

Dr Jitendra announces Fellowships for Indian Diaspora, hails their contribution to global growth

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday announced special Fellowships for the Indian Diaspora living abroad and hailed their contribution to the overall global growth.

The Indian Diaspora is playing a key role in overall global economic growth and they are adding value to the countries and societies where they are settled, though at the same time they continue to be rooted in their motherland, Dr Jitendra said today.

Today's India beckons them back with more opportunities and greater ease of world, he said.

At the ceremony, Dr Jitendra announced the results of the first Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship calls and launch of the next cycle of the VAIBHAV call.

Dr Jitendra emphasized that our Indian diaspora in Science, Technology,



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, addressing the Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship event, at New Delhi, on Tuesday.

Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) are playing a key role in determining the direction in which our society and the world is moving by bringing technological changes and using it in innovative ways, particularly in social and developmental sectors.

Highlighting the importance of VAIBHAV, Dr Jitendra said that the VAIBHAV Fellows are from topmost institutes of Australia, Canada,

Finland, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and would be engaged to Indian institutes like IITs, IISc and so on during next 3 years working on jointly identified problems. This will certainly lead the way in establishing research capability as an important avenue towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

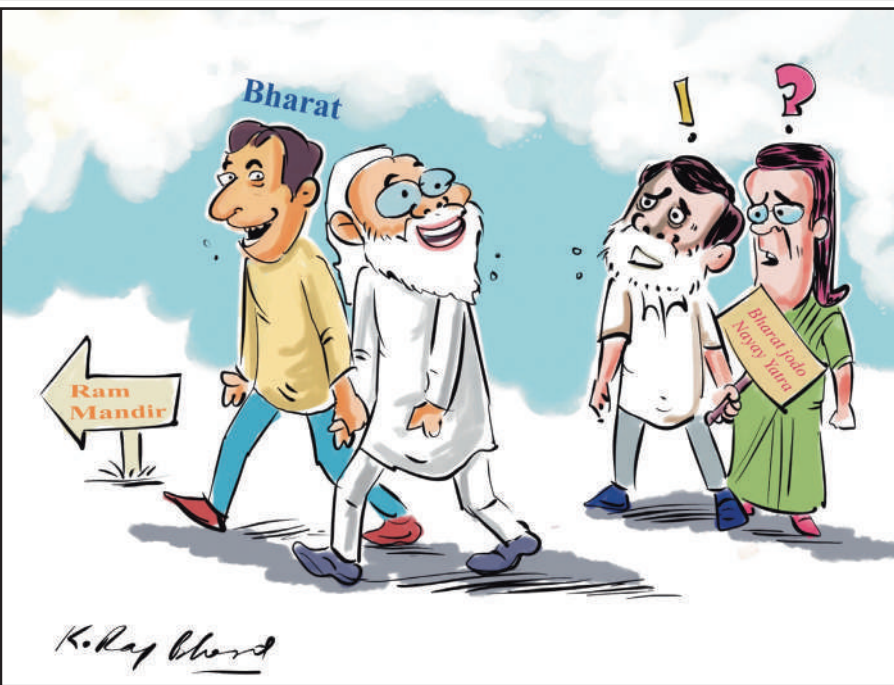
"The Distinguished VAIBHAV fellows would network with Indian academic Institutions and would attempt to create a

collaborative network of cutting-edge research programmes in sync with the priority areas of Government of India. The fellows would facilitate an exchange of best practices between the two countries and attempt to address the areas of concern in collaborative research between the two countries," the Union Minister pointed out.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST said that as India is a developing country, we still have many scientific areas which need to be strengthened further

such as Renewable Energy, Waste to Energy, Electric Vehicles, Cyber Physical Systems, Quantum Technologies, Future Manufacturing, Blue Economy, Affordable Health Care and so on.

"We believe that the Indian diaspora working in other countries would be able to expand the horizons of Indian researchers with their knowledge and experiences. They can help and guide our Indian researchers with their unique thought process," he stressed.



