

IGNOU 38th Convocation: 11292 students from Jammu region declared successful

Dr Jitendra hails NEP 2020 for accommodating aptitudes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, hailed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for accommodating aptitudes in our education system and affirmed that the 'Open University Culture' will receive a significant boost from the NEP 2020 at the 38th Convocation of IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu on Wednesday.

Under the Jammu region, a huge number of 11292 students were declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 38th Convocation function at Jammu which included 4987 learners of Master Degree programmes, 5852 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 328 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 125 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-Indian Institution of Integrative Medicine was the Guest of Honour and conferred Degrees upon the Awardees.

The Convocation ceremony started with the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries and Saraswati Vandana by the students of Central



Awardees posing for a group photograph on the occasion of 38th Convocation of IGNOU in Jammu.

Sanskrit University. Alka Sharma compered the ceremony.

Those who had registered and given their consent to receive Diploma/Degree through post would be sent their respective Degree/Diploma/Certificate through Speed Post after the Convocation ceremony.

As per the details provided by IGNOU authorities, as many as 300 qualified students had submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person out of which 166 students were given Degree certificates in the Convocation function at Jammu.

Dr. Jitendra in his virtual address congratulated the Awardees and lauded the efforts of Regional Centre Jammu in reaching out to the far off corners of the region

with the beacon of light in the form of education.

Dr. Jitendra interacted with the participants and congratulated them.

The distinguished Alumni of IGNOU were Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner, (Additional Chief Secretary) Higher Education Department, Dr. Arvind Kawrani, Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation (Migrants) Govt. of J&K, Dr. J N Baliya, Professor, Department of Education, Central University of Jammu, Albeena Malik, Dy. SP, J&K Police and Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Chenani. Neha Jalali, Director Press Information Bureau, Jammu was felicitated on the occasion as Special Guest for her support in taking the mandate of IGNOU forward to the masses.

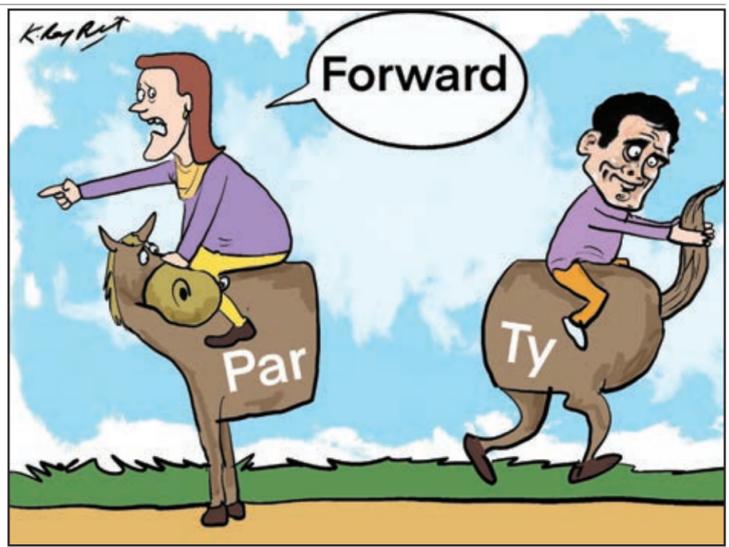
Dr. Zaber Ali, Guest of

Honour on the occasion at Jammu, termed the 38th Convocation of IGNOU as an occasion of Celebration of IGNOU's achievements which is popularly known as the People's University accessible to all those far and wide who otherwise would have lost the opportunity to gain access to higher education, improve upon their qualification and increase the chances of employment.

Regional Director, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, presented the Regional Centre Report. In his report Dr. Gupta presented the statistics of achievements of the Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Gupta informed that from the year 2020 till 2024 in the eight admission cycles, RC Jammu has freshly enrolled and re-registered around 2 lakh 22 thousand learners in the region.

