

MIER College hosts International Conference on "Open and Digital Learning: Prospects and Challenges"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MIER College of Education (Autonomous) organized a one-day international conference on "Open and Digital Learning: Prospects and Challenges".

Dr. Gupta placed emphasis on the importance of integrating online and offline learning for a harmonized educational experience.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu, while Prof. Ramesh Chander Sharma, Director Human Resource Development Centre, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal of MIER College, elaborated on the conference's objectives, focusing on themes. Prof. Sharma shared insights into various digital tools, such as



MIER College of Education faculty, students and other dignitaries at a conference.

mystery science, brain game, and virbela, to enhance the learning process. Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson of MIER Group of Institutions, highlighted the global impact of e-learning, emphasizing its role in revolutionizing the education system by providing flexibility and accessibility tent status of open and digital learning in India, best practices globally, pedagogical interventions, skill development, technology-enhanced learning initiatives, research trends, and

the role of digital universities. In his inaugural keynote address, Prof. Ramesh C. Sharma emphasized the paramount importance of learning resilience in the digital era. He highlighted the need for adaptability. Anju Bhasin acknowledged the challenges of transitioning from traditional face-to-face models to online models. She stressed the importance of flexibility, universal access, personalized learning, strategic planning, diversity and inclusion, and global collabora-

tion in the digital learning landscape.

Eminent educationists such as Prof. Som Naidu, Principal Associate of Technology, Education and Design Associates, Melbourne, Prof. Abtar Kaur, Director of Innovative Digital Learning and the Digital Learning Hub, Asia-Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Malaysia, Prof. Shironea Karunanayaka, Senior Professor in Educational Technology at the Open University of Sri Lanka and

Honorary Chair of the Commonwealth of Learning and Prof. Morten Flate Paulsen, CEO Nordie Open Online Academy, Norway delivered keynote addresses on various aspects of open and digital learning.

Approximately 40 papers were presented during the conference, covering diverse topics related to the conference theme.

The conference concluded with a Fireside Chat, moderated by Prof. Adit Gupta, featuring Dr. Jaspal Singh Warwal, Dr. Pragat Singh Gareha, and Dr. Amitash Ojha, Assistant Professor, IIT, Jammu as panellists.

Dr. Nishta Rana, Head, School of Education and Head, Research & Development, presented a vote of thanks. The programme organized by Mandal President & Vice-Chairman Cantment board Bharat Bhushan she further stated that it's a "historic step" towards empowering women in the region.

Women's reservation pave the way for women-led development: Rekha



BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan along with others at a public meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan hailed the Modi-led government for another historical milestone in favour of women empowering them by introducing a bill in Lok Sabha to provide 33% reservation for women in the assembly of J&K.

Rekha Mahajan was addressing the public in a programme organized by Mandal President & Vice-Chairman Cantment board Bharat Bhushan she further stated that it's a "historic step" towards empowering women in the region.

Rekha claimed that this is the hallmark of "Modi Sarkaar" to empowering women and she lauds India's 75-year history as the moment when half of the nation's population secured adequate representation in the highest legislative body," she remarked, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing and successfully passing the bill in both houses. Rekha Mahajan asserted whether it was the Mughal rule, the British rule, or the previous governments, women's rights

were snatched by everyone but under the vibrant leadership of PM Narendra Modi nation is progressing and touching new heights.

She also added that 75% of the house owners of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) are women. This is an unprecedented level of social security that has been conferred on women.

For a woman who not only had to work her way through gender but often worked doubly hard to prove her mettle, times have changed significantly both on personal and professional fronts.

KK Gandhi attends Artists show at Mumbai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The eminent artist KK Gandhi was invited to a group show of 20 renowned artists from all over India under the caption "A celebration of Creativity and Impressions" as Guest of Honour in the show organized by Ivana Art at The Taj Art Gallery, Hotel Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai from December 10 to 13, 2023.

The group show was inaugurated jointly by KK Gandhi and Sinjini Kumar, partner in Fintee Firm 'Salt' which works for women empowerment. The event was managed by Jenny Shah herself head of Ivana Art Gallery-Kolkata.

The show created enthusiasm and attracted many art lovers and connoisseurs from India and abroad.

KK Gandhi as a goodwill gesture gave a live demonstration of the painting which was highly appreciated by the spectators and created so much interest that one of the art collectors immediately opted to buy the same on the spot as per the press release so released.

KDP Wing DPAP J&K highlights demands of displaced people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a joint statement issued by the leaders of KDP Wing DPAP Sanjay Dhar President, Piary Lal Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Raj Kumar Ticku General Secretary, Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Renu Razdan Mahila Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President have demanded the Government of India as well as J&K Government to review the recommendation made by the department related to the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs (3th report) on

rehabilitation of J&K migrants presented to Rajya Sabha of February 13, 2009 wherein among other provisions for rehabilitation of migrants, regarding declaration of Minority Status for Kashmiri Hindus, inclusion of Members in NHRC, Minority Commission of India.

