

Teachers true architects of building progressive, enlightened society: Sakeena

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Ito on Monday addressed the One Day Convention of Teachers here, underscoring the pivotal role of teachers in shaping a progressive and enlightened society.

Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Choudhary; ACR Udhampur, Joint Director School Education Udhampur/Reasi, DSWO Udhampur, CMO Udhampur, CEO Udhampur, other senior officers of Education department and large number of teachers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking to a large gathering of educators, the Minister lauded teachers as the true architects of building progressive society, stating that their contribution goes far beyond classrooms and textbooks. "Teachers play a decisive role in nurturing responsible citizens and strengthening moral and intellectual fabric of society", she stated.

The Education Minister called upon teachers to adapt to evolving educational challenges and adopt innovative teaching methods to meet the aspirations of the younger generation. She stressed that continuous professional development and value-based education are essential to keep pace with changing times.

Lauding teachers for their contribution to education sector, Minister Sakeena said that under the visionary leadership of then Chief Minister, Dr.



Education Minister Sakeena Ito during the teachers' convention.

Farooq Abdullah, the revolutionary step of introducing Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme was initiated which changed the dynamics of school education sector in J&K. She added that due to ReT scheme, students of far-flung areas, who couldn't afford to move to cities for educational purposes, received education in their respective areas.

She highlighted that the teachers need to be acknowledged for their contribution to the society, adding that the large number of IAS, IPS and JKAS officers have studied from government schools for which their teachers need to be acknowledged.

Emphasising the need to reform and strengthen the teacher-student relationship, Sakeena Ito said that mutual respect, trust and understanding must form the foundation of all educational institutions. She highlighted

that some positive reforms need to be initiated for improving student-teacher relationship in educational institutions.

Reiterating the government's commitment to improving the education sector, Sakeena Ito assured that sustained efforts are being made by the Government under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah to upgrade infrastructure, enhance teaching standards and promote holistic learning across educational institutions of J&K.

Addressing the gathering, Director School Education Jammu said the Government has worked tirelessly from last one year for the development of education sector, particularly the change of Academic session, timely update of seniority lists, conduct of DPCs and other related issues have

been solved and some are under active consideration of the Government.

He highlighted that various reformative steps for the betterment of education sector are under process of the government, which will significantly improve the educational standards across Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, various teachers spoke and lauded the efforts of Government, especially Education Minister for various pathbreaking initiatives in education sector. They expressed gratitude to Minister for various decisions like change in academic session, regularisation of CPWs, posting of Principals and other teachers in various schools which was long pending issue, availability of textbooks in schools, timely update of seniority lists as well as regular conduct of DPCs at all levels.

The Teachers, on the occasion, also put forth some demands before the Minister like provision of leave salary to teachers at the time of retirement, restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS), withdrawal of teachers from non teaching assignments in other departments like Census, Surveys and others as well as timely disbursement of dues for Mid Day Meal scheme.

On the sidelines of the Convention, the Minister distributed sewing machines among women beneficiaries of Social Welfare department. She also distributed bicycles among school children for their outstanding performance in various National sports championships and academic activities.

IIM Jammu inaugurates Mid-Career Leadership Development Programme for SAIL Officials



Officials during the training programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu inaugurated the Mid-Career Leadership Development Programme for officials of the Maharatna company, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), at the Vedanta MDP Block, Jagti Campus on 5th Jan 2025. The program marks a significant collaboration between IIM Jammu and SAIL to nurture next-generation leadership in the steel sector. The training program comprised 35 participants from SAIL plants and offices across different parts of the country.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu. The occasion also witnessed the online presence of Sanjay Dhar, Executive Director, HR-L&D, SAIL; Rizwan Ahmed Siddiqui, DGM-HR L&D, SAIL; Shri Atanu Mukherjee, General Manager, I/c (ACADEMIC), CENTRAL HR-L&D & IT, Senior Faculty Member, SAIL and Ms. Daisy Hembrom, General Manager, MTL, SAIL. The event was graced in person by Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, Program Directors, Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Sarajit Singh, Program Director; and Dr. Chinmay K. Swain, IIM Jammu.

