

Disability Rights activists gift Braille script literature to JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Disability rights activist Sandhya Dhar on Sunday gifted a Braille script literature to the University of Jammu for the dissemination of valuable information among the visually-impaired students of the varsity, an official said.

NGO Jiger's president Sandhya Dhar gifted a Braille version as well as an enlarged font version of the Rights of Persons with Disability (RPwD) Act and allied literature to the varsity.

The gift was received by Director UGC-IRDC, Prof S K Pandita and the head of the varsity's Department of Home Science, Prof Samridhi Arora, on behalf of the University, a university spokesperson said.

He said Dhar and Padam Shree Javed Ahmad Tak of Humanity Welfare Organization, Kashmir, both prominent disability rights activists, also delivered lectures on the theme Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ongoing refresher course in human rights organized jointly by UGC-IRDC and the JU's



Sandhya Dhar, Disability activist presenting the braille script literature to JU officials.

Department of Home Science.

The RPwD Act versions have been prepared by an NGO, Sawabhiman from Bhubaneswar, Odisha and the scripts would be useful for the dissemination of valuable information

among the visually-impaired and low-vision students of the University, the spokesperson said.

Tak, in his lecture, elaborated on the various models of disability social model, charity

model and the developmental model and said he was of the view that the disabled need unconditional acceptance and non-discrimination if they are to realize their full human potential.

He mentioned that the right to equality, right to marriage and family, right to informed consent, right to education and right to liberty are basic fundamental rights that the disabled also need and aspire for.

Dhar mentioned that the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 and the RPwD Act of 2016 ensured that the disabled enjoyed their rights but, he added, there are certain lacunae in the implementation of these Acts.

She shared anecdotes from her journey as a disability activist and also as one affected by cerebral palsy to highlight that persons with disabilities are often marginalized and discriminated against.

The lectures were presided over by Prof. Rajni Dhingra, Dean Research Studies, JU and conducted by Dr. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Welfare Initiatives, JU.

Dr Sudhaa, Dr Annil awarded FRCP Edinburgh



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Sudhaa Sharma and Dr Annil Mahajan, senior consultants Madaan Hospital Jammu have the honour of being elected & conferred with prestigious Fellowship of Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, UK.

Dr Sudhaa is the only Gynaecologist from this region who has been awarded this distinct honour as it is very rarely awarded to Non Physicians.

This honour is because of enormous, extraordinary, meritorious, distinct contributions of both the reputed doctors in promoting medical education, medical Journalism, patient care and awareness

Vehicular Pollution Monitoring Campaign intensifies in Jammu Province



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Pollution Control Committee with Traffic police has intensified on road monitoring against vehicular pollution violators where under vehicles are checked for pollution under control (PUCCs) certificates.

In a day long surprise checking about 30 vehicles have been checked randomly in Kathua District out of which 7 vehicles have been found without PUCCs and have been fined for violation of Motor vehicles and Environmental laws.

Pollution control committee is regularly monitoring the procedure of issuance of pollution under control certificates by inspecting and checking all the pollution checking centres of Jammu province to ensure that the certificates issued are in conformity with the prescribed rules. Besides this on road monitoring is being carried out to cross check the compliance status.

Automobile Exhaust emissions contribute many pollutants to the atmosphere like Carbon Monoxide (CO), Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulphur (NOx & SOx) Hydrocarbons (HC), Particulate matter (SPM&RSPM) and smoke with increased economic activity and associated road transport movement, air pollution due to automobiles has become a serious concern in J&K.

To maintain the air quality within the desired values, emissions from automobiles are being closely watched and monitored as incase of violations, seizure of vehicles will be recommended immediately, said Kuldeep Bhan, Incharge Vehicle Pollution Jammu province.

While talking to reporters, Bhan disclosed

that vehicular Pollution is the primary cause of Air Pollution in Urban areas responsible for 70% - 80% of total air pollutants which are carcinogenic and have adverse impact on the health & well being of population.

He added that under the supervision of Regional Director PCC

Jammu Satpal and on the director of chairperson PCC Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS & Member Secretary K. Ramesh Kumar, similar & intensive on road monitoring will continue in adjoining towns & cities of Jammu to bring down the air pollution levels & book the chronic defaulters under law.

While expressing displeasure over deteriorating Air Quality of Jammu region coupled with increasing offences, Bhan said that with every vehicle speeding ahead on Jammu roads & adjoining towns there is some times a Black Toxic smoke shadowing the vehicle which poses continuous threat to the ambient air quality.

Exposure to these toxic air pollutants can causes serious health effects & people using adulterated fuels and violating Traffic/Environmental laws are like killers on the roads.

