

Chairs 84th University Council meeting of KU

LG calls for introducing contemporary, skill oriented academic programmes aligned with NEP-2020

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 84th Meeting of the University Council of the University of Kashmir (KU) at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar, on Sunday. As the Chancellor of the University, he emphasized the importance of introducing contemporary, interdisciplinary, and skill-oriented academic programmes aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). He highlighted the need for the University to focus on innovation, employability, and entrepreneurship, ensuring that academic initiatives address local and regional developmental needs. The Chancellor also advised strengthening integrated and professional programmes to meet emerging academic and industry requirements.

The University Council accorded in-principle approval to several key academic and administrative agenda items. These included the adoption of a revised Policy Mechanism for Admission of Foreign National (International) Students, the change of nomenclature of the Department of Earth Sciences to the Department of Geology, and the introduction of Five-Year Integrated Master's Programmes (FYIMP) in Applied Geology, Tourism and Travel Management, Data Science and Artificial



KU and Siddharth University, Uttar Pradesh representatives signing MoU in presence of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

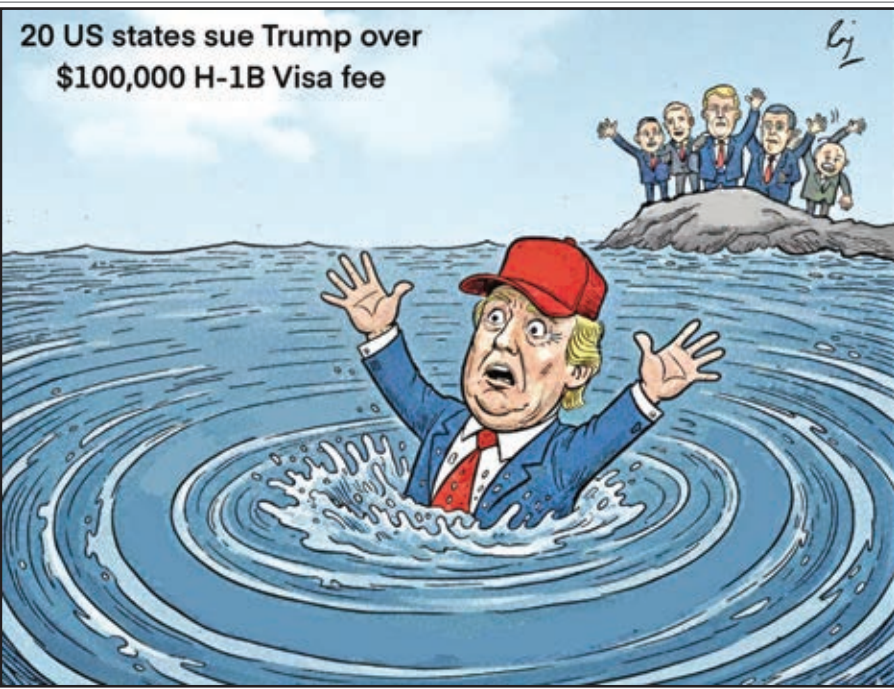
Intelligence, and Home Science. The Council also approved the Programme Project Report (PPR) for M.A. History to be offered through the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), and extended Merit and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes to students enrolled in FYIMP courses. Additionally, the Council approved regulations governing FYIMP programmes, including Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and considered recommendations of the Deans' Committee regarding Ph.D. statutes.

Proposals relating to modifications in statutes for Undergraduate Programmes (UGP-2022) under NEP-2020 were also approved, including standardized formats for certificates, diplomas, and degrees. A two-year Diploma in Calligraphy was

sanctioned as a joint academic programme between the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, KU, and the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, Srinagar. The Council further accorded approval to several other academic initiatives, including the establishment of an Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences at KU's Kupwara Campus, introduction of a Diploma Programme in Criminal Justice through CDOE, and the launch of FYIMP at the Media Education Research Centre (MERC). FYIMP programmes were also approved in several language and humanities disciplines, including Hindi, Linguistics and English Language Teaching, Persian, Sanskrit, and Kashmiri, aimed at promoting multilingual education, cultural preservation, and advanced studies in classical and region-

