

LG addresses IIT-BHU's ‘Alumni Awards of Excellence 2021-22’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, addressed IIT-BHU's "Alumni Awards of Excellence 2021-22" at an event organized in New Delhi.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor paid tributes and remembered Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji and extended his best wishes to those who received the Alumni Award of Excellence.

The Lt Governor said that the credit for the country's first industrial policy goes to Mahamana who had laid the foundation of technical education in India.

"After tireless efforts, Mahamana established the Banaras Engineering College (BENCO) in 1919. Today, that small engineering campus of BHU has grown into a prominent institution in the field of technical education from where thousands of famous personalities have completed their higher education and played an important role in the economic and educational progress of our country", he added.

Speaking on the role of alumni of higher education institutions in the era of globalization, the Lt Governor said alumni are critical to the success of higher education institutions. They build and develop the institute's brand, besides guiding new students,



IIT-BHU faculty presenting bouquet to Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha.

providing internships, and creating a host of career opportunities for our youths.

He said alumni, whether from the field of engineering or science, have a great responsibility to eliminate digital divide to bring villages and cities closer to each other. Alumni can contribute significantly in ending the inequality prevailing in the society, he added.

The Lt Governor underlined that the relationship between universities and students is a lifelong commitment and in this mutual relationship alumni are a resource that plays a more meaningful role with changing times.

The Lt Governor made special mention of the invaluable contribution of

Dr Kota Harinarayana for making the country's first indigenous Light Combat Aircraft-Tejas. He also lauded IIT-BHU's electrical engineering alumnus, Irina Ghose, who is director at Microsoft, and Arun Bhandari for his work in education, healthcare, rural sports, and environment.

The Lt Governor expressed hope that every student who comes out of IIT-BHU will go ahead with the same dedication, enthusiasm and spirit with which Mahamana founded this institute for working towards raising the standard of living of crores of countrymen.

The Lt Governor said proper development of knowledge and skills along with resources is imperative for building a civilized society. The

wealth of knowledge of former and present students can find solutions to all kinds of physical, cultural needs for establishing the welfare nation as envisioned by Mahamana.

The Lt Governor underlined the contribution of Mahamana to variety of fields including modern agriculture, advocating abolition of agriculture tax, promotion of railways and commerce, setting up shipbuilding, manufacturing units, besides promoting Commerce and Industries Department in all the provinces and mobilizing resources of modern India.

Referring to the recent decision of the Union cabinet in which the program for the development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country has been approved with an incentive amount of Rs 2 lakh 30 thousand crore, the Lt Governor urged the students and alumni to actively participate in this campaign and help the government in making the country stronger with new innovations in the field of aerospace to IT-enabled services.

Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero Motor Group; Rajeev Gupta; Professor B B Dhar; members of Governing Body of IIT BHU Alumni Association besides other dignitaries and alumni of BHU were present on the occasion.



New Education Policy eliminates past anomalies, introduces contemporary provisions: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the Cluster University teachers at an interactive academic programme on New Education Policy (NEP- 2020) at Jammu on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday said that the two fold objective of the New Education Policy (NEP-2020) is to correct past anomalies persisting for years and to introduce contemporary provisions which are in keeping up with the present global trends.

He was addressing the Cluster University teachers at an interactive academic programme on New Education Policy (NEP-2020), organised as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, here today.

During the interaction, the Minister said that the greatest anomaly in the previous education policy was the nomenclature itself, the Ministry of HRD was a misnomer, misrepresentative in itself having other connotations.

He further said that as India has now become a part of the global world, the education parameters have to be in keeping with the global parameters if India has to compete globally and excel globally.

Dr. Jitendra said that one of the new provisions of NEP-2020 in the form of multiple entry/exit option is something to be cherished as this academic flexibility will have a positive impact on the students related to the availing of different career opportunities at different times, depending upon their intrinsic leaning and inherent aptitude.