International delegation conducts UK Chevening Award's workshop at AIIMS Jammu

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JAMMU: Esteemed medical leadership and healthcare improvement experts, including Prof. Julie Davies from University College London Global Business School for Health, Prof. Chris Hicks from The Newcastle University, UK, Prof. Amrik Sohail from Monash University Australia, and Dr. Kamal Gulati, Chevening-Oxford Fellow from AIIMS, New Delhi, conducted a two-day workshop on healthcare leadership, process improvement and digitalisation tailored specifically for AIIMS-Jammu faculty, residents, nursing officers, and local healthcare providers, the workshop, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Jammu.

Supported by the Chevening and British High Commission in New Delhi, the workshop featured keynote presentations, expert talks, and roundtable discussions on diverse topics related to medical leadership, health-



AIIMS-Jammu Director, Prof Dr. Shakti Gupta with international delegates at a workshop in Jammu on Tuesday.

care improvements, and digitalization.

The workshop's overarching objectives are to create a platform and networks to develop a roadmap for medical leadership aligned with India's national health policy (2017), to facilitate capacity building on medical leadership in collaboration with scholars and health practitioners from AIIMS, UCL, and the Chevening community to promote diversity, equity, inclu-

sion, and belonging (DEIB), to establish a mentorship program for young healthcare professionals in India, and to Co-develop learning materials and resources on medical leadership, accessible to healthcare professionals across India.

AIIMS-Jammu Director, Prof Dr. Shakti Gupta, hosted the international delegation, commencing the workshop on Monday, 22 January, with Prof Y.K. Gupta,

President of AIIMS-Jammu, delivering the keynote address.

The funding was provided through the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund secured by Dr. Kamal Gulati (AIIMS-Delhi) and Professor Julie Davies (University College London).

The expert group also launched an exclusive online series of webinars, the 'Chevening-Shakti Mentorship Programme,'

designed for women in medicine.

Over the next year, about 50 Indian women physicians and nurses will receive mentorship from international experts.

Supriya Chawla, Head of Chevening for India at the British High Commission addressed the audience virtually and stressed the need for having such initiatives for capacity building in Indian healthcare.

Despite challenges, with three members unable to reach Jammu due to adverse weather conditions, the workshop saw active participation from staff, doctoral/MBA students from IIM-Jammu, and IIT-Jammu.

The delegation will further engage with IIM-Jammu and participate in a half-day workshop on "Doing Research in the Health Sector." Additionally, they will visit the new AIIMS-Jammu campus for discussions with staff at various levels.

Prolonged dry spell put forests at risk

Advisory issued amid rising forest fires in Tangmarg



■ SHAKHEELA ANDRABI

TANGMARG: Due to prolonged dry spell in the Valley, forest fires were reported in different forest circles of Kashmir, causing damage to trees and bushes.

Apart from high day temperatures and dry riverbeds, the prolonged dry spell has also left the Kashmir Valley battling with forest fires in winter season.

In response to the growing threat of forest fires in Central Kashmir's Pir Panjal forest areas, authorities have issued a comprehensive advisory urging the public to restrict their presence in forest areas and cooperate with preventive measures.

Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg and SPSP Range Beerwah Budgam issued Preventive Measures for the general public to mitigate the risk of forest fires.

Talking to STATE TIMES, the Range Officer of the SPSP Range Beerwah told that in every forest division, the guards keep vigil round the clock on any smoke and have even sought help from locals to bring any incident of forest fire in their notice.

Though the fires were

brought under control by alert teams of the Forest Department, the ground staff is praying for rain and snowfall that could put stop to these.

Officials say that the administration has provided latest fire extinguishers and fire-fighting equipment to the Forest Protection Force and field officers, with which we are trying to control the forest fires in just seconds and in addition, all the ground force are doing their best to protect the forests.

"We are not allowing any leniency for those who come to the forests to collect wood or come to graze the animals as this can be harmful to the forests in the current dry season, not only senior officers but ground staff has been asked to remain extra vigilant but in some places we have received reports that many miscreants are trying to violate our instructions but the administration and forest department decided, if anybody is found involved in the forest fire, case will be registered against him under Forest Protection Act," he added.

