

UNI Head Jammu interacts with media students at JU

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JAMMU: During an interactive session organized by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at University of Jammu, here on Monday, Vishal Bharti, Bureau Chief United News of India (UNI), Jammu, emphasized, "The purpose of research in the field of Journalism is to analyze grassroots issues based on facts gathered from the field."

A field reporter is updated with the overall progress on various issues in the society and has a deeper understanding of the issues that affect the day-to-day life of people. He encouraged media students to harness their curiosity and channelize it into unbiased and impactful reporting based on field work instead of armchair reporting, Vishal Bharti added while interacting with media students of final semester at University



Vishal Bharti, Bureau Chief UNI Jammu interacting with media students of final semester at JU.

of Jammu. "Media students at University of Jammu who come from various districts of Jammu region are a true representation of our culture and thus have a huge potential to represent a true picture covering various aspects on any issue to bring out a positive change in the society," Bharti added.

He captivated the aspiring journalists with his in-depth knowledge of the field and his own journey in the world of news reporting.

He urged students to adopt 'constructive criticism'

approach while writing news stories that are solution-oriented and thus create an impact for the betterment of all. He shared his valuable insights and experiences with the students, allowing them to express different perspectives related to journalism and media. Budding journalists shared their perspectives on the emerging topics in the field of journalism, including use of smartphones and future of photo-journalism, newspaper reading habits in the age of new media, use of social media

by government sector; social media advertisements and portrayal of women, brand promotions through folk songs, etc. Vishal Bharti also responded to various questions asked by students and emphasized on the importance of investigative reporting, and significance of local news in a global context. He also encouraged students to cultivate a curious mindset and a thirst for accurate information.

Earlier, while addressing the students, Dr. Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, said such interactions not only help in opening up the minds of students who come from different education backgrounds but also define the future of research in the field of journalism. She also expressed her gratitude to Vishal Bharti for taking time out of his busy schedule to inspire and guide the students.

"With a wealth of experience spanning over a decade in the realm of journalism, Mr. Bharti was invited to share his knowledge and perspectives with the aspiring journalists, providing them with a firsthand understanding of the industry's dynamics and challenges," she said.

Prof Sucheta Pathania, Dean Faculty of Arts, conveyed her wishes to the Department and said that such activities are essential for the growth of the department.

Other faculty members present during the interaction were Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ravia Gupta and Kumerjit Chajgotra. The event provided an exceptional opportunity for the students to learn from seasoned journalists and garner insights into the dynamic world of media and reporting.

Dy Mayor emphasizes skilling and upgradation efforts to tackle unemployment

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JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasizes skilling and upgradation efforts to tackle unemployment in Jammu.

Chairing 20th "Skill Upgradation & Self Employment" standing committee meeting in the conference hall of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Billawaria along with the committee members discussed various ongoing skill development programmes.

The meeting was attended by standing committee members & representatives of local trade and industry, JUDA (Jammu Urban Development Authority), (KVIP) (Knowledge, Vocational Training, and Innovation Program) and NGOs working towards the skill development of the



Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria chairing a meeting.

youth.

The meeting focused on discussing strategies to reduce the unemployment rate by enhancing vocational training and improving the skill sets of the youth in the area.

Deputy Mayor underscored the need to establish a robust framework for the KVIP to provide the youth with the best opportunities for skill development and employment.

He emphasised that by equipping the young popu-

lation with advanced skills, they can be better prepared to meet the demands of the job market, thus contributing to the overall growth and development of the region.

He emphasised that by providing quality vocational training and promoting continuous skill upgradation, the committee aims to empower the young generation, enabling them to contribute effectively to the socio-economic growth of the region.

Sawan Mahotsav concluded at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir

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JAMMU: Sawan Mahotsav, first of its kind ever in Jammu, culminated in a grand spectacle yesterday at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir.

It was a Mahotsav of different kind, where classical devotional Bhajans were recited, based on ragas, by classical singers of national and international stature.

The Mahotsav commenced on first Monday of Sawan Mahotsav, on 10th July, 2023, with recitation of Rudra Path by Pandits from Tamil Nadu associated with Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, at early morning.

