

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

DISABILITY INITIATIVES

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED IN 2023-24



Prepared by
Prof. Sarika Manhas
Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, JU

**ACTIVITY 1: WORKSHOP ON INCLUSIVITY ORGANIZED FOR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS
AT PARADE COLLEGE**

The Office of the Programme coordinator, NSS and Coordinator Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Govt College for Women, Parade Jammu organised one day workshop on Inclusivity for the students and NSS volunteers. The workshop was held on 30th December 2023 at GCW, Parade, where Prof Kusumlata Malik, President National Federation for Blind, India and Sh. Anil Joshi, Former member National Trust Act GoI, Accessibility and Inclusivity Professional were the invited resource persons. In their session both the resource persons highlighted the need to understand and appreciate the contours of human diversity. Prof. Malik gave instances where being disabled is considered primary part of a person's identity, undermining the other potentials of the individual. She stressed on the need of looking beyond the limitations of those with disabilities. Sh. Joshi shared his exemplary journey as a parent to a daughter who despite her Down syndrome has become fully independent and competent. He further asked the volunteers to reach out to the parents of children with disabilities and share with them the need of early identification and intervention.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives while addressing the volunteers focused on the need for open dialogues and urged upon the participants to share their views and experiences for creating safe and supportive spaces for all. She mentioned that true inclusivity can be attained when the principle of Zero reject is followed. She informed that the University of Jammu is committed towards creating a conducive and friendly environment for persons with disability. She urged volunteers to have develop empathic approach in their lives. Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS talked about the importance of the workshop and underlined the need for fostering an inclusive environment in a world where diversity is celebrated. Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Principal. Parade College shared about the various new initiatives taken for the personality development of the students. He encouraged the students to participate in actively where there are opportunities of self-exploration and self-expression. He also narrated anecdotes from his interaction with people with disabilities, which were inspirational and motivational.

Dr Harmanmeet Kaur, Co-convenor, NSS advisory committee, GCW Parade presented the welcome address. She deliberated upon the importance of the concept of inclusivity in the life of the individuals. She stressed on the need for leadership potential

among the NSS volunteers. Dr. Atiya Sayeed, Programme Officer, NSS presented the formal vote of thanks on the occasion.

Certificates of merit were also distributed to the students who has participated in the fortnight Viksit Bhart Abhiyan organized in the college. More than 100 students and volunteers participated in the day long workshop.

onal Therapist), along with faculty, research scholars and students of University of Jammu and University of Kashmir. Officers from the Office of Commissioner Persons with Disabilities J & K, Relief and Rehabilitation Department also graced the occasion with their presence.

to take part Public Day with largest of 907 girls

sia, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, JK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Mauritius and Mozambique.

In his address, DG JCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh called upon the cadets to participate wholeheartedly and derive maximum benefits from each activity in the camp.



Asgar Ali, Imran Shah,

Narinder Singh Talwar,

place.

Inclusivity workshop organized for NSS volunteers and Students



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: The Office of the Programme coordinator, NSS and Coordinator Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Govt College for Women, Parade Jammu organised one day workshop on Inclusivity for the students and NSS volunteers. The workshop was held today at GCW, Parade, where Prof Kusumlata Malik, President National Federation for Blind, India and Sh. Anil Joshi, Former member National Trust Act Gol, Accessibility and Inclusivity Professional were the invited resource

of children with disabilities and share with them the need of early identification and intervention.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS talked about the importance of the workshop and underlined the need for fostering an inclusive environment in a world where diversity is celebrated. She further stressed that through these kinds of workshops volunteers will gain valuable insights into the significance of embracing differences.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives while addressing the volunteers, focused on

taken for the personality development of the students. He encouraged the students to participate actively where there are opportunities of self-exploration and self-expression. He also narrated anecdotes from his interaction with people with disabilities, which were inspirational and motivational.

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Press coverage of the workshop



Clicks from the workshop

ACTIVITY 2: DISABILITY DIALOGUE ON CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF INCLUSION

An interactive panel discussion on the theme 'Challenges and prospects of building an inclusive social order' was held under Disability Dialogue as part of two-day VYOM

Inclusive fest organized by Department of Social welfare, J & K Govt. in collaboration with University of Jammu.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article on the State Times website. The masthead features the logo 'STATE TIMES' with the tagline 'THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K NOW IN DELHI'. Below the masthead is a navigation menu with links for Home, Jammu & Kashmir, India, Business, Exclusive, Editorial, World, Entertainment, Legal, Image Gallery, and Video. The article's breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Jammu and Kashmir > Jammu > Disability dialogue on challenges and prospects of inclusion organized. The main headline is 'Disability Dialogue On Challenges And Prospects Of Inclusion Organized'. The byline is 'By Statetimes_editor' and the article was last updated on 'Dec 31, 2023'. There are three red category tags: 'JAMMU', 'JAMMU AND KASHMIR', and 'TOP J&K NEWS'. Below the byline are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube, and Email. A view count of '116' and a comment count of '0' are also visible. A photograph of a group of people at the event is partially visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