The minister also said that this entry/exit option can be opted in future for the teachers as well, giving them career flexibility and upgradation opportunities as is done in some

western countries like the USA.

Saying that one of the objectives of NEP-202 is de-linking degrees from education, Dr. Jitendra said that linking degrees with education has taken a heavy toll on our education system and society as well. One of the fall-outs has been an increasing number of educated unemployed.

Dr. Jitendra maintained that technological interventions in education are a boon for students of this generation and emphasized that teachers should also be able to keep up the pace with the students who are moving ahead too fast owing to accessibility of information, avenues, means and talent.

Dr. Jitendra also said that when the society has become gender neutral, language neutral, it has to become teacher-pupil neutral now so as to make our education system a bilateral phenomenon. He said that besides the education of students, equally important is the education of the teachers, parents and elders as the challenge is not only the optimum education but to prevent dis-education which is never discussed.

During the interaction, Dr Singh also emphasized that the demography of education has changed region-wise, gender-wise and profile-wise which can be judged from the fact that women have now a greater representation in civil services, people from other regions are now topping different exams which was earlier the prerogative of a few regions only.

Dr Jitendra stressed that the responsibility of educationists today is not to award a degree but to teach to achieve ease of living which can happen only when the youngster is able to find a sustainable Start- Up source of living for himself, instead of harping on government job. Principal Secretary, J&K Higher Education Department, Sh. Rohit Kansal during the interaction said that education, ideas lie at the heart of achievement, a society full of ideas, full of vision is ultimately going to progress and lead the others.

Prof Beehan Lal, Vice Chancellor Cluster University Jammu in his welcome address said that NEP-2020 is widely accepted and appreciated for its creative provisions.

Priya Sethi, former J&K Minister, Vice Chancellor Jammu University, Professor Manoj Dhar, Deputy Mayor, Purnima Sharma were also present during the session.

GGF unveils portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at Amar Singh Club



Vice President GGF, Dr S P Verma and other dignitaries unveiling portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at Amar Singh Club.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vice President, Gandhi Global Family (GGF), Dr S P Verma, Padma Shri Awardee along with other members presented a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi to Anil Kapahi, the Secretary of Amar Singh Club. Kapahi was also presented with a India UN Lapel pin. Dr Vikram Handa, Dr Neerupama Dogra, Dr Nandita Mehta and

Vikram Puri were presented a Tri-Colour "Angvasutra". Members of the GGF present include Soba Ram, Jasbinder Singh Kukri, Karuna Gupta, Robin Gill, Ankush Varma, Mohinder Rana, Raman Gupta, Shujia Zaffar.

Anadya hosted the show and Dr Vikram Handa presented a vote of thanks at the end of the ceremony of unveiling the portrait of Gandhi.

ANTF nabs three narco-dealers alongwith approx 4 Kg Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting tough against narcotics smugglers to end menace of drugs from the society, the Anti Narcotics Task Force on Sunday arrested three narco-smugglers and recovered 4 Kg Charas from their possession. As per a press statement issued by SSP ANTF Vinay Sharma, a team of ANTF, acting on an input laid a surprise Naka near Rail Over-Head Bridge at Nation Highway, Greater Kailash. The team, during checking of vehicles, intercepted two vehicles viz Maruti Ignis (JK02CR-2163) and Maruti Eco (JK12A-6379). On search of vehicles, the team recovered approximately 4 Kg Charas

from both the vehicles. Three accused persons were arrested in this regard identified as Mohd Azhar Din and Zahid, sons of Khalid Mehraj, resident of Anantnag and Binney Gupta, resident of R S Pura, Jammu. Subsequently, FIR no.14/2021 under sections 8/20/29 of NDPS Act was registered and both the vehicles were seized. Speaking on the occasion, SSP ANTF said that detailed investigation is going on to trace further links of narco dealers and more arrests are expected. He further urged general public for sharing any information regarding activity of narco dealers so that appropriate actions are taken against them for uprooting the menace from society.

