

VC SKUAST-J inaugurates LICOR-6800F for advancing research in crop sciences

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, on Thursday inaugurated the cutting-edge High-Ended Portable Photosynthetic System (LICOR-6800F). This system, located within the Division of Plant Physiology at Chatha, is set to revolutionize agricultural research in the region under the JK HADP Project. The LICOR-6800F system represents a significant leap forward in agricultural technology. It allows for advanced research aimed at developing new crop genotypes suited to the unique eli-



mate conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. By mimicking photosynthesis and capturing solar light for power conversion, this system offers non-destructive measurement capabilities. The primary function of the system's Infra-red Gas Analyzers (IRGA) is to measure CO₂ concentration. Scientists can utilize this equipment to predict and analyze climatic variations affecting crop growth and yield potential.

Monitoring physiological functions such as photosynthesis, transpiration, and stomatal conductance helps optimize agronomic practices and mitigate environmental impacts. During the inauguration, Prof. Tripathi toured the Technology Park of the University and witnessed a demonstration of the LICOR-6800F system. He engaged with faculty and students, emphasizing the versatility of the facility across various crops and its importance during challenging weather conditions. Dr. Gurdev Chand, Head of the Division of Plant Physiology, highlighted the wide-ranging applications of the LICOR-6800F sys-

tem across agricultural disciplines. Its importance for accelerating research objectives was underscored, particularly in breeding programs. The event was attended by key figures including Dr. S K Gupta, Director Research; Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension; Dr. S.E.H. Rizvi, Dean Faculty of Basic Sciences; Dr. R.K. Samnotra, Head, Division of Vegetable Sciences; Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Head, Division of Biochemistry; and Dr. Brajeshwar Singh, Head, Division of Microbiology. Statutory officers, department heads, faculty members of Basic Sciences, and media officials also participated, highlighting the significance of this milestone.

Hindi play "Rehearsal" featured in Natrang Theatre Festival



Natrang artists performing in a play.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The second day of the Natrang Theatre Festival, held in conjunction with World Theatre Day, featured the Hindi play "Rehearsal," written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav and directed by Neeraj Kant. This satirical portrayal aimed to mock individuals who attempt tasks without proper knowledge, sensibility, or the necessary qualifications. "Rehearsal" depicted the rehearsal process of a play with an all-female cast, humorously highlighting their lack of professionalism and immaturity. Despite their desire

to deliver a stellar performance, the cast, referred to as Kitty-mates, exhibited a dearth of essential qualities such as discipline, punctuality, teamwork, self-motivation, and open-mindedness. Instead, they were rife with negative traits like jealousy, gossip, lack of coordination, and egotism. The rehearsal devolved into chaos, with each member expressing their thoughts dramatically. Despite the presence of a director, her own limitations prevented her from effectively managing the team. Rather than showing compassion towards fellow artists, some Kitty-mates sought preferential treatment, boasting about their husbands' prestigious positions. Ultimately, the play concluded with a stern message emphasizing the importance of discipline and commitment in creating meaningful works of art. The Natrang artists who performed in "Rehearsal" include Kananpreet Kaur; Vansh Pandotra, Priya Kashyap, Payal Khanna, Vandana Thakur; Sana Devi, Mehak Chib, and Palshin Dutta. Neeraj Kant operated the lights, Kushal Bhat handled the presentations, and Mohd. Yaseen coordinated the show.

PM Modi has completed all impossible-looking tasks: Rekha



BJP District President for Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan convening a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President for Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, on Thursday convened a meeting with Shakti Kendra Pramukhs of Wards 3 and 4 in the Cantonment area, Gandhi Nagar Mandal of Bahu Constituency. The meeting was facilitated by the Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board and the President of BJP Gandhi Nagar Mandal, Bharat Bhushan. Notable attendees included Vice President and Prabhari Gandhi Nagar Mandal, Narinder Gupta Koki, Ex Councillor Jasmeet Kaur Pandey, and others. During the meeting, Rekha emphasized the need for preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections and encour-

aged Shakti Kendra Pramukhs to engage with people across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. She urged them to focus on specific areas and emphasized the importance of strengthening the grassroots network in the coming weeks. Mahajan also called for bolstering the party's outreach to various segments of society by activating booth-level activists in Jammu South. She lauded the initiatives undertaken by the Narendra Modi-led government, citing significant progress in improving access to essential amenities over the past decade. Highlighting various statistics, Mahajan asserted that under Modi's leadership, the government had worked for the welfare of over 60 crore poor people in the country. She emphasized achievements such as providing tap

water to 70 crore poor people and delivering drinking water to houses in J&K for the first time in 75 years. Mahajan also praised the government's efforts to enhance national security, deliver social justice, and achieve economic milestones. She expressed confidence that under BJP's governance, India could become the third-largest economic power globally. Encouraging the party workers, Mahajan stated that BJP's remarkable work over the past decade would ensure a significant victory in the upcoming elections. She urged them to engage with the masses and ensure a spectacular victory for the party, aiming to surpass 400 seats. Mahajan shared her experiences and valuable insights, motivating the workers to work tirelessly for the party's success in 2024.

