

VC JU Releases Vidyanjali Documentary

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU), on Thursday e-released the documentary based on feedback from school principals, Vidyanjali teacher in-charges, teachers, and parents. In his address, Prof. Rai emphasized the urgent need for innovative teaching methods and called on educators to engage students more effectively, fostering a deep and lasting interest in their studies. He highlighted Vidyanjali as an exceptional platform for lifelong learning and stressed that education should be a dynamic, interactive process rather than a one-way transfer of knowledge.

Prof. Rai advocated for promoting theatre to enrich students' cultural and artistic experiences and to connect them with our rich literary heritage.

Additionally, he underscored the importance of raising awareness about environmental issues by practically exposing students to real-world situations, rather than limiting such education to the classroom. He also emphasized the need to move students beyond traditional blackboard learning, noting that the true role of a



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai e-releasing the documentary.

teacher is to ignite curiosity and passion in their students. Vidyanjali, a part of NEP 2020, is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed at supporting government schools through partnerships with universities, colleges, NGOs, individuals, industry, and other interested parties. It operates under mentorship and CSR domains, allowing volunteers to register on the Ministry's portal as mentors or CSR participants. Schools across the country can register on this portal to request specific assistance and support. The event was organized by the Vidyanjali Cell, JU, hosted by the P.G. Department of Education in the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat committee room today. A panel discussion

was also held on the occasion. This initiative was launched by the P.G. Department of Education, JU, led by Prof. Renu Nanda. It involves a human chain of volunteers, primarily focused on mentoring government schools in rural, border, and arid zone areas of the Jammu region.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajeet Sharma, CEO SAMAGRA Shiksha Abhiyan, Jammu, praised the functioning of the Vidyanjali Cell at the JU and acknowledged Prof. Renu Nanda's leadership in conducting activities in the schools of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Doda districts.

He also emphasized the importance of collaborating with the cell to bring qualitative changes to school education.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Ana Bali, Lecturer, Department of Education. The documentary release was followed by a panel discussion. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT, Jammu, shared his journey with Vidyanjali. Seema, Principal, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Rangpur Maulania, R.S. Pura, Jammu, expressed her immense satisfaction with the program and her desire to continue her association with it even after retirement. Charu Sawhney, Lecturer, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Satwari, discussed the need-based activities organized by Vidyanjali volunteers and shared experiences of interactive sessions with students to address their basic problems and find solutions.

Beneficiary students from different schools also shared their experiences, detailing various activities like prayer, yoga, storytelling, role play, art and craft, sports, and games. They expressed increased confidence, self-expression, and motivation.

Rishika Sharma, a volunteer of Vidyanjali Cell and a student of the P.G. Department of Education,

shared her experiences and suggested pedagogical tools for effective learning in these schools. Sheetu Meena, a Ph.D. scholar, also shared how her life changed after connecting with the cell.

Dr. Upasana Sharma, Lecturer, Department of Education, emphasized the excellent learning opportunities provided by the platform. Rakhi Atri, Lecturer, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Surinsar, credited Prof. Renu Nanda for her involvement with Vidyanjali Cell and expressed happiness with the association.

On the occasion, Certificates, medals, and cash rewards were distributed to students of Shantiniketan Bal Bhawan for their commendable performance in the "39th National Learn to Live Together Camp," held in Mohali, Punjab, from June 24 to 29, 2024. Certificates were also awarded to the rangers and rovers of the P.G. Department of Education, University of Jammu, for completing the basic training program 'Pratham Sopan' organized by The J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides. The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Renu Nanda.

Pouni Chak declared as Nano Model Village in Kisan Ghoshti



Director, Arvinder Singh Reen speaking at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Pouni Chak, a village in Jammu, has been announced as a Nano Model Village under a pioneering initiative by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Jammu. The announcement was made at the Kisan Ghoshti organized on Thursday by IFFCO and Agriculture Department Jammu, where Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In his address, State Marketing Manager of IFFCO, Sukhpal Singh Sidhu, mentioned that to accelerate the adoption of

nano fertilizers among farmers, IFFCO has launched the Nano Fertilizer Usage Promotion Mahaabhiyan. As part of this initiative, IFFCO has identified 200 model nano village clusters across India. These villages, including Pouni Chak, will receive a 25 percent subsidy on Nano Urea Plus, Nano DAP, and Sagarika, making these advanced fertilizers more accessible to farmers. IFFCO will also provide a financial grant of Rs 100 per acre to drone entrepreneurs, facilitating cost-effective spraying services for farmers in the selected villages.