While, the first Bhajan Sandhya was held in the evening, wherein Seema Anil Sehgal, classical singer of international repute and pride of Dogras regaled devotees to spiritual ecstasy. It set the tone of the Bhajan Sandhyas which continued to be maintained by subsequent Bhajan Sandhyas, setting up a unique position for



Kathak performance presented by Dr. Priya Dutta at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir.

itself in the cultural and spiritual landscape of Jammu.

Celebrated Singers Vijay Singh Sambyal (Rangeeley Thakur) and his disciples Dr. Roshii and Ridhima Bajpai; Pankaj Pradhan and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra; Dr. Mukteshi Sharma; Dr. Jasmeet Kaur and Pinka Bali; Ashutosh Sharma and his disciples Mohit Sharma and Rahul Sharma; Dr. Kusha Sharma and Chinmei Sharma and Poonam Sharma regaled devotees by

their offerings of Bhajans to Mahadev.

Besides this, Kathak performances by Dr. Priya Dutta, HOD Kathak Dance, IFMFA, University of Jammu, and her disciples from Nritanjali; and, Bharatnatyam performance by Pranabi Das Ghosh, added another dimension to Mahotsav and transposed audience to a transcendental realm of ecstasy.

The accompanist Amarjeet Singh on violin, Parshotam

Kumar on Pakhwaj, Rakesh Anand on flute, Vinay and Vijay on Tabla generated a perfect synergy with singers elevating performances to soothing mystical experiences.

A large number of devotees, more than five thousand, cumulatively, from the Mandir and music lovers from the city, thronged the ancient Mandir during Sawan and Adhik Sawan, to immerse in the spiritual joy, creating a history of the sort.

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JAMMU: District Congress Committee Jammu (Rural), further intensifying the ongoing campaign against installation of smart meters and demanding abolition of Toll Plaza Sarore, staged a strong protest at Chinore Ward No 62 and 64 falling in Jammu North Assembly segment.

Today's protest was organised by Hari Singh Chib, President DCC Jammu (Rural) along with locals of Ward No 62 and 64

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Sr Advocate M.K Bhardwaj, Senior Congress leader and Former President Bar Association; Som Nath Sharma, President BCC Pata Paloura; Parshotam Singh, President BCC Bhalwal; Sunil Singh, Assembly President Youth Congress and Corporator Rajinder Singh.

Addressing the protesters,



DCC Jammu Rural leaders leading a protest at Jammu on Monday.

Hari Singh Chib lamented that the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and the NHAI are forwarding quite opposite narratives which means that either the Union Minister is unaware about the law, rules and regulations on the issue of Sarore Toll Plaza or else the NHAI authorities are misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On smart meters, Chib said

that these meters as well as the system are defective as a result of which even the minimal users of electricity are receiving heavy bills and therefore need to be discarded at this very stage before the consumers are pushed into untold miseries.

Hari Singh Chib said that Congress has always stood with the people of Jammu and assured that the party

and its leaders will always remain available for the cause of Jammu people and every section of the society irrespective of their caste, creed or colour.

Bhardwaj said that the incumbent Administration in J&K is carrying on the proxy Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governance which people are not going to tolerate at any cost.

Sajid Farooq of SRML GHSS attends Parliament of India during summer session



Sajid Farooq of SRML GHSS posing with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others at Parliament.

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JAMMU: Sajid Farooq, son of Mohd Farooq and Shamim Akhter, a seasoned volunteer of NSS and student of Sri Ranbir Multilateral Govt. Higher Secondary School attended the Parliament of India during this summer session.

He also got the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Besides them, he also interacted with other members of the Parliament.

Sajid Farooq had got selected for Meta India in collaboration with Ministry of Child and Women Development for their aim in life, their innovative ideas of future contribution they wanted to provide to the society.

It is worth to mention that out of millions of videos received by Meta India throughout the country from which only 36 students were selected and entitled to attend the Parliamentary meeting.

Ekra Foundation conducts its 14th weekly session on Mental Health

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JAMMU: Ekra Foundation conducted the 14th weekly session of its mental health initiative titled 'Mann'.