Disability dialogue on challenges and prospects of inclusion organized

Jammu Links News

12/31



Press coverage of the dialogue

The disability dialogue held on 29th December 2024 focused on generating a debate and reflecting upon various dimensions of disability rights, policies and issues. The panel discussion was undertaken to deliberate upon issues confronting the person with disabilities in India with special focus on Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the opportunities and avenues available for emancipation of personal with disabilities, and outlining strategies for overcoming the challenges and barriers faced by personal disabilities and bringing about transformative change in the society.

Md. Iqbal Lone, Commissioner, Person with Disabilities, J & K and co-organizer of Disability Dialogue chaired the panel discussion. In his opening remarks he highlighted that the persons with disabilities are an integral part of the society who need our compassion and acceptance. He shared that J & K stands at sixth place in national UDID card enrolment, pointing towards the earnest efforts of the UT administration. He also emphasized on the need of involving academia and researchers to successfully address the issues confronting the persons with disabilities.



Participants sharing their views of ensuring human rights of the PwDs

Prof. Kusum Lata Malik, President of the Blind Federation, and a renowned academician and a researcher in her address highlighted the need for strengthening education system and employment sector for making the persons with disabilities self-reliant. She suggested that inclusive education should be promoted through solemn efforts and

discrepancies in employment opportunities should be minimized. Sh. Anil Joshi, Former member Board of Directors for National Trust Act, GoI and an accessibility diversity and inclusion expert emphasized on the need of channelizing the energies of persons with disabilities. He pointed that in the modern times it is essential that technology is utilized and modified to ensure inclusion. He also noted that the non-disabled should interact with the disabled to understand their challenges and issues, and also need to collaborate to find solutions for these challenges.

Interests of Jammu and Kashmir

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...er Minister Y P Kundal,
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...d district Samba presi-
...anjan Singh Sharma also
...d the gathering.

Response on Restoration

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...r, PHE Srinagar, Chief
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...to the PIL to be filed by
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...sponse to the submission
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...tioner, Mir Muhammad
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...gaged in illegal construc-
...aising the concrete walls,
...said: "if any illegal con-
...is made without follow-
...d process of law, the
...ll be at their risk and will
...with by law".

Public advisory celebration

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...Jammu has advised the
...r establishments hosting
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...ck anywhere on the road-
...ing and congestion.
...e taken against drunken
...nt driving, dangerous
...nt biking, motorists are
...h endangers their life as

for the proceedings.
Tenga on the occasion articu-
lated KCCI's priorities, outlining
the key focus areas that the orga-
nization is actively pursuing while
these priorities were presented in
the context of the region's econo-
mic landscape and emerging
challenges.

Faiz Bakshi, the secretary gen-
eral, took the floor to present the
Annual Administration Report.
The comprehensive report cover-
ed the activities, events, and
meetings held by the Chamber
from February 2023 to December
2023.

Notably, the period featured a
remarkable tally of nine meetings
with distinguished figures, includ-
ing the Lt. Governor, Manoj
Sinha, Union Cabinet Ministers,
Parliamentary Standing
Committees, and high-ranking
central and state government offi-
cials.

In a noteworthy move, the
KCCI conducted an extraordinary
meeting to consider alterations
and amendments to its Articles of
Association.

Disability dialogue on challenges & prospects of inclusion organized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 30: An inter-
active panel discussion on the
theme 'Challenges and prospects
of building an inclusive social
order' was held under Disability
dialogue at University of Jammu.

The Disability dialogue
focused on generating a debate
and reflecting upon various
dimensions of disability rights,
policies and issues. The panel
discussion was undertaken to
deliberate upon issues con-
fronting the person with disabili-
ties in India with special focus on
Jammu and Kashmir.

The panelist for the discussion
were Prof Kusum Lata Malik,



Panel members during the Disability dialogue at JU.

President of the Blind Federation;
Anil Joshi, former Member Board
of Directors for National Trust
Act, GoI; Ranjit Kalra, Member
of the J&K Sports Council and
senior faculty at JU; Pradeep
Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now;
and Prof Sarika Manhas,
Coordinator, Disability
Initiatives, University of Jammu.
Md. Iqbal Lone,
Commissioner, Person with
Disabilities, J&K chaired the
panel discussion. He empha-
sized on the need of involving
academia and researchers to
successfully address the issues
confronting the persons with
disabilities.

Prof Kusum Lata Malik
highlighted the need for
strengthening education system
and employment sector for mak-
ing the persons with disabilities

J&K Bank, Athar Amir Khan,
Commissioner SMC, Mehmood
Ahmad Shah, Director
Handicrafts & Handloom, and
senior officials from the
Administration and J&K Bank.

