

LG chairs 20th University Council Meeting of SKUAST Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 20th University Council Meeting of SKUAST Jammu at Raj Bhawan, on Thursday.
The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Prof. P.L.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha chairing 20th University Council Meeting of SKUAST Jammu.

Gautam, Pro-Chancellor, Career Point University Hamirpur; Dr. M.C Sharma, former Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar; Bareilly; Prof Anil Kumar; Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu and other senior officers, in person and

through virtual mode.
The University Council headed by Lt Governor deliberated on addressing key challenges in agriculture and allied sectors alongwith taking the research and innovation from Lab to the Field to increase productivity.

The Lt Governor stressed that the University should adopt modern and sustainable agriculture practices and put more focus on developing interface with the farming community and implementation of e-office.
The meeting also appreciat-

ed the performance of the University under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). The Council gave in-principle approvals to various agenda points presented during the meeting including adoption of UGC based qualification for the post of the Assistant Registrar, Assistant Comptroller and ICAR norms for posts of Subject Matter Specialists. Dr. BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu presented the progress report of the University. He apprised the meeting that the University has made significant improvement in research, patents and publications.

Ownership of Dogri, Jammuriyat a priority echoed at 9th Kunwar Viyogi Utsav

Dr. Ritu Singh calls for collective responsibility towards Dogri preservation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: When will Jammu take ownership of Dogri? When will Jammuriyat take priority over anything else? These were some of the thought-provoking questions raised by guests present at the 9th Kunwar Viyogi Utsav, held in Jammu on Thursday at the University of Jammu.
Concerns that Dogri as a language might become extinct if proactive measures are not taken from the citizenry to preserve it, Dr. Ritu Singh, Founder of Delhi Public Schools Jammu Katra Nagbani and Leh, said that the essence of Dogri is not limited to its language but in its people, food, fashion and collective sense of responsibility for the language. She said, "Imagine a language that forms the very heartbeat of the people. That is Dogri. Today we are here to honour not only this beautiful language but also Sahitya Akademi Awardee Kunwar Viyogi who loved and lived for Dogri," said Dr. Ritu Singh. Living by the mantra 'Service before self', she said that as a daughter of this great Duggar pradesh, she considers her prime duty to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and serve the motherland in whichever capacity possible. The Kunwrani also paid rich tributes to Kunwar Viyogi and said that we should each take upon ourselves the responsibility of contributing to the language.
While addressing the 5th Kunwar Viyogi Memorial



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai and other dignitaries releasing a book.

Lecture titled - "Naya Jammu- Preserving Legacy, Language, Culture and Education", held in collaboration with the Department of English and Dogri, University of Jammu, Dr. Ritu Singh congratulated Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust Founder Poonam Singh Jamwal for service to the language and encouraging the youth to follow their dreams with the help of scholarships awarded by the Trust to Dogri and English toppers. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu was the chief guest on the occasion whereas Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Chairman, KunwarViyogi Memorial Trust presided over the function. The Vice-Chancellor awarded scholarships to Dogri toppers - Shikha Sharma and Rahul Singh and to English topper - Sparsh Dubey. Addressing the guests at the Cheten Di Lari scholarship ceremony, he asserted that the people of Jammu need to take ownership of Dogri. If a language is extinct, a person's

identity is compromised. We must save our identity and our language, he said. "Language can survive and progress only if it is used in all walks of life like day-to-day conversation, education, business, media etc. Special efforts are required to popularize Dogri among children and younger generations," the VC said. He encouraged other stakeholders of the University to follow the example of KVM Trust and organize such programmes for the development of regional languages of the state. He assured his full cooperation in organizing such events in future also.
KVM Trust Founder Poonam Singh Jamwal announced that in the 10th year of Kunwar Viyogi Utsav, which falls in 2025, she will let Jammu take ownership of Kunwar Viyogi's legacy. "Jammu has Viyogi as Bengal has Tagore. Why should we look at Europe or quote Shakespeare when we have gems like Viyogi. If Shakespeare has written

300 sonnets, Viyogi has penned 2000 and has gifted all to Jammu. Now Jammu needs to preserve his legacy, collectively," she added.
Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Dean Faculty of Arts and Head Department of Dogri welcomed the guests during 5th Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Lecture 2024. In her remarks, she complimented Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Trust for their dedication to preserve the legacy of Dogri poet and cultural icon, Kunwar Viyogi. "It is an honor to be part of this remarkable event that not only commemorates Kunwar Viyogi Ji's work but also fosters a deeper connection with our cultural heritage", said Prof. Pathania.