Ekra foundation is an NGO that operates primarily in the domain of mental health, peace education, and religious pluralism.

Based in J&K, it is dedicated to addressing mental health concerns while fostering harmony among diverse cultural and religious groups.

'Mann', Ekra's signature mental health project, primarily focuses on providing mental health care support to 15 selected adolescents living in Village Old Satwari, Jammu through weekly group and one-on-one sessions with a clinical psychologist.

To date, Ekra has conducted 14 sessions and 2

workshops under this programme.

The programme's diverse curriculum covers a range of topics from self-esteem to creative thinking in order to empower participants in their mental health journey.

Activities include exploring positive attributes, practicing breathing & relaxation techniques like 4-7-8 breathing & JPMR, fostering self-appreciation through journaling, guided meditation, and inspiring storytelling.

These sessions are designed not only to address their immediate concerns but also to equip the kids with essential tools for lifelong mental well-being.

The impact of this programme is already apparent from communication

with the families of the kids. A 14-year-old girl struggling with academics has demonstrated improved focus and has begun consistent practice. Another participant, an 18 year old orphan, whose major portion of the day was spent doing household chores, has now started dedicating time to learn tailoring, all the while preparing to reappear for her 10th Board examinations.

Ekra envisions this program as a bridge connecting those who wish to contribute with those in need of assistance. The NGO aims to expand its impact by not just helping more kids but also by providing more extensive support to the existing participants and already identified cases that need mental health care support.

BJP Social Media Department will play vital role in 2024 Lok Sabha elections: Ravinder Raina



J&K BJP President, Ravinder Raina speaking at a meeting.

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JAMMU: Social Media is playing a pivotal role in shaping narratives and influencing public opinions in the present scenario. It has emerged as a powerful trendsetter, capable of steering public opinion and framing discussions on various issues, said Ravinder Raina during a one-day workshop of Social Media & IT Department held at the BJP headquarters, Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP President, Ashok Koul, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org), BJP NEM & Social Media Prabhari Priya Sethi, Organizational Prabhari Anoop Kaipalli, Convenor BJP Social Media Ankit Gupta, Convenor BJP IT Ishant Gupta, spoke on the occasion while Manjit Singh Jasrotia, Nitish Mahajan, Satish Jandial, Gourav Balgotra and Ajay Anand Co-incharges were also

present. Ravinder Raina emphasized that social media is an effective communication tool, having evolved into a trendsetter that significantly augments information dissemination.

He stressed the crucial need for political parties and leaders to harness social media's potential to effectively connect with the masses and ensure their voices are heard.

Ashok Koul asked social media activists to approach beneficiaries of different schemes started by Modi led BJP government.

Priya Sethi, shed light on the dynamic nature of social media and its significance in modern political communication.

The proceedings of the stage were managed by Manjeet Singh Jasrotia.

JCMS releases Rs. 3,58,500 lakh for needy, scholarship to 222 beneficiaries

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JAMMU: Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS) released Rs. 3,58,500 lakh for needy, widows pension, medical aid and scholarship to 222 beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Sabha President Romesh Chander Gupta stressed upon the need to uplift the weaker sections of the society.

He urged upon the people of the community to come forward to help the poor and needy section of the society.

Sanjay Mahajan, General Secretary of the Sabha, confirmed 15 new beneficiaries were identified for the pension.

Others present were Shiv Partap Gupta, Harinder Gupta, Dr Mohan Lal Gupta, Subash Gupta, C P Gupta, Mukesh Mahajan, Rajesh Chowdhary, Atul Gupta, Surinder Gupta and Balbir Gupta.

Ban on constructions in Sonamarg DB grants special exception for maintenance, repair work by Army

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JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice M. A Chowdhary has allowed the Indian Army to conduct vital maintenance and repair works in existing structures within the High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) and other transit camps situated in the pristine region of Sonamarg.

Marking a distinct departure from previous restraints imposed by the court, the Division Bench highlighted the exceptional nature of the Army's role in safeguarding the Nation.

