

## NHPC organises Hindi Kavi Sammelan to promote official language Hindi



### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NHPC organized a grand Hindi Kavi Sammelan on 12 March 2026 at its Corporate Office, Faridabad with the objective of promoting the use of Rajbhasha Hindi.

Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical) and Santosh Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer along with other senior officers and employees of NHPC were present.

Shikha Gupta, Chairperson of the NHPC Women Welfare Association and the Association members Mona Lal and Smt. Rinku Sharma were also present during the

event. In his address, Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC, expressed his gratitude to all the invited poets and noted that their remarkable compositions bring joy, enthusiasm and positive energy amid the complexities and stresses of everyday life. He further remarked that just as a true citizen- particularly a soldier- places the nation's interest above personal interests, we too should continuously strive to prioritize the growth and progress of our organization.

He added that increasing the use of Rajbhasha in official work is an important part of this effort. He

emphasized that wider use of the Rajbhasha helps in establishing more effective communication with every citizen of the country.

During the Kavi Sammelan, renowned poets Dr. Chakachand Gyanpuri, Dr. Suresh Awasthi, Poonam Srivastava, Sabras Mursani, Mohit Saxena and Praveen Kumar Rahi enthralled the audience with poetry recitations covering a variety of poetic expressions, patriotism and contemporary social themes. The literary event was highly engaging and inspiring and all the officers and employees present thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

## Shagun Parihar, Devyani Rana visit IGNOU Regional Campus, interact with Next-Gen Educators and Tech Innovators

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To commemorate the invaluable role of women in society and their contribution to nation-building, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu today organized a special function in which two trailblazing young female leaders of Jammu province, Shagun Parihar, MLA Kishtwar and Devyani Singh Rana, MLA Nagrota, were felicitated for their significant contributions to public service and dedication to empowering women. The event, held at the Regional Centre Jammu campus at Bantalab, aimed to inspire students to excel in leadership roles.

The function was organized on the sidelines of dissertation viva voce conducted for final year students of MA Education, Master of Computer Applications (MCA) and Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA). The purpose of the visit was also to interact with final-year students of MA Education, MCA, and BCA to discuss educational reforms, job market readiness, and the intersection of technology and public administration.

The session began with a welcome



speech by the Regional Director, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, who highlighted the Regional Centre's achievements in integrating the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework and technical skill development. Dr. Jasleen Kour, Assistant Regional Director, coordinated the event. Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Deputy Director; Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director; Dr. Zeba, Assistant Regional Director; and S. Tejinder Pal Singh welcomed the distinguished guests with Bouquets, traditional shawls, plant saplings and mementos, acknowledging their efforts to redefine political leadership with resilience and determination.

In her address, MLA Devyani

Singh Rana urged the youth to actively engage in politics and social development, emphasizing the importance of gender equality and education. MLA Shagun Parihar emphasized that empowering women is not just a social duty but a prerequisite for national progress and economic growth. Both the MLAs appraised students about the Schemes launched by the Government of India for the welfare of youth. The MLAs encouraged students to utilize government-backed start-up schemes and digital literacy drives. The MLAs praised the Regional Centre's initiatives and expressed satisfaction with the high level of engagement from the students. Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional

Director, highlighted the importance of moving towards "women-led development," ensuring women are active decision-makers in all sectors. Dr. Sandeep extended his gratitude to the dynamic MLAs for gracing the Regional campus with their presence. He said that the insightful interaction of the young female leaders of the region with our students provided a vital bridge between academic learning and real-world leadership. The ceremony included sloganeering competition by students, showcasing the spirit of womanhood and strengthening the message of empowerment. The event concluded with prize distribution among the meritorious students.

## Movement Kalki raises concern over rising drug menace in Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Movement Kalki's Board Member Sapna Hindu has expressed serious concern over the rising cases of drug abuse and trafficking in the Jammu region, warning that the growing menace of drugs is pushing the youth of the region toward destruction.

In a statement issued today, Sapna Hindu said that the spread of drugs and narcotics in Jammu has increased at an alarming rate in recent years. She stated that drug trafficking networks are gradually expanding across various areas, making it easier for harmful substances to reach young people. As a result, several families have been deeply affected, and in some cases completely devastated due to drug addiction.

She emphasized that the increasing number of young individuals falling into addiction every day is a matter of grave concern. According to her, drug abuse not only damages the health and future of the youth but also weakens the social fabric of society. Addiction often leads to poor health, disruption in education, unemployment, and strained family relationships. In many cases, it also



contributes to rising crime as addicts sometimes turn to illegal activities to sustain their addiction.

