

JU signs MoU with INFLIBNET Center for implementation of Learning Management Service

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: University of Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, an autonomous Inter-University Centre, Gandhi Nagar Gujarat for implementation of INFLIBNET Learning Management Service (ILMS).

Prof Manoj K Dhar, Vice-Chancellor on behalf of University of Jammu and Prof J P Singh Joorel, Director on behalf of INFLIBNET Centre signed the MoU.

Speaking on occasion, Prof Manoj K Dhar said that the ILMS is one of the modes of learning which facilitate learners and teachers to execute the learning environment. It will help all the facul-



VC JU Prof Manoj K Dhar and Prof J P Singh Joorel, Director on behalf of INFLIBNET Centre after signing the MoU.

ty members and students of the University to use all the available open access content, he said.

Prof Dhar invited all the faculty members to use the ILMS to its fullest strength by creating and uploading the e-content on ILMS. Prof Joorel informed that the Centre has been working as a facilitator for setting up INFLIBNET Learning Management Service

(ILMS) with pre-populated e-content developed under e-PG Pathshala and other available open access content with an aim to make all the e-content available to the academic and research community.

He said that the ILMS platform will also enable stakeholders to get a fair idea about e-content development & uploading, hands-on experience on

open-source learning management systems, on similar lines such as MOODLE platform, in a customized way of LMS.

Earlier Prof Pankaj K Srivastava, Convener, ILMS welcomed the dignitaries and briefed them about the launching of ILMS for Jammu University.

Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar, Dr Meenakshi Kilam, Director DIQA and Rector Kathua Campus, Er Anik Gupta, Director IT Services congratulated all the stakeholders for the launching of INFLIBNET Learning Management Service for the University.

Among others, Dr Varun Parmar, Dr Anil Gupta, Dr Hema Gandotra, Dr Vinay Thusoo, Dr Shalu Sharma, Narinder were also present on the occasion.

Mayor reviews progress on ongoing development activities



Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To provide best possible & more development amenities to the citizens of Jammu as well as to speed up the ongoing execution of works being undertaken in various parts of the city, the Mayor Jammu Municipal, Chander Mohan Gupta alongwith Deputy Mayor, Advocate Purnima Sharma on Tuesday chaired the meeting of Engineering Division-I of JMC. The meeting was also attended by Councillors namely Sharda Kumari, Ritu

Choudhary, Anita Sharma, Sandhya Gupta, Shama Akhter, Anil Masoom, Dr. Akshay Kumar, Gopal Gupta and Jagdish Kumar.

Besides this, Ajeet Singh Chopra Joint Commissioner (Works), R. K Mahajan Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineers & Junior Engineers of Engineering Division-I were also remained present during meeting.

Councillors put forth issues of public importance and delaying of development

Natrang artist Rahul bags Junior Fellowship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yet another artist of Natrang, Rahul Singh brought laurels for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for being selected for the award of Junior Fellowship for the year 2019-20 from Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Ministry of Culture Government of India.

Natrang Director Balwant Thakur, while complimenting Rahul Singh, said that it's a proud moment not only for Natrang Jammu but for the entire region as only one artist has been able to qualify this.

Born and brought up in Jammu, Rahul has been practicing theatre since 2006 at Natrang Theatre Group under the guidance of Padmashree Balwant Thakur.

Rahul is an active practitioner of theatre and aspires to direct plays that shall sway the audiences and make a fresh vision of theatre.

Commissioner JMC takes stock of water bodies



JMC Commissioner Avny Lavasa interacting with officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Commissioner Municipal Corporation (JMC), Avny Lavasa on Tuesday paid a visit to water body/pond situated at Radha Krishan Temple, Deeli and inspected the ongoing work for its rejuvenation.

The said pond is one of the sixty plus ponds falling under the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal Corporation. In this regard, JMC invited proven technology for in-situ treatment of lake/pond water through Bio-remedial and Aeration

Systems or equivalent technology. "To prevent and Rejuvenate existing natural water bodies by reducing the environment of degradation due to pollution, capacity augmentation and beautification of ponds through regenerative landscaping techniques to transform them into positive, vibrant and lively public open spaces."

The project is purely focussed upon reinstating the natural ecosystem and making water the water quality adequate to support life, increase surface water

storage, sewerage management to ensure that the water bodies are not polluted any further and beautification of water bodies along with provision of necessary amenities within the project area.

Besides this, the Commissioner, JMC also visited the area from Narwal Bye Pass road National Highway and Rajeev Nagar, Qasim Nagar to Gujar Nagar bridge area to took stock of sanitation scenario and on spot directions were given to the concerned Sanitation Officer as well as to the Transport Officer, JMC for focusing on providing better sanitation facilities in these areas so that these areas may be given aesthetic look.

