

Education system needs to update for future industry trends: Kansal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal on Thursday presided over the ongoing Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship academic module of Sankalp at Hotel Asia.

The twelve-days programme, from March 7 to March 19, has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, IIM Jammu.

MGN Fellowship is a two-year programme which combines classroom sessions at IIM with an intensive field immersion at the district level to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

Speaking at the occasion, the Principal Secretary underlined the need to reap benefits of demographic dividend of India in the form its



Principal Secretary HED Rohit Kansal speaking at a programme at Jammu.

vast young population. He stressed on the need to successfully convert it into a talented workforce through modern education.

Elaborating education sector, the Principal Secretary said that the sector needs to be updated to be more gainful and employment oriented. 'Reorientation of our education system towards skill development is the need of the hour. We need to prepare better skilled workforce through education', he said.

The Principal Secretary called for aligning skill and education being imparted by universities with workplace opportunities of the future. He said that the system need to upgrade itself to cater to the upcoming Industry 4.0 trends.

Rohit Kansal shared his ideas on a plethora of subjects, including doubling of farmers income, efficient delivery of public services and social welfare schemes etc. He called upon the fellows to act as crusaders of change and give recommendations to government for institutionalisation of their novel initiatives. He suggested that the fellows take inputs from local stakeholders while proposing any development for the latter.

The Principal Secretary also shared lessons from the success of Back to Village programmes and hailed its

grounded-up approach.

IIM faculty would teach course content under each course module that is consistent with 40 contact days; along with off-campus mentoring, field experience, and workshops that should form an integral part of the learning. Fellows from J&K, West Bengal, Ladakh, Chandigarh and Puducherry are participating in the programme.

The programme has been designed by the initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, and implemented in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Co-Program Director, MGNF was also present at the occasion.



Zonal-Level Singing Competition 'Choona Hai Aasman Season-6' held

Participation more significant than winning: DGP



DGP J&K Dilbag Singh posing for a photograph with participants and other police officers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Zonal level competition of 'Choona Hai Aasman Season-6' a talent hunt programme for promising and upcoming singers of Jammu and Kashmir was organized by Jammu Zone Police Headquarters at Police Auditorium Gulshan Ground, here on Thursday.

The Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbag Singh was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

ADGSP Dr S D Singh Janwal, Mukesh Singh, Danesh Rana, Sunil Kumar, DIG JSK Vivek Gupta, DPT J&K Shridhar Patil, SSP PCR Dr Haseeb Mughal, AIG's of PHQ, SSP Security, SSP Crime, Jammu based JKAP/IRP Commandants, retired senior Police, parents, relatives of participants also graced the occasion with their presence.

Speaking on the occasion the DGP congratulated the ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh and his team who brought forward these young singers of Jammu Zone. He said that it gives immense pleasure to witness the sixth season of the talent hunt programme after some gap due to pandemic.

The programme will continue to provide opportunities

ties to the many talented youth of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The DGP advised participants that winning in an event is not the last thing but participating in an event is a big achievement. He wished them good luck for their future.

While talking to media, DGP said J&K Police is investigating the low intensity blast that happened in Udhampur and those involved in the cowardly act will be brought to justice soon, DGP said. He said that the number of terrorists in J&K is decreasing and elements involved in the killing of innocent civilian will be neutralized. In this programme participants who have won the competitions at the district level of Jammu Zone took part in Zonal Level Talent Hunt Programme. Total 33 singers (male and female) from all 4 ranges of Jammu zone took part in the event of solo songs. In 05 to 12 years category, the first place was bagged by Simridhi Sen and was awarded cash prize of Rs 12000, second place went to Ridhima Bajpai and was awarded cash prize of Rs 10000 and third places was bagged by Aradya Sharma

and was awarded cash prize of Rs 8000.

In 13 to 18 years category, the first place was bagged by Raghu Jeet Singh and was awarded cash prize of Rs 12000, while the second place was clinched by Sahil Kumar and was rewarded Rs 10000 and the third place went to Divya Bharti and was awarded cash prize of Rs 8000.

In 19 to 25 years category the first place was bagged by Shubam Banerjee and was awarded cash prize of Rs 12000, while the second place was clinched by Pankaj Kumar and was rewarded Rs 10000 and the third place went to Touqir Ali and was awarded cash prize of Rs 8000. Ms Natasha was presented with a consolation prize. The DGP presented mementos to the jury members Dr Anupama Sharma, Ravi Sharma, Amarjeet Singh and to Sonali Dogra who was the special guest on this occasion. The vote of thanks was presented by SO to ADGP Jammu Ashok Sharma. The programme was anchored by Rakesh Sambyal and Isha Mahajan. The winners of Zonal Level competitions will now take part in the UT level competition.

Farmers thronged Krishi Mela-2022 of SKUAST-Jammu on day 4

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To sensitise the farmer and common masses about the benefits of natural farming, a workshop on 'Natural Farming' was organised on the fourth day of Krishi Mela 2022 of SKUAST Jammu.

