

LG Mathur chairs 2nd University Council meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, on Saturday chaired the Second University Council meeting of the University of Ladakh (UoL) at Raj Niwas.

The University Council members deliberated on various agenda for the meeting, including Memorandums of Understanding signed by UoL with different institutions for cooperation and knowledge-sharing; introduction of NCC as an elective course in all constituent colleges of UoL; appointment of Prof VK Jain from University of Gujarat as Honorary Advisor; Research and Development in UoL; appointment of consultant for landscaping of UoL; introduction of PhD in three subjects in UoL; appointment of Directors of University campuses at Leh and Kargil; establishing Directorate of College Affairs and appointment of Director; College Affairs; engagement of system analyst; introduction of new post-graduate courses; university outreach programme; establishment of



Lt Governor UT Ladakh, RK Mathur chairing second University Council meeting of University of Ladakh.

research centres in UoL; establishment of Tribal Research Institute in Kargil campus; formation of Ladakh Region Knowledge Cluster; deputation/transfer of employees from J&K; salary of contractual teachers and daily wagers; budget allocation for Constituent Degree Colleges and establishment of Degree College in Sankoo, Kargil.

There was deliberation on the design of the logo for the University of Ladakh and the allotment of land for both the Leh and Kargil university campuses. Speaking during the meeting, Lt Governor Mathur, who is the Chancellor of University of Ladakh, stressed the need to introduce subjects that would directly benefit Ladakh.

He highlighted the need for local knowledge and

stated that the University of Ladakh should have courses on mountain studies, climate change, Central Asian studies, Buddhist studies and culture. Lt Governor Mathur also suggested the introduction of cold weather technologies to help make Ladakh functional throughout the year. Vice-Chancellor Talat Ahmad also suggested promoting Geology-based tourism in Ladakh.

During the meeting, Lt Governor Mathur stated that financial and administrative control of degree colleges rests with the University. It was decided to keep the recruitment against gazetted posts on hold till the statutes are awarded.

Lt Governor Mathur suggested Prof Mehta to explore the possibility of starting Sankoo College by

integrating it as a campus of Kargil College. Lt Governor Mathur stated that the National Informatics Centre may be requested to make the National Knowledge Network functional at the earliest. Commenting on the suggestion made by the Chairman of LAHDC Kargil to introduce courses at the university campuses in Leh and Kargil based on the enrolment of students, Lt Governor Mathur stated that University of Ladakh may frame guiding principles for introducing new courses.

Earlier, Registrar, University of Ladakh, Inteeaz Kacho gave a detailed presentation on the working and achievements of the university.

Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad; Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Advisor Umang Narula; Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof Talat Ahmad; Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Prof RK Sinha; Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof SK Mehta; Secretary, Higher Education, Padma Angmo; Founder HIAL, Sonam Wangchuk and faculty members of the University of Ladakh attended the meeting.

Jat Maha Sabha delegation calls on Div Com, discusses several issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A 25-member delegation of All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS) led by its President Ch Mannohan Singh on Saturday met Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langar and discussed various issues confronting the border dwellers and the Jat community members living across the length and breadth of the UT of J&K.

The members of the delegation belonged to various places including Samba, Hiranagar, Vijaypur, Bishmah, R S Pura, Suchetgarh, Akhnoor and Jammu.

The delegation comprised of Ch Prem Pal Pala, Sd. Darshan Singh, Ch Darshan Singh BDC Chairman, Ch Rattan Lal, Ch Dev Raj Sarpanch, Capt. Tirath Singh, Sarpanch Ch. Parveen, Sd. Gurdayal Singh Sarpanch, Adv. Davinder Singh Sonu, Ch Tilak Raj, Ch Jarnail Singh, Ch Yash Pal, Ch Sarain Singh, Ch Sunil, Ch Gaar Singh and Ch Bachan Lal.

