

Dr Jitendra chairs joint Ministerial meeting, calls for breaking silos

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday chaired a joint meeting of senior officials from all Science Ministries and Departments.

The Minister called for breaking silos while reviewing the progress of ongoing projects and budget utilization. He emphasised synergy to enhance coordination and efficiency.

Dr. Jitendra emphasized the need for timely and optimal use of budgetary resources, urging officials from key departments, including the Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, ISRO, CSIR/DSIR, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Space and the Department of Atomic Energy to accelerate their work on several projects announced by Prime



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing a joint meeting of all Science Ministries and Departments at New Delhi on Thursday.

Minister Narendra Modi.

The Minister also reviewed the status of projects announced during the Budget this year and the Budget over the last decade. He also took up follow up discussion on Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

In line with the government's focus on transparency and citizen engagement, Dr. Jitendra called on senior officials to leverage social media platforms more actively. "Our presence must be felt on social media, particularly to engage with the younger generation," the Minister stated, highlighting the importance of effective communication to showcase India's scientific progress.

The meeting is part of Dr. Singh's ongoing efforts to create synergy among the various science departments, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and that projects are delivered on time. He also took stock of the projects highlighted in the PRAGATI platform and directed officials to fast-track their completion.

The Minister's strong focus on accountability, efficiency, and outreach underscores the government's commitment to driving India's scientific and technological progress.

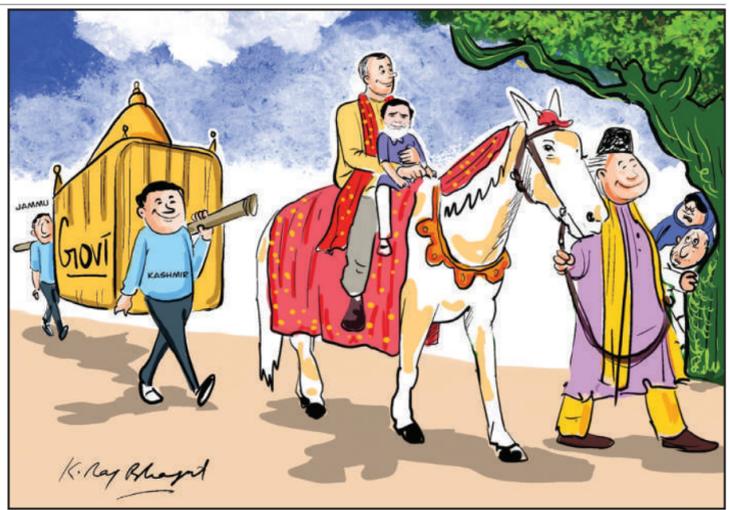
progress.

Dr Jitendra also shared the Mantra of sustainable ecosystem based on pooling of knowledge and resources in collaboration with the non-governmental sectors in PPP mode.

The Minister highlighted the importance of early industry linkage and multiplication of benefits for common people when initiatives like these achieve scale and volume. He also assured that all the departments under ministry will act in coordination to achieve the common objective.

The department also sought his guidance of further integration and improvement of the portal to become a single nodal joint for all scientific departments.

Dr. Jitendra reviewed the present status of 'One common portal' for all kinds of scientific research.



VC JU expresses gratitude to LG for strengthening teaching learning; 19 faculty positions sanctioned to JU

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) has achieved yet another significant milestone with the sanctioning of 19 new faculty positions in various departments in Phase-I to continue its journey towards achieving academic excellence.

In the year 2022, the Higher Education Department had sanctioned 17 positions in various teaching departments, including Journalism & Media Studies, Philosophy and Directorate of Hindi besides sanctioning 68 positions including teaching and non-teaching for University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus. This major development came after Prof. Umesh Rai took over as Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu.

Under the stewardship of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Manoj Sinha, the University of Jammu has made significant strides in both academic and infrastructural development. The sustained support of the Chancellor has played a pivotal role in positioning the University on the international map, showcasing its potential as a global institution of higher learning.

The Vice-Chancellor while appreciating the concerted and unwavering support of Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Govt, Higher Education Department, JKUT and Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, JKUT stated that the creation of 19 teaching posts in phase-I will surely strengthen the academic and research capabilities of the University and help in raising the standards of teaching learning in the University.