Dr. Gupta in his report highlighted that IGNOU has been working hard for the past 40 years to accomplish its mission of equality, inclusivity, quality, accessibility and affordability in higher education which is also the mandate for National Education Policy 2020.

Regional Centre officials comprising of Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh and Dara Singh were present on the occasion. S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Deputy Registrar of the Regional Centre, presented the vote of thanks.



Discussion on LG's address resumes in LA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed discussions for the second day on Wednesday on the Motion of Thanks for Lieutenant Governor's address delivered to the legislature on the first day of the Budget session.

The debate covered wide array of topics including Indus Water Treaty, filling up of vacancies in government departments, rationalisation of reservation policy and return of power projects.

Initiating the debate, Surjit Singh Slathia, said that the people have elected us to solve their problems and we have a responsibility to live upto their expectations. He praised the efforts of the Chief Minister, who for the first time, held series of district level consultations regarding the budget preparation. "We do not doubt CM Omar Abdullah's intentions and we do understand that the government is in its nascent stage so we hope that they will fulfil all the promises made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he asserted.

Singh further said that abrogation of Article 370 has brought a new dawn of development in Jammu and Kashmir. While commenting on the Motion of Thanks, Dr. Basheer Ahmad Veeri hailed the Omar Abdullah government for taking a unique initiative of holding meetings with different sections of the society to ensure the budget is reflective of the needs and priorities of all regions. He said that it is for the first time that people have participated in the Assembly elections in such large number. Veeri talked about the Indus Water Treaty saying that it prevents Jammu and Kashmir from utilizing the water's full potential for Hydel Power generation.

He also deliberated about the issue of filling up of all vacancies in the government departments besides other developmental needs of people.

Nizamuddin Bhat, in his speech, said that, "We have to take strong initiatives for restoration of statehood and nominate an all party delegation or a panel of the house that would present the case to the Union Government," he maintained.

He said that it is constitutionally imperative on the Union Government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and respect their promises made on the floor of the Parliament.

Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir talked on unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir saying that concrete steps need to be taken for creating employment opportunities for the people here.

Rajeev Jasrotia praised the Omar Abdullah government for taking into confidence all stakeholders, elected representatives before formulation of the budget saying that it is for the first time in history that pre-budget consultations were held. He also reminded the government of the promises made in the manifesto that were supposed to be fulfilled within the first three months. He said that certain issues in the manifesto were missing in the Lieutenant Governor's address.

He also highlighted many initiatives taken by BJP led government and said that we will work as a respectable opposition for the welfare of people.

Waheed Para, while participating in the debate, said that the good govern-

ment must be ensured for the people. He also urged the Chief Minister to raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's youth at the appropriate forum.

Participating in the debate, Javid Riyaz, said that we should work collectively for restoration of statehood.

Irfan Hafeez Lone said that it is good that the government is committed for full restoration of statehood and I hope that Omar Abdullah will live up to this expectation of the people. "When we are on the same page, we should take a united front for restoration of statehood," he added.

He also talked about the issue of casual labours, free electricity, return of power projects, sustainable development and protection of fragile environment among other issues.

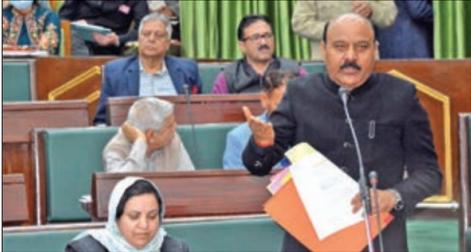
Ali Mohd Sagar, while participating in discussion on Motion of Thanks on LG's address, said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a thumping mandate to this Government. He added that this government is the voice of the people and in coming time all the commitments will be fulfilled by this government.

Dy CM assures expeditious completion of all road projects in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "The work on all ongoing prestigious road projects in Jammu and Kashmir shall be expedited for timely completion", assured Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, while replying to a supplementary raised in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the macadamization work on the road project along old Bringi Canal from Hiller to Wandevlagam, was successfully completed in March 2023 under the languishing scheme. However, two spots at



Dy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary replying to a supplementary raised in Legislative Assembly.

