

## Workshop on Agro-Technologies for Self-Reliance commences at SKUAST-J

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two-day brainstorming workshop on Investing in Agro-Technologies for Self-Reliance commenced at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu in collaboration with Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi under Technology Development Programme.

The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. In his opening remarks Prof. Tripathi underlined the role of agro-technologies for achieving the goal of ATAMNIRBHAR Bharat. He talked about the importance of developing new technologies and their patenting and commercialization. Dr. Tripathi elaborated the role of agro-technologies for increasing food production to feed the growing population. Dr. Tripathi further stressed upon developing new-technologies in agriculture and allied for self-reliance. The



Prof. B.N. Tripathi, VC SKUAST-Jammu and others during inaugural session of workshop.

potential areas, he mentioned, included vertical farming, hydroponics, aeroponics, smart irrigation systems, sensor based crop monitoring, technologies for green house gas reduction, precision agriculture including livestock farming, machine learning, artificial intelligence, etc.

He underscored the need of precise study of animal behaviour for precision livestock farming. Prof. Tripathi said that knowledge and technology are the real strength of a country. He asked the organizers to compile the recommendations of the experts for submission to the policy planning agencies.

The lead speakers in the workshop are from different

universities and institutes of North India including CSKHPKV, Palampur; PAU, Ludhiana, University of Jammu, IIT, Jammu; CSIR-IHBT, Palampur and ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi. Besides this, scientists from HAU, Hissar, GADVASU, Ludhiana and SKUAST Jammu are attending the workshop and participating in deliberations. The PG students of SKUAST-Jammu are actively participating in the brainstorming sessions. The deliberations during the Brainstorming sessions are focussed on investment in research and development of Agro-technologies including the role of DST-TDP; development, integration and promotion of Agro-technologies;

and promotion of modernization of traditional technologies, tools and skills. The vision behind organizing this workshop is to sensitize the scientists and scholars of North Western States/UTs through expert lectures, panel discussions and interfaces. On first day of the workshop two technical sessions were convened followed by panel discussions. Dr. R. K. Samnotra, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu in his address highlighted the achievements of India since Independence. He also talked about the India's presidency of the G-20 grouping which resulted in major success.

Earlier, Dr. Vijai Pal Bhadana, Joint Director (Research) ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi gave a brief overview about the role and importance of Department of Science and Technology in bringing the change in Science and Technology of the country.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Dr. B.C. Sharma Dean, Faculty of

Agriculture. He enlightened the participants about the different agro-technologies.

Present on the occasion were Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Extension; Dr. S.E.H. Rizvi, Director Education; Dr. Jyoti Kachroo, Director (P&M), Dr. S.K. Gupta, Registrar; Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry; Dr. Ashwani Kumar, University Librarian and Dr. Jaswinder Sudan, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Technology. The lectures were attended by all Heads of the Divisions, Faculty members and large number of students.

Earlier Dr. R.K. Salgotra, organizing Secretary of the workshop welcomed the dignitaries, guest speakers and participants to the inaugural session; and outlined the theme of technical sessions of brainstorming workshop. Dr. Mahital Jankwal presented vote of thanks. Dr. Sachin Gupta and Dr. Manmohan Sharma conducted the proceedings of the workshop.

## CUJ starts celebrations on wildlife week



Faculty members of CUJ along with students during the event at Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Zoology, Central University of Jammu started the Wildlife Week Celebrations 2023 under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The two-day long celebrations started with the inaugural ceremony in the Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, under the theme, "Partnership for Wildlife Conservation".

Prof. B.S. Bhau, Dean Life Sciences was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean Research Studies and Prof. Sunil Dhar, Head Department of Environmental Sciences were

the invited guests. Dr. Ashok Kumar Yadav, Head Department of Zoology addressed the gathering with his welcome speech deliberating about the importance of conservation of the Biodiversity and Wildlife.

On the occasion, Prof. B.S. Bhau congratulated the department for conducting such an event and also encouraged the students to conserve and rehabilitate the biodiversity of India in general and local flora and fauna in particular.