In the current year, the University of Jammu, for the first time, has witnessed significant

advancements, including being listed among the top 50 institutions in India in the prestigious National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2024. This achievement reflects the University's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and research.

The leadership of Chancellor has been instrumental in this success, cultivating an environment that nurtures both faculty and students to thrive in a competitive educational landscape.

The sanctioning of these new positions marks yet another milestone in the University's journey of growth. It highlights the commitment of the Lieutenant Governor, Higher Education Department and Government of J&K UT to promote quality education and research. These positions will enable the University to expand its academic offerings, enhance research capabilities, and contribute to the holistic development of students, in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Expressing gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor and Government of J&K UT for their continued support, Prof Rai said "These newly sanctioned positions will help us further our mission of transforming the University into a centre of academic excellence, innovation, and research. With the backing of our leadership, we are confident that the University of Jammu will continue to set new benchmarks and strengthen its position as a leading institution, not just in the region but globally". Prof Rai further exuded confidence in the Finance and Higher Education Departments for prioritizing the considering of remaining teaching positions in phase-II to support the University to meet its crucial academic commitments effectively.

IIIM celebrates 83rd CSIR Foundation Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) 83rd Foundation Day, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) celebrated it with zeal and enthusiasm here.

CSIR is the largest R&D organization of the country and a network of 38 national laboratories spread across the country.

Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Managing Director and Founder CEO of Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), Hyderabad, was the Chief Guest on the occasion and delivered the CSIR Foundation lecture on "Medical Technology and Universal Health Coverage".

In his address, Dr. Jitendra emphasized on



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed honouring Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Founder CEO of AMTZ.

affordable healthcare technologies and medical devices research for the welfare of the society. He further suggested that there should be collaboration between CSIR-IIIM and Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), Hyderabad for innovative research in the field of medical devices technology and drug discovery.

Earlier, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu introduced the audience to the Chief Guest of the event. Dr. Ahmed informed the audience that Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), Hyderabad is one of the leading manufacturers of medical devices, and was established in just 342 days

under the overall guidance and leadership of Dr. Jitendra Sharma.

On this occasion, retirees of preceding year as well as the staff members who have completed 25 years of legitimate service were felicitated with Samman Patra and Memento by the Chief Guest and the Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu for their contribution towards institution.

As a part of celebrations, some saplings of plants were also rooted in the premises of IIIM under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (Plant4Mother) Campaign by the Chief Guest and the Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

Prominent among others were also present during the event Dr. Asha Chaubey, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, FMB Division, Dr. Sumit

Gandhi, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, ID Division, Dr. Qazi Naveed Ahmed, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, NPMC Division, Dr. Shashank Singh, Sr. Principal Scientist from Pharmacology Division, Dr.(Mrs.) Suphla Gupta, Sr. Principal Scientist & Nodal Scientist, CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III, Bikram Singh, Sr. Controller of Administration, Ajay Kumar, Controller of Finance and Accounts, Dilip Gehlot, Store and Purchase Officer and Rajesh Gupta, Administrative Officer. Dr. Gurleen Kaur conducted the proceedings of the event while Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, Head RMBD & IST presented the formal vote of thanks.

Crime Branch files charge-sheet in Rs 12 lakh fraud case

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Special Crime Wing, of Crime Branch Jammu on Thursday filed a chargesheet against one Kimiti Jain, son of Lt. Darshan Lal Jain, resident of Jhulaka Mohalla, Jain Bazar Jammu in a fraud case.

Sandeep Mehta, SSP Special Crime wing, CB Jammu divulging the details told that chargesheet was filed against the fraudster in a Case FIR No. 41 of 2023 under Section 420 RPC of Police Station SCW Crime Branch Jammu before the Court of law at Jammu.

He added that fraudster duped one Ramesh Jain, son of S.K Jain, resident of Channi Himmat, Jammu on the pretext of providing handsome profit of the amount that he had taken from the complainant in shape of daily committee (installments) of Rs 2000

for twenty months. The complainants alleged that the accused lured the complainant and taken Rs 12,00,000 from him in shapes of installments of Rs 2000 per day for twenty months.

After taking hefty amount from the complainant, the accused Kimiti Jain turned hostile and refused to pay the original amount along with agreed interest at time of maturity of the committee thus caused wrongful loss to complainant and wrongful gain to himself.

