

Sahai-led ICC delegation meets Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages, discusses promotion of Hindi/Dogri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, led by its Chairman Rahul Sahai, met the Convenor of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages, Ujjwal Raman Singh, along with Members of Parliament Dr. Anil Sukhdevrao Bonde and Kuldeep Indora, and Manoj Kumar, Hindi Adhikari, Ministry of Home Affairs, during their visit to Jammu. The Committee functions under the overall supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The ICC delegation submitted a detailed representation seeking stronger promotion of Hindi and Dogri in Jammu & Kashmir. Welcoming the delegation, Rahul Sahai highlighted



ICC Jammu Chapter delegation led by its Chairman Rahul Sahai meeting with Convenor of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

ICC's century-old legacy as a premier industry body committed not only to economic growth and policy advocacy but also to socio-cultural development. He emphasized that language is central to inclusive governance, national integration, and public participation, noting the deep cultural and social relevance of Hindi and Dogri in the Jammu region.

The delegation advocated that land records in Jammu & Kashmir be drafted in Hindi/Dogri alongside Urdu and English to improve accessibility for citizens. It proposed establishing a dedicated University Chair for Hindi/Dogri in major universities of J&K with adequate grants, and recommended enhanced funding support from the UGC for

sustained academic development. ICC also called for structured financial assistance to NGOs, cultural organizations, and literary clubs promoting Hindi/Dogri, suggesting earmarked funds by the Department of Culture, Government of J&K. Further recommendations included celebrating Hindi Divas more enthusiastically across the Union

Territory, recognizing contributors to Hindi/Dogri literature, and strengthening institutional backing for Kavi Sammelans. The delegation urged that such events be broadcast on Doordarshan and regional channels, with increased Hindi/Dogri programming on FM and radio platforms. ICC also suggested issuing key government documents in Hindi/Dogri, ensuring bilingual Smart City signage, and encouraging public and private sector undertakings to allocate CSR funds for language promotion. The delegation reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with authorities to strengthen Hindi/Dogri, enhancing cultural identity, administrative inclusiveness, and citizen engagement across Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Youth Congress leaders detained during protest, demand release of Uday

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JAMMU: Leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress staged a protest outside the Bharatiya Janata Party office in Jammu against the Modi Government over the US trade deal issue and the arrest of Indian Youth Congress leaders. The protest was organized to demand the immediate release of Indian Youth Congress National President Uday Bhamu Chib and other leaders who were reportedly detained following a peaceful demonstration. Youth Congress members raised slogans and criticized the Centre's policies, terming the recent developments undemocratic and politically motivated. The protest was led by JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney in the presence of IYC Secretary In-charge J&K Maan Singh Rathore. Demonstrators attempted to march towards



J&K Youth Congress activists raising slogans during a protest.

the BJP office but were stopped by police authorities. Several Youth Congress leaders were detained during the protest. Addressing the media, Youth Congress representatives condemned what they described as the suppression of democratic voices. They alleged that the arrest of IYC leaders for staging a peaceful protest reflects intolerance toward dissent. The leaders reiterated

their demand for the immediate release of Uday Bhamu Chib and other detained members. The situation remained tense for some time as police personnel ensured law and order at the site. The Youth Congress maintained that it would continue raising its voice on issues affecting the nation and uphold democratic values through peaceful means.

GDC Khour organizes poster making, slogan writing competition on road safety

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KHOUR: In a display of collective effort and community spirit, the Road Safety Committee of GDC Khour organized a poster making and slogan writing competition on the theme of Road Safety Awareness Programme. The competition was conducted under the patronship of Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, Principal GDC Khour and supervision of Road Safety Committee members of the College. The objective of the event was to educate the students in particular and public in general about the importance of traffic rules and road safety and to encourage them to follow the rules to prevent accidents and ensure safe travel. The students showcased their creativity and talent by designing posters and slogans on traffic rules and road safety. The partici-



GDC Khour students making posters.

pants of the poster making competition were adjudged by Prof. Chetan Sharma, Convener of Road Safety Committee. About 60 students participated in the two competitions. The jury members for these two events were Prof. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Sapna Narania & Dr. Pooja Kumari. The first position in Poster making competition was bagged by Fiza Bhaui of Sem. 2nd and second position by Vaishali of sem. 6th and third position by Rishu Bharti of

sem. 2nd. In the event of slogan writing the first, Second and Third position was bagged by Sohani Sharma of Sem 4th, Anshu Sharma of Semester 2nd and Collectively by Rishita Khajuria & Priya Manhas of semester 2nd, respectively. The winners were facilitated with trophies by the worthy Principal Sir. Prof. Shivani Sharma, Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, Dr. Anil Kumar Dogra & Prof. Sunil Kumar (PTI) were also present during the events.