The leaders demanded that facilities as provided vide Govt order of October 26, 2009 be implemented at an earliest, a concrete permanent rehabilitation policy of Displaced Hindu community requires to be worked out, a Review Committee comprising

of top authorities and exiled people is requested to be appointed for on spot assessment of position of displaced people, two Kashmir Based Police Battalions among Kashmiri Hindus of Displaced or Valley living low educated youth. Moreover, the leaders appealed the President of India to amend the Bill passed in the Parliament regarding reservation of two Assembly seats as on elected basis with reservation of two Constituencies in Valley instead of two seats on selection/nomination purpose.

Modi govt reaching every household with its schemes: Baru

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP senior leader and former JMC Councillor, Sanjay Kumar Baru, accompanied by PWD officials and local BJP leaders, inspected the macadamization at Hazuri Bagh, near Kamla palace and Wazir lane, Bohri in Talab Tillo area of Jammu West Assembly constituency.

Baru said that during the last over 9 years, the people of India have witnessed a golden era; an era which is led by unprecedented growth, development and resurgence of India.

He said that the Modi government started its course



Former JMC Councillor, Sanjay Kumar Baru interacting with officials.

with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and the joining of 'Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' has led to the inclusion of every person from the most neglected part of the society.

"The people have seen themselves that the Modi government has reached the doorsteps of every household in Jammu and Kashmir with various welfare schemes", Sanjay Baru said and added that justice to all and appeasement to none is

seen in every programme and policy of this government.

While talking about this work Baru said that black topping in different lanes of Talab Tillo will be completed with the estimated cost of 54 lakh rupees by the PWD department.

BJP leaders Jatin Sethi, Ashok Wazir, Jatinder Khajuria, BJP Shakti Kendra pramukh Rakesh Sharma, Bachan Lal, Rajesh Thakur, Gresh Sharma, Daleep Mitas, Vijay Gupta, Rakesh Sharma, Mohinder Gupta, accompanied the former councillor during the tour.

'Vijay Diwas' 2023: Wreath laying ceremony held at Balidan Stambh in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To commemorate Vijay Diwas 2023, Tiger Division of Indian Army organised a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Balidan Stambh War Memorial, Jammu.



Maj Gen Gaurav Gautam, GOC Tiger Division laying wreath at 'Eternal Flame' in Jammu.

CUTICON JK 2023 inaugurates, setting stage for revolutionary dermatological advancements

Lifetime Achievement Award for Prof. (Dr.) Jitendra Arora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The grand inauguration of CUTICON JK 2023, the 4th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL), Jammu & Kashmir Branch, took place on the 15th of December 2023 at The Grand Dreams Resort, Near Heritage School, Sainik Colony, Jammu. This year's conference unfolds under the theme "Evolution of Dermatology - Fundamental to Innovation," promising groundbreaking insights into the world of dermatology.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of



Prominent dermatologists and other dignitaries at a programme in Jammu on Saturday.

Kashmir, including Dr. Jitendra Arora, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Dr. Vipin Gupta, Dr. HS Soodan, Dr. Devraj Dogra, HoD GMC Jammu, and Dr. Imran Majid, along with Prof. (Dr) Seema Qayoom, were prominently present.

The conference, organized

by IADVL JK Branch and led by Dr. Cheena Langer, Organising Chairperson. It served as a unique platform for budding dermatologists not only from Jammu and Kashmir but also from neighbouring states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana to meet and learn

from renowned dermatologists across the country.

The conference kicked off with morning sessions where young dermatologists presented their scientific research, offering a glimpse into the innovative research landscape, various scientific sessions were conducted by

expert dermatologists, symptoms, signs, treatment guidelines, and emerging treatment plans were discussed.

In a heartfelt moment, Prof. (Dr.) Jitendra Arora, who retired as Professor and Head from GMC Jammu, was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the chief guest of the conference, Dr. Vijay Zavar, President IADVL.

The inaugural function concluded with a cultural event during the night, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. Attendees were treated to a mesmerizing display of local traditions, adding a touch of local flavor to the conference.

NISD Beauty and Designing Institute celebration of Talent Season-9 concluded



Participants of talent season 9 of NISD Beauty and Designing Institute.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: "The season 9 was held at Vedas, The Banquet, at Akhnoor Road, where 275 students participated in Modelling, Make-up, Hair Styling & Dress Designing."

"MD Sanjeev Kumar told the media that more than 85 local girls were also groomed and trained by NISD for ramp walks as models.

Punjab Film industry actress, model and singer Sara Guralp was the Celebrity guest on the occasion.

Guralp appreciated the role of NISD Beauty and Designing Institute where NISD helped the young potential of Jammu Kashmir to get the best

opportunity in the Fashion designing industry.

Isha Sharma, Neha Lahotra and Vishal Sawhney were the jury for the Fashion Show.

