

## Admission for July 2023 admission session of IGNOU closes August 31

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The admissions to the July 2023 admission session of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will close on August 31, 2023. The re-registration to subsequent years/semesters will also close on the same date. This was announced by the Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu through a press briefing. Those aspirants who wish to get enrolled afresh need to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2023 at [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) or directly following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>. This can also be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online>>Fresh Admission" on IGNOU website.

To enroll in the next year or semester, candidates must fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration July 2023 form by the submission dead-

line. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can also apply for re-registration for July 2023 provided the minimum duration is completed and programme validity has not expired.

They can apply for IGNOU re-registration July 2023 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online>>Re-registration" on IGNOU website.

"The desirous candidates who wish to be a part of IGNOU extended family can avail this opportunity and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the last date", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In charge.

"In case any student has forgotten his/her User ID/password or has changed the registered mobile number at later stages, he/she must approach the Regional Centre or drop a mail on [rejammu@ignou.ac.in](mailto:rejammu@ignou.ac.in) with the request to reset the password", said Dr. Sandeep.

## Defamation Lawsuit: Ravinder Raina files Rs 5 Cr suit against Surinder Choudhary

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a recent legal development, Ravinder Raina, the President of the BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) in Jammu & Kashmir, has filed a defamation lawsuit against Surinder Kumar Choudhary, a former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), seeking damages of up to Rs 5 crores. The suit alleges intentional defamation by Choudhary through various means, including tweets, media and social media interviews, where he is accused of leveling unfounded and defamatory allegations against Raina. The lawsuit was filed in the court, presided over by Principal District Judge Jammu Sanjay Parihar, who subsequently issued a notice to Surinder Kumar Choudhary to respond to the allegations. According to the submitted details of the suit, Raina's reputation as a human rights activist and

social worker, dedicated to supporting victims of terrorism in J&K, forms a significant part of his claim. His political journey, including being elected as an MLA candidate from the Nowshera assembly segment in 2014 and eventually becoming the President of BJP in J&K in 2018, has also been highlighted as integral to his identity. The lawsuit contends that Surinder Choudhary had previously contested against Raina in the 2014 Assembly polls and faced defeat. Despite publicly acknowledging BJP's commitment to nation-building and subsequently joining the party, Choudhary later moved to the National Conference in July 2023. It is during this transition that Choudhary allegedly made a series of defamatory statements against Raina, using social media platforms and interviews. The allegations made in

Choudhary's tweets, Facebook posts, and media interactions are portrayed by Raina as intentional and malicious, aiming to tarnish his image. The lawsuit claims that Choudhary's statements were not only false but also went beyond the limits of decency and violated legal restraints.As the legal proceedings unfold, the court will assess the evidence presented by both sides to determine the veracity of the defamation claims. The case underscores the complex interplay between politics, personal ambitions, and the legal safeguards against defamation.It is important to note that the details provided in this news article are based on the available information and the claims presented in the lawsuit. For the latest updates on this matter, readers are encouraged to refer to credible news sources and legal authorities.

## DBPS supports anti-toll plaza agitation

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS), President Ved Prakash Sharma on Wednesday urged the Union Transport Minister to accept the burning problem of masses to close the Toll Plaza Sarore and Bantalab due to the worst condition of highway.

It does not come under the prescribed distance of 60 kms fixed by the ministry, he said while addressing a press conference.

Besides, he added, the issue smart meters may also be solved amicably in view of strong protests by the general public of Jammu.

Chander Mohan Sharma, Senior BJP Leader also demanded grant of finan-



DBPS President Ved Prakash Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

cial assistance to poor, widows and handicaps along with BPL people.

He also praised and supported the initiative of youth Rajput Sabha agitation for closure of Toll

Plaza and urged the Govt. to release the detained activities of Yuva Rajput Sabha.

Soujanya Sharma former Commissioner JMC, Gurdas Sharma, Ritz

Khajuria, Youth President, Shiv Ram Sharma, Subash Shastri, M.L. Padha, Jagan Nath Shastri, Romesh Sharma and Rajesh Bargoitra were also present.

