

Workshop on 'Molecular Biology & Immunology Techniques' concludes at SKUAST-J

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the objective to improve research productivity of the PG and Ph.D students, a 14 days national level hands on workshop on the topic "Molecular Biology and Immunology Techniques" was organized under the leadership of Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with Science and Engineering Research Board, DST, New Delhi. The workshop was organized by Division of Veterinary Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-J.

In the valedictory function, Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, was Chief Guest. In his address Dr. Bhadwal said that the solution of all the challenges in animal sciences lies with molecular biological approaches that are aimed towards improving animal health by developing newer vaccines and diagnostics, development of newer



Dignitaries posing for a photograph with participants of 14-day hands on workshop.

reproductive technologies, production of bio-pharmaceuticals through transgenesis and animal products.

Dr. Mohd Altaf Bhat, Professor and Head, Division of Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology, SKUAST-K, Shuhama was Guest of honour and in his address stressed that application of advanced techniques in the research plans of the PhD scholars will lead to better scientific findings and practical utility of the research plan undertaken. Dr. Anish Yadav, Professor and ICAR-National Fellowcum Course Director made a pres-

entation and discussed in length the activities conducted during workshop by the 25 participants of six universities of North India.

He informed that international and national acclaimed experts of different fields from leading institutes like GAD-VASU Ludhiana, IIT Jammu, SKUAST-K, Srinagar, SKUAST-Jammu and SMVDU-Katra were invited to deliver the talks.

In addition, to inculcate and enrich the cultural exchange among participants "Lohri" festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm. As part of the

study tour, field visits were made at Gharana Wetland and Indo-Pak international border at Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura.

The participants namely Yogesh Sharma and Sadiya Shafi presented their opinion regarding conductance of the workshop. Certificates were distributed by the Chief Guest. Dr. Sanku Borkataki, Asstt. Prof., Veterinary Parasitology presented the vote of thanks.

Head of the Divisions and faculty members of SKUAST-J graced the occasion. Dr. Kwardeep Kaur carried out the proceedings of the valedictory function.

Dr Jitendra reaches out to employees 'Working From Home'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday reached out to employees "Working From home" and also officers and staff of Ministry of Personnel DoPT, DARPG, Public Grievances and Pensions who are in quarantine or infected by COVID-19.

He inquired about the well-being of each one of them and also asked them to share their experience as well as suggestions. During the meeting, Dr Jitendra noted with satisfaction that all the eligible employees of the age of 18 years and above got vaccinated with both the doses and made a general appeal to people who are yet to get vaccinated against COVID-19 should do so immediately in

the wake of surge because of Omicron spread. The Minister was apprised that out of 663 officers and staff of DoPT, 46 got infected with mild symptoms and 20 of them already recovered. Similarly, 8 persons out of 158 from DARPG and 6 employees out of 58 from Department of Pensions got infected in the third wave, however not a single case of hospitalisation was reported so far.

Secretary, DoPT P.K.Tripathy, Secretary, DARPG and Pensions, V.Srinivas, Additional Secretary, DoPT Rashmi Chowdhary, Additional Secretary and EO, DoPT Deepti Umashankar, Jaya Dubey, Joint Secretary, DARPG and other senior officials joined the meeting.

Wanchoo castigates CLUJ officials for playing with lives of youth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Jana Yuva Moreha (JKBJYM), while expressing anguish, has castigated the authorities of Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) for compelling a COVID-19 positive student to appear in the offline examination.

In a statement issued to media here today, Chetan Wanchoo, J&K B&JM Media Secretary, said that it is a matter of great concern that despite knowing the fact that the student was COVID-19 positive the concerned officials not only flouted the laid down COVID SOPs but also played with the lives of other students by compelling the infected stu-

dent to appear in the examination conducted through offline mode.

Condemning and questioning the highhandedness of the authorities especially that of the Controller of Examinations, Wanchoo said on one hand the Govt is asking Covid positive people to immediately go into isolation while on the other hand the authorities handling sensitive as well as important posts are deliberately going against the set directions resorting to arbitrary actions risking the lives of students.

He warned that such kind of negligence amounts to dereliction of duty that cannot be tolerated at any cost.

He said that there is no fault

Stobdan Namra cremated at Bodh Gaya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Tsering Stobdan Namra, a philanthropist and an ardent Buddhist devotee, who passed away on 15th January, was cremated with Bodh Gaya on Wednesday.

President Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) Thupstan Chhewang was among the dignitaries who attended the last rites of Tsering Stobdan Namra at Bodh Gaya.

