

6th International Conference on 'Recent Innovations in Computing' begins at CUJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), organising a two days 6th International Conference on Recent Innovations in Computing (ICRIC-2023).

The conference (ICRIC-2023) was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ in the university auditorium.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Sanjeev Jain encouraged the researchers and participants to focus on quality research output in terms of patents and articles. He also encouraged the participants to take maximum benefit from the event.

Prof. Jain mentioned in his talk about ethical considerations of AI, AI in the workforce, Technological



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain and other dignitaries releasing books.

Maturity of AI, Augmented Intelligence, Regulatory Frameworks, AI in Healthcare, AI in Education and Training, AI and Creativity, Global Impact of the AI and AI Safety and Security.

Prof. S.C. Mukhopadhyay from Macquarie University Australia delivered a talk on "Recent Advances in Sensing and Machine Vision for Computing and Engineering". Another keynote speaker on the

inaugural day was Dr. Nitin Upadhyay, from IIM Jammu and he delivered a keynote on "Web 3.0 Redefining Computing for Society, Culture and Beyond".

The inaugural ceremony of the Conference was started with a welcome address by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Conference General Chair, Registrar (I/C) and Head of Department, Computer Science and IT.

Prof. Yashwant shared that more than 187 manu-

scripts were received from researchers/ academicians covering four different countries and 15 states across the country. In ICRIC-2023, out of the 187 received manuscripts, only 48 high quality research articles have been accepted for oral presentation. The accepted articles were presented by the participants in 10 different technical sessions during both days of the Conference.

The technical sessions in the conference were chaired by various delegates including Dr. Bajinath Koushik, SMVDU, Katra, Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, University of Jammu, Dr. Pramod Kumar, NIT Srinagar, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Chouksey, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Jyotsna Singh NMIMS University

Chandigarh, Dr. Satwinder Singh, Central University of Punjab, Dr. Yash Paul, Central University of Kashmir, Dr. Vinit Jakhretiya, IIT Jammu.

The ICRIC-2023 was financially supported by DRDO, New Delhi, Department of Science and Technology, Jammu and Kashmir, and technically sponsored by Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering (LNEE), Springer. All accepted manuscripts of this conference will be published in Springer's LNEE series which is Scopus indexed.

The inaugural function was anchored by Dr. Palak Mahajan, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Additional Economic Advisor visits Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Additional Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) Dr Ashwani Kumar visited Leh on Wednesday as part of the ongoing Clean India Special Campaign 3.0.

He undertook visits of the various media units of the MOIB in the district.

Accompanied by Deputy Director General, Prasar Bharati Ladakh R.K Jarandal, Dr Kumar visited the office complexes of Doordarshan, All India Radio and Central Bureau of Communication and took stock of the various measures undertaken to maintain and promote cleanliness in and around the complexes.

Dr Kumar said that the Special Campaign 3.0 of MOIB aims at reducing waste, condemned goods and scrap materials in all offices of the Ministry across the country in an attempt to promote cleanli-



Additional Economic Advisor in the MOIB, Dr Ashwani Kumar during visit to media unit in Leh.

ness. He said that though the official dates of the campaign are from October 2 to 31, 2023, the mission and message of cleanliness will continue to inspire us beyond these dates.

He said that the campaign will go on throughout the year and the focus of the Ministry will be to get rid of scrap materials and maintain cleanliness in outdoor areas.

The advisor expressed

satisfaction at the efforts of the various media units of the MOIB in Leh and urged them to continue working with zeal and fervor to enforce the idea of Swachata Hi Seva in letter and spirit.

He said that the units have worked well in coordination with each other and urged them to improve upon their performance by conducting special campaigns on the theme of cleanliness.

Inclusivity and communication upgrades at renovated Phulpur station

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme announced by the Indian Railways plans to revamp 1308 stations nationwide and enhance and modify its amenities to meet its diverse range of passengers.

