

# JU organises webinar on 'Rights & Challenges of Persons with Disability in India'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu (JU) in collaboration with the National Federation for the Blind, New Delhi, on Wednesday organized an online webinar on the theme 'Rights and Challenges of Persons with Disability in India'.

Prof. Rajni Dhingra, Dean Research Studies JU was the Chief Guest on the occasion, who thanked Prof. Manoj K. Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, JU for his vision of nominating a Coordinator for Disability Initiatives in the University and also appointing an Advisory Committee comprising of academics and members of civil society to develop a road map for creating an accessible and inclusive ecosystem at the university.

She mentioned that Jammu University is in fact the first university in the entire country to have constituted such an advisory committee.

Further, she said that it is our collective responsibility to help persons with disabilities be integrated into the social mainstream.

Prof. Kusum Lata Malik, President of the National



Federation for the Blind and the key resource person highlighted that accessibility should be ensured at all levels.

Persons with disabilities frequently face multiple hindrances and their inclusion is often impacted adversely by our lack of empathy and compassion, she said adding that based on surveys conducted by NFB, New Delhi most children with disabilities face discrimination within their home and society also fails to acknowledge the needs and requirements of such individuals. She also discussed the need for course redesigning in higher education institutes.

Earlier, Dr. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability

Initiatives, JU and organizer of the webinar mentioned that the JU envisions to create a disabled-friendly campus/ barrier-free environment based on dual principles of "Inclusion and Accessibility".

It is working towards ensuring that students with disabilities receive equal treatment and opportunities in all aspects of campus life and are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in their access to services, assessment and teaching.

She highlighted the need for developing sensitivity, especially among the youth towards the needs of the disabled to build a sustainable future.

She informed that under

Disability Initiatives more webinars, live interactions, and outreach activities are in offering.

Umesh Sharma, President of Disabled Care Foundation also shared his views in the webinar. He mentioned that in 2011 when the persons with disabilities were included for the first time in the census their number was noted to be 2.21%, whereas, in reality, this number is much higher. This lack of rigorous and comparable data and statistics hinders the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Mohd. Ashaf, Vishav Preet Singh, and Haleema Lone students with disabilities enrolled in various courses of study at JU also shared their views and expectations.

Prominent among others who attended the webinar included Prof. Samridhi Arora, HoD, Deptt of Home Science, JU, Sandhya Dhar, President, JIGER Ngo, M.K Badyal, Blind Home, Roopnagar, and Megavika Changotra, special educator.

The webinar was conducted and coordinator by Vinish Malik and Kanika Gupta, research scholars, Department of Home Science, JU.

# BJP committed to preserve Dogra culture, heritage: Kavinder

## Releases video album 'Chalo Chale Shiv Khori'



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta and others releasing video album.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta released a video album 'Chalo Chale Shiv Khori' during a simple but impressive function held here today.

Kavinder, while reiterating BJP's commitment to preserve Dogra culture and heritage, said that Jammu and Kashmir has immense talent but it needs to be explored and honed by providing platform to the local artists enabling them to display their hidden talent and skills.

He said that there is dire need to encourage local artists who can preserve and promote the rich folk-lore of this region which forms essential part of the cultural heritage that needs to be conveyed to the future generations.

He asserted that it is the young generation artists on

whose shoulders lies the responsibility of preserving the rich Dogra heritage for the progeny. Therefore it becomes our duty to keep encouraging them so that they vigorously pursue the mission with utmost enthusiasm.

He said the Dogra cultural heritage is the identity of the people of Jammu and we cannot afford to lose our identity.

Lauding the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice through 'Mann Ki Baat' episode to speak and promote mother tongue, former Deputy Chief Minister sought an independent and full-fledged Duggar Satellite Channel for local artists of Jammu and Kashmir especially for the people of Jammu region. He said that it was the former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who facilitated the entry of Dogri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India for which full credit goes

to him and the party.

He said that establishing of the aforesaid channel would go a long way in promoting Dogra Culture and Heritage besides encouraging the local artists of Jammu region to display their talent across a larger spectrum.

Kavinder Gupta also appreciated the efforts of Singer Abhi Kotra, Director R.J Rajput, Composer Raghuvanshi Brothers - Deepak and Ravi ji, Music by Surinder Manhas and Composed by Sanjay Vidrohi in making this Video Album.

Kavinder also lauded the decision of Central Government for strengthening the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that strengthening of VDCs will play a very crucial role in the control and elimination of the militancy in the Union Territory.

# Rana releases Shrimad Bhagwad Gita with commentary of Shreela Vishwanath Chakervarti Thakur



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and others launching Shrimad Bhagwad Gita with commentary.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday lauded the efforts of generating enlightenment about Shrimad Bhagwad Gita, especially among youth, saying the relevance of the eternal message is relevant now ever than before in the stressful environment.