As the news of his demise broke in Leh, condolence messages started pouring in from different corners of Ladakh and prayer meetings were also held.

Founder-President Mahabodhi International Meditation Center (MIMC) Bhikkhu Sanghasena in his condolence message said Tsering Stobdan Namra had been an enormous support in setting up MIMC Organization. He was a founding member of MIMC along with his closest Dharma friends, Tsewang Dorje Dongbos and Ajang Shinkhan Norbu.

"I can never forget his



unnnerved h e l p . MIMC will r e m a i n e v e r g r a t e f u l f o r h i s g r e a t c o n t r i b u t i o n , " B h i k k h u S a n g h a s e n a s a i d , a d d i n g , " T s e r i n g S t o b d a n N a m r a s p e n t m u c h o f h i s l i f e r e n d e r i n g s o c i a l s e r v i c e s a n d d e v o t e d t o l i s t e n i n g t o a n d t o p r a c t i c i n g B u d d h a D h a r m a f r o m a l l t h e h i g h R i n p o c h e s o f L a d a k h a n d T i b e t a n .

He was very close to His Holiness Dalai Lama, His Holiness Rinzong Rinpoche and all other prominent Rinpoches. I don't think he missed any of the Kalachakra teachings by His Holiness Dalai Lama and all other important teachings propounded by all the high rank Rinpoches."

"Ever since Namra had fallen sick and knew he wouldn't last long, we never noticed any trace of fear, worry, or tension. He remained very calm and relaxed until his last breath.

It is unbelievable that he never complained about any pain. Throughout his health problems he remained in perfect state of equanimity with all his senses in perfect condition till the last movement," Bhikkhu Sanghasena observed.

Every year Namra used to carry offerings of Tsampa - barley flour, and local fruits from Ladakh for His Holiness Dalai lama at Dharamsala, HP.

He also helped build many Stupas, distributed thousands of Buddhist Dharma books to whosoever is in need and seeking. According to former MLA Tsering samphel, who was a close friend of deceased, Stobdan Namra had arranged to distribute more than 200 Kangyur and 50 Stangyur (sacred Buddhist texts) sets and thousands of other rare texts and prayer wheels all over Ladakh by investing besides sponsoring to build many Stupas all over Ladakh. He was also the founder of Lotsava Lamdon School in Tingmosgang.

NC nominates provincial office bearers of Legal Cell

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the approval of Provincial President Jammu Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Advocate Dinesh Singh Chouhan, Provincial President Legal Cell Jammu has Constituted Provincial Office bearers Legal Cell Jammu Province.

Advocate Manpreet Singh Saini and Advocate Mehrukh Syedan have been nominated as Vice Presidents; Advocate Zamir Quershi will be Secretary. Advocate Upasana Thakur and Advocate Ashish Bharti will be Joint Secretaries. Advocate Atul Chanyal shall be treasurer.

Rattan Lal Gupta has congratulated newly nominated Provincial Legal team and hoped the legal cell shall be working with dedication to ameliorate the sufferings of the down trodden and poor citizens of J&K and shall make and endeavor that the legal rights and the sufferings of the people are protected with the working of the legal cell.

Contractors Association seeks immediate release of pending payments regarding languishing projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Flaying Government and Finance Department in particular for a huge delay of about 6 months in clearing pending bills in respect of works already completed under Languishing Projects

scheme, J&K Contractors Co-ordination Committee (JKCC) has urged the administration to releases all pending payment without any further delay. While addressing a press conference in Jammu on Wednesday, Balvinder Singh Gen Secretary J&K Contractors Co-ordination Committee said that several developmental works have been taken up under the project, out of which many works have been completed by contractors and bills have also been passed by respective PWD offices and forwarded to Finance Department for payment after completing all requisite formalities, but the Department failed to arrange funds for the purpose despite lapse of more than 6 months and adopting dilly delaying tactics.

Singh further said that it



General Secretary JKCC, Balvinder Singh talking to reporters.

is really strange and surprising that Finance Department itself issued Circular with reference to Government Order OM No. F.1/1/2021, dated 29-10-2021 on expenditure procurement policy categorically states in item No. 12 Para 12.1 reads 'aligning interest of stakeholders' delay in eligible payment to contractors lead to delay in execution of projects and disputes. "Adhoc payments of not less than 75 per cent of eligible running bills due stage/payment shall be made within 10 days of the submission of the bill by the contractor, the remaining payment is also to be made after final checking of the bills within 28 days.