Official say that some fires spread while making charcoal in forests.

"There is a notion

among villagers after bush fire there are chance of good production of herbs and mashrooms, so villagers lit fire deliberately. Due to dryness it spreads in different compartments, said a forest officer.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been implemented to control and prevent significant losses to local biodiversity. Collaborative efforts, involving Forest Department, District Disaster Management Authority, Fire and Emergency Services, and the local community are underway to promptly control fire incidences, he said.

The officials told that the department has installed watch towers and elevated points are strategically used for early detection of forest fires. In case of exigency, people have been asked to contact, Showket of Kuthoo (DFO Special Forest Division Tangmarg 7 0 0 6 1 6 1 2 8 0), Altaf Hussain Khan Forester (I/C control Room Gulmarg Range Tangmarg and Farooq Ahmad Bhat Incharge Range Officer Contact number: 8491844483, Forest Control Room SPSP Range Beerwah Peer Iftkhar Qadri I/C Range Officer has been designated for the said purpose with contact number 9906663796.

The people have been urged to remain vigilant, prepared, and supportive, ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in the Forest Range Tangmarg and Beerwah.

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JAMMU: With elections around the corner, Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President on Tuesday started a wall writing campaign in Booth No. 12, Ward 10 in East Constituency to sensitise people about the Party's symbol (Lotus) and the central welfare schemes.

BJP workers drew lotus symbols and wrote slogans on the walls as a part of the campaign and urged people to have faith in the symbol.

On the occasion, Parveen Kerni, President East Mandal, Anita Gupta, Rajesh Dogra and Rajesh Nischal Vice Presidents of Nischal Mandal, Arun Sethi General Secretary, Raman Gupta, Kamal Kishore Jain and Vidhya Gupta were also present.



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President starting a wall writing campaign in Jammu East Constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said "Through the wall writing campaign, we appeal to the people to choose our lotus symbol in the upcoming elections to get a double-engine government at the

Centre."

Sethi, during the occasion, outlined the primary objective of the campaign, which is to highlight the achievements of the BJP government at the national level and underscore the

party's unwavering commitment to serving the people.

He reiterated that the campaign would be meticulously organized across the East constituency, leveraging the support and dedication of party workers to effectively convey the party's message.

According to Sethi, voters opting for the lotus symbol would not only be endorsing the party's vision but also ensuring the establishment of a formidable and stable government. He stressed that the campaign aims to resonate with the electorate, providing them with a compelling reason to align with the BJP for a promising future.

The senior BJP leader said that the campaign will serve as a platform to

showcase the success stories and developmental initiatives spearheaded by the BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He asserted that the campaign's inception reflects a broader strategy to disseminate Modi's guarantee of development to the grassroots level, emphasizing the party's dedication to inclusive progress and prosperity.

Sethi said this initiative is positioned not only as a political strategy but also as a means to bridge the gap between the government's accomplishments and the citizens' awareness at the grassroots, reinforcing the party's narrative of a strong, stable, and development-oriented governance.

MVD holds brainstorming workshop for automobile mechanics



MVD officials and others taking pledge.

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JAMMU: As a part of ongoing National Road Safety Month MVD Jammu on Tuesday organized a brainstorming workshop for mechanics and other staff members at Shree Toyota here today. The camp was organized under the supervision of R.T.O Jammu Pankaj Bagotra and on the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K Rajinder Singh Tara in collaboration with Shree Toyota Jammu. As many as 200 mechanics and staff members besides owners of Shree Toyota, Devinder Batra and Bhisham Batra participated in the event. Road safety tips were imparted to the participants by MVI Vikas Srivats besides administering pledge on Road Speaking on the occasion. ARTO Hq. Rehana Tabassam said that such platforms are significant to enhance awareness and understanding of road safety among attendees, contributing to the overarching goal of reducing road accidents and ensuring safer journeys for all road users. Motor Vehicle Inspector Vikas Srivats on the occasion provided safety tips on vehicle maintenance, highlighting the role it plays in preventing breakdowns and accidents. The event also included interactive sessions, where participants had the opportunity to address specific road safety coagulations," stated Davinder Batra, Managing Director of Batra Group. The collaboration between RTO Jammu and Shree Toyota Jammu showcased the importance of public private partnerships in promoting road safety. The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold road safety principles and encourage others to do the same.