Prominent figures from the
trade community added to the sig-
nificance of the occasion, with
notable participants such as
Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya, Bashir A.
Bhat (President KHAROF),
Mauzama Bakshi (President
KHARA), Jaan Mohammad
(UTTA), Bashir Kanu (SKT&C),
Ajaz Qureshi (President PICA),
Shahid Kamili (FCIK), Nasir
Shah (IATO), Shameem Shah
(TAFD), Anwar Mir (President
TAAK/ATOAK), Rauf Tramboo,
Zahoor Qari, Athar Yamen
(TAA), and Anwar Mir (ADTO)
in attendance.

The leadership of KCCI,
including senior vice president
Ashiq Hussain Shangloo, junior
vice president Fayaz Ahmad
Punjabi, Jr. secretary general
Umar Nazir, Tibetbaqal, and
Treasurer Zubair Mahajan were
also present.

self-reliant, Anil Joshi empha-
sized on the need of channeliz-
ing the energies of persons with
disabilities.

Ranjit Kalra shared that the
Sports Policy of J & K has
inputs and special provisions for
disabled sports persons. He
highlighted the recent achieve-
ments of Blind cricket team,
wheelchair bound basketball
players, and disabled archers to
point that bodily limitations can
be conquered successfully
through personal perseverance,
strong support network, and sus-
tained training.

Pardeep Dutta underlined the
need of breaking off the 'Victim
mentality'. He focussed on devel-



CGM NABARD and other officials for year 2024.

Jammu, in the presence
Chairman J&K Gramen I
Sanjay Gupta.

Also present on the occa-
sion were General Manager JK
Suresh Chander Sharma and
other senior officials of
Bank.

Speaking on the occa-
sion CGM NABARD, Bhalla
Sridhar lauded the efforts of
Bank for its digital initiat
He recognized the bank's
standing commitment to a
digital initiatives, exemplifi-
ng a forward-thinking and pro-
gressive approach. He empha-
sized the significance of digital
is not only streamlining
process but also in elevating
overall productivity of
workforce.

Sanjay Gupta, Chair-
man JKGB, acknowledged the
port & guidance received
NABARD in various acc-
omplishments of the bank
in the past year. He also said
that the focus of the bank
always remain to expand
reach to poor and margina-



Workers busy with the Kashmir's Boniyar area on...

Stylish Turbans demand for a

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Dec 30: Tur-
kish inglenooks, locally known
'bukharis', are gaining popular-
ity in North Kashmir's Baramulla
district, with people considering
cost-effective and a perfect s-
olution against the cold.

One workshop, produ-
cing these inglenooks-faithfully i-
nspired from the Turkish m-
odel which costs around a lakh
operated by a youngster na-
med Imtiyaz Ahmad Awan in Bor-
n and the products are selling
hotcakes.

"While this is a perfect
solution we are selling it at a
price compared to the origi-
nal Turkish inglenooks; it is ma-
king a difference, with people as-
sured for it," Imtiyaz said.

For some time now, Im-
tiyaz has been crafting tradi-
tional bukharis. However, in res-
ponse to demand, he shifted to ma-
king Turkish bukharis, which cur-
rently helps him earn a livelihood.
"I have studied upto
12th but did not get a job. 10
days, I am earning a livelihood
putting my skills to use, bei-

Sh. Ranjeet Kalra, member of the J & K Sports Council shared that the newly rolled out Sports Policy of J & K under the able directions of the Hon'ble LG Sh. Manoj Sinha is inclusive as it has inputs and special provisions for disabled sports persons. He highlighted the recent achievements of Blind cricket team, wheelchair bound basketball players, and disabled archers to point that bodily limitations can be conquered successfully through personal perseverance, strong support network, and sustained training. Sh. Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now underlined the need of breaking off the 'Victim mentality'. He focussed on developing feeling of humanism - which appreciates all without any prejudice. He suggested that sensitization workshops should be carried out for both bureaucracy and media, and exhorted upon the need of collective effort towards the cause of inclusion.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu and Convener of the panel discussion appreciated the efforts of Department of Social Welfare under the stewardship of Ms. Sheetal Nanda for having organized an event celebrating the diversity and accomplishments of persons with disabilities. In her concluding remarks she mentioned that all stakeholder- persons with disabilities, NGOs, media, academia, students and volunteers need to participate and generate a disability discourse that successfully addresses the issue of inclusivity. She also pointed that inclusion is not a concept but rather a way of life that all of us need to imbibe.

Prominent among others who participated in the disability dialogue were Sh. Umesh Sharma (Disabled Care), Dr. Piyali Arora (Associate Prof. GDC Udhampur), Sh. Kamal Nain Bhan (Association of Aphasic and Deaf), Ms. Ritika (Beloved Grace), Ms. Shria Abrol (RCI Counsellor), Ms. Balkis Razia (Occupational Therapist), along with faculty, research scholars and students of University of Jammu and University of Kashmir. Officers from the Office of Commissioner Persons with Disabilities J & K, Relief and Rehabilitation Department also graced the occasion with their presence.

