

SMVDU hosts national workshop on 'contours of languages and literature'



Resource persons along with faculty and participants after the workshop.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), under the PM-USHA initiative, organized a two-day National Workshop titled "Contours of Languages and Literature: Research, Reflection and Renewal in Humanities" on 9-10 February 2026, under the aegis of the School of Languages and Literature. The workshop was inaugurated on February 9, 2026, with the arrival of dignitaries, followed by the traditional invocation and ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowl-

edge and intellectual inquiry. A significant highlight of the inaugural session was the release of the academic book Mapping Love and Longing authored by Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FoHSS). Introducing the theme and objectives of the workshop, Dr. Manpreet Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Languages and Literature, emphasized the importance of renewed engagement with languages and literary studies in light of evolving contemporary research paradigms.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi elaborated on the conceptual framework of the released book and underscored the pivotal role of humanities in nurturing critical thinking, cultural awareness, and intellectual depth. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Coordinator, PM-USHA, SMVDU, highlighted the contribution of the PM-USHA scheme in facilitating academic initiatives of national relevance. The Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, appreciated the efforts of the

School of Languages and Literature in organizing the workshop and reaffirmed the University's commitment to promoting research excellence, reflection, and renewal in humanities education. The inaugural session was further enriched by the presence of distinguished experts, including Prof. Rajneesh Arora, Director, EFLU Lucknow Regional Campus; Prof. Vandana Luniyal, Director, Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh; Dr. Ankur Kakkar, NCERT, New Delhi; and Dr. K. K. Pandey, Central Institute of Hindi, among others. The

session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Muskan Gupta, Research Scholar, School of Languages and Literature, followed by a group photograph and high tea. The two-day workshop features expert lectures, academic deliberations, and interactive sessions aimed at enriching research perspectives and strengthening scholarly engagement in the fields of languages and literature.

Maha Shivratri Festival at Shiv Khori Temple on Feb 15; DC Poonch reviews arrangements

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma visited Shiv Khori Temple to review the arrangements for the Maha Shivratri festival, scheduled to be held on February 15, 2026.



DDC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma during visit to Shiv Khori Temple on Monday.

The DDC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; CEO Municipality Khalil Ahmed Bandy; DYSP DAR Shashi Kant; Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the DDC reviewed in detail the arrangements related to water and power supply, sanitation, security, traffic management and Medicare facilities. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by all departments to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the festival. The Deputy Commissioner

directed the Chief Medical Officer to establish a medical camp with an ambulance facility at the temple site to handle any emergency situation.

The Executive Engineers were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, while the Executive Officer Municipality was asked to make adequate sanitation arrangements in and around the temple premises.

Members of the Temple Committee expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and his team for personally reviewing the festival preparations.

Those present on the occasion were Chairman Shiv Khori Temple Surjeet Singh, President Shiv Khori Mandir Lokesh Anand, President VHP (Yatra Pramukh J&K UT) Nishu Gupta and other prominent citizens.

Jal Shakti PHE employees demand pending wages, minimum wages Act Implementation

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Jal Shakti PHE Employees and Worker Association organised a peaceful protest at the PHE Complex, Udhampur, under the chairmanship of Som Nath, District President and Senior Trade Union Leader, Jammu Province. Employees from Ramnagar, Majalta, Khoon, Mansar, Krimchi, Jib Thathi, Garhi Rehmble, Chenani, Kud and other far-flung areas of the district participated.



Association's District President Som Nath addressing protesters.

Addressing the gathering, Som Nath urged the government to consider the long-pending genuine demands of daily wagers in the ongoing budget session. He expressed hope that issues related to regularisation, release of

pending wages and implementation of the Minimum Wages Act would be addressed at the earliest. He appealed for timely completion of pending formalities so that workers may receive wages smoothly and sustain their livelihood. The association highlighted

demands including regularisation of eligible CP/ITI/Land Case workers under SRO-64, clearance of pending wages for the period 2014-2020, implementation of Minimum Wages Act on the pattern of Leh UT, and engagement of adequate staff to ensure smooth functioning

of water supply schemes. Senior leaders Vijay Sharma, Suraj Parkash, Jagdish, Dinesh Kesar, Sham Lal, Vinod Kumar, Karan Singh, Mohan Singh, Parveen, Javed, Tilak Raj, Shambu Nath and Rattan Lal also addressed the protest.