Renowned scholar Jasbir Sarna unveils Masterpiece on Pakistani Punjabi Writers

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JAMMU: In a captivating ceremony, Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor at Times Now, unveiled the latest literary gem - Prominent Punjabi Writers Of Pakistan - authored by the distinguished academican and writer, Jasbir Singh Sarna.

Sarna's opus serves as a tribute to the eminent Pakistani writers who, defying borders and constraints, have fervently preserved the flame of Punjabi literature. In addition to spotlighting literary giants such as Ahmad Rahi, Ahmad Salim, Dr. Ahmad Shahzad, Ainul Haq, and others, Sarna skillfully crafts brief biographical sketches, illustrating their profound impact on fostering inclusivity within the social fabric.

Beyond showcasing male writers, Sarna dedicates equal space in his book to the formidable contributions of women writers, including Afzal Tauseef, Dr. Sugra Sadaf, Sara Shagufta, Dr. Nabila Rehman, Nasreen Anjum Bhatti, Shaista Nuzhat, and many more. These trailblazing women from across the border have courageously challenged pervasive patriarchal norms, with each profile highlighting their literary endeavors and the struggles they've faced in becoming torchbearers of women's equality and freedom.

"In my research, I discovered that numerous women writers have vehemently voiced their opposition to gender-based stereotypes," elucidates Sarna.

Notably, last year, Sarna released a notable work focusing on eminent Sikh personalities in Jammu and Kashmir, celebrating their positive impact on the world.



Senior Editor Times Now, Pradeep Dutta and writer, Jasbir Singh Sarna launching a book.

In this earlier book, Sarna provides concise profiles of these Sikh luminaries, showcasing their ability to overcome challenges with hard work, determination, and resilience, carving niches for themselves in various fields.

Sarna's prior masterpiece, "The Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir," is acclaimed as one of the most comprehensive works on this minuscule minority to date.

Amit Bharrdvwaj, Senior Video Journalist at Times Now, joined Pradeep Dutta during the book launch ceremony, commending Sarna for his latest work and expressing a hope for more insightful contributions to Sikh culture and history from the esteemed author.

Two-day workshop hosted by Film Club, JU concludes



Coordinator of Film Club, JU presenting certificate to a participant.

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JAMMU: The workshop on the Techniques of film making, organized by Prof. Suman Jamwal, the Coordinator of the Film Club, in collaboration with five experts drawn from practicing filmmakers and videographers, concluded in the seminar hall of the Department of History.

The culminating day of this workshop commenced with introductory remarks by Prof. Jamwal. The subsequent segment of the workshop unfolded as a

thorough review, scrutinizing a multitude of videos, each representing a unique creation by the participants.

Particularly noteworthy were the documentaries crafted by Navriti Bhagat, Vishali Devi, Khushboo, Suneet Kumar, Bhagavi Gupta, and Ankita Sharma.

In the final segment, the workshop delved deeper into the intricacies of capturing visually compelling subjects through diverse mediums. A notable highlight of the discussion was

the innovative use of smart phones, positioned as a potent tool for videography.

The coordinator of the Film Club, along with the resource persons, celebrated the moments by presenting Certificates of appreciation to all participants.

The collaborative efforts of Prof. Suman Jamwal and the expert panel, consisting of Dharminder Kohli, Pankaj Khajuria, Rajesh Khajuria, and Prashant Singh, contributed to an enriching educational experience, empowering participants to navigate the complexities of the visual storytelling landscape with newfound skills and confidence.

The event was meticulously covered by the able team of students of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Jammu University, which included Sakshi Sawhney, Anamika, Jhanvi Sharma and Taniya.