

# NHPC earns great place to work certification for 2nd year in a row

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 13

NHPC Limited, a Navratna enterprise of the Government of India has been Certified™ by Great Place To Work for the second consecutive year for the period January 2026 to January 2027, achieving an improved Trust Index Score over the previous year. Great Place To Work is a global organization focused on workplace culture, employee experience and leadership behaviours that help drive market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation. The Certification is based on a rigorous assessment model that captures comprehensive employee feedback and evaluates organizational practices across five pillars- Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride and Camaraderie.

On this proud occasion, Shri Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC, congratulated all employees for



earning the Great Place To Work® Certification for the second year in a row. He emphasized the importance of analysing insights received from the certification process and called for continued, concerted efforts to further strengthen NHPC's work culture.

The Great Place To Work Certification reaffirms NHPC's steadfast commitment to nurturing a culture built on trust, respect, dignity, inclusivity, recogni-

tion and appreciation. With a journey spanning over five decades since its inception, NHPC has fostered an overwhelmingly positive employee experience despite challenges arising from geographical diversity, languages, cultures, local traditions and social backgrounds. Employees across the organization remain united in their commitment to achieving corporate goals and serving the Nation with pride and

honour. 88% of NHPC employees across levels participated in the survey, underscoring their strong engagement and trust in the organization's processes and leadership.

This prestigious certification repositions NHPC among renowned organizations that excel in workplace culture, placing the highest priority on employee engagement, well-being and overall experience.

# Kathua JU Campus organizes Outreach Programme at its adopted village Kathera

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Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized its 6th Extension Outreach Programme on the theme "Promoting Mental Health among School Children" at its adopted village Kathera. The programme aimed at creating awareness about emotional well-being, stress management, and the importance of a positive mindset among school children. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 300 students, residents, and faculty members, reflecting the strong bond between the campus and the local community.



mental sustainability and ecological restoration, particularly in the wake of the recent floods.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU), who was the Chief Guest of the programme reiterated that Kathua Campus remains committed to the upliftment and prosperity of its adopted village, Kathera. He emphasized the importance of such programmes for the overall development of school children and the community. He also appreciated the residents, school staff, and students of Kathera who had earlier visited the University of Jammu during the NAAC Peer Team visit, showcasing the campus's extension initiatives and the strong community partnership.

Earlier, Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Convener, Extension Outreach Programme, Kathua Campus (JU) welcomed the guests and apprised the participants re-

garding the relevance of such awareness programmes in empowering students and society.

Dr. Gourav Samotra, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Kathua addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of mental well-being among school children especially in today's fast-changing and stressful environment. He discussed common emotional challenges faced by students and shared practical strategies for stress management and maintaining a healthy mindset.

Ms. Megha Sharma, Department of Psychology, GDC Kathua also interacted with the students and spoke about the significance of understanding emotions, building self-confidence, and seeking help when needed. She encouraged students to maintain a positive outlook and adopt healthy coping mechanisms.

Adding to the awareness

efforts, students of Kathua Campus under the guidance of Er. Ritika Gupta presented a play focusing on mental health, emotional balance, and concentration, which was widely appreciated and enjoyed by the audience.

Sh. Chaman Lal, Principal, GHSS Kathera expressed gratitude to Kathua Campus for regularly visiting the school and organizing awareness programmes that have greatly benefited both the students and the residents of village Kathera.

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Reemani Verma. Dr. Rajni Sarangal, Dr. Pranav Ratta, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Dr. Nomita Sharma, Dr. Meenakshi Thakur, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Ms. Princee Verma, Er. Sandeep Raj, and Er. Sourav Gupta from Kathua Campus along with the faculty of GHSS Kathera were present.