## CAT takes note of alleged sexual harassment case involving school principal

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), presided over by Member (J) ,Suresh Kumar Monga, has

acknowledged a fresh Miscellaneous Application (M.A. No.772/2023) submitted by a teacher who claims to be a victim of sexual harassment by the Principal of Govt. Higher Secondary School (GHSS) in Batote. The teacher has provided video footage of protest demonstrations and interviews allegedly orchestrated by the Principal, which contained defamatory and derogatory content against the aggrieved teacher.

During the hearing, Advocate Supriya Chouhan, representing the aggrieved teacher, raised concerns about the lack of progress in the case. She highlighted that despite

the tribunal's directions, no magisterial enquiry has been conducted into the allegations against the Principal, Dev Raj Bhagat.

Furthermore, the Education Department has not responded to the allegations or taken any action against the Principal, suggesting that he is being shielded by higher-ranking officials.

Chouhan argued that the Principal had initiated a campaign to vilify the aggrieved teacher through web news portals, organizing protests involving students and residents to damage the teacher's reputation further. The teacher has filed the new miscellaneous application (M.A. No.772/2023), providing video evidence of the Principal's alleged efforts to manipulate news portals and social media platforms to garner sup-

port and tarnish the teacher's image.Chouhan stressed that despite the gravity of the allegations, the delinquent Principal remains in his position at GHSS Batote and continues to spread propaganda against the female teacher.

In response to these concerns, the CAT directed the Assistant Advocate General (AAG) SudeshMagotra and AAG Rajesh Thapa, representing the Education Department, to respond to the miscellaneous application within two weeks. AAG SudeshMagotra indicated that the magisterial enquiry was underway and its findings would be presented during the next hearing.Considering the significance of the case, the CAT bench decided to renotify the matter for a hearing on August 30, 2023.

## 7- Day Multilingual Short Story Festival concludes at JKAACL

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Seven Days Multilingual Short Story Festival concluded here at Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), here on Wednesday.

The festival started on 17th August, 2023 in which the writers of seven languages Dogri, Hindi, Gojri, Punjabi, Pahari, Urdu and Kashmiri presented their stories. This is for the first time that JKAACL, under the guidance of Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh initiated such a festival.

Sixth day of the festival featured Urdu short stories. Prof. Qadoos Javaid, Senior Urdu writer was the chief guest on the occasion, while Anil Saigal, Senior Journalist and Dogri Writer and Dr. Shehnaz Qadri were guests of Honour.

The session started with the welcome address by Dr.



A writer speaking at a Multilingual Short Story Festival.

Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural officer, Gojri on behalf of Secretary JKAACL.

In the beginning, Geetaka Kohli presented a short story "After the funeral" in English. She was the only writer to present a short story in English. The writers who presented their stories included O. P. Shakir who presented short story "Zamir Ke Daam", Dr. Mushtaq Wani presented short story "Qayamat KeAsaar", Neelofa presented short story "Chanda", Dr. Assadullah Wani presented

short story "Odani", and Swatantra Dev Kotwal presented short story "AalaMukaam".

Prof Qadoos Javaid in his address gave his views about all the stories.Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural officer, Gojri conducted the proceedings of the program. He also presented a Vote of thanks.

On the concluding Day Kashmiri writers presented short stories. The session began with a welcome address by Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural officer, Gojri on

behalf of Secretary JKAACL.

In the first session six Kashmiri writers presented their stories. Satish Safer presented short story "Chowb", Ashok Gowhar presented short story "Me Chana Basti Hajath", Kusum Sharda presented short story "Sopun", Chaman Pinjouri presented short story "Chog", Vinod presented short story "Gatul" and Bimla Misri presented short story " Kokri Haundi BatakhPuti". In this session, Vijay Sagar, Pyare Hataash and Avtar Krishan Naaz were present in the session.