ACTIVITY 3: LEADERSHIP SKILLS WORKSHOP INAUGURATED FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND VOLUNTEERS AT JAMMU UNIVERSITY

Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and ELFA International is organizing a two day workshop for students with disabilities and NSS volunteers, 'Leadership skills for an inclusive world:

Challenges and Prospects’ on 26th and 27th December 2024. The inaugural function of the workshop was held today, where Sh. Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now was the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion Sh. Dutta mentioned that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations. He mentioned that inclusive approach should be based on not charity but rather on compassion.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU and convener of the workshop presented the welcome address where she mentioned that students with disabilities have potential to be leaders of the world, as they are more compassionate and empathetic. She stressed on the need of harnessing leadership potential of youth including those with disabilities. She also hoped that the NSS volunteers will become true leaders by reaching out to those who are marginalized and disadvantaged.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and co- convener of the workshop discussed the objectives of the workshop. She shared that NSS volunteers work on the principle of ‘Not me but you’, and ‘once a volunteer always a volunteer’ and hence have an exceptional role in building an inclusive social order. She also urged the volunteers to constantly be ready to be a support mechanism for those with disabilities.

Mr. Mehran Khan, Founder and CEO of ELFA International and key resource person for the workshop highlighted the role of motivation, determination and perseverance in empowerment of youth. He shared many strategies for achievement of equality and equity in society. He emphasized that empathy and inclusion are benchmarks of a good leader.

In the valedictory session Prof. Jasbir Singh, Rector Kistwar campus, University of Jammu was the chief guest, while Ms. Shaheen Wahid, SSP Jammu South presided over the function.

Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Faculty DD & OE, JU helped in the conduct of the workshop, along with a team of research scholars of Department of Home Science and Sociology -Ms. Vinish Malik, Ms. Meghna Sharma, Ms. Vishawdeepika, Ms. Insha, Mr. Lokesh Kumar, Mr. Shiv Pal, and Ms Manu Saini.

More than 50 Students with disabilities belonging to the different teaching departments of the University, and NSS volunteers from main campus and affiliated colleges actively participated in the workshop.

JRI, Dec 26: With tristic policies, Prime Narendra Modi has by transformed the 40 crore people in half years of his nt at the Centre, stat- nra, former Minister er State President, rma was addressing Jana Samvad prof Booth numbers 81, ocated in Morapora jout Assembly com- in Panchayat

ing the people who ved benefits from the fane schemes initiat- Narendra Modi led Government, Sat 'essed on the dedica- IP in addressing the l the aspirations of eople.

transfer of subsidies cakages and delays nging transparency untability to the hus saving the 85 used to go missing ce", said Sat Sharma that earlier the poor poor and all the cant to uplift their omic structure the treasurers of few families.

arma added that if the oney had gone to the ands during earlier its without any core rural, hilly and the reas had not suffered

of development e Modi Government plugged those leak- also ensured that the the needy from all f the society receive nfits of the public hemes initiated by

r Prabhari, Jugal id that the Modi nt had taken care of who had little acces- nial amenities of life the seven decades of om Colonial rule.

resident, Dinesh oke on the commi- e BJP cadre in reach- e people in far-flung rder to sort out their

leader, Rajinder



DC flagging off mega awareness rally at K Tuesday.

of gender equality and saving girl child through the Beti ing more equitabl The BBBP sch translating to 'Sav child, educate the stands as a testam commitment of Government to gender discrimi advancing women's ment across the Deputy Commis- Lighted the pivotal manting stereotype moting a culture of ty.

The DC emph multifaceted object BBBP scheme, wh beyond education engrained gender b scheme seeks to societal shift by awareness about th value of the girl ch moting gender-neo tunities for growth oment.

Furthermore, t Commissioner div the com approach of the improving the effec fare services for gir ating a supportiv and disman temic barriers, the tiative strives to e every girl has acce- tion, healthcare, an nities for a brighter

The mega rally, of enthusiastic echoed the collecti social transform vibrant display o slogans, and the energy of the partic ing a more ble futu workshop. in Ra

A team of from the Depa Science and S Malik, Me Vishawdeepika Kumar, Shiv Saini helped in, the other fare Off IWO, R the Soc at were

Leadership skills workshop at JU for students with disabilities

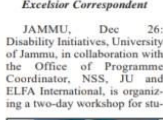
Excelsior Correspondent JAMMU, Dec 26: Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and ELFA International, is organizing a two-day workshop for stu-

tives of the workshop. She highlighted that NSS is a just not a name but rather a feeling that runs in the blood of all volunteers. She also urged the volunteers to constantly be ready to be a support mechanism for those with disabilities.