CUJ launches Short Term Upskilling Training Programme on Community Journalism for Women

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) launched Short Term Upskilling Programmes on Community Journalism for Women candidates in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Paloura, Jammu under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ and Director, Mission Directorate, Department of Skill Development, UT of J&K.



CUJ faculty posing for photograph with students and faculty of GDC Paloura.

The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Prof. Ashu Vashist, Principal GDC Paloura, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq from School of Business Studies, CUJ and faculty members of the college. Prof. Ashu Vashist, Chief Guest of the inaugural session, spoke about the need for skilling, upskilling and reskilling for ensuring women's empowerment. She appreciated the efforts of Central University of Jammu under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for organizing an upskilling outreach Programme for the benefit of female candidates in the College. Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies in her address said that Nari Shakti plays a significant role

in empowering women in rural areas of our country. She apprised that the present initiative is a part of the agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through education, skill development, entrepreneurship aimed at their long-term socio-economic development and participation in decision making. Dr. Neelika Arora, Associate Professor while speaking in the inaugural function highlighted the importance of change in mindset to learn, unlearn and relearn skills employable skills. She pointed out that community journalism is a powerful strategy to assist in empowering communities by highlighting issues and challenges faced by women locally. She emphasized on knowledge, skills and attitude as key to become suc-

cessful in life and also elaborated the concept of Kaushal Bharat - Kushal Bharat.Earlier Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor in his address apprised participants of the course about the Short-Term upskilling initiative being launched by the University across Jammu divi-

sion for women empowerment. He said that Viksit Bharat @ 2047 necessitated the meaningful participation from women's development, to women-led development. He pointed out that the University is hand-holding youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. He further elabo-

rated about the course and also introduced the trainer for the Programme. Komal S., Trainer for the upskilling programme illuminated the path for aspiring Community Journalists setting the tone for the enriching journey ahead. The inaugural ceremony held today, witnessed the presence of HoDs, and faculty members of the College. The entire program was coordinated by Dr. Neelika Arora and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq under the mentorship of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Project Director, DHE Project on Employability Training and Prof. Ashu Vashist, Principal, GDC Paloura. Prof. Pooja Sharma proposed a formal vote of thanks expressing gratitude to all the contributors and supporters of this initiative.

Modi govt will return to power for third straight term in 2024: Ritika



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan speaking at public meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan on Thursday expressed confidence that 'Viksit Bharat' will be a reality highlighting the achievements under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding that the Modi government would return to power for a third straight term with a roadmap for expanding the government's welfare and development programmes. This was stated by Ritika while campaigning for party Candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma in Bahu constituency. Ritika mentioned the achievements of the Modi government. She credited PM Narendra Modi for elevating India's image as a capable and strong nation with a vision for a developed India by 2047. She said cadre is committed to strive hard in the Lok Sabha polls with a aim to surpass the 370-seat mark and expressing confidence in the Modi government in achieving a hat-trick and creating a record."Before 2014, people used to make fun of us, that how we will form the government. But after 2014 our govern-

ment was formed and in 2019 again we formed the government with the majority," she said. Pointing out the influence and the expansion of the Bharatiya Janata Party across the nation, she said that the BJP ruled only around five states before Modi's took power in 2014 and it is in power in 12 states now. In total, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by BJP is in power in 17 states, she said. "It was after thirty years that a government with an absolute majority was formed in the country in 2014. Just after five years, in 2019, again, it was a 'Poorn Bahumat Sarkar' under PM Modi Ji's leadership. Today, we state this with pride that hard work and efforts of our Party's leaders have led country on path of prosperity" Ritika asserted. Ritika highlighted the Ram Temple, GST, CAA, the new parliament, G20, abrogation of Article 370, Triple Talaq Bill, Chandrayaan, Millets, and Women's Reservation Bill. She also talked about how Padma awards are no longer given to people in "elite categories" but to grassroots champions. The

resolution mentioned that under the Modi government, the country has become safer than before and a strong attack has been made against terrorism. Ritika further added that India carried out surgical and air strikes on terrorism. This is the new India based on which Abhinandan returned from Pakistan and our former marines who got death sentences from Qatar also returned. Today, Indians living in any corner of the world have the confidence that if they get into any trouble, the Modi government will get them out, she stated. She expressed unwavering confidence in PM Narendra Modi's government 3.0 promises to accelerate the pace of development in the country and create new records of success. She said whole country love its supreme leader and respected Prime Minister of the country. She said that the entire organization of the party, each and every worker, will support PM Modi with dedication. We are committed to following the path mentioned so that the dream of a developed India can be realized by 2047.