"On receipt of the complaint a preliminary verification was initiated by SCW, Crime Branch Jammu in accordance with the procedure in vogue and during the course of enquiry the allegations levelled were prima-facie substantiated against the accused leading to the registration of a formal case against the accused under

the relevant sections of law," he added.

After a thorough investigation by a professional investigating officer Inspector Rajesh Verma and after collecting all the evidence and recording the statements of the prosecution witnesses, the case was finally proved against the accused Kimiti Jain.

A team of Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch, today produced the accused before the court and accordingly charge sheet has been produced against the accused person before the Court of 3rd Addl. Munsiff Magistrate Jammu for judicial determination.

Through this medium, SCW Crime Branch sensitised all to remain careful from fraudsters and refrain from enticement of higher rate of interest of their money and check all the credentials before making any financial investments.

3-day Basohli Utsav begins; presents region's unique cultural heritage

Principal Secretary vows to preserve, promote historical glory of Basohli

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: The much-anticipated annual Basohli Utsav commenced on Friday with a grand celebration, showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of the region.

The opening day was marked by a colorful cultural performance that captivated the audience and set a jubilant tone for the festival.

The event was inaugurated by Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, in presence of DDC Chairman Kathua, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, and Director ACB, Shakti Pathak.

Suresh Kumar, emphasized that the Basohli Utsav represents a dedicated effort towards restoring and preserving the historical glory of Basohli, particularly its rich traditions in art and heritage, which once served as the cultural epicenter of the region.

The Principal Secretary urged the local community, especially the youth, to take an active role in preserving and



Prpl Secy Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta and Director ACB Shakti Pathak lighting ceremonial lamp.

promoting this cultural legacy. He encouraged them to leverage social media platforms to share the unique traditions of Basohli Ramlila, its world-renowned paintings, and exquisite pashmina.

Speaking on ongoing cultural preservation efforts, the Principal Secretary highlighted that the restoration work of the historic Basohli Mint will be completed in the coming months. He also mentioned the importance of Geographical Indication (GI) tagging for Basohli Paintings and Pashmina, which will ensure

their authenticity and open new employment opportunities for local artisans and craftsmen.

"Basohli is evolving as a hub for Cultural and Pilgrimage Tourism, home to famous temples such as Chanchlo Mata, Jhode Wali Mata, and Dhola Mata," he added.

Suresh Gupta also introduced two new features of this year's festival-Archival and Heritage Exhibitions, which aim to reconnect people with the glorious past of Basohli and the larger Jammu & Kashmir region. He expressed

his commitment towards positioning Basohli Utsav on both national and international tourism maps in the near future. DDC Chairman Kathua, praised the Basohli Utsav as an excellent platform for uniting various stakeholders to elevate Basohli's art, culture, and heritage to the global stage. He mentioned that with the establishment of a Water Sports Academy and the upcoming Rs. 3.5 crore Common Facility Centre (CFC) project, the region's adventure tourism and cultural profile will receive a significant boost. He commended the efforts of the Culture Department, the Academy of Art and Culture, and the Handicraft and Handloom and Tourism departments for supporting this annual event.

Director ACB also expressed his appreciation for the Basohli Utsav, noting its importance in preserving the rich cultural and heritage legacy of the region. He highlighted that Basohli's 113-year-old Ramlila, one of

the oldest in the country, is a testament to the community's deep-rooted love for its traditions and heritage.

The first day of the festival also featured a vibrant cultural presentation that showcased the diverse facets of local folklore and music. A special Basohli Paintings workshop by Vishwasthali NGO was a key attraction, while local cuisine and handicraft stalls drew enthusiastic crowds.

The three day Basohli Utsav promises two more days of cultural celebration, exhibitions, and workshops, as it continues to shine a spotlight on the unique and timeless traditions of the region.

Among others, Secretary in Culture Department, Deepika Sharma, Secretary Cultural Academy, Harvinder Kour; DC Kathua Dr Rakesh Minhas, Director Archives & Archaeology K.K Sidha, Joint Director Handicrafts and Handloom, CEO BBDA Ajeet Singh, Director IGNSA Shruti Avasthi were also present.