Mehran Khan, founder and CEO of ELFA International and key resource person for the workshop, highlighted the role of motivation, determination and perseverance in the empowerment of youth. He shared many strategies for the achievement of equality and equity in society.

He emphasized that empathy and inclusion are benchmarks of a good leader. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Neelam Choudhary, faculty DD & OE, JU.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session, where through games, and activities students learned leadership skills. More than 50 students with disabilities belonging to the different teaching departments of the University, and NSS volunteers from a unified ex-campus and affi actively partic workshop.



Memento being presented to Pardeep Dutta during inauguration of a workshop at JU on Tuesday.

During inaugural function of the workshop, titled 'Leadership Skills for an Inclusive World: Challenges and Prospects' Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now was the chief guest. He stressed that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations.

He exhorted the students to realize their inner potential and be makers of their own destiny. He further mentioned that an inclusive approach should be based not on charity but rather on compassion.

Prof Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives JU and convener of the workshop, mentioned that students with disabilities have the potential to be leaders of the world as they are more compassionate and empathetic.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU, and co-convener of the workshop, mentioned that students with disabilities have the potential to be leaders of the world as they are more compassionate and empathetic.

Leadership skills workshop inaugurated for students with disabilities, volunteers at JU

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, DEC 26

Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and ELFA International is organizing a two day workshop for students with disabilities and NSS volunteers. 'Leadership skills for an inclusive world: Challenges and Prospects'. The inaugural function of the workshop was held today, where Sh. Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now was the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion Sh. Dutta mentioned that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations. It is very important to lending helping hand to others in order to create an inclusive society. According to him it is the social conditioning that makes us view people in binaries of abnormal and normal. He exhorted the students to realize their inner potential and be makers of their own destiny. He further mentioned that inclusive approach should be based on not charity but rather on compassion.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-



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More than 50 Students with disabilities belonging to the different teaching departments of the University, and NSS volunteers from main campus and affiliated colleges actively participated in the workshop.

Team of research scholars of Department of Home Science and Sociology -Ms. Vinish Malik, Ms. Meghna Sharma, Ms. Vishawdeepika, Ms. Insha, Mr. Lokesh Kumar, Mr. Shiv Pal, and Ms Manu Saini helped in the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Leadership skills workshop inaugurated for students with disabilities at JU

Realize inner potential and be makers of their own destiny: Pardeep Dutta asks students



A faculty presenting memento to chief guest, Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now.

Speaking on the occasion, Pardeep Dutta mentioned that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations. It is very important to lending helping hand to others in order to create an inclusive society. According to him it is social conditioning that makes us view people in binaries of abnormal and normal. He exhorted the students to realize their inner potential and be makers of their own destiny. He further mentioned that an inclusive approach should be based not on charity but rather on compassion.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU and convener of the workshop presented a memento to the chief guest, Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now. He stressed that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations.

of the website address where she mentioned that students with disabilities have the potential to be leaders of the world as they are more compassionate and empathetic.

She stressed the need to harness the leadership potential of youth including those with disabilities. She further informed that the University of Jammu is committed to the cause of persons with disabilities and is constantly striving to add value to their lives and experiences.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and co-convener of the workshop discussed the objectives of the workshop. She shared that NSS is a just not a name but rather a feeling that runs in the blood of all volunteers. She also urged the volunteers to constantly be ready to be a support mechanism for those with disabilities.

JU hosts workshop on leadership skills for 'disabled', volunteers

RK News Last updated: December 27, 2023 4:54 am



A faculty presenting memento to chief guest, Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now.

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Press coverage of the day 1 of the workshop

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

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VBSY continues to empower rural communities across J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 27: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a nationwide initiative to enhance awareness about Government schemes, continued to empower rural communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

District Reasi witnessed varied activities as part of VBSY today. In this connection, a function was organized at auditorium of DC office complex, which was inaugurated by the chief guest, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament from Jammu-Poonch Constituency. The MP attended live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with the beneficiaries of Central Government schemes. He interacted with the beneficiaries and appreciated their stories of transformation and development and took feedback from the public regarding implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes. He

also inspected the stalls set up by different departments. Jugal also distributed Ayushman Card, Pension sanction letters and Kissan Credit Cards to the beneficiaries.

As a part of VBSY, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Sanjeev Verma, today visited Buttla Panchayat in Bhaderwah area of **Doda district** and conducted a public darbar to take stock of issues and concerns of inhabitants of Tribal Cluster village Butla. DDC Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh, ADDC Pran Singh, ADC Dr R K Bharti, ADC Bhaderwah Chowdhary Dil Mir, CEO BDA Bal Krishan, along with various district, tehsil, and block-level officers were present on the occasion. Display of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Van during the programme showcased the developmental activities, welfare schemes, and Government's

vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047 with the active involvement of citizens of the country. During the public darbar, community members raised a range of issues, grievances, and demands.