Prof. Deepak Pathania spoke about the hazards of climate change, habitat destruction on the wildlife and ignited the young minds

towards its conservation. Prof. Dhar also emphasized on the importance of sustainable development for wildlife conservation.

Dr. Dhanananjay Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology presented a formal vote of thanks. The inaugural ceremony was followed by the commencement of the various events in the Department such as Mimicry, fancy dress, Face/Body painting, greeting card/bookmark making all inspired by the animals. The first day of the two-day long Wildlife Week Celebrations ended with an active participation of the students of the university.

## BJP opposes, all sections support opposition call for early elections: Congress

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Why BJP has got utter frustration, due to joint call of all major opposition parties for peaceful dharna on Oct. 10, for holding early elections and restoration of democratic rights to J&K people, asked JK Congress, stating that all people want early elections and statehood.

Questing BJP for its nervousness, after the announcement of the peaceful dharna in Jammu on Oct. 10 by the main opposition parties to launch a joint struggle for the restoration of democratic rights under the constitution to the people of J&K, JKPC has said that it reflects the ruling party's frustration and lack of faith in the democracy & elections.

The ruling party is the afraid of facing people, due to the fear of backlash of the people in the elections, otherwise why

should it be opposed to the peaceful protest dharna of the opposition parties, for holding early elections to the Assembly besides to the Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats on their due times.

JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma questioned BJP for favouring deferment of elections which are due to the ULBs and Panchayats, when entire population wants early restoration of democracy through elections and restoration of statehood and constitutional rights to land and jobs to the people. We shall intensify our joint struggle in days to come, he added.

He lashed out at the dual stand of BJP with regard to elections, which is evident from the reaction of the BJP to the opposition's call for holding early elections and restoration of democracy to the people of J&K. He said that BJP is only

doing lip service by public posturing for holding elections but in fact it is opposed to the opposition's demand and peaceful struggle to put pressure on the government against its policies to defer and delay all elections, on one pretext or the other, except to Lok Sabha.

On one hand the Centre Govt. and UT administration as well as the ruling BJP claim normalcy and lot of improvement on the militancy front, while on the other hand it is delaying holding of elections in State Assembly, ULB and Panchayats for security reasons. He emphasized that the peaceful dharna of opposition on Oct. 10, has the support of all sections of people demanding elections in Assembly, ULB and Panchayats besides restoration of the democratic rights and statehood without further delay.

## Awareness only way to prevent complications of cancer: Ritika Trehan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing their serious endeavours to add smiles to the faces of the little angels, Sparkle Women's Club on Thursday visited Oncology ward, SMGS Hospital, Jammu. The event was sponsored by joint collection of Sparklers for all the children of oncology ward. The children were swaying on the songs and also had hearty laughter when their favourite cartoon characters showed. They also enjoyed the cake cutting and the toys that were given as gifts. On this occasion, monthly Ration and healthy eatables a monthly event which has been going on for the last three years was also provided besides financial help was also provided so that needy lacking resources can undergo necessary tests. Dr. Sanjeev k. Digra (Professor & HoD) and Child Specialist, Dr GS Saini Pediatrician and HoD, Dr Suruchi along with



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan and others during visit to SMGS hospital on Thursday.

nurses of the ward attended the program. Sparklers thanked the team of doctors who have been a great support in this project.

Speaking on the occasion, Sparkler and Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan said that they are making serious efforts to bring happiness and add colour to the already painful journey of these children. In

this respect Oncology ward at SMGS Hospital is adopted by Sparkle and is regularly visited with toys and healthy eatables. Sparkle has also been instrumental in getting some pet scans and providing medicines for these patients, added Ritika.

Ritika further said that Sparkle was born with a motive to spread happiness and is ever moving forward towards its goal. Sparkle

women's club has been organizing free Cancer Screening & General Awareness Camp from time to time. Ritika said, "there was a time when if a serious ailment struck a poor person, he had to sell his entire property and land to get the treatment."

