

National Seminar on 'Understanding the Geo-Strategic Significance of India's North-West Frontiers' organised by DSRS, JU

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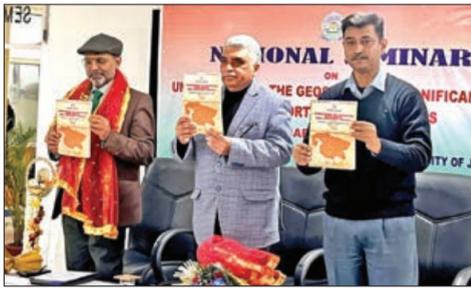
JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu (JU), organised a National Seminar on 'Understanding the Geo-Strategic Significance of India's North-West Frontiers' at the Environmental Science Auditorium on Wednesday.

Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, welcomed the speakers along with other dignitaries and underscored the importance of the North-West Frontier.

Capt. (Retd.) Alok Bansal, eminent Geostrategic and defence expert was the keynote speaker for the inaugural session.

In his address, Capt. Bansal provided deep insights into the historical, geopolitical, and contemporary security challenges posed by the region, highlighting the need for a comprehensive and proactive strategic approach. He highlighted the role of Britishers, who, having engaged in a half-century-long Great Game with the Russians, in creating the instability in the region.

He emphasized the relevance of such scholarly engagements in formulating



Prof. Rajeev Rattan Sharma, Director, College Development Council and others during the seminar.

policy recommendations for India's defence and foreign policy is a much needed step for reclaiming the occupied territories of Bharat.

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session was Prof. Rajeev Rattan Sharma, Director, College Development Council, underscored the importance of academic discourse in shaping national security policies.

The seminar featured multiple technical sessions covering themes such as: Historical and Geopolitical Context of India's North-West Frontiers, Security Challenges and Strategic Responses and Cross-Border Dynamics and

Regional Cooperation.

Distinguished panellists, including veterans of Indian Army, members of civil society and academicians, engaged in thought-provoking discussions on history, culture, geography and geo-political positioning of north-west frontier region.

Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. (Brig.) (Retd.) Vijay Sagar Dhemman, Dr. Madhulika Singh, Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Dr. Sumer Khajuria, Dr. Divya Gupta, Dr. Suman Kumar Verma, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Dr. Chahukeshi Jamwal, Dr. Ajayshree Singh Sambyal, Yashorajya Gauri, Hitaishi

Bharti, Shuvam Sharma and others presented papers on various themes of North-West Frontier.

Prof. Dipankar Sengupta chaired the Technical Session on geo-strategy and security whereas Prof. Suman Jamwal chaired technical session on history and culture. The technical sessions were followed by a valedictory session. It was started with the report presentation of the seminar by Dr. Ganesh Malhotra.

The keynote speaker for the valedictory session was Dr. Aayushi Ketkar, Assistant Professor, Centre for National Security Studies, JNU. In her talk, she underlines how colonial legacies, partition dynamics, and post-independence conflicts-such as the Indo-Pakistani wars and the Sino-Indian war have shaped the present geopolitical landscape.

Dr. Ketkar also highlighted the strategic implications of China's growing influence in Gilgit-Baltistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its impact on regional security.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory session was Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning. She encouraged

researchers to pursue studies on the themes like North-West Frontiers and try to make a holistic approach

The deliberations concluded with a consensus on the need for a robust strategic framework, where knowing the culture, history and geography of the region especially, Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan Occupied Territories of Ladakh, and China Occupied Territories of Ladakh, enhanced regional cooperation, and technological advancements to secure India's north-western borders effectively.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Sr. Assistant Professor, DSRS. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Chahukeshi Jamwal and Sukhvinder Kaur.

This program was attended by Prof. Vinay Chouhan, Prof. Pankaj, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Tarsem, Dr. Ranjan Sharma and other faculty members, research scholars and students of other departments of the Jammu University, members of civil society, retired defence personnel and journalists.

MLA Yudhvir raises alarm over escalating drug abuse in Assembly

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JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, BJP leader and MLA East constituency, expressed deep concern over the escalating drug abuse crisis in Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing Assembly session.

Raising Supplementary Question in the ongoing Assembly session, the MLA asked the Government about the implementation and effectiveness of public awareness campaigns aimed at educating citizens, especially the youth, about the dangers of drug abuse.

He also sought information on the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation centers for individuals struggling with addiction, emphasizing the need for adequate support systems to facilitate recovery.

The senior BJP leader also questioned the initiatives in place to involve the youth in positive activities, such as sports and vocational training, to deter them from falling prey to drug abuse.

The MLA underscored the multifaceted nature of



MLA Yudhvir Sethi speaking during the Assembly session.

the drug crisis, which not only affects individual health but also has far-reaching social and economic implications. He also highlighted the role of cross-border drug smuggling in fueling the crisis.

