

Dr Jitendra announces 75 ‘Amrit’ Grants for Biotech initiatives, StartUps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday announced 75 "Amrit" Grants for Biotech initiatives involving StartUps, industry, academia and research bodies in integrated collaboration.

The Minister said, DBT-BIRAC 75 Amrit Team Grant Initiative will give a big boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Jai Anusandhan".

Dr Jitendra Singh said, 75 inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional grants would be supported for high-risk, ambitious research ideas, milestones-driven collaborative research in all domain specific areas of the biotech sector.

Dr Jitendra said, Startups, Industries, Academia and Research Bodies can form Team Science Grant in a Public-Private Partnership mode to avail grant of Rs 10-15 Crore over a period of two to three years for inter-disciplinary, high-quality research.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Union Secretary Biotechnology, Dr Rajesh Gokhale and eminent Biotech experts, launching DBT-BIRAC 75 "Amrit" Team Grants Initiative at Biotechnology headquarters, CGO Complex, New Delhi on Monday.

The Minister said, in order to address national priorities to propel India as a global leader in biotechnology; the grants would be broadly provided in the areas of health, agribiotech, climate change, synthetic biology and sustainable bioresource management.

The Minister said, the overall goal would be achieved through this initiative: knowledge-based discovery solutions for societal needs; transformational advances of scientific value and impact and also contributing towards India's

emergence as an equal global partner. He added that spin outs and venture creation will be a key component of this initiative. Dr Jitendra said, this initiative builds on the deep foundation of partnerships, to support new and innovative research programs, which aims to propel India to a position of global leadership. He said, under this initiative, ambitious research ideas, high-risk, milestone-driven collaborative research for knowledge-based discoveries with broad demonstrable applica-

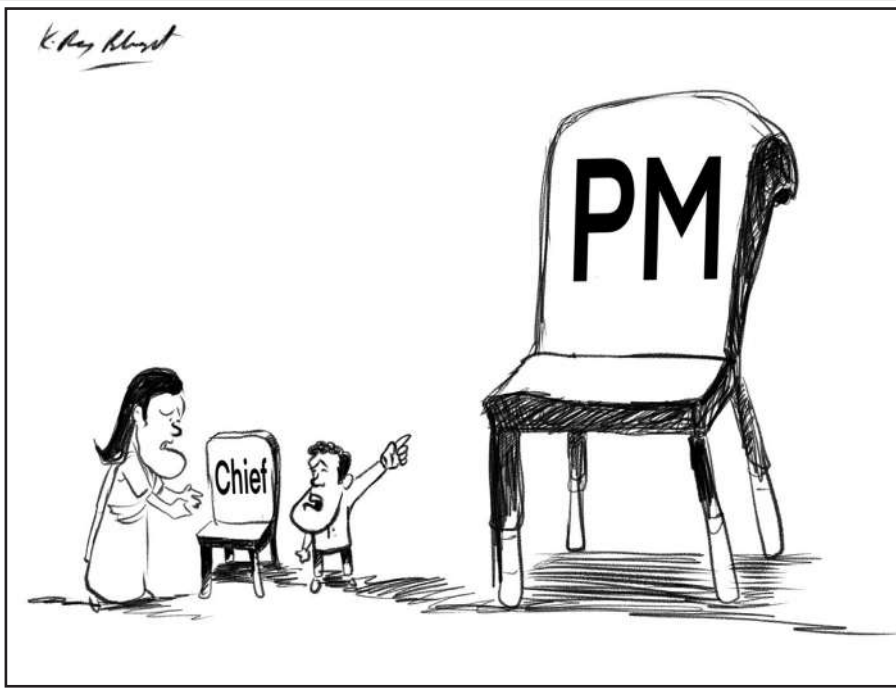
tion from both academia and industry will be considered for support.