Dir H&H visits Handicrafts Exhibition at Dilli Haat



Director H&H Kashmir visiting Handicrafts exhibition at Dilli Haat.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Director Handicrafts and Handloom (H&H), Kashmir on Sunday visited Handicrafts exhibition at Dilli Haat here organized by the department in association with Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Government of India.

The 15-Day Exhibition kick started on 16th December this year in which Artisans and Craftsmen from J&K are participating and displaying their products on stalls.

During the visit, the Director interacted with the participants and assured them all possible support from the government. He also attended Board of Directors (BoD's) meeting of India Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) as special invitee.

The exhibition is one of the means of providing marketing

opportunities to the artisans so as to decrease their piled up products. The participants were assured that back to back exhibitions are lined up to provide maximum possible opportunities for the sale of their products.

Dilli Haat exhibition was organised as a follow up of India International Trade Fair Exhibition and Shilpi Utsav held at Pragati Maidan, Delhi and Noida Haat respectively.

To give boost to Handicrafts and Handlooms of J&K, the department is planning a major intervention at Surajkund where J&K is participating as a Theme State. Meanwhile, the Director also paid a visit to 10th edition of India International Silk Fair which is presently going on at Ambience Gold Trade DLF Ph-III Gurgaon.

Neo Bladder surgery performed in SSH Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a new beginning, Department of Urology Super Speciality Hospital GMC Jammu achieved a rare feat of performing a Neo Bladder procedure in a 45 years old male patient. "This is a complex procedure which is done in bladder cancer patients wherein their natural urinary bladder is removed and a new urinary bladder is constructed from intestines," said Dr Rahul Gupta Associate Professor in Department of Urology, who performed the surgery.

"With this the patient is disease free and also can pass urine through his natural orifice that is urethra," he said and added "Though radical removal of urinary bladder was being performed routinely by laparoscopy but the reconstruction of this new bladder laparoscopically was carried out for the first time." The surgery performed by Dr Rahul Gupta was helped by his team which included Dr Ajay Anand Associate Professor; Dr Suhail Masood and Dr Ankush. Anesthesia team

was led by Dr Ashwani Kumar and Dr Amit Manhas and their team. Theatre assistants sister Arti held the camera for the entire procedure which lasted for 7 odd hours. Other including sister Neha, sister Shilpa , sister Rachna, sister Meenu along with Dev, Manjit, Sarbjyot and Narinder helped so that this procedure could go off seamlessly. On the occasion of uneventful discharge of the patient, Dr Rahul Gupta thanked Principal Prof Shashi Sharma and Head of the Department Prof Dr Elias Sharma for all the support and faith they had resorted in the work done under their guidance in the Department of Urology and Renal Transplantation.

To add further; Dr Rahul informed that it was with the continued support of the administration specially Dr Manoj Chalotra (MS) and Dr Harjeet Rai (Deputy MS) that this complex procedure was possible as they are instrumental in providing backup support needed to undertake such complicated procedures.

PNBMT holds meet to finalise agenda for Chetna Diwas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To finalise agenda of Chetna Diwas and future course of Kashmiri Pandits' struggle for passage of Temples & Shrines Bill, the Prem Nath Bhat Memorial Trust (PNBMT) organised a meeting of general public, heads of various KP organisations and prominent citizens at Bantalab on Sunday. Pertinent to mention here that PNBMT has been demanding passage of a bill that would ensure protection preservation and reclamation of age-old temples and shrines of Kashmir with some of them dating back to times of Ramayana and Mahabharata. The meeting, chaired by Roshan Lal Pandita, Chairman of Trust, was attended by Virender Raina President Panun Kashmir, Vijay Raina Sarpanch Chawalgam Kashmir, BJP leaders Sheela Handoo,

Kuldeep Raina, Brij Lal Bhat, Shibani Khairi, H L Bhat, Shadi Lal Koul, Sundri Lal Koul and Kashmiri Lal Bhat.