It intends to transform these stations into thriving transportation hubs. 508 stations are being redeveloped in its first phase and out of these 71 stations across its 5 divisions have been allotted to Northern Railways.

One of these is the Phulpur station, under its Lucknow Division, which has been sanctioned a budget of Rs 21.34 crores. The redevelopment plan includes various infrastructure enhancements such as the construction of a circulation area with a primary entry and a secondary entry on the side to make it commuter-friendly.

Widening the roads of the station circulation area and developing green



strips to improve the circulation of traffic. Improvement in the rain drainage system and platform surfaces to ensure upgraded utility services and standard signage and display boards to ensure clarity of communication. Divyang-Jan special amenities are to also be included to cater to people with special needs. Installation of LED-based boards, Train information Display system coach guidance display board and GPS clocks on all platforms to ensure accessibility of information. Establishing a commercial

block that includes a food plaza, cafeteria, retail facilities and improved toilet facilities.

The Railways with the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme want to ensure ease of access to information and amenities. The major goal is to transform these stations into vibrant transit centres that prioritize sustainability, efficiency, safety, accessibility and inclusion. This involves implementing eco-friendly procedures and boosting a variety of services to provide unrestricted travel for all.

Martyrdom Day of Brig Rajinder Singh observed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Martyrdom Day of Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC, the Saviour of Kashmir was observed at Rajinder Singh Chowk, behind New Secretariat Jammu on Thursday with great elegance and fervour.

Rich homage and tributes were paid to Hero of Jammu & Kashmir' by all sections of society to include Army, Police, Civil Administration and Social Organisations.

School children from Fauji Public School and other schools of Jammu also attended the function.

A Ceremonial Guard of the Army (19 JAK RIF) presented Tribute with full military honours to Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC.

Apart from the floral tributes, numerous cultural items were presented by J&K Academy of Arts Culture & Languages under Sanjeev Rana and Fauji Public School of J&K Ex-Services League (JKESL).

Ravi Kant as the Master of Ceremony recounted the Tale of Valour of Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu was



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and other dignitaries at a programme to pay tributes to Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC.

the Chief Guest, while Anand Jain, IGP, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Baldev Billawaria, Deputy Mayor; JMC were Guests of Honour and Th Gulchain Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha, Brig Gautam Segan, SC, SM, Offg GOC, 26 Inf Div, Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri, Padma Shri, Dr SP Varma, Padma Shri, President Gandhi Global Family J&K, were the 'Special Guests'.

Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, AVSM, Chief Patron JKESL, Dr Akshay Sharma, Corporator and SSP Traffic were also present to pay tributes.

Ramesh Kumar said that today "We are celebrating this day in Jammu only due to the

action of Brigadier Rajinder Singh in 1947 when he saved Jammu and Kashmir against the invasion by Pakistan."

He further said that Jammu Region is the land of Gallant Soldiers in which Brigadier Rajinder Singh stands out. He complimented the League, Army and the Civil Administration for making it a great occasion.

While paying tribute to one of the greatest warriors of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of his Martyrdom Day, he thanked the League and the Army for organizing this function every year and assured that this function will now be held jointly by the J&K Government with the League and the Army.

He also advised the youth to read about the History of

Military in 38K. "Now a book is available on the History of the Jammu and Kashmir Operations, you must read the book and also make it a habit to glorify the History & Heritage," he added.

Lt Gen R K Sharma, President J&K Ex-Services League, speaking on the occasion, said that but for the 'Gallant Action & Sacrifice of Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC, India would have lost its Crown and the geography of India would have been different.

He further narrated the 'Saga of Valour of Brig Rajinder Singh in brief and brought out its significance. He said that 'Battle of Uri' is comparable to the great battles of the world like Battle of Saragarhi and Battle of Thermopylae.

He appealed to LG and State Administration that from next year this should be a 'Govt function', MVC of Brig Rajinder Singh should be elevated to PVC, the History of J&K should be a separate chapter included in the school syllabus and a J&K

Heritage Centre/Memorial should be made next to the existing

Balidan Stambh with an underground Heritage Museum which was appraised by him to LG & Mayor, Jammu.