"Bhagwat Gita is an eternal philosophy for those who wish to be awakened and enlightened", Rana said

while launching the Shrimad Bhagwad Gita with commentary of Shreela Vishwanath Chakervarti Thakur, the Rasika Acharaya of Vrindavan.

The great work has been translated from Bengali into Hindi, English, Tamil, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian by Shri Gopinath Goudia Math.

Among the distinguished Yagneshwar Dass Trustee was also present at the release function who came

specially from Vrindavan for the event. Referring to the old saying across the country that one can wake up a person who is sleeping, but one cannot awaken someone who pretending to be asleep, Devender Rana said the Bhagwad Gita is for those who wish to awaken. He said the underlying philosophy in Shrimad Bhagwad Gita will surely lead to prosperity, harmony and spiritual growth.

Rana described the scripture as a manual for life and living as it emphasizes mainly on action, the Karma. He hoped that the youngsters would go through this philosophy and reflect on higher pursuits of life.

Also present on the occasion were Baba Chanchal Singh, Rinku Chouhan, Gouri Hari Dass and Jeevan Lal.

# All J&K Plus Two Lecturers' Forum urges LG to grant ACP

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A monthly meeting of All J&K Plus two lecturer's forum was held under the Presidentship of Pardeep Singh Rakwal, Provincial President and chairmanship of R.S. Slathia through virtual mode. Dr.Manzoor Ahmad (Chief Patron plus two forum and President SEECC) also joined the meet and graced the occasion.

The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Ghar Singh (General Secretary).

Various Principals, lecturers and Tehsil Heads from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir Provinces attended the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was grant of ACP (Running Grade Pattern) in favour of plus 2 cadre. This will help in removing stagnation from the Department as lecturers have to serve in the same grade for about 20 -25 years. It was also requested to



Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to do early regularisation of pending subjects as their vigilance clearance is already done.

In the meeting, light was also thrown on different pending issues of the cadre like non vocation status in the favour of Principals and lecturers who are officially engaged during vacations, implementation of transfer policy in fair manner, release of charge allowance in favour of Principals, provision

of accommodation for Principals, lecturers posted in other districts, filling up of posts of Principals and lecturers lying vacant for many years, repatriation of lecturers posted in remote areas after one year of service, induction of college quota in favour of Plus two lecturers, implementation of transfer policy in favour of SRO 202 employees, etc.

Provincial President, Pardeep Singh Rakwal laid

stress upon the need to work collectively to resolve all the pending issues. In the meeting, farewell was also bid to Principal Mohd Anin Shah (Principal HSS Nanil) who retired after rendering 25 years of service with devotion.

Prominent persons present in the meeting include Sudershan Chandel

(Principal), Rajesh Suri (Principal), Charu Anand (Principal), Jyoti Prakash (Principal), Dr Ashok Kumar (Vice President), Dr Sushma (Female Vice President), Mukh Raj (Tehsil Head Akhnoor), Sohan Singh Chib (Tehsil Head R S Pura), Kamal Kishore Bhagat, Esha Choudhary, Salim Shah, Jai Karan, Ashok Kumar (Tehsil Billawar), Renu Langae, Rashpal Singh, Subash Singh, Surjeet Singh, Jai Karan, Mukesh, Geeta Choudhary, Iffat Shah, Ravinder Singh, Bashir Sahil, Vinay Kumar, Sanjay and Sandeep Rathore.

# Students' orgs welcome recruitment in Ladakh Police

## Stop recruitment through outsourcing, notify recruitments for district-cadre posts: Student leaders

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Leh based students' bodies including Ladakh Environment and Education Action Forum (LEAF), Students Organisation of Unified Ladakh (SOUL), and All Ladakh Unemployed Youth Association (ALUYA) on Wednesday thanked Ladakh Police for processing recruitment for the posts of 266 police constables for which, according to the student leaders, Ladakh Police has proposed March 15 tentatively for physical test.

Students' leaders asked UT Administration to immediately stop recruitment through outsourcing and requested Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) to notify recruit-



Leh students leaders addressing media.

ment for the district cadre posts.

President ALUYA Thinles Tundup, while expressing gratitude to Ladakh Police for notifying recruitment for the posts of constables, called it historic one and requested Ladakh Police to conduct the physical test for the aspirants in the month of March as proposed with-

out any delay.

Student leaders demanded a recruitment center in Jammu also for Ladakhi aspirants residing outside Ladakh in different cities for their studies.

He questioned LAHDCs as to why they are delaying recruitments under their jurisdiction. SOUL President Padma Tsewang

also urged Ladakh Police conduct physical test in the month of March itself.

