

# Women-led development in J&K our prime objective: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: "I strongly believe the active participation of women in science, technology and research can build India as a global innovation powerhouse. Women-led development in J&K is our prime objective. It is our collective responsibility to achieve this goal," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday while addressing the inaugural session of the 3-day 'J&K Women Science Congress 2024' at University of Jammu.

The Lt Governor commended the unique initiative by University of Jammu and J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council for trans-forming the leadership trajectory for women in science, technology and innovation.

He highlighted the consistent efforts of the UT Administration to bridge the gender gap at all levels of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines in J&K. "Today, I am



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing inaugural session of 3-day 'J&K Women Science Congress 2024' at University of Jammu on Sunday.

happy to see our daughters are driving innovation and change," he said.

"We are proud of women scientists and tech leaders. From space to Artificial Intelligence, from entrepreneurship to healthcare, from education to innovation, from agriculture to research, the Nari Shakti is breaking barriers

and inspiring the new generation," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed Educational Institutions and departments to make policy interventions to further increase women's participation in Science and allied disciplines.

He further impressed upon

the Universities and different stakeholders to take prominent writers and filmmakers on board for publications and films dedicated to women scientists and innovators of Jammu Kashmir.

Increased female participation in PhD courses and special research projects in science and technology should be

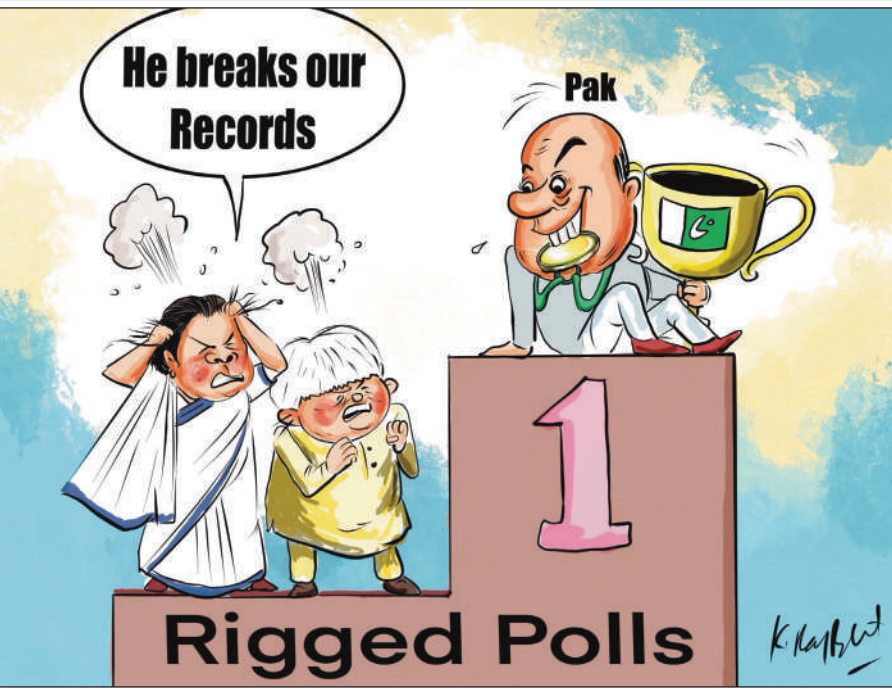
ensured, besides necessary financial and technical resource support must be extended to women scientists associated with STEM disciplines, he added.

He instructed the J&K Science and Technology Department to establish a special cell integrated with the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the efforts of the University of Jammu for promoting research and innovation in diverse fields.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released the abstract booklet on the J&K Women Science Congress 2024.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Vibha Tandon Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Convener J&K Women Science Congress; senior officials, faculty members, scientists and innovators from J&K and other states/UTs were present.



## Prof Dr Tandon takes over as president ISRPT JK Chapter



Prof (Dr) Vishal R Tandon from GMC Jammu taking over as President ISRPT JK Chapter.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Prof (Dr) Vishal R Tandon from GMC Jammu takes over as President of Indian Society of Rational Pharmacotherapeutics- (ISRPT) JK Chapter.

He took over this responsibility from Former President, Dr Pavan Malhotra, Director/Principal ASCOMS, Jammu.

The honour has followed to him on account of his meritorious and distinct contributions in the field of Medical Education, Research, Medical Journalism, Patient care, Drug safety and promotion of rational drug use and pub-

lic awareness as well as his valuable consistent contributions for the ISRPT.

He has been awarded prestigious fellowships and Memberships like FRCP (Edn), FRCP (Glasgow) UK, FIMS, FIMSA, MAMS & CIMP.