Five-day FDP on Peace Education concludes at CLUJ

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JAMMU: The valedictory ceremony of the Five-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Peace Education was held at PSPS Government College for Women. The programme was organised by the Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with The Prem Rawat Foundation, under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, CLUJ. The FDP aimed at promoting mental well-being, stress management, and peaceful academic environments through a structured 20-hour Peace Education Programme conducted over five days. Faculty from the constituent colleges and schools of the University participated in reflective and interac-



Participating faculty and other dignitaries posing for a photograph.

tive sessions designed to foster self-awareness, dignity, emotional balance, and human understanding. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Shabila Wani, Head, Department of Psychology, and facilitated with insight and empathy by Ms. Poonam Sherawat from The Prem Rawat Foundation, along with her team who highlighted peace as an inner resource cultivated through reflection and understanding.

The deliberations resonated deeply with participants and inspired lasting impact in classrooms and campuses alike. A virtual session with Catherine, Global Facilitator and Training Director from PRF New Zealand, was also organised who interacted with participants and sought feedback on key takeaways and learnings from the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Twinkle Suri, Dean Academic Affairs, CLUJ,

stated that peace education forms the foundation of meaningful pedagogy, for nurturing emotionally resilient teachers and learners. "What we have reflected upon here must now be carried into our classrooms, our conversations, and our conduct." Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the host college, emphasised that peace is paramount for harmonious learning environments in educational institutions and such initiatives

enable educators to build empathetic and balanced classrooms. The valedictory function was also graced by Dr. Satinder Kour, Dean Research Studies, CLUJ which included the presentation of the FDP report and distribution of certificates. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to integrating peace and well-being into academic practice across the university.

Sant Shri Gora Ji Maharaj's teachings inspire service, dedication and social harmony: Yudhvir Sethi

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JAMMU: The 702nd Prakash Utsav of Sant Shri Gora Ji Maharaj was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm by the Jammu and Kashmir Prajapati (Kumbar) Sabha. MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and extended his greetings to the members of the Prajapati community. Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi expressed his happiness at being part of the sacred celebration. He said that it was a matter of great privilege to attend the auspicious occasion and interact with the members of the Sabha and the community. "Sant Shri Gora Ji Maharaj's life and teachings inspire us to strengthen the values of service, dedication, and brotherhood in society. His message remains relevant even today and guides us toward unity and social harmony," Sethi said. He emphasized that such spiritual and social gatherings play an important role in pre-



MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi addressing gathering at a programme.

serving cultural heritage and strengthening community bonds. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers for conducting the programme in a dignified and well-organized manner. "Events like these not only honor our saints and traditions but also encourage the younger generation to stay connected with their roots and values," he added. The programme witnessed the presence of several office bearers and prominent members of the Sabha. Among those

present were Er. Ayodhya Kumar Manawa, President; Er. Manga Ram, General Secretary; Madan Lal Baldotra, Senior Vice President; K. L. Dafara, Vice President; Jeet Singh Sangotra, Convener; Ramesh Chander, Vice President; Ashok Badayal, Vice President; Purnu Ram Dub, Vice President; Kartar Singh, Vice President; Ashok Tadia, Vice President; S. D. Tadia, Vice President; Captain Ramesh Lal, Vice President; Master Puran Chand, Publicity

Secretary; Kewal Krishan, Chief Organiser; K. C. Verma, Joint Secretary; and Advocate Ajay Kumar, Youth President. Other distinguished guests included Swati Sharma, President Amphalla Mandal; Braham Jyot, State President BJP OBC Moreha; and Raman

Sharma, District Spokesperson. The celebration was marked by devotional fervor, cultural expressions, and collective prayers. Members of the community paid homage to Sant Shri Gora Ji Maharaj and reflected upon his teachings, which emphasize humility, equality, and unwavering devotion. Concluding his address, Yudhvir Sethi conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the entire Prajapati community and assured his continued support for initiatives aimed at social upliftment and cultural preservation. The event concluded with gratitude expressed toward the organizers and participants for making the celebration a grand success.

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NEW DELHI: The National Science Centre inaugurated a new panel exhibition titled "E-Life & E-Waste" and hosted a distinguished Popular Science Lecture at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Centre also organized an exclusive interactive session for school students with Dr. Parveen Saini, Senior Principal Scientist and Professor at AesIR, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory. The exhibition, which explores the rapid evolution of digital lifestyles and the growing challenges posed by electronic waste, was inaugurated by Chief Guest

Prof. Avinash C. Pandey, Director of the Inter-University Accelerator Centre. The ceremony was graced by Guest of Honour Dr. Alagan Annamalai, Director of the National Gandhi Museum and Executive Committee Member, NSC Delhi, in the presence of senior officials from the National Council of Science Museums. Dr. Parveen Saini addressed a large gathering of students at the Centre's auditorium on the theme, "Role of Science & Technology and Individual Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development." Known for her contributions to materials science

and sustainable innovation, Dr. Saini emphasized the importance of aligning scientific research with societal needs and environmental responsibility. The programme aimed to inspire young minds by showcasing the vital role of science and technology in achieving global sustainability goals. Students gained valuable insights into environmental impacts of technological growth, explored emerging green career opportunities, and actively participated in an engaging Q&A session, fostering scientific temper and awareness through direct interaction with experts.