Adigam (length 150m) and Nagam (length 140m) remained pending due to the presence of existing structures

and trees obstructing the alignment.

The Dy CM was replying to a question raised by Zafar Ali

Khatana in the Legislative Assembly. He also informed that the Hangalgund-Kharpora road project stands completed in the year 2022 under PMGSY.

In a written reply to a question, the Dy CM said that there is no proposal under consideration for up-gradation and widening of Hangalgund-Puro road as of now. Regarding fund allocation under NABARD, the Dy CM maintained that the funds under the scheme are released every year for approved projects against the sanctioned cost and work done.

Secretary RDD reviews proposed Annual Implementation Plan under PMAY-G, MGNREGA, NRLM, Himayat Schemes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a preparatory meeting ahead of the Empowered Committee session to be held to finalise the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2025-26 for MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and Himayat by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Director, RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Chief Operating Officer Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja and all Assistant Commissioners (s) Development.

During the meeting, the Secretary reviewed key programme strategies and financial allocations proposed under the AAP. Discussions centred on employment generation under MGNREGA, housing for rural poor through PMAY-G, self-employment initiatives under NRLM and skill development interventions under Himayat.

The Secretary emphasized the need to further enhance employment opportunities under MGNREGA. Recognizing the programme as a crucial lifeline for rural livelihoods, he stressed the importance of expanding work availability to meet the increasing demand.

He reviewed the estimated person-days (PDs) anticipated for the financial year



Secretary, RDD&PR Mohammad Aijaz Asad chairing a meeting.

2025-26 prepared by Deputy Commissioners in due consultation with the stakeholders. He also assessed the impact of proposed works in strengthening the rural infrastructure and employment generation.

The Secretary said the department aims to improve the overall quality of life in rural areas by focusing on sustainable infrastructure projects such as rural roads, water conservation structures and community facilities. He reiterated the importance of timely wage payments, a key aspect of MGNREGA aimed at providing financial security to the workers. The Secretary also reviewed the Annual Action Plan for PMAY-G, which targets construction of new houses during 2025-26. He emphasised the need for efficient monitoring to ensure effective implementation, particularly for landless beneficiaries listed under Awaas Plus.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of convergence with MGNREGA to provide unskilled wages for housing construction, reinforcing the government's commitment towards improving rural living conditions. While reviewing the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2025-26 of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), the Secretary emphasized that its primary objective is to strengthen self-employment opportunities, financial

inclusion and skill development for rural women. He stated that the plan focuses on expanding Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing access to credit and promoting both farm and non-farm livelihood activities across the Union Territory. A key highlight of the plan was the "Lakhpadi Didi" initiative, designed to empower rural women by enhancing their earning potential through skill development and entrepreneurship.

The Secretary said that the strategy included regular training programs, workshops, leadership development initiatives and financial literacy sessions to help SHG members

build sustainable livelihoods.

To promote financial inclusion, he said that the AAP outlines efforts to open bank accounts for all SHG members, provide 100% insurance coverage under PMJJBY and PMSBY and facilitate credit linkages with the banks. He said that the convergence approach remains a crucial aspect of the AAP, with interdepartmental coordination ensuring that SHGs benefit from various government schemes.

The meeting also reviewed the plan for Himayat, a skill development program aimed at

providing employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. The focus remains on expanding training programs, improving skill development initiatives and ensuring better placement opportunities for trainees, thereby equipping them with the necessary tools to secure sustainable livelihoods.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and execution to achieve the goals set forth in the AAP 2025-26. He urged all scheme heads to work collaboratively to ensure successful implementation of the schemes, ultimately leading to the socio-economic upliftment of rural communities in Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be submitted for approval in the upcoming Empowered Committee meeting scheduled in New Delhi on March 10, 2025 in the Ministry of Rural Development.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of ongoing efforts to review the functioning of various units, Anand Jain, ADGP Armed J&K, visited the IRP 24th Battalion at Ritti, Udhampur, to assess the progress of ongoing construction work for the establishment of the Battalion Headquarters.