Dr Tandon is a permanent member of World Association of Medical Editor (WAME), International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE) and is rendering his services as national expert in subject expert committee and an expert in National Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSUR) Review Committee at Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Dr Tandon is also expert member of signal review committee of two national programmes, PvPI and MvPI, IPC, MoHFW, GoI.

Recently nominated by GoI as international resource person for training of Bhutan Drug regulatory authorities. He is an Editor in chief of JK Science (Embase) and remained editor in chief for Journal midlife health (Pubmed), with more than 216 research publications and 18 book chapter to his credit.

## Bukhari seeks Legislative Assembly elections in J&K, Parliamentary Polls together

**Demands return of power projects to J&K**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
BISHNAH: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Sunday urged the Election Commission of India to hold Legislative Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the Parliamentary polls together.

Bukhari made this demand while addressing one day worker's meeting at Bishnah. The meeting was organized by Apni Party leader, Ashwani Kumar.

"The Govt of India says we shall hold Legislative Assembly Elections as well as Parliamentary Elections together. Then, they constituted a committee, but declined later, citing various reasons for elections in other states of



the country," reminded Bukhari.

He said that "Five years have passed to Jammu and Kashmir without an elected Govt. Up to 2018, the last elected Govt was formed by the BJP in alliance with PDP."

The BJP had contested assembly elections of 2014 against National

Conference and PDP and then they formed the Govt with the PDP, he said, while asking the people if they saw any kind of development / employment in Bishnah or any other part of Jammu.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir did not get any kind of benefit in the last 70 years, but the benefits were grabbed by the two families in place of the masses. However, now the time has come, when the people shall be given constitutional rights of the people in J&K," he stated.

He further said that "The people of J&K will fight for their jobs in a democratic manner. We are a peace-loving nationalist people who never restore to any kind of violent means."

He however congratulated

the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah for granting reservation to a tribe of J&K.

"Those who have objection to the reservation shall not worry about their issues because the Apni Party is there to support them. We will never allow discrimination with anyone," he added, while seeking response from the Govt regarding issues of Dogra speaking belt in Jammu Region.

If the reservation can be granted to a tribe to address their long pending demands, he said, then why couldn't the concerns and demands of Jammu Dogras, Kashmiri speaking, and other communities be addressed by holding Assembly Elections and

restoring the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting concerns of unemployed youth, he demanded five years extension in upper age limits to the aspirants of central Govt jobs / Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in favour of the youth from Jammu and Kashmir.

To overcome the power crises in J&K, he said that the power projects shall be returned to the erstwhile state after 35 years of its inception.

Besides, he appreciated the people of Bishnah who elect their representatives wisely in every assembly election by going against the wave. He asked them to support the Party leader, Ashwani Kumar from Bishnah constituency.

## 669th Birth Anniversary of Bawa Lal Dayal Ji celebrated



Devotees paying obeisance at Bawa Lal Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Bawa Lal Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu under the Presidentship of Naresh Sadhotra celebrated the 669th Birth Anniversary of Shree Bawa Lal Dayal Ji Guru Maharaj.

A large number of devotees gathered on the occasion to seek blessings. The devotees chant Bhajans and danced with full religious flavour. The programme was well managed by the Bawa Lal Mandir committee under the Presidentship of Naresh Sadhotra.

A Langar was arranged wherein many people took the Parshad. The programme was concluded at the evening.

The other committee members namely Vijay Khajuria, Arun Khosala, Pardeep Bali, Surinder Bali, Sandeep Pandoh and Naresh Shastri and other prominent citizens whole heartedly participated in the programme.

## Zorawar releases folk album 'Dogri Virasat'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Sunday released folk album "Dogri Virasat" sung by Chariter Rekha, during a function organized at Press Club here.

Pushpa Sharma and Vinod Sharma were the Guests of Honour on the occasion. The album has been named as "Dogri Virasat" as it is an amalgamation of different Dogri folk songs. The album has been directed by Sumanth while music composition has been made by Ramesh Kumar Parwana, edited by Yogi Studioz with music arranger Ashu Kumar (Stone Kick Studioz).

While speaking on the occasion, Zorawar Singh congratulated Chariter Rekha



Chairman, Team Jammu Zorawar Singh Jamwal and others releasing folk album "Dogri Virasat" at Jammu on Sunday.

and her entire teammates for such initiatives that promote Dogra art and culture besides generate employment opportunities and also engage youth in productive works.

He lauded the efforts of musicians, singer and artists for promoting and glorifying the diverse culture of J&K by

producing songs in Dogri language and hoped that these songs cross borders to reach their admirers. He also said that such initiatives help the younger generation to remain connected with their roots.

