumar Lect., Vikramjeet Singh JA, Nikhil Rathore JA, S. K Mansotra, Ashwani Badyal, Javed Ahmed coordinated the whole Programme.

### Little Millennium celebrates Sports Fest cum Graduation Day

## Parents, teachers must collaborate to nurture future-ready citizens in evolving world: Chairman JKBOSE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Little Millennium, a leading Pre School chain having 750 centres across the country organized their Annual Sports Fest and graduation ceremony for its centres at RoopNagar, Gandhi Nagar and Trikuta Nagar Jammu with the theme of "Around the Globe Sports has one Language" in a scintillating function at Indoor Stadium Jammu.

Dr Parikshat Singh Manhas Chairman J&K Board of School Education was the Chief Guest in the function which was also attended by State Head 92.7 FM Sidarth Mahajan International Clinical Psychologist and Life Coach Dr Maruti Sharma, Ms Amrita Academic Head



Dr Parikshat Singh Manhas Chairman JKBOSE speaking during the event.

Little Millennium, Karan Sabharwal Marketing Head Little Millennium, patrons P.K .Sharma& Mr. DD Sharma, parents of little angels and prominent citizens of the area.

Dr Parikshat Singh Manhas Chairman J&K Board of School Educationwhile addressing the gathering emphasized the

vital role of collaboration between parents and teachers in shaping the future of young children. He highlighted that in an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving societal challenges, holistic development must go beyond academics. Encouraging active participation in sports and extracurricular activities, he

stressed that instilling discipline, resilience, and teamwork at an early age is crucial in preparing children to navigate the complexities of the future. He urged parents and educators to work hand in hand to nurture well-rounded, responsible and future-ready citizens.

While congratulating the school he said that he was

mesemised while witnessing this wonderful initiative that encourages our youngest learners to embrace sports and physical activity. He commended Little Millennium for organizing this event and appreciated the parents, for nurturing a balance between learning and active play. He advised the parents to spend quality time with the children with full attention to their developmental milestones.

Dr Maruti International Clinical Psychologist and Life Coach commented that communication skills and teamwork are essential life skills and should be instilled in the foundational years of the children. State Head 92.7 BIG FM Siddharth who is also a wellness coach

shared 3 C principles of Choose, Choose to Act and Choose to be consistent for a healthy lifestyle.

Akhila Magotra Chief learning officer Little Millennium Jammu acknowledged the guidance of the Chairman JKBOSE for shaping the future citizens and urged upon the parents to follow the same religiously. She added that Little Millennium is committed to shaping the foundational years of young learners into a strong springboard for their future. By blending play-based learning with essential life skills, the preschool nurtures curiosity, creativity and confidence in children. With a focus on holistic development-encompassing academics, sports, and social-emotional growth-Little Millennium ensures that its students are well-prepared to adapt to the challenges of an evolving world. Through a supportive and engaging environment, the preschool is laying the groundwork for future-ready citizens who will grow into responsible, innovative, and resilient individuals. Amrita Academic Head North, Anil Wadhwa Manager JK Sports Council and a large number of parents thoroughly enjoyed the performances of the little sportspersons.

The Sports Fest ended with the Graduation ceremony and prize distribution function by Chief Guest Dr Parikshat Singh.

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## JBM leads protest against drug trafficking at Indo-Pak border, urges immediate government action

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JAMMU: The Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JBM), led by its Chairman Advocate Ashok Sharma, former MLA and MLC held an interaction session at BanTalaab, Jammu to discuss about the growing menace of drug. The interaction aimed to raise awareness and take a stand against the alarming issue of drug trafficking from Pakistan, which is severely impacting the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman Ashok Sharma addressed the attendees, emphatically stating that drugs are one of the most dangerous weapons capable of annihilating communities and entire nations by preying on the youth. "It's high time Pakistan mends its ways and ceases its support for drug traffickers who threaten our borders and our future. The



Chairman Ashok Sharma addressing the attendees.

Indian government must take this grave issue seriously and engage with Pakistan to halt this menace," he urged, calling for action at international forums to hold Pakistan accountable.

Highlighting the urgent need for safety measures, Sharma demanded that the Government of India provide secure bunkers for the border residents to ensure their safety during cross-border firing incidents. He also advocated for

Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for farmers in border areas, seeking to offer them some form of economic respite amidst ongoing turmoil.

Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Chief Spokesperson of JBM, echoed the sentiments of urgency, warning parents about the rampant drug abuse that could ensnare their children. "We must come together to combat this menace before it envelops our youth entirely. Right now, our children may seem safe,

but if we do not act decisively, the threat of drug abuse will sink its claws into their futures," he cautioned passionately. Secretary General Ch. Gharu Ram, ex-minister, and Vice Chairman Satish Poonchi stressed the need for the government to dismantle the network of drug-peddlers operating in J&K and distributing drugs among the local youth.

They emphasized that the administration must take a hard stance against those

encouraging drug trafficking in Jammu.

Two executive members, KYS Manhas, former Principal District & Sessions Judge (Retd.), and Hari Om Singh, former Principal District & Sessions Judge (Retd.), also took the stage. They called for the reinstatement of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir as a catalyst for addressing numerous local issues, including rising drug trafficking and crime rates. "Granting statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will empower local governance structures necessary to effectively combat these challenges," they asserted.

JBM Vice Chairman Advocate Usman Salaria asked the government to come up with a particular policy to contain the drug-menace in the Jammu & Kashmir as it is posing serious threat to the society and nation. He further said

that drug-addicted youth would be liabilities to the society instead of assets. Among the attendees were community leaders and citizens, all united in their fight for a drug-free future for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The rally concluded with a firm resolution to continue advocating for necessary reforms and protective measures, ensuring that future generations can thrive in a safe and healthy environment free from the grips of drug abuse. As the community stands strong, the message is clear: together, they will forge a path to a brighter and healthier future, free from the scourge of drugs.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Ch Gharu Ram ex-minister, Istkar Khan, S. Kamalpreet Singh, Kuldeep Raj Sharma ex-sarpanch, Ashwani Sharma, Pawan Singh Manhas and others.