Rahul, all governors of J&K in past too were Indians, none an Italian: Arun Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rahul Gandhi does not know the history of Jammu & Kashmir one bit and puts his foot in the mouth every time he departs from the written notes given to him. His outsider barb against Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is totally misplaced, misleading, gross distortion and unwarranted, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta said on Thursday.
Rahul's attempt of branding LG Sinha as an "outsider" in Jammu & Kashmir is highly condemnable, Gupta said. Before Manoj Sinha, Lt Gen SK Sinha, NN Vohra, Jagmohan, General KV Krishna Rao, BK Nehru, LK Jha and Bhagwan Sahai remained Governors after 1967.
They were all Indians from different states of this great nation and served their tenures as true Indians. In May 1967, Janaki Nath Wazir for two months and before him Karan Singh occupied the top constitutional post in J&K, Gupta recalled.
Karan Singh as also Wazir were residents of Jammu & Kashmir but an era ended in 1967 when first parliamentary elections were held here. Gandhi was born in June 1970 but over three years before that, the era of someone from state becoming its constitutional head had ended in J&K, Gupta explained. At that time, the era which his great grandfather Nehru had started in collusion with National Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah ended

abruptly. The undemocratic method of the Sheikh choosing six MPs of the Lok Sabha and four of the Rajya Sabha ended, Gupta recounted.
Incidentally, no Lok Sabha elections were held in J&K earlier in 1952, 1957 and 1962. The six Lok Sabha members of the J&K state were then chosen, not elected as was the case all over India, Gupta said. This highly undemocratic practice of no direct elections being held even for the Lok Sabha was a gift from his great grandfather Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah to this state, he added.
What does Rahul mean when he says that outsiders are imposing decisions on Jammu & Kashmir? Does he want a return to pre-May 1967 era when no elections were held and someone from J&K alone could occupy the top constitutional post in J&K? Gupta asked.
One can understand that after the burial of Article 35-A and 370 by the Modi government, both the NC and the Congress are immensely frustrated, he said. But Rahul's frustration should not translate into unnecessary silly and misleading remarks against honorable LG Sinha, Gupta asserted. Can Rahul recount the states in which the Congress appointed locals as Governors or Lieutenant Governors during its several tenures at the Centre? Gupta asked.
It is an established practice that two top constitutional positions in any state, that of Governor and Chief Justice of that state's high court, are not

held by anyone from that state, he said. Both the governor (constitutional head) and man/woman holding the top judicial post are from some other state/s, Gupta added.
This has been an unwritten rule and convention that successive governments, be they of the Congress or some other party, have always followed, Gupta said.
Instead of displaying his ignorance and understanding of constitutional matters, and established practices of the Indian democracy, it is pathetic that Gandhi speaks off-tangent and without any substance, Gupta said. It will be good for Gandhi and his party if he stops making unsubstantiated and false allegations of outsiders dictating people of J&K, he added.

Tarun Bajaj takes charge of POWERGRID, NRTS-II

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Tarun Bajaj has taken over charge of Executive Director Northern Region Transmission System-II of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited at Jammu.
Tarun Bajaj shall be responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of all Central transmission projects in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, parts of Haryana and UTs of J&K, Ladakh & Chandigarh. Tarun Bajaj is presently holding the position of Executive Director(NRTS-I), Faridabad also and has ear-



lier served as Executive Director (SRTS-II) - POWERGRID, Bengaluru. He has an illustrious career in Power Transmission & Distribution sector in India spanning over 35 years.

Jammu Kashmir to get first Dogra Hindu CM: Sham Declares BJP's historic rise in Jammu



BJP nominee for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma speaking at public meeting.

Calling Congress, NC and PDP as power hungry parties, Sham said that these three parties always misused the powers and cheated the people with their wrong policies. They discriminated against the Jammu people in all fields, deprived them from development and other basic rights. Jammu people always remained at the mercy of Kashmiri leadership which treated people of this region as second class citizens. Now after the abrogation of Article-370, the entire scenario has been changed and domination of

valley based polity will not be acceptable any more. People of Jammu have suffered badly for want of improved basic facilities like education, health, road, power, tourism and drinking water infrastructure even after seven decades of independence, but now the time has come to re-write history by electing a Chief Minister from Jammu, Sham noted. Holding Congress and National Conference (NC) fully responsible for spreading militancy and uncertainty in Jammu Kashmir, he said that due to poor gover-

nance, anti-people and anti-India policies of these two parties, the situation went out of control resulting in deaths of thousands of innocent people, including security forces during the past over three decades. Both these parties promoted communalism, nepotism and gave birth to separatism and militancy in Jammu Kashmir which caused destruction and lawlessness. Now, when the peace is prevailing gradually in

Jammu and Kashmir with the serious efforts of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and his team in Centre Government, both these parties are again trying to come to power to bring back in the era of gun culture, stone pelting, hartals, bomb blasts, encounters and curfew, which the BJP will not allow to retune in any cost, he maintained. He appealed to the people to reject Congress, NC and PDP in the current elections and support BJP wholeheartedly to form its next government for restoration of complete peace, tranquillity, holistic development and strengthening the democracy at the grass root level.
In a significant development, Congress leader Surinder Singh Bandal joined the BJP along with his supporters. He pledged to serve the party with extreme zeal and dedication to make it stronger at the grass root level. Sham Lal Sharma welcomed Bandal and his supporters and hoped that the party would become stronger with their joining.



Modi changed face of Udhampur, rated among top districts: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP public rally at Udhampur on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had changed the face of Udhampur, which is today rated as among the top districts of India.
Addressing a BJP public rally here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the last 3 or 4 years, Udhampur has been rated among the top three districts of the country, as far as the construction of rural roads under Central PMGSY is concerned. He said, this is a sea-change and a miraculous transformation of the region which was at one point and time infamous for poor road connectivity which compelled people to take long tracks along the hills through "Pangdandis" "Dhakkis" and Muddy tracks. So much so that several folk songs were written referring to Udhampur's "Dhakkis" (steep

hilly climbing tracks), he added. For nearly six decades, the entire Udhampur region including this city was discriminated against by Congress and National Conference governments because this was a stronghold of Bharatiya Jan Sangh and BJP which was not a part of their vote bank. It was only after 2014, he said, that this miraculous transformation had been done.
Dr Singh said, this is perhaps one of the only Lok Sabha Constituencies of the country which has got three centrally funded Medical colleges, one of which in the Udhampur city itself. Besides, there are a series of Degree colleges and educational institutions, he said.
Dr Jitendra said, under "One District One Product" scheme, the food recipe "Kalari" has been identified which found reference in Prime Minister's Modi's

address in the public rally held during the Lok Sabha election. Similarly, he said, Udhampur was the first district in Jammu & Kashmir, which achieved saturation in distribution of Ayushman Health Cards.
Making an appeal for a vote in support of BJP Candidates, Dr Singh said, Modi has given a very high priority to this region and if we have the BJP representatives in the Assembly they can voice our concerns and demands. It will become far easier for the the benefits of the central government to percolate upto the last man in the last queue. People of Udhampur have made up their mind to be a part of the development journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and by returning all the assembly seats, they look forward to see a fast and double engine growth of the region, he said.

SIA seizes property of drug peddler involved in narco-terrorism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday seized the property of Mohd Arshad, also known as Asif, son of Mohd Rashid, resident of Baghyal Dara Degwar village near the zero line border in Poonch district. Mohd Arshad is implicated in narco-terrorism activities, specifically in facilitating the smuggling and distribution of narcotics across the border, which has direct implications on terrorism financing.

The seizure of his property was executed under the directions of the court and in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The SIA acted upon a court order due to his involvement in narco-terrorism, where proceeds from narcotics were allegedly fun-

neled to support terrorism-related activities. This crackdown is part of a larger effort to curb the use of drug money to finance terrorism, particularly in border areas such as Degwar.