Sapna Hindu further pointed out that Jammu, being a sensitive border region, faces additional challenges related to drug trafficking. She said organized networks are often involved in the supply and distribution of narcotics and frequently target vulnerable youth.

While raising these concerns, she also appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the administration in controlling the spread of drugs. She acknowledged that several strong actions have been taken against drug traffickers, leading to arrests and the seizure of large quantities of narcotics. However, she stressed that despite these efforts, the problem has not

been completely eliminated and drug trafficking networks continue to operate in several areas. She emphasized that a comprehensive and long-term strategy is required to completely curb the menace.

Sapna Hindu stated that the fight against drugs cannot be left solely to the police and government authorities. She said that civil society must actively participate in spreading awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. Educational institutions, social organizations, and community leaders should work together to educate young people about the harmful consequences of addiction.

She also suggested organizing regular awareness programs in schools and colleges so that students understand the devastating impact of drugs on their lives and careers. At the same time, youth should be encouraged to participate in sports, cultural activities, and community initiatives to keep them engaged in positive pursuits.

Highlighting the role of families, Sapna Hindu said that parents must remain attentive to their children's activities and maintain open communication with them.

Early identification of signs of addiction can help provide timely counseling and support.

She further appealed to the government and administration to strengthen monitoring in sensitive and border areas where drugs may enter through illegal routes. According to her, stronger surveillance and intelligence networks can help dismantle organized trafficking groups.

Sapna Hindu also demanded stricter and more effective laws against drug traffickers, stating that strong legal action and severe punishment are essential to deter individuals involved in narcotics smuggling. She also emphasized the importance of improving rehabilitation facilities for youth affected by drug addiction. Establishing well-equipped rehabilitation centers and providing proper counseling and psychological support can help victims recover and rebuild their lives. Sapna Hindu concluded by saying that if the administration, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and citizens work together with determination, it is possible to build a drug-free Jammu and protect the future of the younger generation.

## Around 100 participants attend 'Beauty Beyond Basics' Makeup Workshop at NIFD Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD), Jammu organized a one-day makeup workshop titled "Beauty Beyond Basics", which witnessed an enthusiastic response from nearly 100 participants, including college students and homemakers keen to learn professional beauty techniques.

The workshop was conducted by renowned makeup artist Lakshmi Dogra, who demonstrated advanced makeup techniques and shared expert guidance on enhancing natural beauty. During the session, she also explained the correct use of makeup products, skincare preparation before makeup, and the latest trends in the beauty and fashion industry. The interactive session provided participants with practical exposure and valuable insights into professional makeup artistry.

The main objective of the workshop was to empower women by helping them develop confidence and practical skills in the field of beauty and makeup. The programme also aimed to encourage participants who wish to explore career opportunities in the growing beauty



and fashion industry. At the conclusion of the workshop, Vanita Thakur, Chairperson of NIFD Jammu, distributed certificates among all the participants and appreciated their enthusiasm and active participation in the learning session. She emphasized that such workshops play an important role in skill development and help individuals gain practical knowledge that can be useful both personally and professionally. Speaking on the occasion, Sheetal Sharma, Centre Manager and Head of the Department of Fashion Design at NIFD Jammu, highlighted the importance

of skill-based training programmes. She said such workshops provide an excellent platform for aspiring beauty professionals to enhance their creativity and gain hands-on learning experience.

Vanita Thakur also expressed her gratitude to Bhanu Pratap Singh Jamwal, Managing Director

of Super Model Club and Events, and Gagandeep Bedi, Director, for their valuable support and effective coordination in successfully organizing the workshop.

The event concluded on an inspiring note, with participants expressing satisfaction and appreciation for the informative and interactive session.

## Truecaller launches 'Family Protection' Feature in India to safeguard users from Digital Fraud

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Truecaller, a leading global communications platform, has introduced a new feature called Family Protection in India to help protect families, particularly elders, from the rising threat of online scams and fraudulent calls. The feature aims to create a secure digital environment by allowing families to collectively monitor and respond to suspicious communication.

The newly launched system enables users to create a "Safety Circle" consisting of up to five members, providing them with shared protection against fraud. The feature is designed to support households where a tech-savvy family member manages the digital safety of parents, elders, and children. Through this system, the designated family administrator receives real-time fraud alerts and can remotely disconnect suspicious calls for any member in the group.

According to Truecaller, the Family Protection feature also includes shared block lists, customizable security

levels, and a centralized dashboard that allows monitoring of safety settings across both Android and iOS devices. Importantly, the service is free to use, allowing families to begin protecting their members immediately.