Chief Coordinator LEAF Lobzang Palden asked Ladakh Administration to immediately stop recruitments through outsourcing and requested that recruitment for district cadre posts, falling under the jurisdiction of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils, be immediately notified to process for early recruitments. If outsourcing is not stopped immediately and recruitment of district cadre posts is not notified within the next few days, unemployed youth shall be forced to take to the streets, Palden warned.

# Sikh organisations led by SPF hold daylong protest in support of their demands

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To expresses resentment against Government for not resolving long pending issues of Sikh Community of J&K, a number of activists of various organisations including Sikh Progressive Front (SPF), Kashmir Sikh Sangat, J&K Peoples Movement, Sikh Intellectual Forum, Displaced Kashmiri Sikh Conference, Tanker Union of J&K UT staged a daylong peaceful Dharma at Hari Singh Memorial Park, near Press Club, Jammu on Wednesday.

While addressing media, Balvinder Singh, President SPF said that despite taking up several issues at different platforms and most importantly, submitting a detailed

memorandum to LG Manoj Sinha, nothing has been done by the Government to resolve the long pending issues of community. The issues highlighted by the community members included inclusion of Sikh members in JKPSC, inclusion of Punjabi language in official languages of J&K, inclusion of Sikh Youth from Kashmir valley (non-migrant) in circular issued by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for admission in higher educational Institutions, implementation of National Minority Commission Act, implementation of Anand Marriage Act, installation of statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur at Kunjwani Chowk, releasing balance compensation to



Various Sikh outfits members during a protest at Jammu.

PoJK Refugees, removing discrepancies in delimitation draft report etc. Those who spoke on the occasion included Manjit Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Surinder Singh Wazir, Dalip Singh, Taranjit Singh Tony, Jatinder Singh, Makhn Singh, Rajinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Babu Singh, Narinder Singh Khalsa, Tanbir Singh Sodhi,

Sharanjit Singh, Ramandeep Singh and Amrik Singh. Urging Government to initiate immediate concrete measures for resolving all pending issues of Sikh community, the leaders said that continuous neglect of Sikh Community shall result in intensified struggle by community members, the responsibility of which will be of Government.

# Deputation of senior citizens calls on Chief Secretary, submits memo

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of Association for Welfare of Senior Citizens Jammu- a registered NGO- called on Chief Secretary, Union Territory of J&K on Wednesday and submitting a memorandum highlighting a number of issues. Expressing gratitude towards the officer for sparing some time from his busy schedule to listen to the grievances of senior citizens, the deputation demanded formulation and implementation of a comprehensive plan for development of Pay & Stay Homes, Day Care Homes and 'Old Age Homes, as per Section 19 of Act.

Others demands highlighted on the occasion included implementation of provisions of Section 20 of Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, separate queues for senior citizens, facilities for treatment of chronic, terminal and degenerative diseases, establishment of a 'UT' Council of Senior Citizens', constitution of Maintenance Tribunals, constitution of District Committees, expediting handing-over of 8 Kanals State land allocated for setting up 'Pay & Stay Home' at Dhammi in Nagrota or some other alternative place, allotting a small piece of land within Jammu city for establishing office-cum recreation spot for the Association etc.

The members of the deputation included A K Arora, Virender Kumar Gupta, Dr Shashi Kant Goswami, O P Sharma, Virender Suri, Vinod Gupta and Kewal Mahajan.

# GoI failed to take timely step to rescue, evacuate students from Ukraine: JKPCC

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Party (JKPCC) has regretted that the Government of India has failed to render any help and take timely step to rescue and evacuate the students from war zone Ukraine, as revealed by the two students of Jammu region who returned on their own arrangements and expense. The revelations of two young girls from Udhampur, in the media today have exposed the hollow claims of the Modi Govt of rendering all sorts of help to the stranded students and Indian nationals in the war zone Ukraine, who number was stated to be around 20,000 including some 200 students from Jammu and Kashmir.

JKPCC Chief Spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma regretted that the hollow claims of Modi Govt have fallen flat, in view of the real story disclosed by the students who have managed to return on their own efforts and expense. It is unfortunate that the Indian flights were charging higher than the foreign flights from the distressed Indian people. Those who could afford to pay and manage could come but lot of others are stranded in the war zone, facing death, he said. Regrettably one Indian student has already got martyred while others are fearing death and facing the worst ordeal. It is unfortunate that GoI, especially the BJP leaders are making tall claims in the media to mislead the countrymen about the real plight of own citizens there, Sharma said adding that it has also come in notice that UPA Govt. had constituted a special fund of crores of rupees under ICWF for such situations but students and others have to pay huge fare to get rescued.

Expressing solidarity with the stranded citizens and students and their family members, JKPCC has expressed upon the Govt. to rescue the Indian nationals including fro J&K on war footing.