During the visit Joint Commissioner (W), Executive Engineer, Division-I, Sanitation Officer and Transport Officer and other field staff were also present.

JKSLCA organises awareness on 'Drug Abuse & Preventive Measures'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir State Level Coordinating Agency (JKSLCA) under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in collaboration with Social Welfare Department organized a one-day awareness programme on 'Drug Abuse and Preventive Measures' for Truckers at Transport Nagar, Narwal, here.

By strictly following the COVID-19 protocol, around 110 truckers participated in the programme. Resource person, Pooja Kumari from NGO delivered a lecture on Drug Abuse and Preventive Measures.

As per National Action Plan on Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), Government of India (GOD), programmes like these need to be conducted on a regular basis covering all strata of society.

Resource person started the

programme by explaining that Drug/ alcohol abuse is raising day by day in the society and youth of our society is involving at large number in the addiction. She explained that mobile population including truckers, workers, cleaners etc are the most vulnerable ones and to generate awareness among them is of great importance.

She discussed about the various types of drugs (tobacco, caffeine, depressants, stimulants etc.) and how they are consumed and also about the long- and short-term effects of different types of drugs on body, mind, career and family.

JKSLCA team provided on spot counselling services and referral services to people suffering from addiction. Pamphlets were distributed among the participants. Program ended with discussions and Question-answer session and resource person patiently answered all the queries of the participants.

At the end, Komal Sharma, SLCA official concluded the programme with vote of thanks.

Holiday on Sept 23 will be real tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh: Vikramaditya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh welcomed the decision of Hon LG Manoj Sinha of constituting a committee to look into declaring 23rd September a holiday, to mark the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh. He said that the move, if given nod, will be a befitting tribute to the great Maharaja of J&K.

In a statement issued to media here today, Vikramaditya Singh said that this matter was brought to the notice of the then Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh through his letter dated 15th July, 2018.

Vikramaditya Singh said that the sentiments of the people, especially in Jammu and across the UT, are attachment with the Maharaja Hari Singh. His reforms cut across social, religious, caste and gender barriers to impart justice to all.

VRS given JKRTC workers stage protest



VRS given JKRTC workers raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The VRS given JKRTC workers staged protest in support of their demands near Press Club here on Tuesday.

Led by Dev Raj Bali, President All J&K RTC Voluntarily Retired Employees Association, Jammu, the VRS/GHS given workers of the J&K Govt Transport Corporation assembled near Press Club here today and started protest. They were shouting slogans in support of their demands and also against the Management of the Corporation. They alleged that Corporation authorities were denying them arrears of COLA, 6th Pay Commission and Dearness Allowance, despite the fact that UT Administration had issued clear instructions on June 2, 2021 in this regard. One week

time was accorded to submit the bills to the Management of the Corporation but now many months have passed but the officers concerned have not taken the orders seriously and were not giving proper reply to the workers as well. They are not preparing bills for the reasons best known to them.

The protesting workers demanded action against the concerned officers and sought intervention of LG and Chief Secretary in the matter. Dev Raj Bali and several other office bearers addressed the gathering. After holding protest demonstration for about an hour, the VRS given RTC workers later dispersed.

The demonstration was attended by Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Deep Raj, B.B.Sharma, Surjit Singh, Mohinder Singh, Kuldeep Singh and others.

Shiv Sena postpones Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, rescheduled date to be announced soon: Sahni

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In view of the increasing momentum of COVID and Omicron, Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit has decided to postpone the event of "Sampurna Yatra of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi" which was to be held on the day of (Makar Sankranti), January 14, 2022.

According to a release issued by Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir State Chief Manish Sahni, Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir had organized a free Yatra Darshan to Mata Vaishnodevi for the Shiv Sainiks and pilgrimage from all over the country on Makar Sankranti i.e. 14 January 2022.

This Yatra was organized

on traditional route but due to Covid and Omicron increasing in the country, it was decided to postpone this Yatra.

This decision has been taken after discussion with party National Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Desai. The next date of Yatra will be announced shortly.

Women President Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, chairman Rakesh Gupta, Vice President Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli, Sandeep Bhagat, and Raj Singh of Kamgar Sena were present on the occasion of press conference organized at Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir Office.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Akalpur, Udheywala, Sangrampur, Lale-De-Bagh, Nagbani, DPS School, Manorma Vihar, Udheywala, Anand Nagar, Domana, Lower Machelian, and adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 12 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Suhagpur, Kotli, Jabowal, Part of Arnia, Trewa and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 12 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Badyal Brahmana and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 12 and 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, Sarore, Seora and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Guru Brahmana, Kot Garhi Burmal, Badyana Chak, Devipur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 14 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Palli,

Kanhal, Patyari, Palli Morh, Near Dogra College, Trath Morh, Ward No. 6, Birpur Complex, Sehora, Jallo Chack, Lower Jallo Chack shall remain affected on January 12, 15 and 17 from 10 am to 4 pm.

