

JU organises Iconic Week celebrations to acknowledge contributions of regional personalities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acknowledging the contributions of regional literary personalities and making youth aware about it, the University of Jammu and Higher Education Department, JKUT organized Seminar and Panel Discussion under ongoing Iconic Week Festival at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

In this connection, a Seminar on 'Different genres of Dogri Literature; Play, Poetry and Short Story' and Panel Discussion on 'The contributions of Padma Shri Prof. Ram Nath Shastri towards Dogra culture and heritage' were organised.

Prof. Manoj K. Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, the Chief Guest on the occasion said that it is a matter of pride that the University of Jammu has a full-fledged Department of Dogri and all possible efforts



VC JU Prof Manoj Dhar and others during a programme.

would be put in to make it an iconic Department.

He also announced that the university will dedicate week-long celebrations of Dogri every year as Iconic Week Celebrations.

Speaking about Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, he emphasized on following the path and principles shown by Prof. Shastri in promotion of the Dogri, whose life itself is an inspiration for the younger generation

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia

expressed his satisfaction over the successful organization of this event of high literary and social relevance.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Prakash Antahal informed that whenever there is some possibility to organize events which can inculcate values amongst the youth, the Department of Students Welfare is always keen to come forward.

Different aspects of Dogra culture and its literature were discussed in the session. Its

past present and future relevance was also elaborated by the learned speakers who are hopeful that it will preserve its sheen in the preservation and promotion of the values and ethos of Jammu as literature not only reflects the society but also guides it towards human values through different genres.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, Prof. Veena Gupta, Prof. Shiv Dev Singh Manhas, Ajit Khajuria, Pritam Katoch, Vijaya Thakur and

Rajeshwar Singh Raju were the Resource Persons of day-long sessions.

The event was conducted under the stewardship of Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar; Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Vishav Raksha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee and Prof. Sanjana Kaul, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee.

Prof. Vishav Raksha presented the vote of thanks and the sessions were conducted by Dr. Garima Gupta and Dr. Sandeep Dubey and were attended by members of Campus Cultural Committee, staff, students and scholars of the University of Jammu.

The event was managed by Dr. Pritam Singh, Assistant Dean SW, Mansi Mantoo, Ifra Kak and Sumeet Sharma. The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul.

SMVDU organises Dogri Workshop



Students, faculty members and others during a workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a one day conference under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrut. The conference was titled as 'Contribution of Dogri Writers to Dogri literature'.

Narsingh Dev Jamwal, noted Dogri Poet and writer and Padmashree awardee was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Narsingh hailed the contribution of Dogri writers like Dinu Bhai Pant and Ramnath Shastri in Dogri literature.

He emphasized the need for promoting Dogri language and literature among young generation through institutions of Higher education.

He eulogized the role of those unknown speakers and writers who kept the Dogri language alive from the times of Prakrit and Sanskrit.

He also donated his Dogri poems translated into English by a Canadian translator to the SMVDU library.

Mohan Singh, Sahitya Academy winner in Dogri and President Duggar Manch, recalled the contribution of the Dogri Poets from medieval times to the contemporary period.

"Poets like Gambhir Rai

Dattu, Ram Dhan, Ganga Ram's contributions cannot be forgotten in the development of Dogri" he said.

He highlighted the wealth of writings on class struggle and social issues like exploitation and untouchability.

He extolled the selfless contribution of Late Padma Sachdev and Ved Rahi in nurturing, promoting and introducing Dogri beyond the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof Lalit Magotra mapped the growth of the Dogri literature from 1940 onwards and contribution of Dogri Sanstha towards Dogri literature. Dinubhai pant, Vedpal Deep, KS Madhukar, Narinder Khajuria, Nilamber Dev Sharma played an important role in the Dogri literature.

Prof Lalit Gupta a noted Art Historian and heritage expert traced the decline of Dogri to the introduction of Persian and Urdu in the official work of the government in the pre Dogra rule. "Regional languages like Dogri have been on the backfoot." He emphasized the need for opening the Dogri Deptt in the SMVDU followed by study of ethnography, folk-

lore, culture and performing arts.

Surinder Sagar noted Journalist of Dogri recalled the History of Dogri Journalism from the times of Maharaja Ranbir Singh to the present times. He informed the audience about the first Dogri magazine Martand during Dogra rule. He remembered his journey from editor of Jammu Prabhat a Dogri daily to Social media platforms like YouTube. R K Sinha Padamshree Vice Chancellor SMVDU stressed the need for communicating in our mother tongue. "Unless and until we don't respect our languages we won't be able to respect our culture, civilisation and nation" he said.