AIIMS Jammu leads way forward in diagnostic & procedural dermatology

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy which deals with the diagnosis and management of various disorders related to skin, hair and nails, treatment of various sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV as well as leprosy, is working tirelessly to offer elaborate, comprehensive and breakthrough dermatological care to patients of Jammu & Kashmir, adjoining areas of Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. The Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy is actively involved in providing outpatient, inpatient, phototherapy, and minor OT services. Various disorders of skin including eczema, psoriasis, vitiligo, various bacterial, viral, fungal and other skin and subcutaneous infections, acne, melasma and other disorders of pigmentation, connective tissue disorders, autoimmune vesiculobullous skin disorders, nails, hairs, oral and genital mucosa are being routinely seen and treated in the department. Alongside patient care services, the department is also involved in teaching and training of undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, community services, and participating in relevant national health programs

Various services which are being provided in the department include

Outpatient Department Consultation- Both appointment based and walk-in patients are being seen, assessed and treated in an holistic manner. Since the OPD has become functional approximately 3800 patients have been benefited, including 500 patients seen when the dry run services were being provided by the institute. On an average, the department sees anything from 70 to more than 100 patients per day, a number which has been constantly rising since the inauguration of health care services.

Diagnostic services: The constant endeavour of the specialists in the department to provide best diagnostic services in the form of latest facilities like dermoscopy, ultraviolet fluorescent dermoscopy, videodermoscopy of skin, trichoscopy for hair, onychoscopy for nails is helping patients on a daily basis. Dermoscopy is a relatively new advancement in the field of dermatology which helps visualise skin and deeper structures non-invasively, giving instant diagnostic clues to various skin, nail, and hair disorders.

The department has experts in the field of dermoscopy, with Dr. Payal



AIIMS Jammu doctors diagnosing disorders related to skin.

Chauhan, Associate Professor & Head, who is MAMC, PGI Chandigarh, and AIIMS trained working prominently at national and international level in association with International Society of Dermoscopy. She has been working in the field of dermoscopy and dermatopathology over the past decade, and believes that comprehensive and enhanced diagnostic services can be provided to patients when a clinician supplements clinical examination with dermatoscopy, and dermatopathology clues. This will especially help patients

of the region, who many a times have to leave the state undiagnosed to centres outside.

Along with dermoscopy and dermatopathology services, microbiological studies are also being done which include Gram stain, Giemsa stain, Ziehl-Nielsen stain, wet mount staining and KOH staining for various types of bacterial, viral, fungal, and mycobacterial skin infections. The department is equipped with high end trinocular microscope with camera and Ipad attachment, videodermoscope,

Wood's lamp, handheld dermatoscope with pigment booster and ultraviolet light enhancement.

Diagnostic procedures including cutaneous, mucosal, nail and scalp biopsies for histopathological examination and direct immunofluorescence studies are being routinely done. All the skin biopsies done for diagnostic purposes are seen and a comprehensive clinico-dermoscopic-histopathological correlation is done by clinicians to increase diagnostic yield. This is along the lines of AIIMS Delhi, which is also the mentor institute of AIIMS Jammu.

Procedural dermatology: The department is also carrying out 10-15 procedures daily on an average in the minor OT which is equipped with procedure chair, OT table, electrocautery machine. The procedures being offered to the patients include skin biopsy, shave excision, chemical cautery for xanthelasma, warts, intralesional injections for alopecia and hypertrophic scars/keloids, immunotherapy for warts and molluscum contagiosum, electrocautery for skin tags, DPNs/SKs, warts, freckles, mole removal, and pairing for callus/callosity/corn. Microneedling for acne scars, comedone/milia extraction, nail biopsy and nail removal, cyst removal, curettage,

cautery, cryotherapy of benign epidermal and vascular tumours including pyogenic granuloma is being done.

Therapeutic UV B phototherapy is available and is being offered to multiple patients for vitiligo and psoriasis.

A sustained, diligent and robust effort is being made under the leadership of Executive Director & CEO, Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta and Medical Superintendent, Lt. Gen (Dr) Sunil Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.), to continuously upgrade the departmental services, equipment, and provide the latest services and procedures for the best possible care available in the state. The department plans to start patch and photopatch test, chemical peeling, platelet rich plasma services, and vitiligo surgery soon.

In continuum of this, departmental faculty and residents are conducting extensive research and publications aimed at better understanding the etiopathology and diagnosis of diseases and therapeutic modalities available.

The department of dermatology aims to provide evidence-based, ethical, affordable and compassionate health care to the patients suffering with various skin diseases and to establish a centre of excellence in teaching and research.