Addressing the participants in online mode, Shri Sanjay Dhar, Executive Director, HR-L&D, SAIL, congratulated IIM Jammu for designing a relevant and forward-looking program. He emphasized that SAIL expects participants to broaden their managerial horizons beyond plant-level operations and develop a holistic understanding of management. He called for creating a strong learning ecosystem focused on continuous learning and application. Highlighting the importance of bold and non-defensive leadership, he encouraged participants to fully leverage IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art infrastructure, academic excellence, and sports facilities. He noted that exposure to excellence naturally encourages higher aspirations and a continuous pursuit of improvement. Referring to the long leadership journey within SAIL in collaboration with IIM Jammu, he described the program as a force multiplier and urged the first batch to act as brand ambassadors, engaging with the program, faculty persons and the Institute with Vigor and intellectual curiosity.

In his address, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu noted that the program coincides with the tenth year of IIM Jammu, making it a special milestone for the Institute. He highlighted IIM Jammu's philosophy of expanding horizons through knowledge that liberates and encouraged participants to engage deeply with faculty and campus life. Emphasizing par-

ticipative and interactive learning, he expressed confidence that the program would be intellectually stimulating and enriching. He also encouraged participants to explore the campus, engage in co-curricular activities, and reflect on their learning in the serene environs of the Trikuta Hills, in close vicinity to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Katra, reinforcing the spirit of lifelong learning.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu stated that the program has been thoughtfully curated through extensive deliberations and continuous feedback from SAIL. He emphasized the need to move beyond conventional frameworks to address evolving leadership challenges and highlighted IIM Jammu's growing expertise in Executive Education and Consultancy. Encouraging participants to relive their student life, he urged them to be inquisitive, actively engage in discussions, and leverage peer learning and collaboration, adding that their feedback would be vital in further strengthening future editions of the program. The program culminated with the National Anthem and a vote of thanks by Dr. Chinmay K. Swain, Program Director, IIM Jammu, who expressed gratitude to the SAIL leadership, Institute leadership, faculty members, staff members, and participants.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates world's second Environmental Benchmarks facility, world's fifth Solar Calibration unit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the world's second "National Environmental Standard Laboratory" and the world's fifth "National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration" at the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL).



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking during an event at New Delhi on Monday.

making NPL one of the earliest "siblings" among the 37 CSIR laboratories. Highlighting its historic significance, the Minister recalled that the laboratory was mentored by eminent national leaders including Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling NPL a rare institution where history and science intersect.

"For decades, half the nation synchronised its watches with the atomic clock housed at NPL," the Minister said, underscoring the laboratory's role in establishing Indian Standard Time (IST). He said that this contribution quietly but profoundly shaped everyday life in India and remains a symbol of national integration through science.

The Minister said that science and technology reforms will be the key drivers shaping India's socio-economic future. Recalling the unique legacy of CSIR-NPL, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the laboratory was already operational before Independence and later became an integral pillar of India's post-Independence scientific architecture. He said CSIR itself is older than independent India,

describing it as a critical step towards strengthening India's environmental governance framework. He said that reliable, India-specific calibration and certification of air pollution monitoring systems was long overdue and would now enable transparent, traceable, and accurate environmental data. The facility will support regulatory bodies, industries, and startups by ensuring that monitoring instruments are tested under Indian climatic conditions, thereby improving policy enforcement under programmes such as the National Clean Air Programme.

The Minister also inaugurated the National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration (Solar Energy Complex), terming it a "future-ready facility" that places India among a select group of global leaders in photovoltaic measurement standards. Developed in collaboration with PTB, Germany, the laser-based Differential Spectral Responsivity (L-DSR) system achieves the lowest uncertainty globally at 0.35% (k=2) for reference solar cell calibration. Dr.

Jitendra Singh said the facility would reduce India's dependence on foreign certification agencies, save foreign exchange, shorten turnaround time for calibration and enhance investor confidence in the country's rapidly expanding solar sector.