Bhan added that pollution control committee is committed to responsibly bring Air Pollution levels under control & action plan in this regard has been prepared with the concerned agencies who are responsible for traffic management.

J&K PCC is doing a lot to enforce pollution prevention measures & this battle cannot be fought without effective public awareness & participation as we are all together in this campaign, Bhan added.

While talking to reporters, Bhan disclosed

BJP betrayed every section of J&K: Tara Chand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, Tara Chand on Sunday said BJP government at the Centre has not done any work in the public interest in J&K.

"The double engine government of the BJP has harassed every section of society and has not done anything itself but has been appearing in advertisements claiming the works of the Congress Party as its own," Tara Chand said while addressing the Congress workers at Khour.

Former Dy CM accused BJP of disregarding the aspirations of the people of J&K.

"There is zero focus on development, the infrastructure is dying out and people are being denied basic civil amenities like



Senior Congress leader, Tara Chand addressing a public rally.

power and water," he said and gave a clarion call to people of J&K and across the country to root out the BJP government which according to him is weakening the rural economy and hereditary trades and playing havoc with the farm sector only to hand over agricultural sector to the corporate sector.

Tara Chand also blamed the UT Adminstration

and BJP for the indifferent attitude towards the daily wagers, need based and other casual workers and demanded immediate framing and implementation of regularization policy for them.

He said that these people were engaged from time to time by the concerned officers and officials to run various water, power supply schemes and to run

emergency services, but after decades of services they are not even regularly paid their wages and not regularized.

Tara Chand said that the draft report of Delimitation Commission lacks political social and administrative reasons to justify the recommendations.

He criticized the BJP-led government for playing with the sentiments of people of J&K.

The majority of the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have challenged the report for ignoring the all settled norms, he said adding that the new constituencies carved out to contradict the basic principles followed in the old one.

He said that a different yardstick has been followed in different areas and connectivity and continuity has been totally

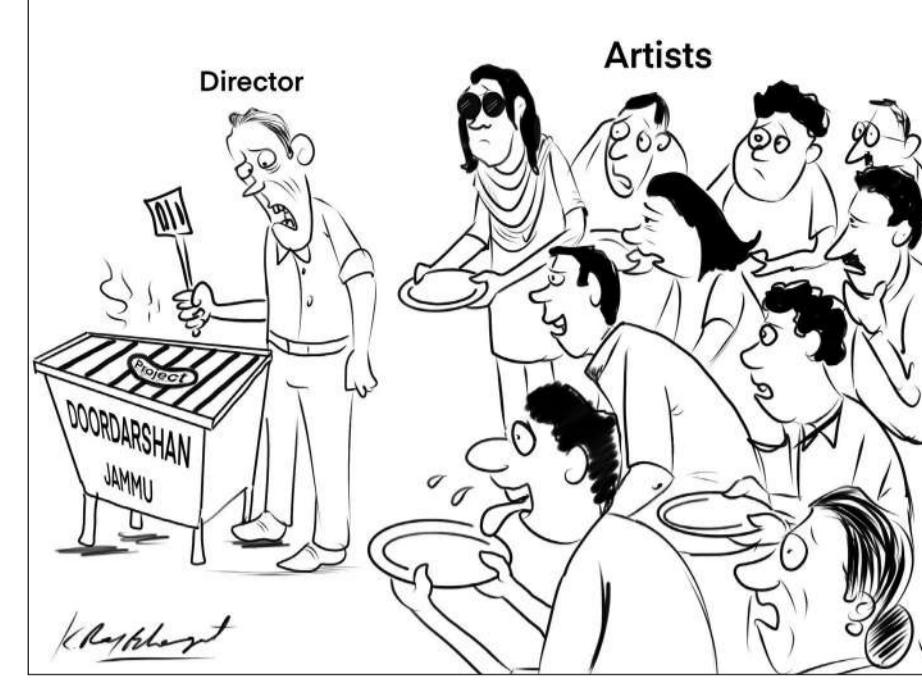
ignored in the demarcation of Constituencies.

Tara Chand said that Congress Party is the only secular alternative acceptable to people in J&K and urged its cadres to strength it.

He urged upon the party cadres to work for the well-being of the people, as the Congress is the only secular alternative acceptable to people in J&K.

He urged the cadres to strengthen the party and expose the failures and wrong policies of BJP govt in J&K, which is responsible for the current situation prevailing in J&K.

Those present on the occasion include Madan Lal Sharma, Dwarkanath BDC Chairman, Jagat Singh, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Bodhraj Sharma, Devinder Singh, Kalidass, Sahil Bhagat and Sham Lal.