Ritika said our government has given thrust on several such aspects to provide healthcare for the poor at doorstep and at cheap rates

under the flagship scheme Aayushman Bharat. She also appreciated the Modi government for establishing two Cancer institute's in the Union Territory one each in Jammu region and Kashmir region. She applauded the efforts put by Sparkle women's club by adopting Pediatrics oncology ward at SMGS hospital and said that the club is working hand in hand with the government.

Ritika further said that people need to come forward for their routine check-ups not only in the camps organized for the purpose but also in the health institutions across this Union Territory as the Government has ensured enhanced facilities in these institutions including those in the remote and far flung areas. Prominent members of Sparkle Group present on the occasion included Benu Lakra, Mona Mehta, Mini Bargartra, Rakhee Aggarwal.

## FICCI Chairman calls upon Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move to strengthen the partnership between academia and industry, Rajesh Sharma, Chairman of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Jammu and Kashmir UT council, met Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK), in a productive and forward-looking discussion on Thursday.

The meeting, which took place at the Central University of Kashmir's campus in Srinagar, aimed to foster collaboration between FICCI and CU, Kashmir to promote innovation, research, and skill development in the region.



Chairman FICCI Rajesh Sharma calling on Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, VC CUK on Thursday.

Both Sharma and Prof. Nath expressed their commitment to work together for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir's economic and educational landscape.

Sharma shared his vision for the region's industrial

growth and emphasized the importance of academic institutions like Central University of Kashmir in nurturing talent and fostering innovation. He said, "Jammu and Kashmir have immense potential for economic growth, and partner-

ships between industry and academia are vital to unlocking this potential. FICCI is eager to collaborate with Central University of Kashmir in various initiatives that will benefit students, entrepreneurs, and the overall development of the region."

Prof. Nath welcomed the idea of collaboration and spoke about the university's ongoing efforts in research and development. "Central University of Kashmir is committed to providing quality education and contributing to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. We look forward to working closely with FICCI to create opportunities for our students and promote research

and innovation," Prof. A. Ravinder Nath stated.

Both Sharma and Prof. Nath expressed optimism about the positive impact of this collaboration on the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir and discussed potential areas of cooperation, including Industry-Academia Collaborative Projects, Skill development initiatives, Entrepreneurship Support and workshops and seminars. Both are confident that this partnership will empower the youth, stimulate economic growth, and contribute to the region's prosperity. Senior professors from Central University of Kashmir were also present during the meeting.

## SSK Youth for Kashmir organizes enriching lecture on 'Kashmir Mei Bhairav Upanasani Parampara

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its lecture series, SSK Youth for Kashmir hosted a captivating lecture titled "Kashmir mei Bhairav Upanasani Parampara" (The Tradition of Bhairava Worship in Kashmir). The event featured an esteemed scholar, writer, and historian, Dr. Shashi Shekhar Toshkhani, who delivered a thought-provoking discourse on the practice of Bhairava worship in India, particularly in the context of Kashmir.

Dr. Toshkhani's lecture delved into the profound tradition of Bhairava Upanasana (worship) in India. He provided insights into the Kashmir Shaiva Philosophy and offered details about the 64 Bhairavas, with a special focus on

Swachhand Bhairava, one of the primary deities in this tradition. The lecture also shed light on the Bhairava Upanasana of the eight Bhairavas who are considered protectors of Srinagar City. Dr. Toshkhani's insights added depth to the understanding of these guardian deities and their significance in the region's spiritual and cultural heritage.

The lecture further explored

## BJP Launches 'Jan Sampark Abhiyan' to extend reach to every booth in union territory: Manyal



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State General Secretary, Dr. Devinder Manyal and others chairing workers meeting.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State General Secretary, Dr. Devinder Manyal, convened a crucial meeting of the District Jammu South in connection with the "Jan Sampark Abhiyan" and "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan." The meeting, held at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, was attended by senior leaders, including former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, State Secretary and District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, DDC Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, Former MLAs Vikram Randhawa, and S. Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, along with DDC Vidhya Mottan. The primary agenda of the meeting was the "verification of the District team" and a comprehensive review of future strategies to bolster the party's grassroots-level activities. Dr. Manyal, a former Minister and BJP State General Secretary, engaged in an interactive session with the District Jammu South team, which included District office bearers, District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and

Pushpinder Singh, Mandal Presidents, Councillors, Morcha Presidents, and other dedicated party workers.