In **Jammu district**, the VBSY campaign today visited Panchayat Samwan of Block Samwan and Panchayat Kishanpur of Block Dansal. The local leaders, officials and residents of both the panchayats gave a warm reception to the special VBSY Van, which carried the message of PM and his vision for the country. The event started with the national anthem and continued with a video message of the PM, who urged the people to take a pledge to work for the country's progress and prosperity. Various Government departments displayed their stalls and explained the schemes and programmes for the public welfare. They also spread awareness and answered public queries.

The Yatra has made significant strides in fostering rural development across multiple Panchayats in Kathua, Nagrota Gujroo and Mahanpur Blocks of **Kathua district**. In the Kathua Block, the VBSY initiative has covered Govindsar B, Patyari East, Janglote South and Janglote West Panchayats in Block Kathua. Under the Nagrota Gujroo Block, the VBSY team has successfully engaged with the communities in Kashed, Salore, Dhanjashdar and Lakhri. Besides, Mahanpur Block has also witnessed the empowering presence of VBSY in Mahanpur Upper, Dambra West, Plail and Dambra East Panchayats. The aggressive empowerment campaign has attracted hundreds of rural citizens who, during the Yatra, patiently listen to the messages of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The nationwide VBSY campaign which is aimed at to spread awareness about different Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Government, witnessed grand welcome in the Municipal areas of Langate in Handwara sub division of **Kupwara district**. The main function was organized at Public Park Langate. President Municipal Committee Langate, Advocate Shahnawaz Abdullah, Tehsildar Langate, Executive Officer MC, besides, representatives of Traders Federation, Tehsil level officers, employees and large number of people attended the event. President MC Langate and the officers inspected the stalls established by different departments at the venue during which they interacted with the beneficiaries and the officials and got feedback from them.

The Yatra has made remarkable strides in the Udhampur region, highlighted by the impactful presence of the

Special IEC Van. has successfully areas, including Kallar, Pancha Bilaspur and Ka IEC Van effective PM's Call to Action residents to activate the nation's community response enthusiasm, em Sankalp pledge at their commitment try's growth. Re from various line actively engaged v during the event Government scher

The people **Samba** witness streaming of PI /interaction with tl of the Viksit Bl Yatra. The live w PM's address through IEC Van tions: Village Panchayat Sado Samba, Pancha Block Sumb an Vijaypur of Block public participate cally and listene vision of inclusive and empowerment munities. A grand organized in Pane village Kangwala, where vibrant stal by various departn case the achievem ities of the Gove fare schemes and l

As part of Sankalp Yatra initiatives equipped with education, and materials are trav out the district ba defined sched **Thannamandi** Tehsildar Thannar ed stalls set up departments at the stalls showcased tl the departments a visual representat ives aimed at pri nomic growth. The Number 9 of the t featured vibrant cu ances and present casing the cultural artistic talents with

In **Kishtwar** IEC Van equipped edge LED screen video systems, sl recorded message Welcoming the va tion, citizens absorbed the mes valuable awaren array of schemes them. Enriched by ening message, expressed a kee understanding the their potential im lives. Prominent also delivered divulging the imp citizen-benefiting the Central Govern



Prof. Jasbir Singh, Rector Kishtwar Campus, JU felicitating students during a function at University of Jammu on Wednesday.

Workshop on 'Leadership skills for inclusive world' culminates at JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 27: A workshop on 'Leadership skills for an inclusive world: Challenges and Prospects' organized by Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu was concluded here today.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and ELFA International.

Prof. Jasbir Singh, Rector Kishtwar Campus, University of Jammu was the chief guest at the valedictory session, while Shaheen Wahid, SSP South Jammu presided over the function.

Prof. Jasbir Singh in his address talked about the need of nourishing innate qualities of those with special needs.

He mentioned that when youth are sensitized about the needs and challenges of those with disabilities, it will bring about sustainable change in the society and hoped that in future more such programs for more volunteers will be conducted in all colleges and educational institutions of J&K.

Sedow, Harmen PHCs in Shopian get NC under NQAS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Dec 27: The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt of India has accorded the

Shaheen Wahid in her interaction pointed out that it's the mothers who are exemplary leaders and managers.

She recommended the students to develop some hobbies like book reading, painting and other creative forms as a means of self expression and engagement and also motivated the youth to fight against the menace of drug abuse and help those around them involved in this social evil.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU expressed satisfaction about the skills the participants learned in the workshop, as these will help them to become excellent leaders and communicators.

Mehran Khan, Founder and CEO of ELFA International and key resource person for the workshop.

Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Faculty DD & OE, JU ably conducted the proceedings of the valedictory session.

More than 50 differently abled students and NSS volunteers learned leadership skills through interactive sessions during the workshop.