al languages. The Council engaged in detailed deliberations on academic, regulatory, and institutional matters to strengthen governance and enhance teaching, learning, and research quality. Earlier, Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, KU, presented the agenda items and briefed the Council on the University's academic, research, and institutional achievements. On the occasion, KU signed a MoU with Siddharth University, Uttar Pradesh, to promote academic collaboration in research and education. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Vice-Chancellors of Jammu University and Cluster Universities, senior government officials, Council members, and other dignitaries both in person and virtually. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah; Vice-Chancellor, JU, Prof. Umesh

Rai; VC Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin; VC, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya; Principal Secretary to the LG, Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari; Administrative Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Dr. Ashish Chander; VC, Siddharth University, Uttar Pradesh, Prof. Kavita Shah; former Director and Professor (Chemical Engineering), Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Amethi, Prof. A.S.K. Sinha; Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, other Council members attended the meeting.



IEI Jammu Centre celebrates Energy Conservation Day



G P Singh, Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjeev Anand & Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Keynote Speakers, Er. Anil Verma, FIE; Chairman & Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Hony. Secretary, on the dais on Energy Conservation Day.

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JAMMU: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre celebrated Energy Conservation Day at its Institutional Complex, Sector-3, Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event witnessed the participation of engineers from various government departments, organizations, senior engineers, and members of the Managing Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

G.P. Singh, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (JPDCL), Power Development Department, Government of J&K, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Er. Anil Verma, FIE, Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre, presided over the function.

In his welcome address, Er. Anil Verma highlighted the significance of Energy Conservation Day, initiated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in 1991. He stressed the need for judicious use of energy in view of the rapidly growing power demand in the country.

Advocating the adoption

of renewable energy sources, he encouraged the installation of solar rooftops under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, stating that it would significantly reduce dependence on coal and gas-based power generation and contribute to environmental protection.

The technical sessions featured insightful keynote addresses by Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Professor, School of Energy Management, SMVDU, on "Indoor Air Quality Assessment and Its Improvement Using HVAC Systems", and Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Associate Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU, on "Low-Cost and Sustainable Solutions for Energy Efficiency in Buildings".

Later, Er. Sanjeev Rohmetra, Nodal Officer for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, JPDCL, spoke in detail about the integration of renewable energy through solar power in the energy ecosystem. He emphasized that on-site solar generation directly contributes to ener-

gy conservation by reducing dependence on coal and gas, while also aiding peak load shaving, as solar generation coincides with peak daytime demand.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest G.P. Singh remarked that energy is not merely a commodity but a national asset and a responsibility for future generations. He emphasized that energy conservation is no longer optional but an economic, environmental, and administrative necessity. With increasing development and power demand in J&K, smart usage of electricity is the only way forward to reduce dependence on costly power purchases. He also stressed that public participation is crucial, stating that power theft, misuse, and wastage are acts against society and increase the burden on honest consumers.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI Jammu Centre, who also acknowledged the support of media personnel for covering the event.

Yudhvir Sethi honours workers, highlights heritage preservation at Mubarak Mandi

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JAMMU: The Delphic Council of Jammu and Kashmir organised a meaningful and culturally enriching Heritage Walk at the historic Mubarak Mandi complex, reaffirming its commitment to preserving the rich Dogra heritage of Jammu. The event was held under the presence of Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu West, whose participation added dignity and encouragement to the initiative. During the Heritage Walk, warm clothes were distributed among the labourers engaged in the ongoing restoration work of Mubarak Mandi. This thoughtful gesture aimed at providing relief to workers battling the harsh winter conditions while contributing tirelessly to the revival of one of Jammu's most significant heritage sites. Yudhvir Sethi interacted warmly with the labourers, appreciated their dedication, and stressed the importance of caring for those who are directly involved in conserving cultural land-



Delphic Council J&K members presenting specially created caricature to MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi.

marks.

On the occasion, the Delphic Council, J&K presented a specially created caricature to Yudhvir Sethi.

