

JU unveils 'Shodh Sahayak' App to streamline research funding access: Designed & Developed by "Design Your Degree" students

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant stride towards academic innovation, the University of Jammu has launched 'Shodh Sahayak', a mobile application designed to simplify access to research funding opportunities for faculty members. Spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, the app embodies the university's progressive vision to strengthen its research ecosystem and align with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP). What sets this initiative apart is its origin - born from the university's 'Design Your Degree' initiative, the app was conceptualized and developed by three talented students: Adil Mahajan, Tavishi Amla, and Pawandeep Singh. With technical support from Mr. Mohsin Hassan and Mr. Abhay Khajuria, and under the



Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai along with faculty members and students.

expert mentorship of Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Associate Director, SIIEDC and Associate Professor, Dept. of Computer Science & IT, the student team delivered a user-centric platform for the research community. The app was formally unveiled by Prof. Umesh Rai, who lauded the developers for their ingenuity and highlighted the app as a model of student-led innovation. "Shodh Sahayak" will serve as a

vital tool to democratize research opportunities and support our faculty in securing competitive grants," he noted during the launch ceremony. The application provides a comprehensive repository of funding proposals, fellowships, collaborative calls, and grant information-all consolidated into a single, accessible interface. Features such as real-time updates, a personalized dashboard, and plans for an AI-powered chatbot

make the app highly intuitive and forward-compatible. The success of this endeavour is a result of the unwavering support and encouragement from key university figures Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu and Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, Skill Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Development Centre

(SIIEDC), played instrumental roles in championing the project. Furthermore Prof. K.S. Charak, Dr. Ginni Dogra, Prof. Anil Gupta, Prof. Sadaf Shah, Dr. Sandeep Arya, Dr. Harish Chander Dutt, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Sunil Bhargal, Dr. Ripu Daman, Dr. Sandeep Singh, and Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva were present during the launch of the 'Shodh Sahayak'. As it enters the hands of researchers, 'Shodh Sahayak' is set to become an indispensable digital companion, streamlining the process of securing research grants and fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and academic excellence. With this launch, the University of Jammu reaffirms its commitment to empowering its academic community through technology and vision-driven leadership.

Randhawa along with JDA officials visits Belicharana, addresses local issues

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of his continued public outreach efforts, MLA Bahu and senior BJP leader Ch. Vikram Randhawa visited Belicharana on Tuesday to meet with residents and listen to their grievances. During the visit, the MLA interacted with local residents, listened to their grievances, and assessed on-ground conditions firsthand. The two primary demands raised by the public were including construction of a Shamsan Ghat (cremation ground) for the area and development of a public park to serve as a recreational space for families, youth, and senior citizens. The presence of JDA officials enabled immediate site inspections and preliminary discussions on the feasibility of these demands. MLA Randhawa directed the officials to explore viable locations and initiate necessary formalities at the earliest.



MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa during visit to Belicharana.

In addition to these major demands, issues related to drainage, road infrastructure, electricity supply, and sanitation were also highlighted. Ch. Randhawa assured the public that their concerns would be addressed in a time-bound and transparent manner. Speaking during the visit, he stated, "The involvement of JDA officials today reflects our seriousness in resolving long-pending civic issues. The demands of the people of Belicharana are genuine and

will be followed up proactively. Development is our top priority, and public participation is the key to success." The visit received a positive response from the local community, who welcomed the joint initiative and expressed hope for early resolution of their long-standing issues. This outreach is part of a broader effort by the MLA to ensure that public representatives remain connected with the people and work transparently to address their needs.