The Director highlighted that these collaborative efforts aim to promote the use of nano fertilizers as a

sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers. This initiative is poised to enhance agricultural productivity, ensure quality food, and promote environmental sustainability for future generations. He further emphasized that it is an effort to conserve soil health, which often faces degradation due to excessive chemical use in fields.

A live demonstration showcasing the effectiveness of nano DAP further underscored the potential of these innovative agricultural inputs.

Among the participants were SDAO Marh, AEO Pouni Chak, Field Officer IFFCO Jammu Division, and field officers from the Agriculture Department.

Rashim Deepika elected President JAKFAS



STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Rashim Deepika, a 2004 batch Financial Advisor in Science and Technology for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, on Thursday elected President of the Jammu and Kashmir Finance and Accounts Society (JAKFAS).

This victory marks her appointment to lead JAKFAS for its third term, following elections where results were declared at the Civil Secretariat on July 4.

In her address following the election, Rashim Deepika expressed profound humility

and honour at being chosen for the role of President. She conveyed heartfelt gratitude to all who placed their trust in her leadership abilities, underscoring her commitment to serve effectively in this esteemed position.

For the post of Vice-President Rafiq Shah (CAO) and Rahul Mahajan (Accounts Officers) were elected as Vice President for Kashmir and Jammu Provinces respectively. Mohd. Akram (CAO) was elected unopposed as General Secretary. The elections were held under supervision of the

Election Commission, headed by Anil Dogra (Director Finance), Riyaz Hussain and Priya Badyal, members of Election Commissioner, Umar Khan (Director Finance), Returning Officer, Yasir Sharief, and Javed Maqbool Khandey were AROs respectively.

The new office bearers of the JAKFAS were elected in a transparent, fair and democratic way and there was a voter turnout of 92 per cent. The election commissioner and returning officers congratulated the newly elected body.

BJP bridging gap between Administration & general public: Yudhvir

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: In a bid to foster closer ties between local administration and citizens, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been actively organizing grievance camps, aiming to address public concerns promptly.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President after holding a grievance camp at Pt Prem Nath Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu.

Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the role of grievance camps in bridging the gap between administration and citizens, ensuring that people's grievances are heard and resolved effectively. He underscored the BJP's commitment to the welfare of the needy, reaffirming the party's dedica-



J&K BJP Vice President, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues.

tion to serving the community. "These grievance camps are a sincere effort on our part to strengthen the bond between the administration and our citizens," he said, adding that BJP leadership remains steadfast in its mission to prioritize the welfare of all sections of society, striving to create an environment

where every voice is heard and every issue is addressed with utmost priority.

Earlier, Yudhvir Sethi along with his team including Parveen Kerni, East Mandal President and others listened attentively to the grievances raised by the attendees and assured them that their concerns

would be addressed with utmost priority. The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders. Various deputations, including individual persons—most of whom were women—visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone. He assured the visiting people that he will

take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

Highlighting the significance of the grievances redressal camp, Sethi reiterated the BJP's proactive approach in reaching out to the people and providing them with a platform to voice their grievances. He emphasized the party's unwavering dedication to fostering transparent and responsive governance, stating, "Through initiatives like this grievances redressal camp, we are making a sincere attempt to bridge the gap between administration and people. We believe that effective communication and prompt action are key to building trust and ensuring the welfare of our citizens."

Hargun Kour emerges Winner of India's Talent War Season 3 in Junior category

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Roop Production House, a prominent entity in the modeling and fashion industry, recently hosted the Grand Finale of India's Talent War Season 3, a major TV reality show held in Jhansi on June 8, 2024.

The CEO and Founder, Firoz Khan, announced that Hargun Kour, daughter of Gagandeep Singh and Gagandeep Kour from Jodhamal Public School Jammu, class 1B, emerged as the Winner of India's Talent War Season 3 in the Junior category.

The jury panel for this prestigious contest included notable figures from various entertainment domains namely Vikesh Rajak (Dance India Dance



Hargun Kour after winning India's Talent War Season 3 in the Junior category.

& India's Got Talent Fame), A.K. Srivastav (Bollywood singer), Neha Shrivastava (TV Host, Celebrity Anchor, DJ & Model), Allan Bazil Monteiro (Modeling Choreographer), and

Shristi Upadhiya (Miss Diva). Hargun Kour's victory earned her accolades such as a trophy, certificate, free portfolio, and opportunities to participate in various TV shows, web series,

and movies, further enhancing her budding career in the entertainment industry.

Beyond her success in India's Talent War Season 3, Hargun Kour has also achieved remarkable feats outside of the showbiz realm. She was honored by the International Book of Records on December 23, 2023, for setting a record of 200 hula hoops in one minute—an extraordinary accomplishment showcasing her skills and dedication.

