

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 Dhangra, 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

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 Changota, special educator.

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

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.

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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.

"Bhagwad 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 pretends 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.

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

do early regularisation of pending subjects as their vigilance clearance is already done.

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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 2 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 Amin 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), Mulk Raj (Tehsil Head Akhnoor), Sohan Singh Chib (Tehsil Head R S Pura), Kamal Kishore Bhagat, Esha Choudhary, Salim Shah, Jai Karan, Ashok Kumar (Tehsil Billawal), Renu Langar, Rashpal Singh, Subash Singh, Surjeet Singh, Jai Karan, Mukesh, Geeta Choudhary, Iffat Shah, Ravinder Singh, Bashir Sahil, Vinay Kumar, Sanjay and Sandeep Rathore.

Lt. Governor Manj Sinha to

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