The artwork, crafted by noted cartoonist and Delphic stalwart Chander Shekhar, was presented within the premises of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society as a token of respect and appreciation. Shri Sethi admired the creative

expression and lauded the role of artists in keeping social and cultural consciousness alive.

The Heritage Walk was conceptualised and organised by acclaimed cartoonist Chander Shekhar in collaboration with Kirpal Singh, who provided a vivid and insightful narration on the history, architectural brilliance, and artistic significance of Mubarak Mandi. Participants

expressed amazement at the grandeur of Mubarak Mandi's architecture while also acknowledging the urgent need for sustained restoration efforts. It was collectively felt that once fully restored, Mubarak Mandi could become a major cultural attraction for the lakhs of pilgrims and tourists visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra, Patnitop, Shiv Khori Cave, and Baba Wali Mata in the Jammu region. The Heritage Walk was later joined by internationally acclaimed artist Suman Gupta, who appreciated the initiative taken by the Delphic Council, J&K and emphasized the importance of community-driven heritage awareness. Members of the Delphic Council including Chander Shekhar, Ramesh Chander, Surjeet Singh, Nirmal Singh, Kulbushan Singh, Naseem Akhtar, Rajinder Sambyal, Shivender Kumar, Bal Bushan Sharma, Renu Saini, Dr. Amrishi Kohli, Sonia Bharti, along with their family members, participated.

Amar Singh Club elections; 11-member Executive Committee elected

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JAMMU: Vijay Saraf secured the highest number of votes in closely contested elections, for the Executive Committee of the prestigious Amar Singh Club Jammu, held on Sunday.

Of the 27 contestants, Vijay Saraf secured highest 2006 votes, followed by Sahil Mahajan who bagged 1679 votes, Rajesh Langer (Raju) 1667 votes, Ajay Anand 1430 votes, Tania Kukreja 1428 votes, Manish Gupta 1357 votes, Nitika Bhandari 1350 votes, Er Viplove Gupta 1268 votes, Mannohan Singh 1228 votes, Naresh Kumar Gupta (Tony) got 1164 votes and Viraj Malhotra secured 1161 votes.

These eleven winners elected as members of Executive Committee of Amar Singh Club, Jammu.

The other contestants include Anil Gupta



Newly elected Executive Committee members of Amar Singh Club Jammu in a jubilant mood.

got 1133 votes, Sanjeev Prabhakar 1063 votes, Dr. Sanjogita Soodan 1059 votes, Sahil Anand 1056 votes, Neeru Luthra 1036 votes, Er. Ajay Gupta 1001 votes, Arun Mahajan 990 votes, Winnie Singh (Deepjyot Kour) 915 votes, Dr. Vikram

Handa 874 votes, Dr. Varinder Sharma 850 votes, Er. Samar Bali 834 votes, Ravinder Singh (Bubby) 470 votes, Harjeet Singh Reen 446 votes, Er. Sandeep Gupta-435 votes, Dr. Rahul Gupta 401 votes, while Anju Gupta got 255 votes.

Cells sharpen public opinion and defeat anti-national, anti-development narratives: Sat

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JAMMU: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma, along with General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, addressed an important meeting of various party cells at the BJP headquarters in Jammu.

BJP J&K General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan also addressed the meeting which organized by Ved Sharma, In-charge J&K BJP All Cells.

Addressing the Cell Convenors, Sat said that in today's politically charged environment, party cells play a decisive role in countering misinformation, exposing divisive politics, and reinforcing the BJP's commitment to nationalism, development, and good governance.

Cells help bring clarity to the public



J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

vision sharpening their opinion, helping defeat anti-national and anti-development forces, he asserted.

Sat assured cell representatives that concerns highlighted by various party cells would continue to be raised in the Upper House in the future as well.

Stressing discipline and structured working, Ashok Koul emphasized that well-coordinated and active cells are

essential for the efficient functioning of the party and for expanding its influence at the grassroots.

Ved Sharma assured the senior leadership that all cell representatives will work with renewed commitment, and extend their reach among the masses.

The proceedings were conducted by Munish Khajuria, while the vote of thanks was presented by Billal Parray.