In case due payment has not been released within 10 working days as per pre-

scribed above, it shall be made as soon as possible. After payment a written explanation for the delay shall be submitted to next higher authority within 3 months," he added.

Singh also criticized the one sided approach of authorities to warn to black list all those contractors who fail to complete allotted work within prescribed time but themselves failed to arrange funds for release of payments, to contractors as per instructions in the circular, quoted above.

All the members of the association urged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene into the matter as concerned authorities have failed to address the most burning issues of contractors.

Kargil war hero Capt Vikram Batra's bust unveiled in Himachal's Palampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A bust of Kargil war hero Captain Vikram Batra was unveiled in Himachal Pradesh's Palampur on Wednesday, Army officials said.

The unveiling of the bust in the soldier's hometown will inspire generations to come, they said.

A bust of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Captain Vikram Batra was unveiled at Palampur military station by his father G L Batra and mother Kamal Kanta Batra in the presence of another Kargil war hero and northern army commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi, the officials said.

Lt Gen Joshi was the commanding officer of the 13 JAK Rifles during the Kargil war; they added.

Wednesday's event was also graced by Maj Gen M P Singh, GOC Dah Division, Capt Vikram Batra's school teachers namely R S Guleria, Suman Maini and Neelam Vats as well as by some of his childhood friends, the officials said.



Family members and northern army commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi after unveiling bust of Captain Vikram Batra.

As a token of remembrance, this placement of the bust of Capt Vikram Batra at his birthplace will also serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for generations to come, they said.

Capt Batra's bravery, camaraderie and devotion to his duty were extraordinary and will always find exalted place in the annals of our military history, the Army officials said. On July 7, 1999, Captain Batra, a young and brave officer; who had caught the fancy of the nation and become the icon of the Indian Army officer spirit by his success signal to capture Point 5140 with victory message 'Yeh Dil Maange More'

made the supreme sacrifice but not before capturing Point 4875 during the Kargil War; they said.

Point 4875 is a mountain top along the Line of Control (LoC). It is also known as the Batra Top, named after the soldier.

During the commemoration, Lt Gen Joshi recollected the undaunted courage of Capt Batra that inspired his men to fight valiantly and eventually led to the successful capture of Point 5140, which further paved the way for a string of victories at Point 5100, Point 4700, Junction Peak and Three Pimple in Drass sector in Kargil.

He also mentioned about the crucial role played by Capt Batra for the capture of Point 4875, in which he assaulted on the enemy position along a narrow ridge that led to a fierce fight and killed five enemy soldiers at point-blank range, the officials said.

With utter disregard to his personal safety, leading from the front, Capt Batra pressed on the attack to achieve a near-impossible military task in the face of heavy enemy fire, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Indian Army, made the supreme sacrifice for which he was awarded with the highest gallantry award 'Param Vir Chakra', they said.

"The sacrifice of brave hearts will never be forgotten, who went beyond the call of duty and showed exemplary courage and unflinching determination and will always be etched in the heart and mind of all Indians," the Army said.

It was most befitting that his gallant action was commemorated by his then commanding officer of 13 JAKRIF, it said.

Kashmiri Pandits observe January 19 as 'Holocaust Day'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits on Wednesday observed January 19 as the 'Holocaust Day' to mark exodus of their community members from the Valley in 1990 due to threats and killings by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

Several migrant organisations like Panun Kashmir, Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD), Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS), Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS), Save Sharda Committee (SSC) and All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference (ASKPC) held programmes during the day to pay tributes to the victims and to reaffirm commitment to the cause of Kashmiri Pandits. Events were also held at Jagti and Muthi migrant camps here. The organisations demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should personally intervene to settle Kashmir



Kashmiri Pandits taking out rally at Jagti.

Pandit community, living as refugees in their own country for the past 32 years, in the valley.

To commemorate sad and unfortunate occasion of exodus of Kashmiri Pandit community from Kashmir on January 19, 1990 a zoom meeting was convened by Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, which was attended by a number of member, who expressed their utter disappointment over the fact that despite lapse of 32 years, no concrete measure has been initiated to resettle beleaguered Kashmiri Pandits back in Kashmir. KPS members led

by its President K K Khosa, urged LG to announce robust return and rehabilitation policy for displaced Kashmiri Pandit community as promised by him during a press briefing.

Panun Kashmir leader Kamal Bagati said, Kashmiri Pandits have suffered genocide, ethnic cleansing and exodus despite being the indigenous people of Kashmir and it is the duty of the government to resettle them in their homeland in accordance with their geopolitical aspirations.