During the meeting, Ch Mannohan Singh raised the issue of disbursement of financial assistance sanctioned by the Government of India of Rs 5.5 lakh to the displaced families of Chhamb Sector of 1947, 1965 and 1971 as there are still so many files pending in the Deputy Commissioners Office. He mentioned that there are so many displaced



AIJMS delegation led by President Ch Mannohan Singh during an interaction with Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langar.

families due to displacement have lost their relevant documents like ration cards while some are issue less who are facing severe problems in getting the financial assistance.

In view of this, the Divisional Commissioner, taking a swift action, directed the concerned Deputy Commissioner to clear the pending files and then send the same to his office for release of funds.

The other important issue which came for discussion was giving ownership rights of the allotted custodian lands to displaced families of 1965 and 1971 in lieu of land left over in Chhamb sector after displacement.

The Divisional Commissioner termed it as a genuine issue and assured that he will take up this matter with the senior functionaries of the government to resolve the same at the earliest.

Ch Mannohan Singh also raised the issue of BSF digging their agriculture land in village Kangwala for making Bandh

on the border.

Upon listening to this issue, the Divisional Commissioner discussed the matter with DC Samba and asked him to sort out issue immediately so that farming community doesn't face any losses or inconvenience.

Another important issue which came up for discussion was of villages Barota, Rangoor and Keso, which confront flash floods every year and incur losses on account of untamed water flow.

Ch Mannohan apprised the Divisional Commissioner that there used to be a Bandh which saved these villages from the wrath of floods but four years back the same got washed away. He said that the people approached the then Governor over the issue and looking into the gravity of the situation, the then Governor had sanctioned Rs 15 crore but despite the release of money, things have not changed on ground and the threat of floods is always loom-

ing large.

Consequently, the Divisional Commissioner assured that he will himself visit the aforesaid villages and mull what can be done to save the population from the flash floods.

Ch Mannohan Singh also raised the issue of the PWD Bridge constructed at Village Sai Kalan. He said that though the bridge is ready to use but the approach roads on both ends are still nowhere in the scene thus making a mockery of the system.

Expressing surprise over the situation, the Divisional Commissioner contacted the concerned Chief Engineer and enquired about the ground situation. He again said that he will visit the spot to take first-hand information and do the needful thereafter.

Ch Mannohan also raised the issue of farmers hailing from Suchetgarh and R S Pura, who were affected due to Gharana Wetland development. The Div Com without mincing words said that the land acquired by the government is for developing the water body as the place is of international importance. He however assured that except the land acquiring issue, all other issues will be taken up on priority and no one will have to suffer in the area. He said that he will visit the spot and if the farmers have any issue the same will be addressed there and then.

KP leaders demand unbiased probe in temple fire incident at Kulgam



Members of Shri Tripur Sundri Sanstha-Khanabarti staging protest at Jammu on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Baradari members/Management of Shri Tripur Sundri Sanstha-Khanabarti, Devsar Kulgam camp condemned the fire Incident of Mata Tripur Sundri Khanabarti Devsar.

T.K Dhar, President of the Sanstha, demanded the trough probe of the incident so that the miscreants are put before the public.

More socio political leaders of Kashmiri Pandit community cutting across their affiliations have strongly expressed great shock and grief on the fire incident that took place at Mata Lalita

Tripura Sunderi Shrine in Devsar in south Kashmir's Kulgam District on the intervening night of Thursday & Friday.

In a joint statement these leaders expressed grave concern and questioned how the fire broke out at midnight in such extreme cold season of winter and what are the reasons behind this fire incident.

These leaders demanded unbiased investigation in time bound period to reveal the truth behind this mishapening and appealed to Lt Governor administration to protect and preserved centuries old religious shrines

and temples in the Valley.

These leaders also urged concerned Deputy Commissioners who are the sole custodian of immovable migrant properties under Migrant Property Act 1997 to protect and upkeep the religious places of minorities in Kashmir also which is their bounden duty and they cannot shun away from their assigned duties.