Jammu and Kashmir's proximity to international borders makes it vulnerable to the influx of narcotics, complicating efforts to control the situation, he added.

Calling for a collaborative approach, Sethi advocated for coordinated efforts involving law

enforcement agencies, community leaders, and educational institutions to create a robust support system for those affected and to prevent others from becoming victims.

Yudhvir Sethi asked the government to adequate measures to combat this menace, aiming to ensure a safer, drug-free future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon all stakeholders to unite in this critical fight against drug abuse, emphasizing that the time for action is now.

DIG JSK Range conducts surprise security review in Jammu, piping ceremony



DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar, conducting security review in Jammu on Wednesday.

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JAMMU: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua (JSK) Range, Shiv Kumar, conducted an unannounced security review in Jammu on Wednesday.

The visit aimed to assess

the preparedness of local law enforcement and ensure robust security measures are in place.

Shiv Kumar checked Jewel Chowk and Bus Stand areas and met with Jawans performing duties on ground. SHO Nowabad,

SHO Bus Stand, DySP Hq Jammu also accompanied DIG. DIG JKS range along with SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, SP South Ajay, SSP Traffic Qureshi, SDPO Sunil Jasrotia also conducted piping ceremony of newly promoted Sub inspectors in Gandhi Nagar Jammu

A deputation of Muslim women community from Bathindi, Chowadi Sunjwan area also met with DIG JKS Range and submitted an application to him regarding cheating and fraud happened by Pvt Company on the name of Govt. Schemes. DIG JKS assured them of strict action.

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JAMMU: In the much publicized Public Interest Litigation filed by Balwinder Singh highlighting inadequate health infrastructure and shortage of Doctors/Paramedics in both the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, when the PIL came-up of hearing Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed appearing for the PIL at the very outset highlighted before the Division Bench that two days back, a tribal woman delivered a baby on the road in Inderval constituency falling under District Kishtwar which clearly shows the poor state of affairs with regard to health facilities in far flung areas of both the UTs.

A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court (Jammu Wing) comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Chowdhary on Wednesday expressed its

Delivery of baby by tribal woman on Road in Kishtwar DB expresses displeasure over non-filing of response by both UTs

deep anguish/displeasure over the non-filing of response by both the UTs pursuant to order dated February 4, 2025 whereby the Division Bench had granted time to both the UTs to file their response to the suggestions filed by Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed for improving health care in both the UTs.

The Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan was surprised over the non-serious attitude of both the UTs and reluctantly allowed two weeks' time as last and final opportunity to Senior AAG SS Nanda and DSGI Vishal Sharma to do the needful in terms of order dated February 4, 2025 failing which Administrative Secretaries of Health & Medical Education Department, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Union Territory of Ladakh, shall appear in person before the Court on the next date

of hearing to explain their position. Advocate SS Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan and M Zulkarnain Choudhary appearing for the PIL further submitted that since 2012 the posts of Dental Surgeons have not been advertised and on the last date of hearing, the Division Bench had categorically directed both the UTs to disclose as to why the posts of Dental Surgeons are not being advertised and it is unfortunate that there is complete non-serious approach towards the health care and the directions of the Division Bench by both the UTs. At this stage, the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Chowdhary in the open court remarked that they may call Chief Secretary in case the directions passed on February 4, 2025 are not carried out by the Administrative Secretaries.

The Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan in the open Court remarked that recently he visited the Govt Medical College Jammu and was surprised that a patient from CD hospital was being shifted through the main road by stature to the GMC and the Chief Justice sought the suggestions from Advocate SS Ahmed for connecting all the hospitals through over-head bridges in order to avoid inconvenience for their shifting from one hospital to another.

Advocate SS Ahmed agreed to file suggestions in this regard and also stated that he would also place on record the video footage of the tribal woman who delivered a baby on the road in a remote village of Kishtwar District.

Looking into the urgency involved in the matter, the Division Bench directed the Registry to re-notify the instant PIL on March 24, 2025.

Interstate Youth Exchange Program features insightful interactive sessions on day 3

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JAMMU: The third day of the Interstate Youth Exchange Program, organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu, featured a series of engaging and informative interactive sessions aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of participating youth. Expert speakers from diverse fields shared valuable insights on crucial topics.

Dr. Deepika Dewan delivered a comprehensive lecture on drug abuse, addressing the causes of addiction, its impact on individuals and society, and the importance of rehabilitation in combating substance abuse.

Rajat Salgotra spoke on startups and entrepreneurship, offering guidance on trans-



forming innovative ideas into successful ventures.

Dr. Vijay Saigal, Faculty from Department of Law, University of Jammu provided an insightful talk on the new criminal laws, helping participants understand recent legal reforms and their implications.

Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer, University of Jammu highlighted the role of media in today's world, emphasizing media professionals' responsibilities and the power of information in shaping public opinion.

opportunities supporting their personal and professional growth. The interactive format allowed participants to actively engage with the speakers, ask questions, and discuss real-world applications of the knowledge shared. These sessions played a crucial role in broadening the perspectives of young attendees, equipping them with practical insights, and inspiring them to contribute positively to society.