India unveils indigenous AI-Driven autonomous weapon platform, enters global race for Lethal AWS

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India has officially entered the elite league of nations developing lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS), alongside the U.S.A, China, Russia, Israel, Australia, and Japan. This breakthrough comes with the unveiling of an indigenous AI-driven Autonomous Weapon Platform, designed, developed, and prototyped by the constituents of BSS Alliance in close cooperation with the Indian Army. Designed for small arms and light weapons up to 12.7 mm (.50) caliber, the platform has successfully completed internal trials under Indian Army supervision. Further developments are underway for military-grade ruggedization, with advanced field evaluation trials scheduled shortly. Aligned with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, this innovation marks a major stride in India's journey towards a self-reliant, cutting-edge, next-generation defense ecosystem. It firmly dispels the notion of India as a mere dumping

ground for obsolete technologies under the guise of Make in India-instead showcasing the nation's capability to design, develop, and lead with indigenous, future-ready, cutting-edge innovations. Powered by AI, Deep Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Swarm Robotics, Multi-Sensor and Electro Optics Fusion, the platform can autonomously detect, track, identify and engage targets to neutralize with precision in real time. Its swarm robotics capability allows peer-to-peer encrypted coordination between units to share battlefield intelligence, distribute threats dynamically, and adapt to evolving combat scenarios. These features enable unmatched force multiplication and mission agility in complex operational and modern-day battlefield environments. To ensure ethical and secure deployment, the system incorporates strict Rules of Engagement (ROE), proprietary ECDSA-based secure access authentication, encrypted control protocols to prevent misuse, and human

override mechanism for operational and ethical compliance. This platform is a powerful symbol of India's bold innovation and progressive mindset," said a BSS Alliance spokesperson. "Developed in just six months, it reflects the extraordinary pace at which Indian talent and technology are reshaping defense capabilities. It is a testament to what is possible when the ingenuity of Indian innovators converges with the strategic vision of the Indian Armed Forces." This groundbreaking development firmly positions India as a formidable force in the realm of AI-enabled warfare. It underscores the nation's unwavering commitment to achieving strategic autonomy through resilient, cutting-edge, and ethically grounded innovation. By advancing technologies that enhance national security and operational superiority, India signals not merely its intent to participate, but its determination to lead the next generation of intelligent, resilient, and ethically driven defense systems.

Sat releases poems on Dr. Ambedkar written by Balbir



BJP President Sat Sharma and others releasing poems.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma released two poems titled "Ambedkar - Ek Naam" and "Daliton ke Massiah- Baba Saheb". He released these poems in the presence of BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, National Executive Member Priya Sethi, and Bahu constituency MLA Choudhary Vikram Randhawa. These poems were penned

by BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan. Through these verses, he highlights Dr. Ambedkar's life, struggles, and his historic contributions. Speaking on the occasion, Sat praised Balbir's literary effort and said, "Dr. Ambedkar was a visionary leader whose ideas laid the foundation of modern India. His relentless fight against social discrimination and his unmatched role in drafting

the Indian Constitution are commendable. These poems serve as a reminder of his ideals." He further added that in the poem "Ambedkar - Ek Naam", the poet emphasizes how Dr. Ambedkar's name has become a symbol of dignity, justice, and empowerment. The poem narrates the journey from Ambedkar's humble beginnings to his rise as a symbol who inspires people of all castes and communities. "Daliton ke Massiah-

Baba Saheb" portrays him as a true saviour of the marginalized-a leader who dedicated his life to eradicating social evils and building an inclusive nation. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Priya Sethi, and Vikram Randhawa also appreciated the initiative, stating that such literary and artistic contributions keep the spirit of great leaders like Dr. Ambedkar alive. Balbir expressed his gratitude to the party leadership for supporting his literary work. He said that through these poems, he has tried to express Babasaheb's journey and his unwavering commitment to social justice. Senior party leaders Dr. Pradeep Mohtra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mahotra, Sanjay Baru, Manish Khajuria, Pawan Singh, Ishiyay Wani, and Sanjay Bakshi were also present on the occasion.