"Considering that carrying out the said maintenance/repair works are urgently required and the fact that this pertains to security of the Nation which is of paramount importance, and thus cannot be equated with other commercial enterprises engaged in profit

making activities, and the army/security forces can be treated to be a class by itself distinguishable from other commercial enterprises, we are of the view that an exception can be made to the restraint orders passed by this Court and the application should be allowed to carry out the maintenance/repairing works as mentioned in the report" it observed.

The directions were passed in response to an application by Tahir Shamsi DGSI, seeking permission from the Court in the backdrop of blanket ban on any construction activities in Sonamarg.

The Court had few years back undertaken this matter as a Public Interest Litigation, responding to reports of unauthorized constructions in the Sonamarg area. Over time, the court's orders have regulated constructions in the area, keeping in view the several associated environmental concerns.

It was in the said pursuit that the court had issued a blanket ban on carrying out construction activities within the peripheries of this famous tourist destination.

Acknowledging the constrained time window and the pivotal role of these installations in supporting the Army's counter-insurgency operations and defense strategies, the bench observed,

"Under the circumstances, we hold that the bar placed by this Court should not come in the way of Building Operations and Controlling Authority to consider and give permission to the army authorities to undertake maintenance/repair work as sought by them," Court said and directed the Building Operations and Controlling Authority to grant permission to the army authorities for the execution of necessary maintenance and repair works.

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JAMMU: Additional Anti Corruption Judge, Jammu OP Bhagat has discharged the then Ex- Vice Chancellor SKUAST and others in the alleged corruption case by ACB. According to prosecution, the then Vice Chancellor , SKUAST Jammu appointed Sanjay Sharma as PRO (Public Relations Officer) in violation of all norms and rules without publishing the advertisement in the leading newspapers.

During the course of verification, it emerged that Sanjay Sharma was initially engaged as Computer Programmer in SKUAST Jammu on adhoc basis in the year 2000 and then as PRO to Vice Chancellor on problem basis and was confirmed in the year 2000. In order to bestow illegal benefit upon Sanjay Sharma AI, the officials of SKUAST twisted and distorted the rules and without competence and power, created a non - exist-

tent post of Deputy Registrar Secrecy. As per the alleged charges against the accused persons a criminal Conspiracy was hatched between Sanjay Sharma, Vice Chancellor SKUAST and then Assistant Registrar SKUAST A.K.Koul.

Moreover, the allegation leveled was that there was no proposal or sanction of competent authority thereby indicating that the appointment was illegal .

After hearing arguments of the prosecution and Advocate S.K. Bhat for Accused Hashmatullah khan Vice Chancellor SKUAST, Nagendra Sharma and Vijay Soi along with the other Counsels for the rest of the accused, the court observed, "the perusal of charge-sheet and material collected during investigation reveals that there are absolutely no grounds for presuming not to speak of even suspicion about the accused having committed offence under Prevention of Corruption

Act". Moreover, the Court also made it clear that the principal issue before the Court is whether the charge sheet filed by the investigating officer is in accordance with the provisions of the Cr.p as laid down under sec 173 (8).

It is pertinent to mention that the investigating officer was directed by the Court to further investigate the matter and the I.O had observed earlier that the allegations leveled have not been substantiated within the view of P.C.Act as such the investigation of the case be closed as not proved. The I.O did not come across with any fresh evidence during further investigation as such no prima facie case could be established against the accused persons. Therefore, the Court observed that neither the further investigation is proper and in accordance with law nor the charge sheet is sustainable in the eyes of law.

So far as the appointment

of Sanjay Sharma is concerned, it was not established by the prosecution that it was an illegal appointment and there was no allegation that he had produced a fake certificate at the time of his adhoc appointment. Further the Court opined that in the entire Charge sheet, there are no allegations of any kind , whatsoever , of any demand, acceptance or giving of any bribe by anybody to anyone.

Accordingly there seems no legal bias in the appointment of the said accused Sanjay Sharma to the post of PRO beyond the powers and competence of the Vice Chancellor and the other accused involved therein as such no criminal conspiracy can be attributed to all the accused persons in the alleged commission of the offenses by ACB, the court said, adding "accordingly, accused present in the court are discharged and challan is dismissed".