He further said that Ex-Servicemen of J&K have been neglected & discriminated as compared to other States of India.

He appealed to the LG Administration to address main issues of 'Increase of Re-employment quota of Ex-Servicemen from 6% to 13%', 'Creation of Sainik Corporation' urgently in J&K on lines of other States, 'Removing administrative & Judicial impediments in finalization of two Sainik Colonies sanctioned by J&K Govt in 1999' and 'Revival of Sainik Vanaspati' an executive venture for Veer Naris & Veterans.

Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Chief Patron JKESL was also present on the occasion and spoke on the occasion.

Brig Gautam Segan, Offg GOC 26 Inf Div and Th Gulchain Singh Charak, President Dogra Sadar Sabha also spoke about Balidan of Brig Rajinder Singh, MVC.

Tar Village celebrates International Snow Leopard Day with a pledge to protect wildlife

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Villagers of Tar village, one of the remote villages of Leh, came together to celebrate International Snow Leopard Day. They were joined by imminent guests including Councillor of Khalsi Constituency Lobzang Sherab, HIAL Founder / SECMOL Sonam Wangchuk, Snow Leopard Conservancy Director Dr. Tsewang Namgyal, Wildlife Tour Operators Association President Lobzang Visudha, and their teams.

International Snow Leopard Day reminds the people to protect the endangered snow leopards and their homes. Tar Village, located in the mountains where these incredible creatures live, understands the importance of living peacefully with them. The celebration was a chance for the villagers to show their dedication to keeping these amazing animals safe.

One special part of the event was the focus on wildlife protection and the idea of "Vocal for Local." Tar Village takes pride in using food grown in the village itself, not bringing a single thing from outside. This helps them reduce their impact on the environment and supports local farming. During the



Councillor of Khalsi Constituency Lobzang Sherab, HIAL Founder / SECMOL Sonam Wangchuk, Snow Leopard Conservancy Director Dr. Tsewang Namgyal, Wildlife Tour Operators Association President Lobzang Visudha at a programme.

event, they shared traditional foods they grew by themselves. These foods reflect their deep connection to the land and how they care for it. From fruits and veggies to grains and dairy, everything on their menu tells a story of how they live sustainably. Lobzang Sherab assured the villagers that the government would support their efforts for a better community. He also pledged to revive the local school in the near future, recognizing its importance. The villagers welcomed this announcement with gratitude and hope for a brighter future.

Innovator, Sonam Wangchuk bestowed his admiration upon the villagers for their unwaver-

ing dedication and wholeheartedly pledged his support to fortify their continued endeavors. He eloquently emphasized the profound influence of local initiatives, underscoring their pivotal role in molding a more radiant and promising future for one and all.

Snow Leopard Conservancy Director Mr. Tsewang Namgyal praised the efforts for how special snow leopards are and why it's important to protect them. He said events like this one help people understand why.

Wildlife Association President Mr. Lobzang Visudha praised Tar Village for leading the way in wildlife protection and encouraged other communities

to do the same. In addition, he made a generous contribution of Rs 10,000 towards the welfare of the village. The villagers welcomed these announcements with gratitude and hope for a brighter future.

Imran, from the Wildlife Association, shared valuable ideas during the event. He suggested ways to preserve the village traditions and presented a wonderful film he directed. What made the film special was that it was entirely in the local language, emphasizing the community's cultural richness.

In a significant moment, the event also witnessed the inauguration of farmstays, thoughtfully upgraded by Onaju Travels, featuring locally-sourced materials, including furniture and lamps. This initiative not only ensures a unique and authentic experience for visitors but also actively involves the local community in preserving their natural heritage.

But the celebration was about more than just eating and enjoying the view. Everyone at the event promised to protect the wildlife. They took a pledge to take care of not just the snow leopards but the whole environment they call home.