Saying that mind of the creative genius is a strange

and wonderful thing, Zorawar Singh Jamwal also said that the youth who are engaged in such activities should be encouraged both by the Government and social organisations. The participation of youth in cultural activities will not only keep away youth from indulging in

social crimes but will also keep them in good health and sound mind.

While interacting with media persons, singer Chariter Rekha, who is a teacher by profession and impart training to students appearing in Service Selection Board and RIMC examinations, said that "although I am not a trained singer but singing is her hobby and has immense love for music.

As singing is my hobby so I thought to produce this album and as small contribution towards mother tongue Dogri and its enrich culture."

Chariter Rekha informed that the folk album "Dogri Virasat" would be available on wynk music, jio Saavn, Gana, Amazon music, YouTube and Hungama music.

## Dr Jitendra convenes joint meeting of Science Ministries, discusses Space Hackathon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday convened the monthly joint meeting of different Science Ministries and Departments at the Science Centre here, wherein among other agenda items, he reviewed the Space Hackathon held last month for the students to sharpen their skills and innovation.

The 30-hour hackathon on Space related challenges like technical issues related to the Geospatial BHUVAN portal was organised as part of the India International Science Festival - 2023 (IISF-2023) held at the DBT THSTI - RCB Campus in Faridabad, Haryana from 17th to 20th January 2024.

Expressing satisfaction at the huge response for the first of its kind Space hackathon, the S&T Minister appreciated the fact that over 4,000 teams were registered in the span of one month. 57 teams were shortlisted for the grand finale at Faridabad.

The high-level joint meeting of different Science Ministries and Departments included representa-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh convening the monthly joint meeting of different Science Ministries and Departments at the Science Centre, New Delhi on Sunday.

tives from Science & Technology, Biotechnology, CSIR, Earth Sciences, Dept. of Space and Atomic Energy.

The S&T Minister was informed that after the conclusion of a grueling 30-hour hackathon at the IISF venue, the initial jury short-listed the top 24 teams. Main jury selected 16 teams for the pitch presentation, and finally four teams were declared winners and their ideas were supported by ISRO. Besides, 11 runners up were also

declared.

Dr Jitendra Singh also commended all the scientific departments for the grand success of the IISF-2023 that saw close to 35,000 participants including more than 11,000 delegates. Seven State S&T Ministers, 27 State officials and Secretaries and 75 delegates also participated in the four-day Science Fest.

The Science Secretaries monthly meeting also lauded the Departments for the ground work

involved in the operationalization of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) with its issue of notification on 5th February 2024. Dr Jitendra Singh suggested that DST could go for the search of Anusandhan NRF Logo.

Dr Jitendra Singh called for mobilization of the recently set up Science Media Communication Center (SMCC) to raise awareness about new achievements and discoveries/inventions. He directed a Workshop held of all Nodal Officers of Laboratories and Departments for easier flow of newsworthy achievements.

The S&T Minister was informed that Brazil, being the G20 Presidency host this year, has called for drafts to formulate the G20 Bioeconomy Initiative and the first Experts Meeting will be held on 13-14 March in Brazil.

Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India, Dr Ajay K Sood; Secretary, DSIR & DG, CSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi; Secretary, DST, Prof. Abhay Karandikar; Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh S Gokhale; & Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences DrM Ravichandran attended the deliberations.

## Three-day Annual Basant Panchmi Mela at Mathwar from Feb 14

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: The annual Mela will be held on the eve of Basant Panchami at Dev Asthan Mathwar from February 14 to 16.

Like Jhiri Mela, on every Basant Panchami, a grand congregation takes place at Mathwar Dev Asthan, the holy shrine and birth place of Baba Ballo Ji Maharaj.

During this Utsav, thousands of devotees from far and wide congregate and pay obeisance to Baba Ji.

As per the programme, the Mela is commencing on February 14 and will culminate on February 16.

Jammu Administration is making all the preparations for smooth celebration of Basant Panchmi Utsav and necessary directions have been issued to the concerned departments in this regard.

The Administration stressed on close synergy among different departments for making timely arrangements for the smooth celebration of



Basant Panchmi Utsav.

The arrangements are being made by the concerned departments, including provision of power, water supply, sanitation, availability of essentials, transport, fire tenders, besides medical facilities at the venue.

The security agencies have to ensure fool proof arrangements in and around the venue, besides proper barricading the area. The officers of Traffic Police Department have been asked to make suitable arrangements for parking and smooth movement of

vehicles in the area.

PHE Department was asked to ensure adequate water supply with provision of additional water tanks and PDD was asked to ensure proper lighting arrangements in addition to un-interrupted power supply during the celebration.

The Rural Development authorities were directed for ensuring proper sanitation in and around the venue and PWD was directed to repair the roads. Directions were also issued for adequate security and traffic management during the Mela days.