Dr Singh pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this year's Independence Day Address from the ramparts of the Red Fort underlined the importance of Anusandhaan, when he said, "Till today we always remember our revered Lal Bahadur Shastri ji for his inspirational clarion call of Jai Jawan Jai Kisan meaning "Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer". Later Atal Bihari

Vajpayee ji added a new link of Jai Vigyan which meant "hail science" and we gave it utmost importance. But in this new phase Amrit Kaal now it is imperative to add jai anusandhaan that is "hail innovation".

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with its PSU, BIRAC has a huge footprint in Biotech sector; having supported research endeavors across scale and in diverse areas in Institutes, Universities and Industries across the country. He, however added that the thrust in the Amrit kaal should be more on technological development to address the problems and needs of our country and also to facilitate a path to make our country a developed nation.

Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the team from DBT and BIRAC for coming up with this unique initiative of 75 DBT-BIRAC Amrit Team Grants to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



Rekha Sharma posted as Munsiff Chenani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rekha Sharma has been posted as Munsiff Chenani. According to an order issued by the Registrar General Sanjeev Gupta, consequent upon the tem-

porary appointment as Civil Judge (Junior Division)/ Munsiff in Subordinate Judiciary, vide Government Order No. 6034- JK(LD) of 2022 dated 18.08.2022, Rekha Sharma, daughter

of Netar Prakash Sharma, resident of New Basti, near Ward-6, R S Pura, Jammu is hereby posted as Munsiff Chenani, District Udhampur against available post.

Lawyers take out bike rally, Bar threatens ‘Jammu Bandh’ on Aug 29

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu supported by business community and other organizations on Monday gave a call for a Jammu bandh, alleging the government failed to meet their demands.

"The agitation of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu entered into a decisive phase as on the call of Bar Association, the members of civil society representing various political parties, traders organizations and other civil society organizations extended their support to their agitation," President of the Bar Association Jammu, Senior Advocate M.K Bhardwaj told reporters after the meeting here.

"The meeting gave a call for Jammu province Bandh on 29th August, 2022, Monday," said Bhardwaj

The prominent speakers in the meeting were Balwan Singh, Ex-MLA of Congress party, Abhinav Sharma, Sr. Adv (Spokesperson BJP Party) & Former President, JKHCBAJ, M.R Qureshi, Adv. PDP Party, Nirmal Kotwal Adv, Apni Party,

Ankur Sharma Adv, Ek Jutt Party, S.R. Majotra Sanjeev Sareen, AAP party, Mehrukh Syedam, Adv. N.C. Party, Bansil Lal, Adv. Panther Party, Ashok Gupta, Shiv Sena Party, Vijayant Pathania, Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party, Sanjeev Kohli, President Shiv Sena, Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce, Gaurav Gupta, General Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Yashpaul Gupta, Chairman, Retailer Federation, Charanjit Singh President, Wine Traders Association, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman, Team Jammu, Rajinder Singh Taj, PHE Daily Wagers Association, Deepak Gupta, President, Warehouse Association, Vijay Dogra, Transport Association, Sunil Dimple Mission Statehood, Anoop Mithal, President, Kanak Mandi Bazar Association, Pooja Kapoor, President, Traders Association, Residency Road, Jammu, Rajan Singh Happy, President, Yuva Rajput Sabha, Surjeet Singh, Secretary, District Gurdwara



JKHCBAJ President Senior Advocate M.K Bhardwaj briefing members and lawyers taking out bike rally at Jammu.

Parbandhak Committee.

Other prominent persons participated in the meeting include Anil Gupta, President, Mohalla Paharian, Traders Association, B.B. Kotwal, President, Market Gurdwara Sunder Singh, Rajinder Manhas, Chief Pattern and Mandeep Singh Chib, Sr.Vice President, Mohan Singh Chib, Sr. Core Committee Member, Monish Singh Manhas, Member all from YRS, Rajan Gupta, President, Traders Association, Talab Tillo, Jammu, Tarsem Manhas, President, Jai Hind Foundation, Mannohan Singh, Jammu Wine Traders