In the second session, Vijay Sagar presented short story "Gobur", Rinko Koul presented short story "Haneh", Ashok Koul presented short story "Moal" and Santosh Nandan presented short story "Aas Nav Saree Ashnaav".

This session was presided over by Pyare Hataash and Chaman Pinjori. In the Presidential remarks, Hataash said that such activities are very important for the devel-

opment of Literature and he congratulated J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and especially the Secretary Bharat Singh for taking initiative in organizing

such programs.

Both the sessions were ably conducted by Vijay Wali. The festival concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum

Cultural officer, Gojri who expressed his gratitude to all the writers who presented their stories in the seven Day long Festival for making this festival a grand success.

## Court orders disclosure of details on business establishments without parking facilities

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, in the course of hearing a petition, has issued a directive to a Senior Advocate to submit a supplementary affidavit containing information about hotels and business establishments lacking parking space and proper sanction plans.

The court seeks detailed information on several aspects, including establishments without parking, establishments without sanction plans, establishments without parking or sanction

plans but no action taken, and a list of commercial entities without parking facilities, along with any actions taken against them by relevant authorities.

The court has requested Senior Advocate Rahul Pant to provide the necessary information within one week. Additionally, he is required to provide a copy of the affidavit in advance to S.S. Nanda, the learned Senior Additional Advocate General. Nanda will then file a response within one week following the submission. The High Court's decision follows revelations that

have come to light during the proceedings. According to information dated May 20, 2017, provided by the Jammu Municipality Corporation under the Right to Information Act (RTI), numerous hotels lack parking space.

Despite this information, the authorities have not taken any action. The data reportedly indicates that over 160 hotels do not have parking facilities. Furthermore, various business and commercial establishments, including banquet halls, tuition centers, and commercial entities, also

## HC condones delay in application by AAI Chairman, Subject to Payment

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, composed of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rahul Bharti, has granted permission for an application filed by the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The application sought condonation of delay in filing an appeal, and the Division Bench has agreed to the request, provided that a payment of Rs. 10,000 is made. The payment is to be deposited into an account designated for MUSKAN, a home for mentally challenged children located in Channi Rama, Jammu.This significant decision was made after hearing Senior Advocate DC Raina, Advocate YatinMahajan, and DSGI Vishal Sharma on behalf of the Chairman of AAI.The application was submitted by the Chairman of AAI along with others. It requested a direction from the court to stay the effect of a judgment dated May 4, 2022, issued by a learned Single Judge. The judgment in question pertained to a Writ Petition filed by a respondent. The Single Judge's decision quashed certain proceedings initiated by the appellants (AAI) concerning a penalty of censure issued on October 31, 2001, against the respondent. The judgment also ordered the appellants to provide the benefits of the next higher scale of DGC (ATC) to the respondent, effective from January 10, 1999, along with related benefits and arrears.The Division Bench's decision to condone the delay in the application filing comes with the stipulation of the specified payment to MUSKAN, which operates as a home for mentally challenged children.

## DLTFC approves 38 JKREGP cases involving Rs 3.10 Cr

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) of Khadi Village Industries Board (KVIB) on Wednesday approved 38 loan cases under Jammu Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP).

The approval was given at a meeting of the DLTFC held here today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramesh Chander.

Nearly, 45 cases were placed before the DLTFC, out of which, 38 have been approved while 7 cases were deferred for the next meeting.

The approved 38 cases have been sanctioned for accumulative projects cost of Rs 3.10 crore with a margin subsidy of Rs 1.50 crore.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training (JKSCERT) successfully organized a three-day Orientation Programme on the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS 2022), from August 21 to 23, 2023.

This significant event was hosted by the Department of Curriculum Development and Studies, Academic Unit II, JK SCERT, Jammu, under the mentorship of Prof. (Dr.) Prikshat Singh Manhas, Director of SCERT J&K, and the guidance of H.R Pakhroo, Joint Director of SCERT Jammu.

The programme targeted a group of 50 Key Resource



H.R Pakhroo, Joint Director JKSCERT posing with teachers at a programme.