Dr Vikas Sharma, Convener of the workshop welcomed the guest and elaborated about the activities being undertaken by organic farming research centre, SKUAST Jammu.

Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Chief Guest of the function, informed the house about the initiative taken by Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir in the field of organic and natural farming so that more and more farmers get attracted towards this type of farming.

She sought cooperation of university in laying out clusters of organic farming.



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. J.P. Sharma felicitating Ex-Minister, Sham Lal Sharma.

She also informed that district Samba is designated as aspirational district by the Government of India for the promotion of organic farming.

Dr. Rakesh Chouthan, Scientist CSK HPKV, Palampur discussed about Subash Palekar's natural farming and preparation of organic formulations like Jeevamrit and Beejamrit.

Dr. Pardeep Kumar, Principal

of integrated farming system model development by SKUAST Jammu for enhancing the farmers income.

At the outset, Prof. Vikram Singh, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture welcomed the dignitaries and gave an overall view of the workshop.

In the programme Dr. Manoj Jha, Director, Central Sanskrit University appreciated the stalls in the Mela which provided an amalgamation of modern and Vedic cultural diversity of agriculture system of India.

Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-chancellor SKUAST Jammu highlighted the achievements of University like sanction of three new faculties as well as three new Krishi Vigyan Kendra under the administration of SKUAST Jammu. He also said that UT of J&K is at third position in farmers income from agriculture as per the NITI Aayog report.

Chief Guest, Sham Lal Sharma appreciated SKUAST Jammu under the leadership of Prof. J. P. Sharma for achieving significant development in short duration.

He also said that India wants to become Vishiwa Guru in the knowledge sphere and not the

super power in military sense. This can be achieved through a self reliant India.

Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu presented vote of thanks. The proceeding of the workshop was conducted by Dr. Vivek M Arya.

Exhibition on application of drone technology in agriculture which is promoted by KVK, Jammu under the supervision of Dr. Puneet Choudhary also cathech interests of large number of farmers. Cultural programme was also organized in which the performance of artists of India Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Jammu and students of SKUAST-Jammu mesmerized the audience. Prof. Bechan Lal, VC Cluster University, Jammu was Chief Guest in the cultural programme.

Krishi Mela is also telecasted virtually at www.skuast.org and more than 40000 are viewing it on daily basis. Besides, large number of farmers, school children and university students enthusiastically participated in rural sports viz., kabaddi, tug of war, volleyball, short put etc. in which the winners were awarded.

PGCIL signs MoU with JKPCCLtd for construction of 16 toilets at JNV Nud



PGCIL and JKPCCLtd representatives after signing MoU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Projects Construction Corporation Limited (JKPCC) for Construction of 16 toilets at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Nud in district Samba, which is a fully residential and co-educational school.

Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of PGCIL, MoU was signed by S.K Chowan, Senior General Manager (RE&ST) on behalf of PGCIL and Dinesh Kumar Nayyar, DGM (Executive Engineer) on behalf of JKPCCLtd, Kathua/Samba in the presence of Sanjay Kumar Verma, Sr. DGM (HR), PGCIL, Ramesh Kumar Sr. DGM (Samba), PGCIL and other senior officers from PGCIL and JKPCCLtd Limited. These toilets will be constructed at an estimated cost of rs 46.89 lakh within nine months. On this occasion, Somnath, Principal Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nud thanked PGCIL for taking up this CSR initiative for providing hygienic infrastructure in the school premises which will benefit around 450 students and 70 staff members. As a responsible Corporate Citizen, PGCIL has been extending support for development of various infrastructure activities in the Jammu province through its CSR initiatives amounting to more than Rs 2 crore during last three years, Chowan said.

Jubilant BJP workers of J&K celebrate party's success in Assembly polls

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dancing to the beats of dolaks, jubilant BJP workers celebrated the party's impressive show in four of the five states where elections were held recently.

The party's chief for Jammu and Kashmir Ravinder Raina said it will cross the 50-plus mark in the Assembly elections in the union territory and will register a landslide victory to form its government here.

Hundreds of workers and leaders assembled at the party's state headquarters in Trikuta Nagar and danced to the dolak beats. They raised pro-BJP and pro-Modi slogans, and chanted Bharat Mata Ki Jai amid shouts of Ab ki bar 50 ke



BJP leaders celebrating party's victory in four states.

paar, making their intentions clear.

It clearly shows the victory of developmental agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People voted for the BJP for peace, security and development, Raina told reporters here.

In Srinagar, former legislator and senior BJP leader Surinder Ambardar led the victory march with the party workers dancing in celebration.

The BJP workers also danced and exchanged sweets in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Katra, Reasi and Rajouri districts.

Dr U Kaul's 'No Heart Attack Mission-2025'

Rana lauds expansion of quality healthcare to rural landscape

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Lauding the expansion of quality and specialized healthcare to rural landscape, prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana expressed the hope that ramping up of medical infrastructural facilities would help in achieving the objective of health for all.