He stressed the need to promote Dogri at primary and secondary level followed by creation of Deptt of Dogri in Universities. Dogri needs to be made employment oriented like teaching, Journalism, Archives, Archeology, linguistics and translations. He suggested the need for the Academy of Dogri. The Workshop was attended by Registrar, Dean's, HoDs, faculty members, scholars and students of SMVDU.

BOI to adopt 10 girl children under 'Star Angel' initiative in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The newly opened Leh branch of state-run Bank of India (BOI) is going to adopt 10 girl children under the star angel initiative in Ladakh, its top official said on Sunday.

BOI Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer A K Das said apart from connecting more and more people from far-flung areas to mainstream banking, the bank is also playing an important role to improve socio-economic well-being of the society, particularly of the less fortunate and underprivileged members through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

"We are adopting 10 girl children under the Star Angel initiative. It is part of the CSR to make a meaning-

ful and measurable impact on the lives of economically, physically and socially challenged communities of the country, he said at a function here. Keeping intact its ethos under tagline 'Relationships beyond Banking' and commitment towards sustainable development under its CSR activities, the bank presented a paper cutting machine to People's Action Group for Inclusion and Right, a Non-governmental organization which is assisting differently abled persons by empowering them with different skills to earn their livelihood and live respectable lives.

Under the star angel scheme on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', every bank branch takes care of fee expenses of girl child from class one to 10.

Amit Shah pays obeisance at Digiana Gurdwara in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday paid obeisance at the Digiana Gurdwara here and prayed for peace and prosperity.

Flanked by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Shah visited the gurdwara in the afternoon after addressing a public rally, officials said.

Shah said that nobody can stop the era of development that has started in the Union Territory.

"It's the land of temples of Mata Vaishno Devi, of Prem Nath Dogra, the land of sacrifice of Syama Prasad Mukherjee. We won't let disruption the peace in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.



Union Home Minister, Amit Shah during visit to Gurdwara at Digiana, Jammu.

On the first day of his visit on Saturday, Shah met families of soldiers and civilians martyred in a spate of terrorist attacks in the Valley throughout the month. He also addressed youth conclave.

Shah also held a security

review meeting in Srinagar.

This was followed by an interactive session with members of youth clubs, where he said that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored after delimitation of constituencies and the assembly elections.

Indigenous knowledge boon for drug discovery: Director BSI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Botany, University of Jammu organised virtual inauguration of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter of Society of Ethnobotanists (SEB), Lucknow.

SEB is one of the premier science societies established by Dr. S.K Jain -Father of Indian Ethnobotany in 1980.

Event was inaugurated by Prof. Manoj K Dhar, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu and Chief Patron of the Local Chapter with his opening remarks.

Prof. Dhar said that the opening of the local chapter by SEB in Department of Botany, University of Jammu is an encouraging step and will intensify ethnobotanical research and activities in the region.

Talking about the importance of ethnobotanical research, he said that like biotechnology, molecular biology, there is an equal need to nurture the traditional

subjects like ethnobotany and plant taxonomy. Chief Guest of the function, Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), who is the President of SEB in his inaugural lecture stressed upon the requirement of Ethnobotanical Research in the country. He said that many drug discoveries are the result of ethnobotanical leads obtained by the botanists and ethnobotanists in the country. According to him one has to think that what is the outcome of his research, publishing one or another research paper should not be the goal of a researcher. Ethnobotany has a lot of scope which is evident from the fact that now-a-days indigenous tribal food has become now the superfood in big markets across the globe. Vice President of SEB, Dr. A. K. Goel while introducing the history and the objectives of the society said that the society was started in 1980 with a very minimal number of members at National Botanical

Research Institute, Lucknow and now the society has more than 250 members in different states and UTs of the country.

During the event, Dr. S. K. Srivastava, editor, Ethnobotany, who is former Joint Director and Head of Northern Regional Circle of BSI elaborated on the scope of ethnobotany in Ladakh as he has a wide experience on the flora of Ladakh and extensively worked on the ethnobotany of Ladakh. Earlier, Prof. Veenu Kaul, Head of the Department of Botany, University of Jammu and patron of the chapter; welcomed all the dignitaries and participants of the event whereas Prof. Namrata Sharma introduced Dr. Mao to the audience.