J&K Bank's project rise empowers youth through gender sensitization, self-defence

STATE TIMES NEWS
BANDIPORA: Jammu & Kashmir Bank, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative Project RISE (Respecting Identities | Promoting Equality), organized a series of gender sensitization and self-defence awareness programmes in Bandipora district. The initiative was implemented by Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) as part of its ongoing outreach across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, aimed at promoting equality, dignity, mutual respect, and personal safety among students.



Organisers along with students during the programme.

Under Project RISE, awareness sessions were conducted at Government Middle School, Prang; BMS/Government Middle School, Markundal;

Government Middle School, Gundinowgam; and KGBV, Nowgam. The sessions were facilitated by resource persons Ms. Sandhya and Mr. Abhishek Raina, who engaged students on issues related to gender sensitivity, respectful behaviour, and inclusive social values.

A major highlight of the programme was the self-defence awareness component, where students were introduced to basic practical techniques to enhance per-

sonal safety, build self-confidence, and respond effectively in challenging situations. Through this initiative, a total of 670 students were sensitized across various educational institutions in Bandipora district.

Speaking on the occasion, the resource persons stated that the programme aimed to empower students by combining awareness with action, enabling them to understand the significance of equality and respect while

also equipping them with essential self-protection skills.

The programme received an encouraging response from students, teachers, and school authorities, who appreciated the interactive and practical nature of the sessions. The discussions and demonstrations fostered active participation and reinforced the importance of sensitivity, safety, and responsible conduct in everyday life.

ABVP Kishtwar protests against over non-introduction of basic PG subjects at Kishtwar campus

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Kishtwar unit, organized a strong protest at Kishtwar against Jammu University over its failure to introduce basic Post-Graduate (PG) subjects at the University Campus Kishtwar.



ABVP activists staging protest at Kishtwar.

The protest was led by Radhika Aryan, State Joint Secretary, ABVP, and Vinay Aryan, District Convener, ABVP Kishtwar. The protesters raised slogans demanding immediate academic justice for students of the Kishtwar Campus.

Addressing the gathering, Radhika Aryan strongly criticized Jammu

University for its apathy towards Kishtwar, stating that despite the establishment of the University Campus, the university has failed to introduce even basic PG subjects. She emphasized that every year more than 1000 students pass out from the four different degree colleges of

Kishtwar, but due to the absence of PG courses, students are either forced to discontinue their studies or travel nearly 250 kilometres to pursue higher education outside the district.

She added that this situation is deeply unjust to students from remote, hilly, and economically weaker

backgrounds and reflects the discriminatory attitude of the university administration towards the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Aryan, District Convener ABVP Kishtwar, highlighted that despite the presence of three MLAs from Kishtwar, the district has failed to receive even

basic higher education facilities. He termed this as a serious failure of both political leadership and university administration.

Vinay Aryan warned the administration that if the demands for immediate introduction of basic PG subjects at the University Campus Kishtwar are not fulfilled within a short period of time, ABVP will intensify the protest and launch a more impactful agitation in the coming days.

ABVP reiterated its commitment to fighting for students' rights and demanded immediate intervention by the Jammu University authorities to ensure equal access to higher education for students of Kishtwar.

GDC Ramnagar donates winter clothes and utility items to underprivileged families

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMNAGAR: On the seventh day of the ongoing NSS Winter Camp, the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized a donation drive in its adopted village Thaplal, distributing winter clothes and essential utility items among people living below the poverty line.



social responsibility.