Association, Anil Singh Rakwal, President, Sujit Kumar & Deewakar Singh from Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade, Charanjit Singh, Farmers President, & Jagpal Singh Treasurer District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Ramesh Kumar Tak, President, Traders Welfare Association, General Bus Stand, Suraj Sharma President and Ashwani Manni, Gen Secy both from Trikuta Shopping Complex, B.C. Road, Jammu, Pankaj Mahajan, President, Ankuish Mahajan, Gen Secy, Mukesh Luthra, Vice President, VMT Below Gumat Jammu, Dharminder Mahajan,

President and Daljit Singh Bumrah Gen. Secy, Shalamar Traders Association, Anil Kohli, President and Rajan Gupta, Gen. Secy, Apsra Road, Association, Shuja Zaffar, Chairman, Jammu Muslim Front, Ankur Anand, Secy. Vegetable & Fruit Association, Narwal, Godia, Gen Secy. Vinayak Bazar, Koushal Sharma, Gou Rakshak Org. Team, Gian Sharma, President, New Hari Market Association, Sanjay Gupta, President, Amit Goel, Gen Secy. R.N. Bazar, Businessmen Association, Surinder Mahajan, Chairman, Purani Mandi Market Association, Joginder

Mahajan, Old Hospital Road Market, Sham Lal Langer, Secy Gen. Traders Federation, Warehouse Nehru Market, Surinder Mahajan, Ex. President, R.N. Bazar, Deepak Soni, Dogra Hall Market Association, Amit Gupta, President & Sanjeev Chadda, Gen. Secy. Bakshi Nagar, Traders Association, Rajinder Gupta, President, Trikuta Nagar, Shopkeepers Association, Ashok Gupta, Vice President, Jammu Fruit Association, Dinesh Gupta, Gen. Secy. Chamber and Traders Federation, Rajeev Gupta, President, Below Gumat, Jewel Chowk, Sohith Sharma,

Varinder Singh PDP party, Ranbir Singh (PDP), & Surinder Paul, Raman Kumar, Shiv Mangal all BSP party, & Surjeet Singh both AAP party, Navdeep Singh, Jal Shakti Department, United Front.

Besides all the office bearers namely Mohinder Pal Singh Pali, Vice President, Surjeet Singh Andotra, General Secretary, Aditya Sharma, Joint Secretary, Amandeep Singh, Treasurer, Rohit Sharma (YLA President), Gagandeep Singh Lucky (YLA Vice President), Yaseer Farooq Khan (YLA General Secretary), Karanjeet Singh Johal Joint Secretary (YLA), Naresh Kumar Treasurer (YLA), besides many senior & young lawyers participated in the meeting namely Aslam Goni, Sr. Adv. D.S. Saini, Former President, Surinder Kour, Sr. Adv. H.C. Jalmeria, S.S Ahmed, Zahid Sarfraz Malik, Masood Choudhary, B.S. Jamwal, Nisar A. Gattoo, Umesh Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Baldev Singh (Jr) Supriya Chauhan, Varun Kotwal, Harmeet Mehta and Bhavishya Sudan. All the speakers felt great

need for broader unity of Jammu people to protect their identity and to fight for the various issues and problems being faced by the traders, lawyers, youth, daily wagers, farmers, students etc.

Bhardwaj, gave one week ultimatum to the LG administration for conceding the genuine demands already projected by the Bar Association and in case the administration fails to do so, he announced the unanimous decision of the meeting i.e. Jammu Bandh on 29th of August, 2022 (Monday).

It is worth mentioning here that the members of the Bar Association before the meeting took out a protest Bike Rally in various bazaars of Jammu city including Janipur area, New Plots, Ambhphala, Panjirthi, Pacea Danga, Moti Bazar, Purani Mandi, City Chowk area, Kanak Mandi, Rajinder Bazar, Shahidi Chowk, Residency Road, R.N. Bazar, Vinayak Bazar, Dogra Chowk, Vikram Chowk etc.

The meeting was conducted by Surjeet Singh Andotra, General Secretary of JKHCBAJ.