Truecaller CEO Rishit Jhunjhunwala said that with more sophisticated and emotionally manipulative, simply identifying callers is no longer enough. He stated that the new feature allows the most tech-aware member of a household to act as a digital guardian for the family and protect them from potential threats.

The company emphasized that the system has been developed with a focus on privacy. While families benefit from collective security, individual call logs, messages, and personal data remain private.

Truecaller stated that the new feature represents an important step in addressing modern digital fraud and enhancing communication safety across Indian households.

## Future belongs to genomics driven 'personalised medical prescriptions': Dr Jitendra

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh, said on Friday that India is entering a transformative era of personalised and precision medicine driven by genomics, artificial intelligence and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at the "NXT Summit 2026" exclusive session on "Future of Medicine" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Friday.

advanced biotechnology. He said these advancements will enable early detection of diseases and targeted treatment even before symptoms appear.

Addressing the NXT Summit 2026 themed "For All Humankind" in New Delhi, the Minister highlighted that India's vast genetic diversity and expanding genomic databases are creating unprecedented opportunities for predictive healthcare, precision diagnostics and customised treatment protocols.

Dr Singh noted that India, with over 4,000-5,000 distinct communities and one of the largest genetic pools globally, has a unique advantage in genomic research. Referring to the Genome India Project, he said genome sequencing of 10,000 Indian individuals has already been completed, while the long-term goal is to sequence one million genomes to strengthen preventive healthcare and disease prediction.

He explained that the future of medicine will be shaped by multiomics technologies including genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics integrated with artificial intelligence. Such technologies will enable doctors to design personalised prescriptions based on an individual's genetic profile, lifestyle and environmental factors.

Dr Singh credited Narendra Modi for giving a strong impetus to biotechnology and life sciences through progressive policies. He highlighted the Bio-E3 Policy-Biotechnology for Economy, Employment and Environment-which

aims to accelerate innovation in biomanufacturing and position India among global leaders in the sector.

He said India has already emerged as a major bio-manufacturing hub, ranking third in the Asia-Pacific region and among the leading global players. Initiatives such as bio-foundries, biomanufacturing clusters and Bio-NEST incubators are supporting start-ups and scaling biotechnology innovations.

The Minister also highlighted India's progress in genetically driven vaccines and therapies, recalling that the country developed the world's first DNA vaccine for COVID-19 and an indigenous vaccine against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for cervical cancer prevention.

Dr Singh further emphasised the role of AI-enabled diagnostics in improving early disease detection, particularly for conditions such as breast cancer. He said AI-based thermal imaging technologies can help extend screening services to remote villages through mobile health units.

He also spoke about emerging collaborations in space medicine between the Department of Space and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, aimed at studying biological responses in microgravity and their implications for healthcare on Earth.

Highlighting policy reforms, Dr Singh referred to the recently introduced SHANTI Act, which opens India's nuclear sector to private participation for the first time, enabling greater investment in small modular reactors, nuclear technologies and nuclear medi-

cine research.

He also mentioned the creation of a Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund to boost private sector participation in advanced technologies. Dr Singh concluded that India is increasingly emerging as a global hub for affordable and high-quality healthcare, backed by strong scientific research and expanding international collaborations in life sciences and biotechnology.

## JKAACL organizes colourful Punjabi & Dogri folk programme at Vijaypur

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organized a colourful Punjabi and Dogri Folk Dance and Music Programme at Buzarga Da Behra, Salmeri, Vijaypur.

Former DDC Member, Avtar Singh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while noted artist and writer Jang S. Verma was the Guest of Honour. S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi, shared the dais.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Avtar Singh appreciated the efforts of the Academy in organizing such cultural programmes. He said that these initiatives provide valuable opportunities for the youth to connect with art, culture and languages, which is essential for preserving our heritage. He further added that such events help bring positive change in society and encourage emerging talent.



Guest of Honour, Jang S. Verma also expressed his views and appreciated the initiatives taken by the Academy to reach people in remote areas through its cultural and literary activities.

Earlier, S. Popinder Singh Paras delivered a welcome address.

He said the Academy is committed to promote the rich art, culture and languages of Jammu and Kashmir; partic-

ularly in far-flung areas of the Jammu region. He added that the Academy is providing a vibrant platform to the young generation to showcase their talent and remain connected with their cultural heritage.

Punjabi and Dogri cultural items were presented by musical groups including Subash Chander & Party, Anita Choudhary & Party, Rajkumar &

Party and singers Shyam Manyal and Sulekha Farid.

The performances were highly appreciated by the audience.

A large number of senior citizens, villagers and youth attended the programme and enjoyed the vibrant cultural presentations. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sat Salarvi.