Rana was speaking at the inaugural function of Dr. Upendra Kaul's 'No Heart Attack Mission-2025' and launch of Tele-medicine facility under the aegis of Umeed Foundation and Helpline Humanity at Jagati.

Inaugurated by the noted cardiologist of the country, Dr Upendra Kaul, the event is part of the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative of AstraZeneca, facilitated by CAF India and implemented by Umeed Foundation in conjunction with Gauri Kaul Heart Centre and Mata Saraswati Pustakalya.

The equipment for the facility has been provided by IOCL under CSR.

Devender Rana complimented Dr Upendra Kaul for short listing several areas across Jammu and Kashmir including Jagati Migrant Township for launch of this mission.

Rana, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, said that he was honoured to be part of initiative of very respectable Dr U Kaul, who has dedicated himself to the service of mankind. He said the tele-medicine facility will not only benefit the people of Jagati but to peripheral areas and even the city of Jammu.

He said that he was overwhelmed by the endeavours of the organizers to reach out to the people at their



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana inaugurating Tele-medicine facility.

doorsteps to generate awareness about heart related diseases and provide diagnostic and other medical related facilities to the poor segments of the society. Early detection of the disease will certainly lead to effective treatment.

He said these initiatives reinforce the spirit of service to humanity as service to God, as the objective is to cover the

marginalized segments of the society, who cannot afford specialized treatment.

Rana seized the opportunity of re-emphasising the need for registration with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ayushman Bharat programme to avail of the Golden Card, which can help the suffering people to get hassle free treatment facilities. He described the programme as a path breaking initiative of ensuring health for all and saying the facility is available to the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir as a special case, irrespective of economic status.

Rana hoped for success in the mission, as cardiovascular diseases, especially among the youth, is a biggest challenge globally. Since such diseases remain a major cause of deaths globally, it is heartening that those working in the field to provide solutions and treatments have resolved to hold camps at ground zero, not only to treat the patients but also to generate awareness about the preventive measures.

Dr U Kaul also spoke on the occasion and gave an illustrative lecture on preventing and minimizing the progression of heart related diseases with focus on behavioral and lifestyle changes.

Those present were BL Jalali, Col(retd) G.K Raina, Aijaz Rashid, Bittu Bhat, MK Bhat, Satish Pandita, Mural Kaul, Parshotam, Manu Krishan, Wasim Ahmed, Jyoti Rani, Raj Dhar besides Prem Sagar Aziz, Sarpanch Jagti Abha Jamwal, Sarpanch Khanpur, Mohd Iqbal, Som Nath Khajuria, Pt Rameshwar Dutt, Madan Shah, Kulbushan Singh, Joginder Lal and Bashir Kohli.

Corruption at peak in Kashmir despite ACB's stern watch

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: It was supposed that corruption would vanish after abrogation of Article 370 and inclusion of new rules as per Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019, but the fight against corruption and corrupt officers is becoming more stringent for a common man with every passing day.

Anti-Corruption Bureau has arrested 6 corrupt government officials including a women Sarpanch for demanding bribe from people in less than a month. On Feb 16, ACB nabbed Hafiza Begum, Sarpanch, Khulchohar, district Anantnag for accepting bribe of Rs 6,500 for approving workfiles of complainant. It was for the first time such a shameful incident took place wherein a woman Sarpanch was arrested for accepting bribe. Next day on February 17, ACB arrested one Habibullah Mir, Naib Tehsildar, Chuker, Tehsil Kunzer, district Baramulla for while receiving Rs 30,000 as bribe. During the course of investigations, it was revealed that accused had already taken Rs 10,000 from complainant and was demanding more. Again on February 18, ACB received a complaint alleging therein that a Guard in Wildlife Department namely Tariq Ahmad Sofi posted at Waskhura, District Ganderbal was demanding Rs 5,000 as bribe for releasing belongings of a complainant seized by Department. Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh, Computer Operator of Public Works Department (R&B) Ganderbal was also arrested by ACB for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 4000. Overall, during first week of March 2022, ACB arrested 4 Government officials for corrupt practices.

Another Junior Engineer of Rural Development Block

Harduabara, Tehsil Karhama, District Baramulla, Tassadiq Riyaz was arrested demanding bribe for allegedly preparing work allotment bills. ACB also arrested one Abdul Majid Bhat, Patwari, Halaqa Goom, Ahmadpura, Tehsil Pattan, district Baramulla for demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 from complainant. A Technical Assistant of Block Development Office, Arina, Bandipora and his associate Irfan Yusuf were also caught by ACB for demanding bribe of Rs 20,000.

Notably during past decade, India's rank improved one place above to 85 among 180 countries in Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2021, according to report by Transparency International. Except Bhutan, all India's neighbours are ranked below it. Pakistan dropped 16 spots in the index and was ranked at 140.

The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Those with weak scores included China (45), India (40), Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26), the report of anti-corruption watchdog said. While corruption takes vastly different forms from country to country, this year's scores reveal that all regions of globe are at a standstill when it comes to fighting public-sector corruption.