Less frequency of trains causing hardships for masses in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Despite continuous appeals of passengers, Northern Railways has failed to fulfill aspirations of people in Kashmir as commuters using Banihal-Baramulla Rail service are facing hardships due to less frequency of trains. The train services in was resumed in March 2021 in Valley after remaining suspended for around 11 months due to COVID-19 pandemic. Railway Ministry has once claimed that the resumption of train service would enhance ease of movement and provide a big boost to tourism sector but the ground reality is quite different, as the railway authorities have not resumed full operations.

Earlier in June 2022, officials assured the people that they are trying to increase number of train services and already 50 per cent trains are running while more will be added

gradually. Currently, only five trains, which are fully reserved, are operational and daily commuters including tourists are facing a lot of hardships. Railway police personnel and other officials were seen making futile attempts to control the surge of passengers at stations, mainly in Anantnag, Srinagar and other sections. In Srinagar-Baramulla section, trains were relatively less congested while crowd was witnessed at several other places like Budgam, Awantipora and Nowgam.

Meanwhile, commuters have demanded an increase in the frequency of trains to control congestion during peak hours. The issue was recently also raised by women commuters. Considering the needs of the commuters, the railway should gradually increase the services as Valley is witnessing an increase in the COVID-19 cases once again. In

morning and evening hours, as trains are crowded with passengers, same can lead to an increase in COVID-19 spread.

"I travel from Srinagar to Anantnag daily during morning and evening hours. Services are not running with full frequency and no new or special train has been inducted yet as well as gap between trains are of about 2-3 hours, which cause more rush, especially during peak hours leading to more risk amid pandemic," said Sumaira Maqbool from Srinagar. "Crowd leads to violation of social distancing and other safety precautions. Hence, increase in frequency will reduce risk," said Sara Akhter, another commuter. Meanwhile, the commuters have urged LG Manoj Sinha to take up the matter with Northern Railways for providing relief from to common man.

Waqf not for a few people but for all: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday visited the important spiritual destinations of North Kashmir Tujjar Sharief and Watlab.

She paid obeisance at the sufi shrines of Hazrat Makhdoosm Sahib at Tujjar Sharief & Baba Shukoor-uddin at Watlab.

"These shrines are our spiritual centers and we have to ensure the dignity of these shrines & the saints with whom these shrines are associated. The mass acceptance of our measures speaks volumes about the errors which existed within the system," said Dr Darakhshan.

She said that only a few people are opposing & shout-



Chairperson J&KWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with students.

ing in the media against these moves to correct the errors because of their personal interests.

"Waqf is not for a few people but for all. Decisions to streamline Waqf working system have annoyed a few but assured the majority of accountability & we will not allow Waqf to remain a busi-

ness enterprise for a selected few," said Dr Andrabi.

Dr Andrabi inaugurated a medical centre at Tujjar Sharief & also presided over the annual function of Waqf Higher Secondary School at Waqtlab.

"Waqf owns a big chain of schools & other educational institutions in J&K but the

poor management & political interference in these institutions has left them in a very poor condition. Every year we have to bear around twelve core rupees loss in running these schools in present poor condition. But we cannot allow the condition to continue. We are devising a mega transformation plan for our educational sector," said Dr Andrabi.

"In making Waqf an ideal organization, we require the support of everybody as this is a herculean task to cleanse the system so that we become resourceful enough to make Waqf self-sufficient & empowered enough to create public welfare projects in J&K within a few years from now," said Waqf Board Chairperson.

At last as Kalyan Pursh, Manoj Sinha freed job seekers from unfair bonds of S.O 192

►► Beginning of Azadi ka Amrit Kaal ◀◀

■ DAYA SAGAR

It has been learnt through a press release of Director of Information & Public Relations that J&K UT that Administrative Council decided on August 14, 2022 to scrap S.O 192 of June 17, 2020 where under the newly appointed government employees even against clear vacancies on substantive pay scales were to remain without any allowances like DA/HRA/Transport Allowance/ Child Education allowance / child hostel subsidy /like and annual increments during the probation period of min two years.

The youth seeking jobs and those who have been appointed after 2021 are hoping that order/ notification that will be issued in terms of the Administrative Council Decision of August 14, 2022 would be bringing the good spirits in still better way.