JKMEF urges Govt to redress employees' issues on priority

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) led by Sushil Sudan, the President and a member of the Pharmacy Council of India, expressed their appreciation for the work of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Dr. Arun Mehta, Chief Secretary, in the overall development of the infrastructure of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JK UT) and the digitization of most government services accessible to the public. However, they also raised several pressing issues faced by health employees in the region.

The federation emphasized the long-standing issue of delayed salary payments to female multi-purpose health workers and other staff.

They urged the government to urgently and permanently address this issue by disbursing salaries to permanent health employees working under the 2211 Head from



JKMEF president Sushil Sudan addressing a press conference.

the state's treasury, adopting reimbursement schemes similar to other states.

Sushil Sudan called for the timely disbursement of the General Provident (GP) Fund and other dues within 15 days after the superannuation of government employees.

This would ensure that retired employees can fulfill their social and domestic obligations without delay, he said and also suggested shifting the GP

Fund to Jammu and Kashmir Bank for better management.

He commended the government's recent order for the reallocation of employees who have completed five years of service at a particular place of posting. However, he requested the government to consider the special circumstances of terminally ill employees and those nearing superannuation when making such reassignments.

Ajatshatru, Dr Ritu celebrate J&K Accession Day at House of Commons, UK Parliament

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LONDON: Jammu & Kashmir Day was celebrated in the House of Commons in the UK Parliament on the eve of 76th anniversary of Accession of the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir to India on October 26, 1947.

The programme was organised by the Jammu Kashmir diaspora based in the UK and hosted by Rt Hon Bob Blackman MP Harrow East. Other parliamentarians attending the event included Rt Hon Jonathan Lord MP Woking, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP Chipping Barnet.

The special guests for the evening included the grandson and granddaughter-in law of Maharaja Hari Singh, Ajatshatru Singh and Ritu Singh.

Other keynote speakers included Dr Gautam Sen, Sushil Pandit and Sajjad Raja NEP Party representing POJK.

The proceedings were inaugurated by MP Jonathan Lord who welcomed the royal family from Jammu & Kashmir and other guests and audience.

This was followed by Dr Sen, who spoke about the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and lack of



Ajatshatru Singh and Ritu Singh and others celebrating J&K Accession Day at House of Commons, UK Parliament.

political will to support their rehabilitation. He attributed this to vote bank politics highlighting that the Pandit community being small in number do not have a political voice.

Ajatshatru spoke next about the Dogra dynasty and their contribution to establishment and expansion of the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir. He also highlighted Maharaja

Hari Singh's role in signing the instrument of Accession with India and reminded everyone how critical decisions affecting the subcontinent were taken in this very same building.

Sushil Pandit spoke about the lack of justice being done to the Kashmiri Pandit community and also highlighted the apathy of the establishment in fulfilling the aspirations of the community.

MP Theresa Villiers spoke about the importance of Jammu Kashmir Day and also highlighted the significant progress made by the region since revocation of Article 370.

MP Bob Blackman brought with him a signed copy of the Instrument of Accession and highlighted the contribution of the Indian diaspora in celebrating the day year after year in

the House of Commons. MP Bob Blackman also urged Pakistan to stop state sponsored terrorism so there is lasting peace and progress in the region.

The event ended on a positive note with Ritu Singh speaking about a number of social and cultural initiatives in the region specifically aimed at woman empowerment, inclusion, skills development and capacity building to boost the economy. She invited the Indian diaspora to give back to the country and talked about the positive changes on the ground post

abrogation of Article 370.

She also presented the MP's with beautiful Basohli art made by Paper Baag.

The event was well represented by political and community activists based in the UK, wider British Indian and POJK diaspora and a number of parliamentary staff.

A number of community volunteers worked together to shape the event including Sonal Sher (moderating the proceedings) Shafalica Bhan Kotwal, Anupama Handoo, Vinod Tikoo, Anupam Fotedar, Lalit Sharma, Pankaj Raina and others.