OB Cs in J&K to get their rights very soon: Raina



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina addressing a rally at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh on Sunday condemned grenade attack on civilians at Amira Kadal area of Srinagar.

In a statement, Chugh said that this is an act of cowardice and inhuman act.

He said that targeting civilians is highly condemnable and those involved in this act should be brought to justice as soon as possible.

Chugh also expressed sympathies and condolences with the family of the civilian who was killed in this attack.

A civilian was killed while 21 including a cop were injured in a grenade attack at Amira Kadal area of Srinagar today evening.

Kashmiri Pandit migrants demand hike in monthly relief, stage protest in Jammu



Jagti Tenement Committee members raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Scores of migrant Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday held a demonstration outside their residential township at Jagti to press for their various demands including a hike in the monthly relief fund and government jobs to unemployed youths of the community.

The protest was organized by Jagti Tenement Committee with the participants carrying placards. They also demanded the setting up of three satellite townships in the valley for the resettlement of migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

We have been living in exile for the past 32 years and are facing various problems in meeting our daily expenditure due to rising prices. The government should enhance the monthly relief from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000, committee president Shadi Lal

Pandita said.

He said the government should also announce an employment package for unemployed youths of the community besides interest-free bank loans for those who have crossed the age limit for government jobs.

The president of the youth wing of the committee, Naveen, said the central government had provided a package of 6,000 government jobs and an equal number of residential quarters to the unemployed migrant Pandits in 2008.

The government has failed to implement the package till date. Many of the youths who got the jobs under the package are living in private rented accommodation, he said, urging the government to speed up the process and announce more jobs for them.

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He urged the cadres to strengthen the party and expose the failures and wrong policies of BJP govt in J&K, which is responsible for the current situation prevailing in J&K.

Fisheries Deptt realises fine of Rs 9,000 from 3 erring vendors

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: On the directions of Assistant Director Fisheries Kupwara, a team from Fisheries department today conducted an inspection of the fish vendors at Regipora Kupwara to check the quality of the fish being sold by them. During the inspection, 3 vendors have been found violating the quality standards under the provisions of

Fisheries Act and were fined Rs.9000 for selling sub standard fish to the customers.

Meanwhile, 20kg sub standard fish were destroyed on the spot by the fisheries team. It was given out that the inspection is aimed at tightening noose of unscrupulous fish vendors who are selling sub standard fish to the innocent customers coming from far flung areas of the district.

Society must rise above caste considerations, work together for well-being of all: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Swami Vinay Muni Charitable Trust on Sunday organized third Sarva Dharma Sammelan at village Haripur to pay tributes to Sant Guru Ravi Dass and Satguru Kabir Dass.

The programme was presided over by World Kesri Acharaya Vimal Muni Ji Maharaj, disciple Rattan Swami Vinay Muni Ji Maharaj.

Working President Raman Bhalla, heads of various social and other organisations also attended the Sammelan to pay tributes to great Saints.

On this occasion, Bhalla was also honoured with shawl for his selfless services for poor sections of society.

Paying his tributes to Sant Guru Ravi Dass, Bhalla said "Even today, the words, the knowledge of Sant Ravidas are with us. He added, "Our youth must learn one more thing from Sant Ravidas ji. For doing any work, they should not bind themselves to old methods and practices. Decide and shape your life yourself.

Devise your own methods and practices, set your goals yourselves. If your conscience and self-confidence is unshakable, you need not

fear anything in the world."

He said the preachings of great saints have a good impact during present times when the society is ridden with hatred and intolerance.

Former Minister called upon the people to work for imbibing and disseminating the message of love and peace for making the world better place to live in.

He said Gurus stood for justice, equality and peace and called for making these cherishing principles as way of life.

He exhorted upon the people to imbibe the spirit of selflessness and rightness, preached by great saints and sufis for building a health and harmonious society.

Paying rich tributes to Kabir Ji, he urged the people to follow the path as shown by Bhagat Kabir Ji and make their contribution to further the cause of creating an equal society.

Bhalla said the J&K has passed through difficult times in the last more than seven years and now there is an urgent need to usher a new era of peace, progress and prosperity and it should be the effort of all right thinking people to join hands to strengthen peace and brotherhood and ensure that Jammu and Kashmir once again regains its lost glory and emerges as a peaceful, developed state.

Rattan Swami Vinay Muni Maharaj gave sermons on the teachings of Guru Ravi Dass ji to a large congregation from all across the J&K.

Organisers felicitating JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla.