

'Democratisation of human resource and research funding'

Lok Sabha passes landmark 'Anusandhan' Bill moved by Dr Jitendra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday moved the landmark Bill in Lok Sabha to establish "Anusandhan" National Research Foundation (ANRF).
The bill was later passed by a majority vote after debate by the members which was followed by the Minister's reply.
Moving the Bill, Dr Jitendra described it as rationalisation and democratisation of human resource and research funding.
The Minister said, the new Act will provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture.
He said that since India's future



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh replying to the debate on "Anusandhan" National Research Foundation Bill 2023 in Lok Sabha

economic growth will be Science & Technology driven, ANRF will prepare India for a global role as India takes lead in addressing global challenges as envisioned by Prime Minister Modi.
He also said that this is going to

be a historic step as this would lead to rationalisation and democratisation of human resources and research funding.
The Minister said, it will also promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
It may be recalled that on 28th June, 2023 the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament. The approved Bill will pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institu-

tions, and R&D laboratories.
The bill, after approval in the Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crores during five years (2023-28).
The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines.
The bill will also repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 and subsume it into NRF which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above the activities of SERB.

CCI Jammu expresses gratitude to Union Govt for redevelopment of Jammu, Udhampur Railway Stations

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: President Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Arun Gupta on Monday expressed gratitude to the Union Govt headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for including the Railway Stations of Jammu and Udhampur for redevelopment with world class facilities resembling like Airports.
Chamber also thanked the Union Minister of State in PMO Office Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP with whose efforts the Railway Stations of Jammu and Udhampur will get world class facilities.
Arun requested Dr Jitendra to take up the matter with the Railway Ministry that Jammu Railway Station should get the Divisional Status like Ferozpur though it has



CCI President, Arun Gupta chairing a meeting.

been announced years back but no further steps have been taken in this regard.
Arun Gupta also demanded that few new trains and some existing ones be restricted exclusively up to the Jammu Railway Station and Visitors be encouraged to travel to the city of Jammu keeping in view its historical importance and in order to give boost to the economy of this city of temples.
Other office bearers present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

DU Registrar interacts with JU officers



Registrar DU, Dr. Vikas Gupta interacting with JU faculty.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: An interaction session was held in the Committee Room of the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, University of Jammu (JU) wherein officers of the JU interacted with Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi (DU) which involved discussions on the best practices being followed by the Delhi University viz-a-viz various academic and administrative matters which included student admissions, academic policies, research collaborations, and administrative procedures etc.
Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor JU shared his professional affiliation with Dr. Gupta when he was holding, the charge of Director, South Campus, Delhi University.
Earlier, Dr. Rahul Gupta Registrar JU introduced Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, Delhi University

to the University's Officers.
Dr. Vikas Gupta shared his vast experience with the officers of the University and spoke at length about the significance of rules and regulations, acts, ordinances, and statutes while making decisions.
He asserted that the work must demonstrate the application of mind, wisdom and generosity.
He stated that the employees' performance would definitely improve through determination and early file disposal must be an integral aspect of the work culture. He also emphasized that cooperation, freedom, and support of subordinates are crucial for the system and institution to operate well.
Dr. Sumita Sharma, President, Jammu University Officers Welfare Association (JUOWA) presented a vote of thanks.

Unprecedented public response to Amarnathji Yatra reflective of changing scenario in J&K: Rana

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Monday said the unprecedented public response to Shri Amarnathji Yatra is reflective of the fast changing scenario in Jammu and Kashmir with people reposing their faith in peace and normalcy, the essence of their glorious pluralistic ethos.
"Surpassing the previous year's numbers in less than a month of the 2-month pilgrimage speaks of the sense of confidence among pilgrims on account of security and arrangements put in place by the administration with pro-active cooperation of the people", Rana said while interacting with the devotees after performing Puja at the Vishal Bhandara organized by President All India Manhas Maha Sabha,



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and others performing Puja.

Harnam Singh Manhas, here this afternoon.
Also present on the occasion were B. S Billawaria, Deputy Mayor Jammu, former minister Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Bukhari, former MLA Balwant Mankotia besides socio-political and religious leaders.
He lauded the arrangements made by the administration and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board

in smooth and coordinated conduct of the pilgrimage.
Devender Rana described Shri Amarnathji Yatra as a shining symbol of India's intangible civilization and exuded confidence that the pilgrims from across the country and abroad attain spiritual bliss on the Kashmir Himalayas and carry back the cherished memories of warmth and hospitality of the land of Rishis and Saints.
Rana described the Yatra unique, which is being performed by the people of one faith and facilitated by another that speaks about the unity in diversity of this great nation. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have all along demonstrated a high degree of hospitality for the successful conduct of this ancient pilgrimage.
Rana said such pilgrimages of spiritual bliss

spread the universal message of Sanatan Dharma for peace and amity besides inspiring the people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity. He invoked the great philosophy of Vedas about universal brotherhood, love and compassion, hoping that once imbining this spirit, the society will grow harmoniously with ill will for none.
Complimenting the organizers of the Vishal Bhandara for keeping up the tradition, Rana recalled the huge role of Langer organizations in making the pilgrimage comfortable for the pilgrims.
Such a Bhandara at the first base camp of the annual Yatra is inspiring, he said, hoping that the blessings of Lord Shiva will help further strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and promote righteousness.

IGNOU launches two new special programmes

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Indra Gandhi National Open University announced the launch of two new special programmes from the ongoing July 2023 admission session. One is a six-month duration certificate programme in Early Childhood Special Education Enabling Inclusion-Visual Impairment (CESEIVI) and another is a one-year Diploma programme in Apparel Merchandising-Applied (DAPMERA).
The learners going through these programmes will get hands-on new experience in the related fields. These programmes will be offered through ODL Mode only.
"The launch of these special programmes will open new avenues and opportunities for the learners in the respective fields; the interested candidates must enroll themselves in these specially designed programmes right away since the last date for admission in the ongoing July 2023 admission session in 10th of August, 2023", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director Incharge.

Former DGP K Rajendra hails dedication, professionalism of J&K Police

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Former Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, K. Rajendra Kumar called on the DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh at Police Headquarters here. K. Rajendra was on a personal visit to Srinagar.
ADGP (Hqrs/Coord.), PHQ M. K. Sinha, IGP Hqrs/CIV PHQ B S Tuti and all ASIG of PHQ were also present on the occasion.
The DGP J&K Dilbag Singh welcomed the former DGP J&K and said that it is always a pleasure to welcome the retired senior colleagues to the PHQ and sharing with them how the legacy of the former



Former DGP J&K, K. Rajendra Kumar posing with DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh and other police officers.

leaders is being taken forward.
K. Rajendra said that it feels like home coming being at PHQ. He appreciated the efforts of J&K Police and said that officers and personnel are operating under most difficult situations with dedication and professionalism. He wished good luck to the entire force.
He also interacted with other senior officers of the PHQ.

Social, political figures from Lolab join Apni Party

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Prominent social and political personalities from the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara joined the Apni Party on Monday in the presence of the party president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari.
The joiners included Rafi Ahmad Shah Sogami, the former chairman of the Notified Area Committee (NAC) in Kupwara.
He was also an executive member of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).
Besides Sogami, the new entrants included Advocate Masrat Mohammad and



JKAP President, S.M.A Bukhari with newly joined member.

Abdul Rehman Khwaja, all from the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.
They formally joined the Apni Party during an event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar today.
The prominent party leaders present on the occasion included the party's Provincial President, Manjit Singh, spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin, Provincial Secretary Abdul Rahim Wani, and others.
Bukhari said, "The entire party leadership will support you as you go out to serve the people in your respective areas."

AKWS organises free medical camp

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Asha Kiran Welfare Society (AKWS) organized free medical camp on Monday in their Library-cum-Office in collaboration with Directorate of Ayush J&K Govt, Jammu.
The camp inaugurated by Jaswant Manhas, Vice President of Society.
Dr. Shalini, Incharge Ayush Dispensary,



Dr. Shalini, Incharge Ayush Dispensary, Janipur Colony interacting with patients at a camp.

Janipur Colony examined more than eighty patients suffering from various health problems and provided free medicine to all of them. She was assisted by two Pharmacists and two helpers of the Department.
On the occasion, over 20 Society Members were present including Kamal Natar (General Secretary), Anil Kohli

(Publicity Secretary), Hari Chard Sharma (Joint Secretary), Vinod Kumar (Organizing Secretary), Srinivas Abrol, Surinder Bhasin, Sushil Sultan, Subash Dutta, Yoginder Basur, Subash Arora, and Bodh Raj Sharma.
Dr. J.P. Gupta, Chairman of the Society presented a vote of thanks.

H&H Directorate celebrates National Handloom Day



Secretary I&C Depatt, Smita Sethi inaugurating event at Handicrafts Showroom Janipur.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The 9th National Handloom Day was on Monday celebrated by the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom here at Handicrafts Showroom under the guidance of Commissioner/Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, J&K Vikramjeet Singh.
Secretary in Industry & Commerce Department, Smita Sethi was the chief guest at the event hosted on the direction of Dr. Vikas Gupta Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu and under the overall supervision of Joint Director, Handloom, Pardeep Singh Manhas.
In her address, Smita Sethi highlighted the contribution of artisans and

weavers towards society. She further hailed the government for honouring the weaver community on the 9th National Handloom Day. She talked about the historical aspects of the Handloom products and the relevance of these products to culture and customs of Indian society. The aim of celebrating the National Handloom day is to protect this vast and rich heritage and to empower the weavers/artisans.
The Chief Guest appreciated the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu for putting in extraordinary efforts to work in coordination with the weavers and bringing the traditional crafts on national and international levels.
Joint Director Handloom,

Pradeep Singh Manhas, Joint Director Handicrafts, Tilak Raj, Deputy Director (Adm), Parveen Akhter, Deputy Director (Plg), Megha Boagia, Assistant Director, Handloom Jammu and other senior officers/officials besides artisans/weavers community attended the event.
The Joint Director Handloom highlighted the importance of celebrating the day and the significance of weavers in building a self-reliant society. He encouraged the weavers associated with the Department to enhance their production capacities to compete with the machine-made items in terms of quality and cost effectiveness.
Stalls of various Handloom products were also exhibited on the occasion. The artisans/weavers also discussed some of the issues related to the provision of a suitable market and to determine the unique selling point of chosen Jammu Handicrafts and Handloom goods in order to make the activity sustainable. On the occasion, Appreciation Certificates were also distributed amongst the weavers.

Spectacular evening to bid farewell to seniors, welcome fresher

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women on Monday witnessed an enchanting evening of emotions and celebrations as it organised MUSAFIR- an event to bid a heartily farewell to departing hostel students and extended a grand welcome to the eager and enthusiastic fresher.
The unforgettable occasion took place in the illustrious setting of the college Auditorium, and the esteemed Chief Guest for the evening was none other than the College Principal, Prof. Meenu Mahajan.
The event opened on a symbolic note with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by



Students of PSPS Government College for Women during farewell function.

Principal, joined by Prof. Neelam Bhagat, the Convenor of the Hostel Committee and Warden Anita Kotwal and Vandana, alongside other dedicated members of the college staff. The gesture represented the metaphorical illumination of knowledge and wisdom that

college imparts to its students.
The stage came alive with an array of captivating performances in the form of a vibrant cultural program, showcasing the diverse talents of the college community. The inclusion of engaging games further strengthened

the bonds among the students, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie.
The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated selection of Outgoing and Fresher. The event reached its zenith with an elegant ramp walk and a display of extraordinary talents.

The coveted title of Farewell was bestowed upon Nirdosh Kumari, with the first and second runners-up being Miss Nidhi Thakur, President of the college, and Astha Kumari.
Principal Prof. Meenu Mahajan shared her inspiring words, motivating and encouraging the students as they embark on their respective journeys. Prof. Neelam Bhagat, the Convenor of the Hostel Committee, also extended her heartfelt wishes to all students.
"MUSAFIR" truly encapsulated the spirit of GCW Gandhinagar, reflecting its commitment to fostering an environment of growth, camaraderie, and endless possibilities.