Dr Harish Chander Dutt, co-ordinator of the chapter apprised the participants with the objectives and scope of the chapter in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and in concluding remarks Dr. Rancee Om Prakash, curator of Natural

History Museum, London and vice-president of SEB put emphasis on the fact that researchers should not forget the contribution of the local source and should acknowledge their contribution. Dr. Rancee, also spoke on the various research opportunities in the British Council for the researchers especially women scientists.

Programme was coordinated by Dr. Skarma Nonzom, wherein more than 70 researchers including Dr. Manjousha Srivastava (Secretary, SEB), Prof. B.K. Bajaj, Prof. Sanjana Kaul, Dr. Sikander Pal, Ishay Namgial (Ladakh), Dr. Anzar Khuroo (KU), Dr. Vartika (Rajasthan), Dr. Varinder Nath (CSIR-IHBT), Dr. Seemavati (M.P.), Dr. Mahroof Khan, O.P Sharma Vidyarthi, Prof. Bikhram Pal, Dr. Sandeep Kotwal, Prof. Sania Hamid, from all over the country and research scholars of the department attended the inauguration through virtual mode.

JCCI delegation meets Home Minister; seeks steps to restore derailed economy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) on Sunday submitted a memorandum to the visiting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, highlighting various issues including the need for immediate steps to bring on track the derailed economy and early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The memorandum was submitted by a two-member delegation of the JCCI president Arun Gupta and General Secretary Gaurav Gupta who called on the home minister who reached Jammu on the second leg of his three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The delegation raised burning issues being confronted by the people of the region and also submitted a memorandum the Home Minister was asked to take necessary steps to bring back on track the derailed economy of J&K so that people can heave a sigh of relief," JCCI said in a statement here.

It said the home minister was also urged to pace up the process of development, generate jobs for the educated unemployed and also take robust

measures to bring in peace in real sense as businessmen across J&K are suffering due to continuing unrest in the valley.

"The measures which the CCI Jammu suggested to rejuvenate trade, tourism, industry and others sectors include effective tackling of terrorism, restoration of statehood as soon as possible, establishment of new public sector undertakings to boost industry, redefine land types and special incentives for hotel and other industries, the release said. It said the JCCI also highlighted the demand for three-year pollution clearance to industries, boosting the transport sector by removing passenger tax, amnesty on Token Tax and Passenger Tax from the period of March 25, 2020 to March 31, 2022.

The JCCI also demanded rehabilitation of the population which is getting affected due to the smart city project, extension of benefits announced under the new industrial policy to existing unit holders and review of the policies which are denting local business like the case of old wine shop owners who lost their business due to new excise policy.

Why cannot 20,000 Lt per month free drinking water be a Deepawali gift to residents of J&K UT?

Delhi gives 20,000 Lt/ month water free to Domestic Consumer, why can't UT of J&K also give? Present tariff not justified unless water in adequate quantity of quality is supplied at adequate pressure

In the earlier years the drinking water was supplied to the people in J&K State through the Water Works wing of Public Works Department which was later named as Public Health Engineering Department and has been in April 2020 renamed as J&K Jal Shakti (PHE) Department. The only function that the J&K Public Health Engineering Department has been performing and is performing on date is supply of 'clean potable' drinking water. The PHE department has to meet two basic requirements First : Supply of adequate and timely water in the taps, Second : Supply of pure and clean drinking water. The PHE Department and the J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority must introspect how far the aforesaid duties/ obligations are being performed/ fulfilled (?).

The modern urban standard norms provide for supply of water to the urban household @ 135 to 165 Lt per capita / per day, the water supply to the domestic connections in Jammu city may be physically much lesser. To quote Delhi Jal Board supplies water to consumers @20000 Ltr per month free of cost as per the 01-02-2018 notification (i.e 666 Lt per day per connection free which comes to @133 Lt/ head/ per day for a family of 5 souls).

As regards the palatability / fitness of 'potable drinking water' supplied in J&K

is concerned we can hardly find a family which can afford to buy a water purifier but has not installed a water purifier to purify the water supplied by PHE Department / Jal Shakti Department of J&K for which the additional indirect annual costs adding to the water bill of a Consumer in the shape of annual depreciation and service /maintenance costs of the water purifier would be ranging atleast from Rs. 4000 to Rs.6000 per year to make the PHE Supply fit for human consumption in addition to Rs.3000 to be paid to "PHE".