However, the power supply to Patel Nagar, Hatli Morh, Shiva Nagar, Sraswati Nagar, Azad Puram shall remain affected on January 12, 14 and 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sawan Chak, Old Bus Stand shall remain affected on January 12 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jarai Foot Bridge, ward No. 10 & 11, Old Bus Stand shall remain affected on January 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to DC Mohalla, Khalki Mandi, Upper Mandi, Shivalik Bal Niketan School, Jatt Mohalla, PHE shall remain affected on January 14 and 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chack Fullan, Lower Jagatpur, Rajiyani shall remain affected on January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Patel Nagar, Tangari, Bhagwati Nagar, Ramnik Vihar, Police Line, Partap Nagar shall remain affected on January 14 from 9 am to 2 pm.

BJYM to hold nationwide essay competition on Swami Vivekananda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: With an objective to popularize the essence of Swami Vivekananda teachings among the youth, Bharatiya Jananta Yuva Morcha (BJYM), J&K, is organizing a nationwide essay competition.

In a statement issued here today, Arun Prabhat State President J&K BJYM, said that the essay competition is part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration to mark the 75 year of the country's independence.

"Continuing its glorious tradition of remembering the true sons of the country, a national essay writing competition is being organized on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. This programme is launched to commemorate Swami ji

and popularize the essence of his teachings among the youth," Prabhat said.

The BJYM leader said that the participants may choose from a range of seven topics for a 2000 words essay. The participants may choose any one from the seven topic-Swami Vivekananda and his message for the youth, Swami Vivekananda and Education, Swami Vivekananda and Social Justice, Swami Vivekananda and Hindu Modernity, Swami Vivekananda and Women Empowerment, Swami Vivekananda and Internationalism and Swami Vivekananda and his Vision for Bharat. People upto the age of 35 years are eligible to participate in the event. The last date of online submission

is January 20 and the results will be announced on January 23," he added.

Arun Prabhat said "Swami Vivekananda was the foremost monk, thinker, philosopher, social reformer, and youth icon of modern India. BJYM believes that the youth of today should imbibe the learnings of Swami Vivekananda and follow his path of truth, sincerity, discipline and Nationalism. Through these competitions, we are hoping that the youth draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda and work for the service of the nation."

"The winning essays would also be published in the BJYM national magazine and its website," he added.

ASSOCHAM urges States, UT Governments to adopt BMC model to impose COVID restrictions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Northern Council of The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on Tuesday urged all northern states and UT governments to adopt the new model of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to impose restriction anticipating Third wave of Covid-19.

A formal representation has been sent to the state administration of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and UT administrations of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh by A S Mittal, Chairman, ASSOCHAM North Regional Development Council. As the possibility of a third wave of Covid-19 pandemic looms following an increase in corona virus cases, particularly

those of the Omicron variant, ASSOCHAM suggested that partial or total lockdown for businesses of retail, tourism and hospitality should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure as ensuring economic health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives.

"The state governments should adopt a new model adopted by BMC of reporting which mentions the number of asymptomatic patients, number of hospitalisations, number of oxygenated beds occupied and number of discharged patients on a daily basis and make decisions about restricting economic activity basis hospitalizations rather than the positivity rate. This is an accurate meas-

ure of the situation as it gives a realistic picture and avoids panic among citizens," said AS Mittal.

He also suggested the governments that Instead of locking down the economic activities, more emphasis should be given on strict adherence to covid appropriate behaviour such as masking, social distancing sanitisation by citizens and businesses alike.

ASSOCHAM also suggested that Work from Home should be encouraged wherever possible, Controlled entry and exit points following strict procedure for monitoring customers at shopping malls and outlets, when standing in the queue a minimum distance of 6 ft to be maintained and gathering of crowds is strictly prohibited.

Dr Jitendra launches 'AI' driven Start-Up by IIT alumni

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up by IIT alumni, which carries out solar water purification through an innovative technology.

The facility aims to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the price of water bottles sold in the market.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up initiative by IIT alumni should motivate other Start-Ups as well.

A MoU was also signed between Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and M/s Swajal Water Private Limited, a tech

Start Up company founded by ex-IITians based in Gurugram.

The company is focused on innovative technologies to make reliable clean drinking water accessible to communities at affordable price, for their project on IoT enabled point of use Solar Water Purification Unit for slums, villages and High Utility Areas. Dr Jitendra welcomed the financial support extended to Swajal by TDB and said that his Ministry is committed to reach out to potential small and viable Start-ups having skill and talent pool, but lacking resources.

The Minister asked the CEO & Co Founder of Swajal, Dr Vibha Tripathi to scale up this technology to help achieve India's ambitious target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.