PNBMT has been observing Chetna Diwas for last three decades and on this day the community speakers lay down the core agenda of KPs struggle in an elaborate manner. Virender Raina said that primary agenda of the trust would remain passage of Temples and Shrines Bill. He said that the PNBMT waged an intensive campaign in this regard about a decade and was successful in bringing the bill on the portal of assembly and the day is not far when the bill would be passed. H L Bhat eulogised the role played by Late Prem Nath Bhat in creating awareness amongst KP community regarding impending dangers in Kashmir.

Delimitation Commission has with it Agenda of Distant & Backward Area people of J&K & not that of BJP

PD President and Ex. Chief Minister of J&K State Mehbooba Mufti has been reported having remarked on this 18th December while talking reporters after addressing a party convention in Rajouri that the present Delimitation Commission (DC) for UT of J&K headed by Retd. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has "the agenda" of 'BJP' to work with.

It is not fair on her part to lay allegations on the wisdom of Commission which is headed by a retired Judge of Supreme Court of India and has yet to make any order rather the DC for the first Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K has before it the 'Agenda' for undoing the wrongs done in the past to the people of

J&K living in the distant, backward and bad areas and may be Ms Mufti is disturbed that most of such areas are outside Kashmir Valley.

Will Mehbooba Mufti tell whose agenda was before the DC in 1995 when by the April 1995 order of the then Delimitation Commission 46 MLAs (out of 87 Member Legislative Assembly including 4 for Ladakh) were distributed over the areas in Kashmir Valley that otherwise had as per Section-50 of J&K Constitution only 12 elected MLAs (Member Legislative Council) but so contrary to method of proportions and so brutally, even defying guidelines (four out of five parameters in favour of areas outside Kashmir Valley) as slated in J&K Representation of People

Act of 1957 (Act IV) for deciding the single member constituencies in the Legislative Assembly, distributed only 37 MLAs over the areas outside Kashmir Valley that had as per Section-50 of J&K Constitution 14 elected MLAs ? That was the time when there was Congress Government in Delhi and there was also President Rule in J&K.

Before 1995 also when in 1978 there were only 3 Districts in Kashmir Valley so irrationally 42 MLAs (out of 75 including 2 for Ladakh) were distributed in Kashmir valley where as inspite of there being 6 districts outside Kashmir Valley (Doda, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri,



A Look through the Mist

Kathua, Jammu) only 32 MLAs were distributed outside Kashmir Valley in spite of the J&K Representation of People Act of 1957 (Act IV) having been enacted where under the wrong (adhoc) distribution done in 1951 could be mended.

Even Ghulam Nabi Azad who has in Dec 2021 addressed rallies in the Districts of Poonch/Rajouri/Ramban expressing concern for the people there need to answer where was he in 1995 & there after (ofcourse before 1979 he did not matter) and should not he now instead work to assist the DC through any possible channel to get the corrections applied which if applied under the law of the day {Sections

- 59 & Sub- Section-2 of Section-60 of J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019) and the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) where in population is only one of the 5 parameters} are likely to almost reverse the distribution now out of 90 MLAs (amended strength) with respect to the two regions of J&K very much like 14:12 :: for Areas outside Kashmir Valley: for Areas in Kashmir Valley.

The people living in the distant / backward/ bad areas of present districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, (even) Kupwara are very hopefully looking at the present Delimitation Commission for fair distribution of MLAs

(Single Member Segments of Legislative Assembly) atleast now after 70 years.

The wrong earlier 'Distributions'/Delimitation if now corrected shall surely be of more benefit to the areas having very large Muslim population too so it is not fair for leaders like Mehbooba Mufti to push the issues into communal controversies. No doubt Associate members MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and MP Dr. Jitendra Singh MoS too have a very testing responsibility for assisting the DC with adequate ground inputs although they do not have any voting right.

(Daya Sagar, Sr Journalist and Analyst of J&K affairs idayasagr45@yahoo.com).