The NC- Congress Govt. had ordered New Recruitment Policy (fixed salary mode) under Order No.257-F of 2011 dated October 27, 2011 (Cabinet Decision

193/23/11 dated October 19, 2011) for the non-gazetted posts where under the employee had to remain on probation as per normal rules but was to get only 50 % of basic pay of the grade plus medical allowance for first 2 years but no any other allowance like DA etc and 75% of the basic pay in the grade of the post plus only medical allowance for next 3 years. Imagine to what economic loss and financial hardship the youth was to be put for 5 years and that policy was based on the recommendations of a high power committee of officers constituted by Government vide order no GAD/ 319 of 2011 dated March 10, 2011.

It was around May 20, 2014 that then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah publicly admitted the wrong and also tweeted <"I am bringing a proposal to the J&K Cabinet on Wednesday and I'm proposing scrapping the 'New Recruitment Policy' with immediate effect." "This is based on feedback that I've received from countless

youth spread across the length and breadth of the state over last the two days", and the recruitment policy was

revoked under order No:156F of June 27, 2014. But the relief that had come for the job aspiring large unemployed youth population of the State of J&K was very short lived since the Mufti Mohd Sayeed lead PDP-BJP Government (sworn in on March 1, 2015) came with another policy not much different than new recruitment policy of Omar Abdullah Government in SRO- 202 of June 30, 2015 (Jammu and Kashmir Special Recruitment Rules, 2015) by order of the Governor J&K under Section- 124 of J&K Constitution laying doing general conditions of recruitment and service with scope extended beyond non gazetted posts for appointments after June 30, 2020 against substantive vacancies where under the new appointee had to remain



A Look through the Mist

under probation for 5 years {drawing for first five years only the minimum of scale of pay along with the grade pay without annual increments and

without any allowances) and the State under Governor rule had appointed nearly 1000 Allopathic Doctors under SRO 202 rules vide order No: 49 -HME of 2019 Dated: January 14, 2019 without allowances like DA, TA/ HRA,CCA, Transport Allowance, Child Education Allowance (CEA), Child Hostel Subsidy Allowance (CHSA), etc, and without annual increment for 5 years.. Requests were made even prominent citizens to PDP-BJP government immediately after June 30, 2015, the Governor J&K after 18 June 2018 and Lt. Governor UT of J&K after October 31, 2019 for withdrawing the Special Recruitment rules (SRO-202 of 2015). Anyhow Lt. Governor G. C Murmu appointed a high power committee for review of SRO-202

vide order No.293-JK(GAD) of 2020 Dated February 27, 2020 headed by B.V.R Subrahmanyam Chief Secretary as Chairman with FC Finance, Secretary GAD and Secretary Law & Parliamentary Affairs as members. February 27, 2020 with FC Finance, Secretary GAD and Secretary Law & Parliamentary Affairs as members for working out some meaningful corrections. It was on

17-06-2020 that S.O 192 of June 17, 2020 was issued making some changes in the rules for those to be appointed against regular substantive posts/ vacancies where under the probation period was reduced from 5 years to 2 years but the conditions of no increment and no allowances during the probation period (min 2 years) had been retained. Right after June 17, 2020 requests were being made to the then LG also by private individuals / as well as the suffering employees / those aspiring for jobs to

waive the conditions like no increments / no allowances during probation period which should have been made by even the committee appointed for review of SRO- 202 (No.293-JK(GAD) of 2020 Dated February 27, 2020). Requests continued to Manoj Sinha also who took over as the 2nd Lt Governor of UT of J&K on November 07, 2020 and though belated he has finally taken a very considerate view and scrapped the most unreasonable policy made by earlier government.

The process of such like unfair service rules for new recruitments was started in 2011 by NC- Congress government through to 2020 and State Times too had been humbly pointing towards the bads of such policies like SRO 202 and SO 192 right since 2012 when Omar Abdullah Govt had come with similar policy for non gazetted employees in 2011 November.

(The author is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).