KP leaders who condemned the incident include Rakesh Koul, Vinod Pandita, Vijay Raina, Bharat Kachroo and Sunil Bhat.

Earlier, KP leaders including former BJP lawmakers Surinder Ambardar and Ajay Bharati, KP Sabha chief KK Khosa and General Secretary ASKPC B.B Gosain Wattal have also demanded an unbiased investigation into this fire incident. They urged the LG administration to protect the centuries old religious heritage, temples and shrine in Valley.

Sanatan Dharam Sabha honours Tawi Green Andolan team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sanatan Dharam Sabha on Saturday honoured Chander Mohan Sharma and members of team Tawi Green Andolan including Advocate Parshotam Chander Sharma, Balvinder Singh Bhatia, Veena Bakshi, Sumita Kundal, Santosh Kumar and Ram Pal Sharma for their endeavours to revive pristine glory of Surajputri Tawi. The felicitation function was held at Gita Bhawan, here in connection with Makar-Sankranti festival.

Purshotam Dadichi, President of SD Sabha presided over the function. Chander Mohan Sharma, Chairman of Tawi Green Andolan gave a detailed account of activities of Andolan.

"The purpose of the movement is rejuvenation of Surajputri Tawi which is not only our life line but also our identity," he said adding that said that a lot needs to be done to establish it as revered river.

He further said that Andolan has vast aim of rejuvenation of all water bodies, protection of environment and our enshrined heritage as City of Temples. Chander Mohan Sharma also extended gratitude to Sanatan Dharam Sabha.

Purshotam Dadichi appreciated the idea of Tawi Green Andolan and described it as need of the hour as the symbols of our great culture are required to be preserved and Surajputri is one of the these symbols. Dadichi assured full support to the Andolan and asked all Biradati organisations, social and civil societies to come and support Tawi Green Andolan.

Others present on the occasion included Vice Presidents Arun Gupta, Shakti Seth, Parbhat Singh and Subash Sharma. Pawan Baru conducted the proceedings and also thanked participants for attending the function amidst strictly under corona protocol.

Give Sanskrit its due, recruitment of Sanskrit teachers a dead letter: Sangarsh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Stressing the need to give adequate weightage to traditional oriental learning, Nitán Sharma, President Sangarsh highlighted the lack of recruitment opportunities in the education sector of UT of J&K for Sanskrit teachers at secondary and college level.

He stated that lack of employment opportunities for Sanskrit scholars will lead to the downfall of our own culture and civilization as the impetus to study this language will be lost by the forthcoming generations.

Evidently, he said, a lot of importance is given to other languages as ascertained from the notifications issued by recruitment agencies from time to time but no positive effort was made to engage/absorb eligible candi-

dates from the field of Sanskrit in the past few years.

At this juncture, he mentioned that Sanskrit comes from the word 'Sanskar' (culture) which has evolved over the years.

"Thus, it is important for us to recognise Sanskrit as a language of modernisation. Further, by recapturing ancient Indian wisdom, which is largely contained in Vedas and Upanishads, a sustainable solution to current environmental cataclysm can be easily found.

Even the classical literature manifests the spirit of universal brotherhood and empathy not only among human beings but even among all beings, of all species," he said.

Promoting such holistic understanding can definitely bring the peace both within and outside and helps in establishing an egalitarian and just order, he informed.

So the government needs to encourage the regular recruitment of Sanskrit teachers, which will ensure more student enrolment, and in later years, greater number of Sanskrit teachers, he added.

The members of Sangarsh requested the LG Manoj Sinha to take notice of this matter and protect this language by carrying out regular recruitments.

Others who were present at the press conference included Dr. Rahul Khajuria, Ishan Verma, Advocate Pardeep Raina and Purvi Sharma.

BYDC mourns demise of Brig Suchet Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Batwal Youth Development Committee Jammu mourned the untimely veteran leader of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sang, Brig (Retd) Suchet Singh who breathed his last a day before yesterday.