"We are caught in uncertainty. We do not know our future. We had high hope that the gov-

ernment led by Prime Minister will ensure the reversal of genocide by facilitating our return back to the valley. But nothing has happened post the abrogation of Article 370," said Sahil Pandita of Jagti camp.

A large group of Kashmiri Pandits from Delhi-NCR region organised a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. The protest was organised and led by Ravinder Pandita, Head of Save Sharda Committee Kashmir. A number of activists of Kashmiri Khatri Hindu Maha Sabha, led by its Chairman/President Ramesh Chander Mahajan staged a demonstration on the 32nd anniversary of KP's mass exodus from Kashmir valley.

Speaking on the occasion, Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC stated that it is unfortunate that KP community continues to be in exile and nothing has been done for the community from last 32 years.

Devendra elected President, Manish Vice President of ICSI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: CS Devendra V. Deshpande elected as President and CS Manish Gupta, elected as Vice

President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for the year 2022.

CS Devendra is a fellow Member of the ICSI and a Post Graduate in Commerce from Pune University. He was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019-2022 and served as Vice-President of the ICSI for the year 2021 before being elected as President, the ICSI for the year 2022.

CS Manish Gupta is a Law Graduate and has a Master's Degree in Commerce. He has been associated with the profession of Company Secretaries for last 18 years, as a Practicing Company Secretary.

He was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019-2022 and served as the Chairman of the PCS Committee of the ICSI in 2021 and 2019 and PMQ Course Committee of the ICSI in 2021 and 2020, before being elected as the Vice-President of the ICSI for the year 2022.

C-DYTE Jammu gives wings to aspirants willing to join defence forces

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Centre for District Youth Training and Empowerment Jammu(C-DYTEJ) - an initiative of District Development Commissioner office, in Collaboration with Mission Youth J&K Government, is playing a commendable role to enable young aspirants to join defence forces.

The project was started with an aim to equip the district youth, who have a burning desire to get entry into the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Paramilitary and Indian defence forces, with necessary physical and mental skills required for the armed forces recruitment. It also aims at channelizing their energies in the positive direction by encouraging activities like sports & recreation, drug de-addiction drives, providing facility of libraries/2417 reading rooms, career counselling, besides Yoga and Meditation Classes etc.

According to the Chairman C-DYTEJ, Anshul Garg, a number of eligible Border, Rural and Semi Urban and urban young boys are aspiring to be future army/paramilitary soldiers and can be found running in evening and morning along roadsides due to lack of training (Grounds, equipments, trainers etc) facilities at their door steps. Those

who are above the age bracket of joining defence forces remain unskilled/unemployed not due to lack of talent but lack of resources like reading rooms, competitive books/online study material, coaching institutes, career counselling, vocational skill training etc. "So, this idea of scheme was developed and executed" he added.

He also informed that so far Ten (10) centres (09 in border blocks and 01 in rural-urban for (girls only) centre falling in the revenue sub-divisions of Jammu South, Jammu North, R.S.Pura, Marh, Akhnoor, Khour and Chowki Choura are working to enhance the academic ability of the jobless youth. These are being run in abandoned government buildings, while physical endurance training is being conducted in the grounds in respective blocks. These playgrounds are equipped with physical structures (Obstacles). Sharing his views about the C-DYTE, Rohit Kumar (a trainee) said that it was his dream to join the Indian defence forces but due to unavailability of proper guidance and facilities, he was unable to make his dream a reality. Thanking the government for the initiative to provide the facilities for training, he said that C-DYTE has given wings to his dreams. Similar are the

thoughts of Pooja Sharma, who is getting training under C-DYTE. Pooja said that it is not only an opportunity of getting a job in defence forces but also a great medium of channelizing energies of youngsters. She added that Social values, National Anthem, Patriotic songs are part of the training for a bigger mission of inculcating humanitarian values and giving right direction to youth energies.

The 90 day skill development course is designed to hone their physical, academic, social and competitive skills thereby completing GD Army syllabus/JKSSB and other competitive exams with Yoga & Meditation Classes/modules and Drug De-Addiction counselling.

In all a total three batches are trained in a year (i.e. 1st-Jan to March; 2nd-Mid April to Mid July; 3rd-Mid Sep. to Mid December).

A total of 70 trainees are enrolled in each centre after medical examination by the medical teams sent by the Chief Medical Officer of the District and no fee is charged from the enrolled trainees.

To encourage the enrolled youth an amount of Rs 1000/- per month is paid to them for maintaining their health. They are instructed to take healthy food after hard physical and academic sessions daily.