The initiative was carried out under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal, with the objective of extending support to economically weaker sections during the winter season. NSS volunteers actively participated in the drive, interacting with villagers and sensitizing them towards the values of empathy, cooperation, and

The programme was coordinated by the NSS Programme Officer, Prof. Ritika Mahajan,

who appreciated the dedication and service spirit shown by the volunteers throughout the seven-day winter camp. The initiative reinforced the NSS motto, "Not Me, But You," and highlighted the role of students in community welfare and nation-building.

DLSA Reasi organises legal awareness programme

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khalil Choudhary and able guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, District Legal Services Authority Reasi on Monday organized an awareness programme on the rights and rehabilitation of acid attack victims here at Old Hospital. Panel Advocate, Shazia Punjabi and ALADC, Niharika Bamotra- resource persons, along with Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Group B and C, besides the medical staff of the hospital including BMO Dr. Bilal coordinated the event.

The participants were sensitized to the legal provisions, compensation schemes, free legal aid and medical assistance available to acid attack victims under different laws and schemes. The resource persons emphasized the importance of timely legal intervention, victim rehabilitation and community awareness to prevent such heinous crimes. The programme witnessed active participation from patients, attendants and hospital staff, who appreciated the initiative taken by DLSA Reasi to spread awareness on this critical social and legal issue.

Suresh distributes cricket kits to youth

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma distributed cricket kits among youth in Panchayat Dhama Jalara of Block Chowki Choura, reiterating his commitment towards promoting sports culture and holistic youth development in rural areas.



DDC member Suresh Sharma handing over cricket kit to youth.

Earlier, Suresh Sharma had distributed sports equipment in all the panchayats of Blocks Maira Mandrian and Chowki Choura from his DDC constituency development fund, with the objective

of encouraging children and youth to actively engage in sports and physical activities.

Addressing the gathering, Pandit Suresh Sharma said that sports are essential for the physical, mental, and moral development of youth. He emphasized that regular participation in sports keeps the body healthy, active, and energetic, while also helping in reducing stress, building self-confidence, and inculcating discipline. He added that sports play a crucial role in character building, time management, and in steering young minds away from negative social influences.

He further appealed to the youth to remain united against social evils, especially drug abuse, and to channel their energy towards positive, constructive, and nation-building activities. The programme was attended by former Sarpanch Harbans Lal Sharma, former Sarpanch Radhesham, former Panch Mahender Pal, Parshotam Lal, Shyamal, Prem Chand, Bishan Dass, Ashok Kumar, Kalu Ram, along with local youth, panchayat representatives, and other respected citizens of the area.

Youth leadership training program held at GDC Kathua for NCC students

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: A one-week Youth Leadership Training Program was successfully organised at Government Degree College GDC Kathua by The Art of Living team for the NCC students of the college which was concluded today with great zeal.

The program was aimed at nurturing leadership skills, emotional well-being, and a spirit of service among young cadets.

The Principal of the college Dr. Manohar Lal along with the chief guest Dr. Jaipal Singh, the principal of Govt. College for Women, Kathua appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of such training programs in shaping disciplined, confident, and socially responsible youth.

The principal emphasized that leadership, coupled with inner balance and ethical values, is essential for students to face future challenges and contribute posi-



Faculty members along with students posing with certificates.

tively to society.

The instructors from The Art of Living Shri Yoginder Singh, Dr. Santosh Kumari and Bhagwati Parsad conducted engaging and insightful sessions focusing on stress management, effective communication, self-awareness, and team spirit.

Through interactive discussions, motivational talks, and practical breathing techniques, the instructors encouraged students to cultivate clarity of mind, confi-

dence, and resilience in both personal and professional life.

NCC officials and faculty members also lauded the efforts of the instructors, acknowledging their role in inspiring students through experiential learning and value-based guidance.

The program aligned well with the core objectives of the National Cadet Corps, reinforcing discipline, leadership, drugs free campaign and a commitment to nation-building.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, during which students shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the instructors and organizers for the enriching and motivating program.

This Program proved to be a significant step towards the holistic development of NCC cadets at GDC Kathua and was widely appreciated by students, faculty, and the organising team.

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