SCERT Jammu organises Orientation Program on Women's Empowerment and Safety Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Jammu organized One Day "Orientation Program on Women's Empowerment and Safety Issues, Challenges and Opportunities" to acknowledge the role of women, their empowerment and contributions to social, economic and political development not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for progress and prosperity. The inaugural commenced with the rendition of National Anthem and lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Director SCERT, J&K (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Joint Director S C E R T Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor in presence of other dignitaries. In her welcome address, Joint Director, SCERT, Jammu praised all the women of substance and elaborated their achieve-



Director SCERT, J&K Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas posing with participants.

ments impressing upon their investment in education, economic opportunities, and promoting gender equality to foster inclusive environment for the empowerment of women and safety. Session was carried out on the topic "Women's safety in Educational Institution" by Advocate, Deepali Arora and deliberated on different legal authorities for the welfare of women, their human rights, protection from sexual harassment at work place necessary for the

educational empowerment of women. While the Guest of Honour, Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson MIER, elaborated upon gender sensitization of women and the need for the equal involvement of men to fulfil the dream of women empowerment in real sense. Other speakers included Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director IGNC A and Ms. Monika Bhandari, Chief Accounts Officer DSEJ. Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director IGNC A, quoted the instances of vedic texts

where women like Vidyawali and Romsha excelled and were the epitome of true womanhood. Monika Bhandari spoke about the gender budgeting and role of women in economic arena. Eminent personalities, Sandhra Malhotra, Principal Diet Jammu, Dr. Sushma Rani, Sr. Lecturer and Dogri writer, Dr. Nazia Rasool Latifi H.O.D (E.V.S), Gandhi Nagar College, Subha Mehta Joint Director,

DSEJ were felicitated for their contributions in different fields and as a role model for the Empowerment of women in the society. Our Chief guest, Director SCERT, Jammu appreciated the efforts of SCERT Jammu for organizing such a programme and highlighting the achievements of women and their role for the transformation and growth of the society as a whole. The programme was moderated by Monica Sharma (AO) and attended by the faculty of SCERT Jammu, including Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors. The programme was managed by Dr. Sanjeevani, Assistant Professor and Monica Sharma, Amit Sharma, Neena Puri and Dr. Meenakshi Chandan (All Academic Officers). The program ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sanjeevani.

Shri Shiv Mahapuran Gyan Yagya, Rudhraabhishek Yagya to begin at Lower Gadigarh 'Kalash Yatra' is being taken out today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A grand 'Kalash Yatra' is being taken out here tomorrow at 9:00 AM to mark the start of Shri Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya and Rudhraabhishek Yagya at Lower Gadigah, here. As per organizers, the Kalash Yatra, with the blessings of Shri Shri 1008 Swami

Vishwatmaanda Saraswati Ji Maharaj, is starting from Lower Gadigarh to Shiv Temple Indira Nagar amidst the chanting of devotional songs and culminating back at Lower Gadigarh. Speaking on the occasion, Organizers informed that the each day Shiv Mahapuran Navahan Gyan Yagya and Rudhraabhishek Yagya

will continue from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and a Bhandara will be performed on daily basis from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM and Katha will be there from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM from March 30 till April 6, 2024. Organizers further informed that Bhajan Sandhya will be organized from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM every day.

Cong, NC, PDP responsible for killings 40,000 innocent Kashmiris: Khatana

'There should be trial for atrocities by Abdullahs, Muftis, Gandhis'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a bold exposure, the senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Thursday stated that Congress along with Kashmir based National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were responsible for the killings of 40,000 innocent Kashmiris in yesteryears only to see their dirty politics shine. While listening to the issues of some delegations at his residence, Khatana

said that the government should initiate some speedy trial against these political outfits and their helmsmen like Gandhis, Abdullahs and Muftis should be booked to provide justice to the slain 40,000 innocent Kashmiris. "Kashmiris were never violent but were followers of Sufism and led a spiritual and peaceful life," he maintained adding: "NC, Congress and PDP provoked the innocent minds of Kashmiris and made them fodder for the gun

culture." The BJP leader further said that NC, Congress and PDP should be given stringent punishment under the law for making innumerable women in Kashmir widows and for making many children orphans. "The Muftis and Abdullahs made the paradise of the earth to bleed under their rule, they were the shameless creators of mass graveyards in Kashmir valley who even not stopped to hit the historic places of worship like

Charar-e-Sharif etc," Khatana continued. He said that now for the last 10 years under the regime of PM Modi, the people of Kashmir are living a peaceful and contented life. "There is complete peace in Kashmir and tourists freely roam in any of the narrow street in valley without any fear and Kashmir is totally restored to its old glory of paradise on earth by the revolutionary and visionary leader PM Modi," the MP Rajya Sabha said.

He said that the youth of Kashmir today is well aware of his rights and duties and is joining elite services of India thereby making the J&K Union Territory proud. "This hard earned peaceful atmosphere in J&K will be further continued as BJP is going to win over 400 Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming Parliamentary elections and J&K will put all of its five seats to the kitty of BJP along with the one seat from Ladakh," he further said.