IOCL begins advance winters stocking for Ladakh



Karan Singh Wazir, Chairman All Jammu & Kashmir Transport Welfare Association and other during the flag-off ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In its commitment to uninterrupted fuel supply in remote and hilly regions, on Tuesday Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has formally commenced its Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) program for the Ladakh region. This crucial logistical effort aims to ensure that both civilians and the armed forces stationed in Ladakh have reliable access to petroleum products during the harsh winter season. Advance winter stocking continues till October-November subject to weather conditions. It is pertinent to mention that 100s of Drivers along with tankers from J & K also started similar exercise from

Jalandhar Depot of IOCL and proceeded towards Ladakh as part of AWS. The ceremonial flag-off of the convoy of fuel tankers took place at the IOCL depot in Jammu in presence of Karan Singh Wazir, Chairman of the All Jammu & Kashmir Transport Welfare Association and Anan Sharma, a renowned Transporter. The other prominent attendees were Senior Depot Manager Shantam Sharma, Outgoing Senior Depot Manager LN Mohanty, Khalid Malik In Charge Consumer Sales J & K and Sardar Ranjit Singh, the President of the J&K Oil Tankers Drivers and Cleaners Union. Every year, subject to weather

conditions, this advance Winter stocking is undertaken in either April or May. The AWS necessity arises from the fact that during the peak winter season, heavy snowfall lead to the closure of major roads and mountain passes that connect Ladakh. Karan Singh Wazir appreciated IOCL and drivers of the Oil tankers in their commitment to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel. Harasis Singh, Social Activist highlighted the important role of drivers in carrying the fuel products to the Ladakh region challenging all problems on road. Other transporters including Surinder Singh Bittu, Chamam Lal and others also attended the program.

Adv Purnima asks NC Govt to prioritize completion of key tourism projects in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Adv. Purnima Sharma, BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, on Tuesday strongly urged the administration to focus on the timely completion of ongoing tourism infrastructure projects in Jammu, stating that mere rhetoric on promoting religious tourism will not suffice unless critical projects on ground are delivered efficiently and on time. Addressing a press conference at Party Headquarters in Jammu, Adv. Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, emphasized that while the so-called ruling government often speaks about boosting religious and heritage tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, there has been a serious lack of progress on several key projects in the Jammu region. "The government must take serious note of the delays and stagnation in major tourism-related works, especially those which are vital for the people of the Old City and the larger Jammu population," she asserted. She specifically highlighted



BJP Spokesperson Adv. Purnima Sharma briefing media.

the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, a significant historical and cultural landmark, and demanded the expedited restoration and beautification of the complex, along with the park located within its premises. "This heritage site reflects the glorious Dogra legacy and its restoration is not only about tourism, but also about preserving the identity of Jammu," she added. She appealed to the Government to expedite and complete the project at the earliest. Adv. Purnima also drew attention to the River Tawi Front Development Project, where the historic Tawi Aarti

has recently organized on its banks. She said, it holds immense potential to redefine Jammu's urban and tourism landscape. "The historic River Tawi is the lifeline of Jammu, and the development of the Tawi Front should be completed at the earliest," she said, while calling for urgent intervention to revive and expedite the project. While appreciating the launch of the first-ever Gandola (ropeway) project in Jammu, she noted that it has failed to attract local enthusiasm due to lack of promotion and supporting infrastructure. "There is a dire need to take additional steps to make it a successful tourist attraction,"

she said. Adv. Purnima asked the ruling National Conference-led government to show serious commitment towards the completion of all Jammu-based tourism projects, in order to truly transform Jammu into a vibrant religious and heritage tourism hub. Rajni Sethi, in her address, said that it was a historic day on Baisakhi when the Suryaputri Tawi Aarti was performed for the first time on the sacred banks of the Tawi River; also known as Tavishi. According to ancient beliefs, Tawi was brought to Jammu by Painsnaag, the son of Vasuki Naag. Despite its spiritual and cultural significance, no government in the past took any steps to honor this holy river with an Aarti, like the Ganga Aarti. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi ji, this tradition has now begun, marking a new chapter for Jammu. Rajni Sethi urged all the people of Jammu to participate in the Tawi Aarti and receive the