Dr. Manyal emphasized the importance of launching the "Jansampark Abhiyan" (Public Outreach Program) and the "Meri Mati Meri Desh" Campaign across Jammu and Kashmir. Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta lauded the relentless efforts of the Karyakartas (party workers) in Jammu South. With his extensive experience in J&K's political arena, Gupta inspired and boosted the morale of the party workers. He emphasized the pivotal role played by District Jammu South, various Mandals, Morehas, Booths, and Shakti Kendra Parmukhs in the party's growth. Gupta highlighted the BJP's tradition of being the voice of the common masses.

Rekha Mahajan, while coordinating the meeting, interacted with the Karyakartas and gathered firsthand information about various organizational activities. She stressed the importance of taking the party's public-friendly policies and programs, as well as those of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Government, to every corner of Jammu District South.

## Shree Anna Mela-Millet Fair Cum Exhibition, Technical Conference organized at IIM-J

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM) in association with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICC) and Theta Foundation for Development hosted the Shree Anna Mela (Jammu Millets Mela) and Technical Conference organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries on Thursday at Radisson Blue, Jammu. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to celebrate the rich biodiversity and agro-ecological practices of the state and explore the potential of millets in transforming the agricultural landscape.

The Chief Guest for the



A section of dignitaries during the event.

event was Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM, J & K and Guest of Honor was Arun Manhas, MD, J & K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd J & K. The event was formally inaugurated in presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Mohammed Farooq Dar, Secretary, Agriculture Production and Family Welfare, Padmashree R.K. Narra, National President, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICC) in his welcome address mentioned that the Anna Mela (Jammu Millets Mela) is a unique platform for all stakeholders to connect on a common platform.

In his address, he made a

reference to the age old healthy practice of using millets in their diet and having a

healthy lifestyle. One of the highlights of The Shree Anna Mela is the presentation on the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme by Secretary, Agriculture Production and Family Welfare, Mohammed Farooq Dar, shedding light on how this initiative can benefit local farmers and entrepreneurs. He gave a detailed overview with the statistics putting forward a true picture of the progress in the agricultural sector in the U.T of J & K. Guest of Honor Arun Manhas, MD, J&K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. J & K in his special address talked about the various challenges ranging from product packaging, marketing, and making it

reach the end users and invited support from the academia, industry for addressing these issues.

Chief Guest Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director, JKRLM, J&K in her special address mentioned that The Shree Anna Mela has been a testament to the potential of millets in enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and boosting the income of our farmers.

This inaugural ceremony ended with the vote of thanks by DICC followed by Millet success stories by Avni Organics, Gian Network, Kishitwar Millets, Horti Producers Co-operative Limited, Krishi Nari Shakti and Sri Millets.

Shishram Tudwal, Zonal Manager of Central Bank of India, shared insights into financial assistance for farmers while Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer at IIM Jammu, discussed the adoption of next-generation technologies in millet agriculture. Sessions on AI, e-commerce SAAS platforms, storage technologies were chaired by IITB alumnus & entrepreneur Harish.

Another session on millet production value addition & Millet processing were conducted by Dr. Meenakshi and Dr. Monika Sood, SKUAST respectively. These sessions aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary for the successful cultivation and processing of millets.

The parallelly running industry meet commenced with a presentation and promotional video by Dr. Neha Ganju, Manager, Ministry of Food Processing Industries briefing about the upcoming Food Expo 2023 and plethora of opportunities and schemes for entrepreneurs from the food sector from the U.T of J & K. This was followed by addresses by Prof. B.S. Sahay proposed that the industry, academia come together to create a healthy business ecosystem for millets and he also proposed the concept of having an industry meet at IIM Jammu. This was followed by Arun Manhas, and Shrimati Indu Kanwal Chib, focusing on promoting collaboration and industry growth in the millet sector.

**DISCLAIMER**  
“STATE TIMES” does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.”