

Dr Jitendra inaugurates ‘National Speed Crop Facility’ for farmers, Agri StartUps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MOHALI: Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at the premier National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) here.

Speaking as chief guest, Dr. Jitendra said, "This initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priority of doubling the farmer's Income, ensuring their economic empowerment and promoting Agri-StartUps".

He said, farmers will now have the opportunity to improve their crop qualitatively as well as quantitatively.

Dr. Jitendra said, "Biotechnology speedy seeds facility will cater to all the States of India but it will especially be useful for the North Indian States like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and the UT of J&K.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating the first-of-its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility", at BRIC-National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali, Chandigarh on Monday.

Adding further he said, "This facility will augment transformational changes in crop improvement programmes by accelerating the development of advanced crop varieties that could sustain climate change and contribute to the food and nutritional demand of the population with implementation of speed breeding cropping

methods".

The Minister said, "DBT institute of NABI has developed technology of 'Climate-resistant crops' by harnessing these technologies the farmers will not be restrained to cultivate a crop in a particular season rather they will have the liberty to practise farming irrespective of climate con-

duciveness".

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, institutes like NABI will have an important role to enable the transformational progress and value addition in farming sector productivity.

The facility will directly help a) Scientists and Researchers from government institutions, private institutions and leading industries in India engaged in agricultural and biotechnology research and development of improved crop varieties and products, b) Plant Breeders working for crop development and c) Progressive farmers who are contributing to adoption of new varieties with superior yield and nutritional traits.

The NABI institute has significantly contributed to 'Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech (UNA'TI) Mission (Poshan Abhiyan), and Biotech Kisan Hubs for Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana etc.



Pradeep Dutta Delivers Lecture on Defence Reporting at IIMC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The students of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Jammu know the basics of defence reporting on Monday.

Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor from Times Now, talked with students about the challenges of Defence Reporting and elaborate experience and invaluable insights in the field of journalism. He provided precious knowledge and guidance to the eager minds of the students.

The lecture commenced with introductory remarks by Lai Kadyan, establishing an atmosphere of anticipation.

Prof. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC, Jammu and Dr. Dilip Kumar, Associate Professor extended a warm welcome to Pradeep Dutta.

During the lecture, Dutta shed light on various aspects of defence reporting and national security, such as the importance of journalistic ethics, character building, and consistency, highlighting their importance in better nation-building and the responsibility of journalists in it.

While interacting with the students, he emphasised on the need for passion, curiosity, and a persistent pursuit of truth in their journalistic aspirations. The lecture involved diverse topics ranging from the role of journalists in shattering myths to the utilization of modern technologies in warfare reporting.

Dutta also insisted upon the usage of KISS (Keep It Short and Simple) way of reporting to achieve objectivity and integrity, especially in the era of deepfakes misinformation and disinformation.



Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor from Times Now delivering a lecture.

The special lecture also included engaging discussions between the students and the esteemed guest speaker. Dutta encouraged the budding journalists to seize opportunities, uphold journalistic standards, and strive for excellence in their life. The session concluded with a fresh sense of motivation and determination among the students to excel in the field of defence reporting. This special lecture is organised by Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Coordinator, Digital Media and Special Officer of Student Welfare, IIMC, Jammu. In this occasion, Dr. Anshula Gurg, Yasir Arfat along with all students of Digital Media, English Journalism and Hindi Journalism were also present.

IIM Jammu inaugurates leadership training program for College Principals of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, on Monday initiated third batch of the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled, "Education Leadership Development Training Program" for College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir at its Srinagar Campus.

The program, organized under the aegis of the Executive Education and Consultancy Division, commenced from March 11 will go on till March 15, 2024.

Dr. Sundar R, Program Director, IIM Jammu, extended a welcome and provided insights into the program's objectives.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, illuminated the transformative journey of the Education Leadership Development Training Program, aligning it with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).

He emphasized that this program transcends mere coursework; it symbolizes a deep-rooted commitment to educational excellence and innovation. He urged participants to articulate their expectations,



Participants of third batch posing for a photograph at IIM Jammu.

ensuring fulfillment by the program's conclusion.

Furthermore, he motivated college principals to encourage students to take competitive exams such as NEET, GATE, JEE, and CAT.

During his address, he provided detailed insights into the IIM system, emphasizing the realization of responsibilities and the importance of active participation in classroom

sessions.

He expressed optimism that such initiatives would contribute to a brighter future in education, aligning with national priorities.

He urged faculty members to actively participate in NIRF Rankings and collaborate on joint research programs with IIM Jammu. He assured full support from the institute, emphasizing its

dedication to nation-building.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized that the program signifies our commitment to fostering educational leadership, empowering college principals to steer academic excellence in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson, Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu emphasized the institute's commitment to excellence in education and leadership development, underscoring its role in shaping future leaders. This was followed by introduction of the Participants. Key objectives include the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in colleges, enhancing instructional leadership, fostering effective communication, promoting cultural competence, encouraging innovation and adaptability, and instilling data-informed decision-making skills.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Yashoda Devi, Program Director, followed by the national anthem and a group photo. The entire programme is being coordinated by office of EE & C, IIM Jammu.