Honouring martyrs through healing: Dr Sushil holds cardiac camp at Pouni

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a solemn tribute to the brave souls who laid down their lives for the nation, The Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Saint Shri Balak Yogeshwar Dass Ashram, Pouni (Reasi).

The camp was inaugurated by Saint Shri Balak Yogeshwar Dass Ji Maharaj along with Dr Sushil Sharma in presence of various disciples who gathered during the ongoing 42nd Ati Maha Vishnu Maha Jagya in mythological memory of country's Immortal martyrs.

The event blended reverence with preventive medicine, delivering comprehensive cardiac care to residents of remote villages who otherwise have limited access to specialized services. More than 1000 people were

educated, screened, evaluated and diagnosed for various health ailments particularly in reference to cardiovascular diseases. Free medicine and diagnostics were also provided as per the requirements.

Dr Sushil Sharma led a multidisciplinary team of doctors and paramedical staff "Our goal was simple : bring world class cardiac screening to the doorstep of those who need it most, while paying homage to the martyrs who sacrifice to protect our freedom".

Dr Sushil said at the inauguration. His vision was to transform a place of spiritual solace into a hub of medical outreach, reinforcing the belief that service to humanity is the highest form of tribute.

"This Camp is a living tribute to the martyrs," said Dr Sushil. By delivering expert cardiac care in a place of worship, we



HoD Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma with others during a medical camp at Saint Shri Balak Yogeshwar Dass Ashram, Pouni.

honour their sacrifice while safeguarding the health of those they protected. We plan to replicate this model in other remote districts, turning every health camp into a beacon of hope and a tribute to our nation's heroes". By combining medical expertise with spiritual reverence, the

camp exemplified how compassion, service and patriotism can converge to create lasting change.

While interacting with the people, Dr Sushil stated that the spiritual environment significantly enriched the impact of the camp. Conducting health

initiatives in a religious setting fostered trust, comfort, and openness among the attendees. Health awareness sessions further enhanced community understanding about recognizing early warnings signs of heart diseases, maintaining a balanced lifestyle, and prioritiz-

ing health as essential aspects of daily life.

The harmonious blend of devotion and healthcare created a unique, healing atmosphere that encouraged participants to take meaningful steps toward better heart health. This camp not only provided medical care but also emotional reassurance. Many individuals shared their concerns freely, finding comfort in the compassionate approach of the medical team. The initiative underscored the message that caring for one's heart requires both medical attention and emotional well-being, further linking spiritual peace with physical health. It served as a reminder that community health thrives when awareness, accessibility, and empathy come together, he added.

The camp also highlighted the importance of continuity of care, encouraging participants

to follow up with regular health check-ups and maintain long-term heart health monitoring. The team emphasized that early detection is only the first step, and sustained lifestyle changes, medication adherence, and timely consultations are essential to prevent serious cardiac events. By motivating individuals to take personal responsibility for their health, the camp aimed to create a lasting culture of awareness and proactive wellness in the entire region, He Said.

The spiritual ambience of the Pouni shrine added profound meaning to the medical outreach. Spiritual leaders including Saint Shri Balak Yogeshwar Ji Maharaj, blessed the initiative, emphasizing that caring for the body is an act of devotion." When healthcare meets devotion, it creates a healing

atmosphere that encourages lasting lifestyle changes," the saint remarked during the culmination ceremony of the 42nd Ati Maha Vishnu Jagya. His words resonated with the attendees, many of whom expressed gratitude for the compassionate approach of Dr Sushil and his team.

Others who were part of this Camp includes Dr Venkatesh Yellupu, Dr Bhola Kumar, Dr Naveen Sharma, Paramedics and volunteers includes Davinder Jeet Singh (Pintoo), Rajkumar, Ranjeet Singh, Makhan Sharma, Mohd Altaf, Suraj Prakash Sharma, Nirvair Singh Bali, Rajinder Singh, Vikas Kumar, Shubham Sharma, Gokul Jamwal, Rahul Vaid, Maninder Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Various disciple of the Ashram.