The Interstate Youth Exchange Program, which runs until March 7, continues to serve as a dynamic platform for learning, networking, and cultural exchange, fostering unity and leadership among young participants.

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JAMMU: Chairman of the All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), Karan Singh Wazir, along with team members, met Jasmeet Singh, the newly appointed Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, to extend their congratulations and discuss key transport-related issues.

During the meeting, Wazir apprised the RTO of the long-pending grievances of transporters, stating that unresolved issues have made them vulnerable. He urged the department to take prompt action to address their concerns.

RTO Jammu assured the



AJKTWA members honouring RTO Jammu Jasmeet Singh.

delegation that all pressing issues would be resolved expeditiously. He also informed them that to improve efficiency, the number of trial days has been increased to six days a week, while vehicle passing is now conducted three days a week, ensuring greater convenience for Jammuites.

The RTO was warmly welcomed by AJKTWA team members, including Mohinder Singh, Vijay Singh Chib, Kuldeep Singh, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Gurdeep Singh, Ranjit Singh, Niranjana Singh, Deepak Sharma, Lakh Singh, Vijay Dogra, Harasis Singh, and others.

Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers (Batch IV) concludes at IIM Jammu



Officials during the programme at IIM Jammu.

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JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the valedictory ceremony of the trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) (Batch IV) for NTPC's young leaders on Wednesday.

The event, held at the Prahalad Classroom, marked the culmination of a transformative three-day program designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the scenic lower

Himalayas. The program, which ran from March 3 to 5, 2025 featured seven meticulously designed sessions focusing on themes such as team building, conflict resolution, strategic thinking, sustainability, and digital transformation.

A key highlight of the program was a trekking expedition to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, which offered participants a unique platform for field-based experiential learning.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with a warm welcome, followed by a detailed program report

presented by Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Participants shared their reflections of their journey, highlighting the program's role in enhancing their leadership capabilities and personal growth.

Dr. V. Rajkumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized that this marks the beginning of a lasting association, as they are now part of the IIM Jammu family. Encouraging them to explore other programs, including career counseling, he invited them to visit the institute's website and

looked forward to future interactions.

Sanjay Gupta, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu thanked everyone for their participation and feedback, assuring that the MDP team would incorporate their insights. He encouraged participants to share their learnings within their units, fostering wider engagement.

Citing Douglas's books on best practices, he expressed gratitude to the Program Directors and NTPC for organizing the program. He also looked forward to future leader-specific initiatives.

Dr. Vinod C Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized that while every beginning has an end, at IIM Jammu, every end marks a new beginning, reflecting the institute's commitment to continuous collaboration.

The event concluded with a formal certificate distribution, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Vinod C Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

J&K Retired Police Pensioners protest against pay anomaly



Forum members staging protest in Jammu on Wednesday.

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JAMMU: The Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum staged a protest at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Ajit Singh, demanding justice for retired police pensioners and J&K Fire Services personnel facing pay anomalies and other issues.

The protestors raised several long-pending concerns before the J&K Government, urging immediate redressal of their grievances:

Pay Anomaly Issue - As per Govt. Order No. 229-F of 2014 dated 17-10-2014, the pay anomaly was corrected prospectively from

the date of the order. However, retired police personnel argued that the correction should have been implemented retroactively from 1996, when the 5th Pay Commission was enforced across the state, excluding only the police department. Many affected personnel have since passed away, and surviving retirees should be granted the rightful benefits.

ECHS Card Benefits for Pre-2019 Retirees - Retirees after 2019 receive benefits under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), while those who retired before 2019 are left out.

The forum demanded equal healthcare benefits for all retired personnel.

Retired police officials facing court trials as witnesses do not receive any travel allowance (TA) despite earning only pensions. The forum demanded TA reimbursement for such cases.

Special Police Officers (SPOs) in J&K should be paid at par with Punjab Police SPOs, with additional benefits like uniforms, mess facilities, and a regularization policy.

Village Defense Committee (VDC) members should receive wages equivalent to SPOs, given their contribution to secu-

city. Risk allowance, medical benefits, and ration money for police personnel should be brought on par with CAPFs.

Retired police personnel should be provided a comprehensive health care policy, similar to those available to Army and paramilitary personnel. The forum also pointed out that Leh UT has increased medical allowances to ₹1000, while J&K UT personnel still receive only ₹300, despite both becoming UTs at the same time.

Many retired personnel have not received their leave salary and gratuity for the past year. The forum urged the government to release these pending funds immediately to ease financial hardships.

Chairman Ajit Singh emphasized that these disparities must be addressed at the earliest, as retired police personnel have served with dedication and now face injustice and financial distress. The protestors vowed to continue their struggle until their demands are met.