# Hi-tech agriculture only way forward for prosperous farmers in J&K: Bharat Priye

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JKPCC Kissan Department J&KUT President Bharat Priye today issued a strong and comprehensive call for transforming the agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir through large-scale adoption of modern, hi-tech farming practices. He asserted that unless urgent and concrete measures are taken to modernize agriculture, farmers will continue to struggle with low productivity, climate uncertainties, and unstable incomes. Addressing press conference in Kathua today, Bharat Priye stated that agriculture remains the backbone of J&KUT's rural economy, employing a significant portion of the population directly or indi-

rectly. "If we truly want economic stability, employment generation, and sustainable development in J&KUT, we must begin with strengthening our farmers," he said.

Bharat Priye stressed that traditional farming methods alone cannot meet present-day challenges. He urged farmers to gradually adopt precision farming, polyhouse cultivation, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, soil health card-based nutrient management, farm mechanization, and high-density plantation in horticulture. He emphasized that scientific soil testing must become mandatory practice so that farmers can reduce excessive fertilizer usage and improve productivity. He also highlighted the importance

of climate-resilient seed varieties to combat erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, and unseasonal snowfall, which have increasingly affected crop cycles in recent years. Further, he encouraged farmers to use mobile-based agricultural advisory services, weather forecasting apps, and digital marketplaces to directly connect with buyers and reduce dependence on middlemen.

Bharat Priye noted that J&KUT holds tremendous potential in apple cultivation, saffron, basmati rice, rajma, walnut production, floriculture, organic vegetables, dairy, sheep rearing, and beekeeping. However, due to inadequate infrastructure and weak marketing systems, farmers often fail to get remunerative prices. He stressed the urgent need for the establishment of cold storage chains in rural belts to prevent post-harvest losses and ensure better price realization for farmers. He also called for the creation of food processing and packaging units at the district level so that agricultural produce can be properly processed, graded, and marketed in a competitive manner.

He emphasized the importance of strengthening mandi infrastructure to facilitate transparent trading and efficient market access for farmers. Furthermore, he urged the authorities to ensure direct procurement of produce and effective implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) wherever applicable.

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# BJP holds Mahila Samvad at Kunjwani

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Bharatiya Janata Party Mahila Morcha District Jammu South organized a Mahila Samvad programme on the Union Budget in Kunjwani Mandal.

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Billawaria was the Chief Guest at the programme, while J&K BJP Mahila Morcha President Adv. Neha Mahajan was the Key Speaker. The programme was also addressed by District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia and J&K BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretary Urvasi Gupta.



The event was organized by District President Mahila Morcha Meetu Sharma and conducted by Mandal President Nisha Rana. BJP District General Secretary Rakesh Sangral, Mandal President Ajay Pratap Singh, other Mandal Presidents, party team members, and local residents were present, with enthusiastic participation from women.

Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Billawaria said that Mahila Samvad programmes play a crucial role in directly connecting women with government policies, welfare schemes, and development initiatives. He stated that such interactive platforms help in spreading awareness about the Union Budget

and ensure that its benefits reach every household. He emphasized that women are not merely beneficiaries of schemes but active partners in nation-building and economic growth.

Billawaria said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment has become a central pillar of governance. He added that from financial inclusion through Jan Dhan accounts to entrepreneurship opportunities through Self Help Groups and Mudra Yojana, women are being encouraged to become self-reliant and economically independent.

He appreciated the Mahila Morcha for successfully organizing the programme and said that increased participation of women in social, economic, and political spheres is es-

sential for building a strong, developed, and self-reliant India.

Addressing the gathering, Adv. Neha Mahajan said that the Union Budget clearly reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to women empowerment. She stated that under his leadership, women empowerment has become a national mission. She highlighted initiatives such as the establishment of girls' hostels in every district, Lakhpati Didi, Udyami Didi, and Drone Didi, the promotion of women-led MSMEs, and the strengthening of Self Help Groups through SHG Sampark and She-Marts, enabling women to connect their products with national and global markets.