Persons (KRP) from District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and schools across the Jammu Division, with the primary aim of providing orientation to the faculty members of DIETs and the School Education Department

of Jammu Division.

The workshop saw the active participation of 50 Lecturers, Masters, and Teachers from 10 districts within the Jammu Division.

The participants received guidance from experienced

Resource Persons, including Deepak Kumar, Anil Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Dr. Rohini Sharma, Sushil Hitaishi, Parshotam Singh, Dr. Jyoti Sudan, Shazia Kouser, Monika Dogra, Neena Puri, Amit Sharma, Amit Kumar Bhagat,

and others.

The workshop was conducted under the overall supervision of Prof. Swarn Singh, Head of Academic Unit II, and Dr. Sanjeevni, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Curriculum Development and Studies, with the coordination of the organizing team members including Manjusha Kapoor, Bikram Singh, and Ram Dayal.

The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the knowledge of the teaching faculty about the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS 2022). During the valedictory session, participants shared their valuable feedback.

H.R. Pakhroo, Joint Director, emphasized the

importance of disseminating the gained knowledge and experiences in the field and aligning with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Parshotam Singh, Coordinator of the Programme, extended gratitude to all dignitaries and presented the vote of thanks.

The workshop concluded with the distribution of appreciation certificates to participants and resource persons by H.R. Pakhroo, Joint Director of JK SCERT, Divisional Office Jammu.

The detailed report of the three-day workshop was compiled by Neena Puri, Arsh Kour, and Bikram Singh, all Administrative Officers at JK SCERT.

## Ajatshatru condemns Lathicharge on protesting YRS members at Sarore

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Minister, Ajatshatru Singh, strongly condemned the recent Lathicharge on the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) members and other people demanding suspension of toll collection at Sarore, highlighting the need to restore the Jammu Lakhnapur National Highway.

In a statement issued today, Ajatshatru Singh expressed his deep concern over the unfortunate incident. He emphasized that the demands put forth by Yuva Rajput Sabha is legitimate.

The former Minister asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) authorities to suspend the toll plaza operations until the Jammu Lakhnapur National Highway is restored.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The executive committee members of Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) J&K, accompanied by prominent citizens of Jammu, gathered at Sabha Bhawan to express their strong concerns over the recent events involving protests against the Toll Plaza at Sarore in Samba District. The protests, led by Yuva Rajput Sabha Members and other youths, escalated into an unfortunate clash with the

police.

The simmering discontent in the Jammu region stems from multiple issues, including the establishment of Toll Plazas at short intervals, unclear consumer guidance during Smart Meter installations, unemployment among local youths, poorly executed national highway and tunnel projects leading to landslides, and neglect of the restoration of Dogra heritage.

Gulchaim Singh Charak,



DSS President G S Charak addressing a meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

Former Minister and DSS President, emphasized the organization's repeated

attempts to address these issues with the authorities. However, the perceived lack of

response has led to a growing disconnect between the government and the citizens.

The Sabha, a long-standing social organization representing various communities including the Dogras, voiced dismay over the use of police force during the protests.

It has appealed to the Government of India through the Hon'ble Lt. Governor to intervene and urge the UT government to:

The Sabha has demanded the immediate release of the youths and individuals who were taken into custody during

the protests. The organization urged the immediate removal of Toll Plazas, which have been a major point of contention.

Until the restoration of a democratic government in the UT, DSS proposed the formation of broad-based advisory committees at both the UT and district levels. These committees would facilitate regular interactions and the prompt resolution of public grievances.

The meeting concluded with a call for a pro-people

approach by the government to address the mounting discontent in the region. The organization hopes that the concerns and sentiments of the people will be addressed before they escalate further.

Prominent attendees included Col Karan Singh, Amanat Ali Shah, Advocate H.C Jalmaria, GambhirDev Singh, Jalil Shah, Sr. Balbinder Singh, Jagdeep Singh, and other distinguished members of the community.