Not only that in general the norms for urban water supply to cities like Jammu do provide for min water supply head / pressure that should be available at the consumer point (at least 10 mt / 32 ft and may be in the hydraulic design of water supply system/ network the J&K PHE is also keeping in files such like provision for supply under gravity / deciding height of overhead tanks etc). But it is a common complaint that the pressure head available at consumer point is much less. 'Some' may reason low pressure / less quantity pleading that it is so since some people use domestic motors on the lines which effects supply/ pressure to other connections but the counter question on the department is

that in case people receive water supply with residual head of 30 ft or so nobody will use motor for carrying water even to tanks on 1st floor if not 2nd floor and in addition consumer will also save cost on electricity used. This way consumers are suffering on two accounts, first receive less water and second have to incur extra / additional cost on self pumping even upto 1st floor. Should not J&K WRRRA look into such like shortfalls / extra costs on consumer before setting tariff?

Governments every next day make public declarations and spend lakhs of rupees from the state exchequer through media advertisements patting "self" for having brought revolutionary changes in the status of water supply whereas what to talk of rural areas, where as position in even main cities like that of Srinagar and Jammu too is not fair.

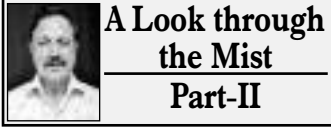
The undependable position as regards the adequate and timely supply of tap water is not unknown even for the cities or Jammu and Srinagar what to talk of towns/ villages. Supply in even 'crown' cities often eludes the consumers atleast one to two times a week and even the duration is not assured. Ofcourse the field officers at Sub Division level will have to be pro-

vided field staff of adequate numbers and status for maintaining a dependable system since presently they are very inadequately staffed and have to mostly depend upon the casual/ daily wage staff who too at their level are economically & socially always hard pressed. No doubt water meters must be kept operational in cities to know how much water is reaching and is being consumed.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is out for administrative reforms as well as for extending relief to public and he should also consider supplying at least 20000 Lts water free of charges to domestic consumers like Delhi Government . Can it be a Deepawali gift to residents of UT of J&K? Otherwise also atleast household water (must need for survival) should be supplied free of cost in a socialistic order.

In case UT of J&K cannot do as UT of Delhi (Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi) is doing even then surely there is fair case for reducing water charges till J&K Jakshakti (PHE) Department is able to supply water regularly in adequate quantity at adequate pressure and of adequate quality (of course that will not need further purification by the consumer for human consumption).

(Daya Sagar Sr Journalist/ Analyst Jammu & Kashmir Affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government P G College for Women, Gandhi Nagar on Sunday conducted an iconic literary festival here under the aegis of Higher Education Department, UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event focused on the topic 'Growth and Development of Dogri Literature' for the growth and preservation of Dogri as the mother language.

The event commenced with floral tributes and recitation of 'Karak' of Mata followed by a profile reading of revered panelists to the gathering. Prof. (Dr.) Sangita Nagari, College Principal welcomed the esteemed panelists with a welcome address.

The team of esteemed panelists included distinguished Dogri writers Inderjeet Kesar, O.P. Vidyarthi, Sunita Bhadwal, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Vijaya Thakur and Thakur Khajur Singh.

The students of the college presented melodious Dogri folk songs to amuse the gathering. The cynosure of the event was a panel discussion which continued for an hour. The illustrious panelists discussed at length the growth of Dogri as a language over the

Committee.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Revika Arora, Dr. Sheetal Sharma and members of the literary committee. The event concluded with a Dogri song 'Meri Maa Dogri' and a hearty vote of thanks by Dr. Sapna Naranaria Head, Department of Dogri.

This iconic literary festival was a very own endeavor of the Department of Higher Education of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the ethnic language of the Dogras and proved as a major success.

WORKS DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

E-NIT No. 532 dated : 21-10-2021

For and on behalf of the University of Jammu, the Executive Engineer, University Works Department invites the tender by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from the approved & eligible contractors/agencies/firms registered with the J&K UT PWD/CPWD/MES and Railways for the following work:-

S.No.	Name of the Work	Estid. Cost
1.	Construction of RCC Platform opposite Fountain for placing War Tank in Jammu University Campus, Jammu	5.70 lac

Note : 1. Detailed e-NIT & BOQ is available on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and the same can be downloaded/ submitted online from 1600 hours on 27.10.2021 to 03.11.2021 (1400 hours).

2. The bidders are requested to go through the e-NIT thoroughly prior to submission of the bid.

No. UWD/2021-22/1997-1683
Dated : 21-10-2021

DIP/J-3768-P/21 Sd/-
Executive Engineer