She further emphasized provisions for free treat-

ment of breast and cervical cancer, a separate allocation for Poshan Abhiyan, and said that Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has ensured nutrition, education, and dignity for the girl child. She described the 33 percent reservation for women from Panchayats to the Lok Sabha as a historic decision. She added that after the abrogation of Article 370, women in Jammu and Kashmir are receiving equal rights and unprecedented benefits. She stated that India is progressing towards becoming a Viksit Bharat and the world's fourth-largest economy, and the blessings and participation of women are the greatest strength of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Naresh Singh Jasrotia said that women are the strongest pillar of society and the nation. He stated that the Modi Government has ensured dignity, security, and economic empowerment of women through strong laws against triple talaq and domestic violence, along with welfare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Matru Vandana Yojana.

Urvasi Gupta said that the Union Budget has opened new avenues for women, especially rural women, farmers, youth, and women entrepreneurs, helping them become self-reliant and economically strong.

# Modi govt deeply committed to farmers' welfare: Billawaria

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Baldev Singh Billawaria, General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor, has strongly advocated for lifting restrictions on the inter-state sale of Khair wood, stating that removing such curbs would significantly benefit farmers and strengthen the rural economy of the region.

During a meeting with senior leaders from Pahari Zila, including Omakant Basotra, former President of the Municipal Committee Billawar, and Bikram Singh, DDC Billawar, several pressing public issues were brought to his notice.

Among these, the burning issue of restrictions on the sale of Khair wood outside the Union Territory was highlighted as a matter of serious concern affecting a large section of the farming community.

They informed Billawaria that farmers cultivating Khair trees are facing financial distress due to limitations on selling their produce beyond the UT. They expressed strong re-



sentment over the existing policy, stating that it restricts access to wider markets and deprives growers of competitive and fair prices. According to them, granting farmers the liberty to sell Khair wood across state boundaries would substantially enhance their income and provide much-needed economic stability to hundreds of affected families.

Responding to the concerns, Billawaria assured the leaders that every genuine issue related to the welfare and socio-economic empowerment of the farming community deserves immediate attention and prompt resolution. He emphasized that policies should enable farmers to maximize the value of their produce rather than restrict their economic opportunities.

He further said that the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is deeply committed to farmers' welfare and is consistently working to ensure that agricultural produce receives adequate market access and remunerative prices. Billawaria underlined that empowering farmers through progressive market reforms and removing unnecessary trade barriers is essential

for achieving sustainable rural development.

Highlighting the significance of Khair cultivation in the region, he noted that many rural households depend on it as a vital source of livelihood. Lifting restrictions on inter-state trade, he said, would not only benefit individual farmers but also contribute to overall economic growth and prosperity in the area.

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# 5-Day hands on Workshop concluded at GCW Gandhi Nagar

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The Department of Home Science, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, a constituent college of Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), successfully organized a five-day hands-on workshop titled "Surface Decoration Techniques" from 9th February 2026 to 13th February 2026 in the Department of Home Science.

The event was held under the patronage of Prof. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college, whose encouragement and leadership facilitated the smooth organization of the programme. Around 80 students participated enthusiastically in the workshop. The workshop aimed to provide practical exposure and



skill-based learning to students in various traditional and contemporary fabric surface decoration methods.

Throughout the five days, participants received training in creative Aari hand embroidery technique, block printing, stencil printing, foil fabric printing and decorative craft techniques. The sessions fostered innovation, aesthetic sensibility, and entrepreneurial thinking among students while also promoting the preservation of traditional art forms.

The practical sessions and demonstrations were conducted by Mrs. Ritu Gupta, associated with the Dogri Well Wisher Foundation, Rehari, who served as the resource person for the workshop. Her expertise, guidance, and interactive teaching approach enabled students to gain hands-on experience and deeper understanding of surface decoration techniques and their practical applications. Students enthusiastically participated in demonstrations and activities conducted during

the programme, creating an engaging learning environment that enhanced their technical competence, creativity, and confidence in surface design applications related to apparel, home décor, and handicraft sectors.

The workshop was efficiently coordinated by the organizing committee comprising Dr. Shivani Sawhney (Head of the Department), Dr. Archana Bhat, Dr. Iesha Sharma, Dr. Arpana Rajput, Dr. Parvati Rekhi, and Dr. Sabhat Husain.

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