BJP flags off video vans to 7 Assembly constituencies



Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, along with MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and former MLC, Ch. Vikram Randhawa flagging off video van.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, along with Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC & Convenor "Viksit Bharat Video Vans" flagged off the Video Vans from BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here.

The vans displaying audio-visual representations were flagged off for their further journey to Bahu, Marh, Nagrota, Jammu North, Jammu East, Jammu West assembly constituencies and will culminate in Jammu South in the evening, thereby covering 7 assembly segments.

Ashok Koul, while flagging off the video vans, said that the wave carrying message of "Viksit Bharat-Modi ki guarantee" has swept the nation. He said that specialized video vans have been deployed to further take the message of unprecedented development in the nation as well as the welfare of the needy and the poor to the public.

Koul added that, BJP has advanced a step further in the good governance streak by asking the public about the political manifesto, in which these vans will carry "Sankalp Patra-Suggestion Boxes", in all the Assembly segments. The general public would

be asked to put their suggestions into these suggestion boxes, which would then be taken collectively to the party's "Sankalp Patra" committee at the state level for drafting the manifesto.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, said that the video vans would include what all the works that the Modi government has done for public welfare and development under various schemes of the government. Having its public centric purpose, it will further link the party with the ground level activist and masses, he added.

Vikram Randhawa said that as per the party high command's guidelines, 2 video vans will be provided in every Lok Sabha to reach every nook and corner of the constituency. The entire exercise is aimed at having public opinion about the policies and programmes that the Modi government needs to do more in the next course.

BJP leaders including Tilak Raj Gupta, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Rekha Mahajan, Hari Om Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Surinder Bhagat, Rieky Gupta, Baharat Bhusan, Narinder Gupta and others were present on the occasion.

JU to host three-day workshop on ‘Capacity Building and Leadership Development for Implementation of NEP-2020’ from today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant stride towards transforming India's educational landscape, the University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, is set to host a three-day workshop centered on "Capacity Building in Leadership Development of Academic Administrators and Principals for NEP-2020 Implementation."

This workshop, with a special focus on internationalizing higher education, represents a significant leap towards aligning Indian higher education with global benchmarks.

The workshop will be inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor JK UT and Chancellor University of Jammu, Manoj Sinha tomorrow.

University of Jammu has been selected as the nodal university for the familiariza-



VC JU, Prof Umesh Rai addressing a press conference at Jammu on Monday.

tion, Sensitization and Capacity building of academicians, administrators and other stakeholders for the effective implementation of the NEP 2020.

During a curtain-raiser press conference, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairperson Higher Education council, Govt. of JK UT and Chancellor, Kumara Mangalam University spoke at length about how NEP is going to create a Knowledge Economy that is indispensable for sustained high economic performance of any country.

He further spoke of the need to connect the students with NEP and enable them to enjoy the freedom that it offers.

Vice-Chancellor JU, Prof Umesh Rai stressed the critical importance of revisiting curriculum design in light of NEP-2020.

He announced that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, led by the JU, is at the forefront of NEP-2020 implementation, showcasing the region's unwavering dedication to delivering quality education.

The workshop will delve into policy implementation, especially in universities where youth enrollment is at its peak.

Prof. Rai emphasized the shift towards offering maximum courses online, providing students with flexibility in choosing courses or subjects not available in their colleges.

Dean Academic Affairs and

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Convener of the three day workshop, Prof. Anju Bhasin gave a detailed overview of the workshop sharing that around 250 participants have registered and there would be 35 speakers in ten sessions spread over 3 days.

The theme of "Internationalization of Higher Education," the workshop brings together key stakeholders - university leaders, administrators, and academics - to deliberate on aligning university systems with the vision of NEP-2020. Distinguished participants include Ambassadors of the Indian government, renowned resource persons, university Vice-Chancellors, Deans, College Principals, and academics, collectively assessing NEP-2020 implementation.

The program objectives encompass implementing NEP-2020 recommendations at the institutional level, reflecting on internationalization strategies, developing

and implementing institutional development plans, promoting multidisciplinary education, ensuring holistic development, embracing blended learning, and initiating skill-based education.

Participants will delve into themes such as multidisciplinary and holistic education, internationalization of higher education, institutional development plans, digital initiatives in education, collaborative tools, teacher education, school quality issues, social responsibility, community engagement, organizing internships, research promotion, and industry-institution linkages.

Those present on the occasion included Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Sandeep Pandita, Director MMTTC and Co-Convenor of the workshop, Prof. Manisha Priyam, Dept. of Education Policy, NIEPA, New Delhi.

in this two-day Championship 12 teams of district Reasi participated and displayed their skills of game which were highly appreciated by the audience.

Interacting on the occasion, Kuldeep Magotra apprised the sports lovers that J&K is scaling new heights in volleyball game with the participation of more and more players at national and international levels besides creating history in the recent past by securing bronze medal in recently held 48th National Junior Volleyball Championship in boys section. The Volleyball Association of J&K is living no stone unturned in promoting volleyball all across JK UT, he asserted.

The matches were officiated by Manjyot Singh, Jamrot and Karan Rajput who were also honoured with mementos.

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