divine blessings of Suryaputri Tawi. For decades, successive governments treated Jammu unfairly, always favoring Kashmir. However, under Modi ji and the BJP, both Jammu and Kashmir are being treated equally in the spirit of building a Naya Jammu Kashmir. Jammu is now the only city in India with an IIT, IIM, and AIIMS-a matter of pride for all of us, said Sethi. We also thank the Modi government for the grand gift of the Jambu Zoo, which showcases diverse wildlife. Had it been the NC government, they might have shifted it to Kashmir. Another remarkable gift is the Tirupati Balaji Temple at Sidhra Road-a powerful symbol of faith for Hindus across Jammu. Known as the City of Temples, Jammu is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. We are grateful to PM Modi and the BJP for making Jammu a priority, added Sethi.

Congress failed Ambedkar, BJP fulfilling his dream of social equity: Kavinder

Says Dr. Ambedkar's vision honoured best under Modi regime

STATE TIMES NEWS
HIRANAGAR: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday paid heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary during a function held at Village Maren, Hiranagar in district Kathua. On the occasion, Adv Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar Constituency, Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, District President Updesh Andotra, Col Mahan Singh DDC Chairman, Karan Atti DDC Member, Mukesh Padha Mandal President, Rajinder Bakshi Vice President. Addressing the gathering,



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta and others during the programme.

Kavinder Gupta lauded Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a relentless crusader for social justice. The former deputy Chief Minister took a critical stance against the Congress party, accusing it of historically sidelining Dr.

Ambedkar's legacy. "For decades, the Congress failed to give Dr. Ambedkar the recognition he deserved, often marginalizing his contributions to our nation's foundation," he stated. He emphasized that it was only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Dr. Ambedkar's

vision has been earnestly honored and integrated into national policy. The senior BJP leader highlighted several initiatives by the Modi government aimed at preserving and promoting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. He noted the establishment of the Dr. Ambedkar International

Centre in New Delhi, envisioned as a hub for research and dialogue on social justice and empowerment. Additionally, he mentioned the development of the "Panch Teerth," five key sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar's life, transformed into places of pilgrimage to inspire future generations. Kavinder also referenced welfare schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, focusing on providing affordable housing to marginalized communities, reflecting Dr. Ambedkar's vision of dignity for all. "The Modi government's actions are not mere symbolism; they are a testament to our commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's

dream of an equitable society," he asserted. MLA Kathua, Bharat Bhushan, in his address, emphasized the importance of embracing Dr. Ambedkar's teachings in contemporary governance and praised the Modi government's efforts in bringing social reforms that align with Ambedkarite principles. He also highlighted initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens. MLA Hiranagar, Adv Vijay Sharma called upon people and youth to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and work towards building a more inclusive and just India.

Abdul Samad showing class, maturity, consistency, explosiveness

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K's talented batter Abdul Samad who loves to bat up in the order but gets an opportunity to bat lower down the order at the IPL scene, despite all odds, is showing class, maturity, consistency and explosiveness, thus staking his claim for the bigger stage. Despite getting an opportunity to play very few balls in each game at the IPL circuit, a natural top order batter Samad has made his presence count in each outing. Samad scored 22 off just 8 balls against strong Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), 27 off just 12 balls against PPBKS, 4 off 2 balls versus Mumbai and 20 off 11 balls against Chennai Super Kings. A murderous on-slaughterer against fast bowling, Samad though loves to play in the

top order, but he is yet to get an opportunity to play there. However, the moves like Lucknow Supergiants (LSG) sending him to bat before David Miller in the game against Chennai Super Kings can make all the difference in his cricketing career. Experts believe that Samad can prove as devastating and murderous as the dangerous Abhishek Sharma if provided opportunity at the top. Samad has the distinction of scoring six centuries at the Ranji Trophy with five off them in very much less than 100 balls (mostly in 60s). A special talent needs to be given more opportunities at the top order.