NISD Beauty and Designing Institute is a Premier professional Make-up & Fashion Designing Academy of J&K where more than 2100 plus students passed out and doing well for their living.

Besides this, 850 plus students start their own business all over India.

NISD MD Sanjeev further said that 98% of them are women's, 70% of them are married women's as per the press release issued by the concerned.

VBSY-nationwide campaign spreads awareness in Kashmir province

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) entered its second day on Saturday with great fervor as it unfolded in the four wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, namely Khanyar, Nai Sadak, Zaina Kadal, and Makhdoom Sahib.

The event garnered an enthusiastic response from local residents who congregated around the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) setup, local artists presented a lively display of cultural events.

GANDERBAL: Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Rajiv Wadhawan visited Panchayat Tulamulla-A and participated in the ongoing VBSY. The event witnessed a mega public outreach program which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner,

Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani and other officers besides PRI members and general public. On the occasion, the Advisor engaged with the local community and assessed the implementation of various healthcare initiatives and other flagship schemes under the VBSY.

Interacting with the officers, the Advisor said that the visit aimed to strengthen the coordination between the central and local authorities, ensuring the efficient execution of healthcare programs and services.

Additionally, the Advisor visited Ayushman Arogya Mandir Kurag, where he inspected the facilities and services offered. This on-site evaluation allowed Rajiv Wadhawan to gain firsthand knowledge of the challenges and successes encountered in providing healthcare services to the residents.

BANDIPORA: VBSY

campaign continued across different Panchayats of district Bandipora including Purushai and Sadunara.

The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) van traversed through several villages of these panchayats.

During the day, these Panchayats hosted health camps, Sankalp pledges, and outreach activities, in addition to making services available to the general public on-the-spot. The Yatra aims at reaching out to the unreachable population by informing them about various government schemes as well as the procedures for receiving benefits.

KUPWARA: As part of the ongoing VBSY, different events and programs were organized at Kalaroos, Kalroos A, Kanipora, Khumryal A, Khumryal B, Khumryal C, Ladah, Lashtyal and Madmadoo panchayats of block

Kupwara. PRIs and officials from different departments, including Agriculture, RD&PR, Health, Animal Husbandary, Sheep Husbandary, Fisheries, PHE, Horticulture, Social Welfare, ICDS, J&K Bank and representatives from various other line departments, participated in the events held in different gram Panchayats.

People took the pledge and expressed their commitment for the cause. During the VBSY, people were seen enthusiastically listening to the recorded message from Prime Minister regarding the nationwide campaign.

Under 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' beneficiaries of Centrally Sponsored schemes shared their experiences about the benefits they availed after enrolling themselves under various welfare schemes.

Women and other achiev-

ers were also felicitated for their exemplary work in respective fields during the programme.

ANANTNAG: In a momentous launch ceremony, the VBSY embarked on its transformative journey through the Urban Anantnag, with VBSY function, a key element of the initiative, unfolded at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Ranibagh.

The event served as a platform for engaging discussions, showcasing the community's dedication to progress.

In urban areas all the wards will witness VBSY reach in coming days with the aim to come true.

PULWAMA: The ongoing VBSY has enthused people of Pulwama district, fostering awareness about government schemes and promoting inclusivity.

As part of this ambitious government initiative, a

momentous celebration unfolded at Panchayat Halqa Tahab, which was presided over by Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks, and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad.

The event commenced with inspection of stalls by the Commissioner Secretary, established by various Government departments, showcasing a myriad of benefits accessible to the public. Also, the festivities of the Yatra reached a lively peak with a spirited tug of war among students, infusing a touch of showmanship.

The participants listened to a recorded message of the Prime Minister, reinforcing the principles of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

The Administrative Secretary led a pledge, echoing the vision of development and inclusivity, resonating deeply with the enthusiastic participants.

The Social Welfare Department distributed kits under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. Besides, calendars and pamphlets were distributed among the participants, underscoring the importance of Government initiatives. And, cultural activities, showcasing the rich heritage of Viksit Bharat, were presented by the talented students.

BUDGAM: The VBSY campaign which concluded in Budgam covered all 296 panchayats in the district.

On the concluding day, Member Parliament (MP) Rajya Sabha, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana joined the program at Panchayat Halqa Sholipora in Block Budgam.

Advisor (COST), Ministry of Family Welfare GOI, Rajiv Wadhawan also attended the program.

Among others, ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak, PRIs, District/ Sectoral officers and others

also attended the concluding program. On the occasion, MP Rajya Sabha visited stalls established by various departments to showcase their products and for awareness generation regarding government schemes and public welfare initiatives.

He also participated in Sankalp pledge ceremony while the Prime Minister's message on the Yatra's objectives was conveyed, fostering a deep understanding among the participants.

Participants including school students also took part in skits and other cultural events, on spot quiz competition, singing of Swachata songs and other related programmes during the VBSY campaign.

Women and other achievers were also felicitated for their exemplary work in respective fields during the programme.