Skill development Course on Traditional Products and Handicrafts culminates

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Department of Social Welfare, Reasi in convergence with Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (UMED) organised culmination ceremony of 10 days Skill development programme wherein the skill of making Chabri, Binna, home decor and allied products from local grass was imparted to the trainees from the minority community under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme at Village Dasanoo, Panchayat Panassa. The programme marked the successful completion of the training aimed at enhancing traditional craft skills among women. The course focused on equipping the participants



DSWO Reasi, Sachin Sharma posing with participants and other officials.

with practical knowledge and hands-on experience to strengthen their livelihood opportunities and promote self-reliance. Addressing the participants, District Social Welfare Officer, Reasi Sachin Sharma emphasized the significance of skill

development in empowering women and promoting gender equality. He highlighted that initiatives under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao that play a crucial role in improving the socio-economic status of women and ensuring their active participation in commu-

nity development. DSWO encouraged the trainees to transform the acquired skills into entrepreneurial opportunities so that they can sell their products at local and national level. Certificates were distributed among 25 successful trainees

by the District Social Welfare Officer, Reasi in recognition of their dedication and successful completion of the course. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Social Welfare Department for providing them with a platform to enhance their skills and confidence. District Programme Manager, JKRLM, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, highlighting the importance of such initiatives for building a sustainable livelihood for women in the region. CLF President, Anita Kumari and Officials of District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Reasi were also present.

BJP pays tributes to Nanaji Deshmukh on his death anniversary

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by its senior leaders, paid warm and heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh, affectionately known as "Nanaji," on his death anniversary at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The programme was marked by floral tributes and remembrance of Nanaji's exemplary life dedicated to nation building, and social upliftment. J&K BJP Vice-President Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, along with Parduman Singh, Dr. Hari Dutt, Naveen Sharma, Anil Massoom, Rajesh Gupta, Sanjay Sharma, Pardeep Sharma, Pankaj Bral, Anita Gupta, Anisha and other senior leaders and party activists, participated in the tribute ceremony, and recalled Nanaji's immense contribution to the



BJP leaders paying tributes to Nanaji Deshmukh on his death anniversary.

nation. Rekha Mahajan said that Nanaji was posthumously conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, by the Government of India in recognition of his unparalleled service to society. She stated that even during his active political career, he remained deeply connected to the grassroots and consistently worked to strengthen national ideology and value-based politics rooted in Bharat's cultural ethos. Sanjita Dogra said that after voluntarily renouncing active politics, Nanaji devoted decades of his life to rural devel-

opment and social transformation. She highlighted that his initiatives in village empowerment and self-sustained community development created a model for inclusive growth. His life, she added, continues to inspire generations committed to nation-building. Baldev Singh Billawaria said that Nanaji's contribution in the fields of education, healthcare, and rural self-reliance was transformative and visionary. He emphasized that Nanaji believed in empowering villages as the foundation of a strong nation.

NMC pleads with 8th pay commission for merger of 50 percent DA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri on Friday pleaded that 8th pay commission chairman Justice Rajana Parkash Desai, officer member secretary Pankaj Jain and part time member Pulak Ghosh should recommend to the central government in its upcoming NPC meeting for merger of 50 percent Dearness allowance (DA) release of 18 months pending DA installments arrears and payment of 20 percent interim relief

in favour of both central as well as all state governments employees and pensioners till the commission submit its final report to the central government. In three separate memorandums sent to them Shastri pointed out that inflation has impact on the government employees and pensioners also. High Prices of day to day goods make it difficult for government employees and pensioners to afford even the basic commodities in their lives.

He also urged the 8th central pay commission panel to commence visits to all states including union territories of the country to discuss with all the stake holders for devising formula for finalizing its recommendations in time. Shastri said that a calendar of meetings with representatives of central Government employees and pensioners organizations, states governments and all others concerned should be drawn up so that recommendations of the 8th central pay commission are

simultaneously implemented in favour of both central/states governments employees and pensioners and there are no anomalies what so ever while implementing the report of the 8th central pay commission. Shastri also suggested that 8th central pay commission should be also recommended to the central government to arrange the resources for the states and union territories having facing financial constraints to enable them to implement its all recommendations in one go.