Accompanied by Amod Ashok Nagpure, SSP Udhampur, and Mohd Aslam, SSP and Commandant of IRP 24th Battalion, the ADGP received a warm welcome upon his arrival, where Guard of Honour was presented by a contingent of the IRP-24th Battalion.

The ADGP conducted a thorough inspection of the Battalion premises, including Sui Udhampur, and other company locations at Rannagar Railway Station and SKAPA Udhampur.

During the visit, he inquired about the ongoing construction work and identified issues that needed attention.



Anand Jain, ADGP Armed J&K, visiting IRP 24th Battalion at Ritti, Udhampur.

Instructing the engineers to accelerate the pace of work, the ADGP emphasized the urgent need for the early completion of the Battalion Headquarters and other associated buildings to ensure the smooth functioning of Battalion affairs.

Moreover, a Darbar was held for the officers and officials of the Battalion, where personnel raised their concerns related to service matters and welfare. On-the-spot instructions were given to address the genuine demands of the unit personnel.

While appreciating the

dedication and hard work of the Battalion personnel, the ADGP encouraged active participation in the ongoing refresher courses and stressed the importance of increasing physical activity at the unit level.

Furthermore, the ADGP urged the officers to maintain cleanliness and conduct regular cleanliness drives around the complex to uphold hygiene standards. He also instructed the concerned Commandant to ensure that all personnel undergo medical examinations to improve overall health standards.

Power Shutdown

Uttersoo, Deethu and Chittergul power supply to Cherpura, Uttersoo, Deethu, Chittergul and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 10 March 2025.

Also, to carry out installation of newly procured panels and augmentation work by way of charging of 1x6.3 MVA Power Transformer, the shutdown of 33KV Ashajipora Dialgam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Dialgam shall remain off while power supply to the Dialgam, Shichen and Brinty areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 March, 2025.

Meanwhile, according to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL, in order to carry out Emergency stabilization work by ED-Baramulla

line, the shutdown of 33KV Sheeri Baramulla-1st shall be observed due to which Receiving Stations at Baramulla-1st and Kanlibagh shall remain off while power supply to the Baramulla Main Town, DC Office, Kanlibagh, Sangri and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 March, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out replacement of existing wooden damaged poles by new ST Poles, the shutdown of 33KV Nihalpora Pattan Amargarh line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Pattan, Palhalan, Hamray shall remain off while power supply to Pattan, Zangam, Burn, Nihalpora, Pattan, Hospital, Palhalan, Hamray, Wanigam and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 10 March 2025.

Also, to carry out Rec/ Station Dhoibivan to facilitate for completion of pending works of new transformer bay at Rec/ Stn Dhoibivan, 33/11KV Receiving Station Dhoibivan shall remain off while power supply to the Lalpora-B, Hardaboora, Tarhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 March, 2025.

Further, to carry out the dismantling of old damaged 04 Pole Tower near Aiwa Bridge, the shutdown of 33KV Wanganpora Soura line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Soura and Zoonimar shall remain off while power supply to the Soura, Zoonimar, Nowshera, some portion of 90 ft road and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on 08 March, 2025.

Moreover, to facilitate SMDB installation and erection of poles for isolators, the shutdown of 33KV Alusteng Nagbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Alusteng, Nagbal, Gadoora and Tullbagh shall remain off while power supply to the Shuhama, Bakura, Darend, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Gadoora, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Gadoora, Tulbagh and Chundina areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 09 March, 2025.

Also, the shutdown of 33KV Kangan Wussan line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Wussan shall remain off while power supply to the Wussan, Preng, Manigam and Haripora areas will be affected from 10:30 AM to 01:30 PM on 09 March, 2025.