Brahman Sabha constituted committee for term 2024

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 27: For the advancement and welfare of Brahman community, the Jammu Kashmir Brahman Sabha Trust constitutes its new committee. The new committee has been

Deepak Khajuri Advisor, Kiran Pandit Vinod SI Advisors of new cc mitted.

The new core committee to stren; unity and extend

Press coverage of the day 2 of the workshop

**ACTIVITY 4: TWO-DAY WORKSHOP 'PEER SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES'
ORGANIZED AT JU**

Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU organized two-day workshop for student volunteers, 'Peer support for students with disabilities' on 1st and 2nd December 2024. The inaugural function of the workshop was held on 1st December 2023, where Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU was the chief guest and Ms. Sandhya Dhar, Disability Rights Activist was the Guest of Honor. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Rahul Gupta mentioned that the University is making earnest efforts to make the campus disabled friendly. He exhorted upon the student participants to develop empathy for those with disabilities, and volunteer to become scribes, amanuensis and readers for these students. He mentioned that the peer is an extremely important group for helping students with disabilities in their academic pursuits. He further mentioned that SWOT analysis should be conducted to understand the challenges of this group of students.

Ms. Sandhya Dhar shared the lived experience of being a person with disability. She narrated the challenges encountered in her life journey as a child, youth, student and an adult. She emphasized on the need of creating sensitive and accessible environment in all possible public spaces.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU and Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator NSS, JU also spoke on the occasion.

The resource persons for the technical sessions, were Ms. Sukanya Bhan (Sign Language Interpreter) who focused on 'Disability etiquettes', Ms. Swati Basotra (Motivational speaker and life coach) who dwelt on 'Developing empathy towards those with disability', Mr. Mehran Khan (CEO and Founder ELFA International) who conducted a hands-on session on 'Role of volunteers in improving inclusion and accessibility', Prof. Sarika Manhas who delivered a lecture on 'Understanding disability to ensure inclusion', and Dr. Hema Gandotra who focused on 'Disability awareness and NSS.

Prominent among others who attended the workshop were Prof. Namrata Sharma (Convener JU CASH and LMS), Dr. Neelam Choudhary (DD & OE), Dr. Monika Bhardwaj (The Law School), Dr. Nisha Kapoor (School of Biotechnology), Dr. Ritu Mahajan (School of Biotechnology), Prof. Ramni Gupta (Deptt. of Physics), Dr. N. Suresh Rao (Deptt. of Computer Science), and Mr. Ajay (Assistant Registrar).

NEWS DETAILS

Jammu University concludes workshop for students

12/2/2023 10:15:29 PM



Early Times Report
 JAMMU, Dec 2: A two-day workshop titled 'Peer Support for Students with Disabilities,' organized by the Disability Initiatives unit of Jammu University in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU, successfully concluded today. The valedictory function was graced by Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, and Convener, Community Radio, University of Jammu, who commended the organizers for their efforts in conducting a workshop of significant relevance.

During her address, Prof. Chadha emphasized the crucial role peers play in creating an inclusive environment within educational institutions. She stressed the importance of all societal stakeholders contributing to the well-being of persons with disabilities. Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, JU, expressed satisfaction in organizing a workshop that raised awareness among student volunteers about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. She underscored the need for continued commitment from volunteers to support their fellow students with disabilities.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU, spoke about the role of NSS volunteers in creating

disability awareness. She urged the volunteers to become peer supports for persons with disabilities in their respective institutions, aligning with the NSS motto of voluntary service towards creating an inclusive society.

Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Faculty DD and OE, JU, presented a detailed report on the two-day workshop, while Dr. Monika Bhardwaj, Faculty, The Law School, JU, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

Vinish Malik, Research Scholar, Department of Home Science, efficiently conducted the valedictory event's proceedings.

Earlier on the second day of the workshop, four technical sessions covered topics such as the role of volunteers in improving inclusion and accessibility, understanding disability for ensuring inclusion, and disability awareness for NSS volunteers. Certificates were distributed to all participants during the valedictory function.

Key resource persons for the workshop included Mehran Khan, CEO, and Founder of ELFA International; Sandhya Dhar, Nari Shakti Awardee; Swati Basotra, Motivational Speaker; Sukanaya Bha, Sign Language Interpreter; Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives; and Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator.

Press Coverage of workshop

The screenshot shows a news article on the 'TAKE ONE' website. The article title is 'Two day workshop 'Peer support for students with disabilities' inaugurated at Jammu University'. The date is 1 DECEMBER 2023. The article text begins with: 'Jammu, Dec 1: Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU is organizing a two day workshop for student volunteers, 'Peer support for students with disabilities'. The inaugural function of the workshop was held today, where Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU was the chief guest and Sandhya Dhar, Disability Rights Activist was the Guest of Honor. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Rahul Gupta mentioned that the University is making earnest efforts to make the campus disabled friendly. He exhorted upon the student participants to develop empathy for those with disabilities, and volunteer to become scribes, amanuensis and readers for these students. He mentioned that the peer is an extremely important group for helping students with disabilities in their academic pursuits. He further mentioned that SWOT analysis should be conducted to understand the challenges of this group of students.'