BYDC Chairman R.L.Kaith, Deputy Chairman Havildar Des Raj Kaith, President Tilak Raj Bassa and all Executive Members termed his demise a great loss to the society.

A two minute silence was observed followed by a prayer for the departed Soul.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu successfully concluded the Winter School for the students of classes 10 to 12, which progressed from January 10 to 14, 2022.

This program was envisioned by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, wherein his dedication and contribution led to the manifestation of this programme.

The programme consisted of various modules on current topics and essential life lessons.

The teaching methodology employed delivering knowledge through interactive and

IIM Jammu concludes Winter School

fun-filled sessions.

The programme went on for five days, with each day divided into modules that covered different aspects of learning. Each module was divided into two sessions which included 'Design Thinking' by Dr. Mugbil Burhan, 'Read, Think and Gain' by Dr. Pallavi Pandey, 'Managing Personal Finances' by Dr. Manoj Kumar, 'Playing with Data' by Dr. RashmiRanjanParida, 'Entrepreneurship' by Dr. Prateek Jain, 'Integrated prateek as a career option' by Mr. Arup Bhattacharya, 'Are you Emotionally

Intelligent?' by Dr. Barnali Chaudhary, 'Coping up with Stress and Failures' by Dr. Sumant Biswas, 'Knowing your personal Brand' by Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, and 'How to build Social networks' by Dr. Baljeet Singh.

The program directors, Dr. Archana Sharma and Dr. Kulwinder Kaur, have put all their efforts in planning and conducting the outstanding event with worthwhile contributions from their counterparts, thus making the programme a grand success.

The Online Winter School programme witnessed the participation of over 200 students from across the

country, acting as a new way of learning for the students in these difficult times of the pandemic.

The participants had a healthy gender ratio and belonged to variety of streams and educational backgrounds. The program helped students discover the importance of critical thinking, to be carried with perseverance without any hindrance from the external world. The students also learned about diverse and upcoming careers that were not present earlier and how they could prosper in these new fields, through interactive sessions taken by the

esteemed faculty members of IIM Jammu.

Dr. Archana Sharma presented the program summary covering all the crucial moments of the program. Dr. Jabir Ali, delivered the concluding notes of the program and congratulated the participants on successful completion of the Online Winter School.

He highlighted the importance of keeping oneself updated with the ever-changing world. He further advised the students to adopt the path of hard-work and dedication to excel in life. Dr. Pankaj Agarwal presented the vote of thanks.

DGP sanctions special relief in favour of NoKs of 3 SPOs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Continuing with its welfare initiatives to provide financial assistance to the NoKs of deceased SPOs, the Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbag Singh has sanctioned special relief of Rs 15 lakh under three different orders of PHQ. He also sanctioned meritorious scholarship in favour of six wards of serving SPOs.

The DGP has sanctioned Rs 5 lakh each in favour of NoKs of SPO Mukesh Kumar, SPO Reyaz Ahmad Malik and SPO Kunj Lal who died during the course of their engagement in J&K Police. The amount has been sanctioned out of the

Contributory Welfare fund.

Meanwhile, a meritorious scholarship of Rs 8500 has been sanctioned in favour of a ward of serving SPO for securing above 80% marks in B.Sc and another ward of serving SPO has been granted Rs 7200 for securing above 90% marks in class 12th.

Similarly Rs 6000 each has been sanctioned in favour of two wards of serving SPOs who have secured above 90% marks in annual examination of 10th and Rs 4000 each has been sanctioned in favour of two wards for securing above 80% marks in class 10th. The fund is sanctioned out of the Police Pariwar Fund.

Workshop on 'Genetically modified mosquitoes' held at SKUAST-J

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A national level workshop was organised under the leadership of Dr J.P Sharma, Vice chancellor SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Anees Yadav, National Professor ICAR under SERB Programme. In an invited lecture on Genetically Modified mosquitos, Dr R.K. Gupta, Professor and Head Entomology, deliberated that Insect-borne diseases cause significant economic losses in countries where they are endemic and approximately half of the world's population is at risk of contracting insect-borne diseases.

These vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of

all infectious diseases, causing more than 7,00,000 deaths annually. They can be caused by parasites, bacteria or viruses. He disclosed that there were estimated 219 million Malaria cases worldwide which result in more than 4,00,000 deaths each year. On the other hand 3.9 billion people in more than 129 countries are at risk of contracting dengue, with about 96 million symptomatic cases and about 40,000 deaths each year.

Other vector-borne viral diseases include chikungunya fever, Zika virus fever, yellow fever, West Nile fever and Japanese encephalitis. He told that most humans are at risk in developing countries, concentrated in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Since, there are currently no vaccines and current conventional disease-control pro-

grammes have failed to manage them effectively, these have continued to spread and resurge.

However, Genetically modified (GM) insects which are produced by inserting new genes into their genome hold great potential.

Dr RK Gupta emphasised that this innovative approach is based upon self-limiting population suppression mechanisms that include sterile insect technique and Release of Insects carrying adominant lethal (RIDL).

This RIDL technique involves genetic improvement of the SIT whereby lethal gene is inserted into the insects using transgenic technology, a non-toxic, lethal protein (ITAV) that allows larval development but prevents RIDL insect progeny from reaching adulthood.

When they mate with wild insects, the lethal gene is passed down to the offspring, causing them to die. The insect population from the area would be eradicated if enough of the GM males were to be released to inundate the wild females. Because the lethal genes are designed to kill subsequent generations, most suppression strategies are self-limiting, eventually eradicating all GM individuals from the wild.

Dr Gupta shared that the recent field trials based upon Oxitech RIDL technique gene are under progress in Florida, Cayman island and Brazil and a suppression level of about 95 % has been achieved so far. The use of genetically modified mosquitoes thus holds a wide potential to eradicate the vector born diseases all over the world in future.

India @2047 would have evolved beyond imagination: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that India's @2047 would have evolved beyond imagination.

Not only are things moving fast , but the pace of this forward movement is much faster than ever before, which makes it very difficult to precisely visualise the exact shape of India that emerges 25 years from now, he said.

But one thing is certain, he said, that when independent India turns 100, it will be the world's Technological and Economic powerhouse.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, several initiatives, policies, schemes and programmes during the last over 7 years have given rise to a new era, in what has been described

as the dawn of New India, and the emergence of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. He said, if one looks back Dr Jitendra Singh said, as we formulate the Vision for Governance, one has to recognize that to bring citizens and Government closer, digital institutions have to be created.

He said, adopting 21st century management practices represents a significant challenge for Governments and it is with this objective that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on the ambitious Vision India @2047 initiative.

The Minister pointed out that the Government has tried to ensure digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen by providing

unique digital identity, access to common service centres and has provided thousands of Services on Demand by seamless integration of services across Departments/Ministries. Recalling the DARPg's Regional Conference at Nagpur on 'Improving Service Delivery' in December 2019, he said, both State/ Central Governments have tried to ensure availability of services in real time by digital empowerment of citizens.

Some of the eminent Sectoral Experts who presented their views for India Vision @47 included Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary, Sanjat Kothari, former CVC, Dr k. Radhakrishnan former ISRO Chairman, Prof Eroll

D'ouza , Prof Himanshu Roy, Prof Abhay Karandikar, Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr R. Balasubramaniam, Prof Nirmalaya Bagchi, Dr C. Chanramauli, Dr Mahadeo Jaiswal and S.N. Tripathi.

The Second major campaign implemented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters in Government. During the campaign period from October 2 to October 31, 2021, 12 lakh square meter of space was freed, Rs.62.5 crores of revenue generated from scrap disposal and 21 lakh files were weeded. This campaign has now been adopted as a regular process in government.