Additionally, she clinched a silver medal in the Jammu Open Taekwondo Championship, organized by the J&K Sports Taekwondo Association, demonstrating her versatility and athleticism.

Her achievements were recognized with a special reward of Rs 10,000 from the Central Police Fund, along with a commendation certificate from the Director General of Police (DGP), further highlighting her excellence beyond entertainment.

Hargun Kour's achievements have not only brought pride to her school and family but have also garnered national acclaim, positioning her as a role model for aspiring young talents across India.

Her journey from winning prestigious contests to excelling in diverse disciplines underscores her determination and potential for future success in the entertainment and sports arenas alike.

BJP holds Janata Darbar, listens to public grievances

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held Janata Darbar at its headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Puneet Mahajan, Convenor Health & Medical Cell and Prerna Nanda, Mahila Morcha attended to the grievances of the people, who visited party headquarters with their issues. People from various areas of the UT presented their issues related to the frequent interruptions and heavy fluctuations in electricity supply despite metering, absent and non-functional street lights, and high mast lights. People complained about sanitation issues and choked drains and nullahs which are getting flooded in the rains and causing water logging in the streets. People also presented the other



BJP leaders listening to public issues.

issues related to the Ayushman Bharat Card, ration card, old age pension, repair of drains, revenue-related matters etc.

Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, while talking to the media on the occasion, pressed that more than 20 deputations have visited the BJP office with a lot of confidence that their issues would be resolved soon. He insisted that they have raised the maximum issues with the concerned depart-

ments and pressed for their prompt and early solutions.

Puneet Mahajan said that the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is providing respite to scores of patients especially those belonging to weaker sections of the society who require financial assistance for the expensive treatment.

He said that the issues being encountered are being taken with the authorities.

Ladies Club of SKUAST-J organizes plantation drive under campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'



Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J planting a sapling.

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: The Ladies Club of SKUAST-Jammu organized a plantation

drive under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at the Main Campus, Chatha, here.

This initiative, envisioned by Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director of Extension and Chairperson of the club, aims to enhance campus greenery and improve air quality.

The event was honored by the presence of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu who addressed the audience about the significance of tree plantation.

In his speech, Prof. Tripathi emphasized that planting trees is similar to giving life and that each planted tree will serve as saviour of society.

The plantation drive saw enthusiastic participation from members of the Ladies Club, statutory officers of the university, volunteers, and students.

SSCT flags off 16th batch of devotees to Haridwar

STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Smast Swastik Charitable Trust (SSCT) informed its members and the residents of Jammu that the trust has been actively engaged in uplifting the underprivileged sections of society for many years.

Led by President Pawan Kumar Shastri, a respected figure known for his vision, philanthropy, and contributions to social and religious causes in Jammu and Kashmir, the trust has been organizing various social, religious, and spiritual programs.

In continuation of its noble mission, the trust has initiated a special program to facilitate trips to Haridwar for individuals who have never had the opportunity to visit this sacred city before.

The primary objectives of this program include conducting free yoga sessions



President JYBT Pawan Kumar Shastri and others flagging off bus.

and facilitating devotees to experience the spiritual essence of Ganga Darshan in Haridwar.

All expenses related to travel, accommodation, and meals for the participants are fully covered by the trust itself.

The trust has committed to sending 1008 pilgrims to Haridwar on every Amavasya, a significant

lunar phase in the Hindu calendar, under this initiative. As of now, the trust has successfully organized 15 batches, accommodating approximately 850 pilgrims on these spiritual journeys.

On Thursday, the trust marked another milestone by dispatching its 16th batch of pilgrims from Sankat Mochan Panch Mukhi Shri Hanuman Mandir, B C

Road, Jammu.

The departure ceremony was graced with Vedic Hawan and Hindu religious rituals conducted by Pawan Kumar Shastri, witnessed by a large gathering including the pilgrims' relatives.

Among the dignitaries present were Gurdas Sharma (General Secretary/Treasurer), Raj Kumar Gupta, Koshal Kumar

(Trustee, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust), along with Dervinder Singh (DySP Jammu), Vikas Dogra (SHO General Bus Stand Jammu), and Pawan Kumar Shastri himself, who flagged off the bus carrying the devotees to Haridwar.

The Amavasya falling on July 5, 2024 (Friday), was chosen for the pilgrims to take a holy dip in the Ganges and seek blessings from Lord Shiva and Ganga Ma.

The event was also attended by Sukhdev Sharma, Ashwani Sharma (W.C.M of Jammu Yatri Bhawan), Rajesh Kumar Rakwal (Private Secretary to President, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust), B.R Sharma (Administrator, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust), Raj Kumar (General Manager), and Rashpal Kumar (Engineer, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust Jammu).