Glimpses from the workshop

More than 70 NSS volunteers from different affiliated Govt and B.ed colleges of Nowshera, Rajouri, Billawar, Bishnah, Sidhra, Marh, Mendhar, Akhnoor, Ghagwal and other parts of Jammu division participated in this workshop.

Team of research scholars of Department of Home Science and Sociology -Ms. Vinish Malik, Ms. Meghna Sharma, Ms. Vishawdeepika, Ms. Vineet Kour, Ms. Kehkashan, Ms. Neha Uttam and Ms Manu Saini helped in the smooth conduct of the workshop.

ACTIVITY 5: ONE DAY NATIONAL LEVEL CULTURAL AND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL FOR DEAF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A day long cultural event and short film festival for the deaf and aphasic was organized by Disability Initiatives Unit and Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu in collaboration with NGO partner The Association of Deaf and Aphasic (ADAJ), Jammu on 29th April 2023. More than 150 children and youth having hearing impairment from different parts of India including Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal participated in the cultural fiesta held at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University. Folk dance, magic show, quiz session, fashion show, short drama and short documentary screening were held under this festival. Hearing impaired students of the University of Jammu also participated in this event. Sh. Arun Manhas (JKAS), Managing Director, J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation was the chief guest for the festival. Sh. Pardeep Dutta, Senior Journalist and J&K Bureau Head, Times Now was the guest of honor. Sh. Deepak Gupta (President Traders Federation, Ware House Jammu and executive member Red Cross, Jammu province), Prof. Jasbir Singh (Head, Department of Philosophy, Jammu University) and Dr. Anil Gupta (Associate Dean, Students welfare, Jammu University) were the special guests for the event.

The cultural event was conceptualized and executed under the guidance of Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, JU and Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, JU. Sh. Kamal Nain Bhan and Smt. Madhu Bhan, founder members of ADAJ, Sh. Devendra Singh Rana, Chairman IDFP, New Delhi, Ms. Sukanya Bhan, Project Coordinator and sign language interpreter, Sh. Ranjeet Kalra, Member J&K Sports Council, and Sh, Ankush Kesar, IMFA, JU graced the occasion with their presence.

India Deaf Film Production; Office of the CEO, Shri Mata Vashino Devi Shrine board; Department of Tourism, J&K UT Government; and Red Cross Jammu district provided sponsorship for the event.

Short Film Festival for deaf & dumb organised

By Daily Excelsior - 01/05/2023



Dignitaries at deaf and dumb film festival in Jammu on Sunday.

150 deaf children participate

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 30: A day-long cultural event and short film festival for the deaf was organized by The Association of Deaf and Aphasic today in collaboration with the Disability Initiatives Unit and Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu supported by Red Cross Jammu.

More than 150 deaf children and youth from different parts of India including Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal participated in this cultural fiesta held at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University.

Folk dance, magic show, quiz session, fashion show, short drama and short documentary screening were held under this festival.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu and the event was hosted and interpreted by Sukanya Bhan daughter of the founders of the Association of deaf and

aphasic Jammu. Kamal Nain Bhan (general secretary) and Madhu Bhan (President)

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Deaf & dumb participate in cultural event, film festival

4/30/2023 11:22:08 PM

Early Times Report

Jammu, Apr 30: A day-long cultural event and short film festival for the deaf was organized by The Association of Deaf and Aphasic on April 29th, 2023 in collaboration with the Disability Initiatives Unit and Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu supported by Red Cross Jammu.

More than 150 deaf children and youth from different parts of India including Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal participated in this cultural fiesta held at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University.

Folk dance, magic show, quiz session, fashion show, short drama and short documentary screening were held under this festival.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu and the event was hosted and interpreted by Sukanya Bhan daughter of the founders of the Association of deaf and aphasic Jammu. Kamal Nain Bhan (general secretary) and Madhu Bhan (President)

The Bhan couple (deaf themselves) founded this association in 2019 and got it registered under the societies act. In a span of three years, they have hosted over 10 events and highlight events have been in collaboration with UNESCO, Red Cross Jammu District, Social Welfare Department, etc.

The vision behind opening this association has been to empower the deaf community and create an inclusive society for persons with disabilities. Around 60-70 people are a part of this association.

Arun Manhas (JKAS), Managing Director, J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation was the chief guest for the festival. Speaking on the occasion he remarked that empathy towards the divyang community is much needed, if we have to truly embrace them.

Press Coverage of the Cultural Event



Glimpses of Cultural event for Deaf