Highlighting the government's openness to public participation, the Minister said that even sectors traditionally considered closed are now being opened, reflecting the Prime Minister's vision of integrated national development. He noted that institutions like CSIR-NPL, despite limited financial resources, possess immense intellectual and infrastructural assets that can be leveraged through collaboration with industry, MSMEs and the private sector. Such integration, he said, will allow scientific institutions to directly contribute to economic growth in the years ahead.

Addressing the gathering, N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, congratulated the NPL fraternity on completing 80 years of service to the nation. She highlighted that the laboratory now houses the world's fifth-largest environmental calibration facility and the world's second-best solar cell calibration facility, and urged the institution to set its sights on becoming world number one in a chosen domain. She also underlined the strategic importance of NPL's atomic clocks, stating that they would continue to support national timekeeping even under GPS-denied scenarios.

During the event, fourteen Phytochemical BharatiyaNirdeshak Dravya (BNDs) jointly developed by CSIR-CIMAP and CSIR-NPL were released, along with two Gas BNDs and one Silica Fume BND, strengthening India's quality assurance and metrological traceability ecosystem. Several MoUs and technology transfer agreements were also concluded to further support indigenous manufacturing, startups and MSMEs.

Satish attends Prakash Purab celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Highlights his contribution, visionary role for societal development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Monday took part in the celebrations commemorating the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji by attending the main function at Chand Buvi Kour Gurdwara, besides paying obeisance at several other Gurdwaras in the city.

On the sacred occasion, the Minister offered his prayers and paid glowing tributes to the tenth Sikh Guru, remembering his extraordinary life devoted to the ideals of truth, justice, courage and service to humanity. He highlighted that Guru Gobind Singh Ji's message of fearlessness, equality and unwavering commitment to righteousness continues to illuminate the path for millions across the world.

Satish Sharma highlighted that Guru Gobind Singh Ji not only shaped a strong spiritual and moral foundation for society but also empowered people to stand against injustice and tyranny. He called upon people from all sections of society, particularly the youth, to draw inspiration from the



Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma participating in Prakash Purab celebrations.

Guru's teachings and incorporate the values of discipline, integrity, compassion and selfless service into their daily lives.

The Minister also acknowledged the immense contribution of the Sikh community to the nation, stating that their legacy of sacrifice, patriotism and service is deeply woven into the fabric of India. He appreciated the role of Sikh institutions and Gurdwaras in promoting harmony, social welfare and community service through initiatives like

Langar and humanitarian outreach. During his visits to Chand Buvi Kour Gurdwara and other Gurdwaras, Satish Sharma interacted with members of the Sikh community and religious leaders, conveying his warm greetings of Prakash Purab. He reiterated the commitment of the Government to uphold the principles of inclusiveness, mutual respect and communal harmony, inspired by the teachings of great spiritual leaders like Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE	
11078 Jhelum Express	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

FIND CINEMA	
IKKIS	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	: 10: 35 AM / 1:30 PM / 4:30 PM / 7:30 PM / 10: 35 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	9:45 AM / 12:50 PM / 7:50 PM / 10:55 PM
DHURANDHAR	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	: 9:30 AM / 11:00 AM / 2:55 PM / 6:50 PM / 10:00 PM / 10:45 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	: 10:00 PM / 2:05 PM / 6:10 PM / 10:15 PM
AVATAR - FIRE AND ASH	
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU	: 6:15 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	: 03:55 PM

HELPLINE	
TELEPHONES	
Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Local Assistance	199
Trunk Booking	180
Trunk Assistance	181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955
Change No. Announcement	1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953
HOSPITALS	
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	2571147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270
AMBULANCES	
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248
FIRE STATIONS	
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
Samba	243280
Katra	232451
Udhampur	270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920
Hot Line	383
TOURISM	
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554
BUS SERVICES	
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service Punjab Roadways	2576562
2542782	
WATER SUPPLY	
Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirthi	2547501
Narwal	2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS	
Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)	
	101
CIVIC SERVICES	
Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440