

Media Coverage- January 2022 NIT Srinagar

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'Climate change can be resolved by switching to renewable energy generations: Prof. Sehgal

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Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said the only way to preserve the environment and its beauty is by reducing consumption, reusing materialistic goods, and recycling our unwanted goods.

"Climate change can be solved by switching to renewable energy generation, promoting the development of eco-friendly things, and upgrading infrastructure," he said.

Prof. Sehgal also appreciated the organizers for conducting such events. Such initiatives are aimed to provide a stress-free atmosphere on the campus, he said.

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his deep interest in poetry.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari appreciated the organizers of the daylong event. He said the primary aim event was to aware students about prevailing environmental challenges and their possible solutions.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, who is

the Chairman of EcoCult, the Ecological Club of the National Institute of Technology. He appreciated the students and stated that such events will be conducted in the future also.

The participants were adjudged by noted writer, star-Gazer, and poet Ms. Shilpa, who was the Chief Guest of the event. She also shared

her journey and how she became a writer.

Ms. Shilpa also mentioned about her debut book "Love, Feel, Pain, Heel". She said that a poem or any kind of write-up will always help the person to feed his/her soul.

From several entries for the competition, the top 5 poems were selected for the event. Qazi Adnan bagged the first position and won the competition. While Kamran Elyas became the first runner-up, and Nadeem Hamid became the second runner-up.

The event was hosted by Reet Patel and Gopika Mahajan and was coordinated by Ishika Gupta and Naqshab Agnihotri, and the committee members of EcoCult.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) MA Rather congratulated the winners and all the participants. He said Eco Cult has been conducting such events and for the past several years. We will continue holding such events in the future also, he said.

In the conclusion, a vote of thanks was delivered by Reet Patel and Gopika Mahajan. They also expressed their gratitude to Director NIT for his support and encouragement for conducting such events in the institution.

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by K H News Service — January 5, 2022
Reading Time: 2min read



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Observer News service

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K H NEWS SERVICE | SRINAGAR

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Wednesday, January 5, 2022



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News Details

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SRINAGAR: Torus-design thinking club of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in collaboration with IIC organized a virtual model quiz titled 'Auto CAD and Solid Works' on Thursday in which over 60 students participated.


The event was presided by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal. He said Torus is acting as a platform for students interested in designing courses.

Prof. Sehgal said New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has given vast scope for the students and technology can act as a facilitator by bringing innovation to quizzes and ensuring active participation among students, he said.

He appreciated the organizers for conducting such programs for the students.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari in his message said torus is the student's talent exploring the platform. Over the past several months, the Torus team has worked hard to nourish the hidden talent of students, he said.

Prof. Bukhari said in future, Torus will organise workshops, and seminars on various topics to engage students, he said.



HOD Mechanical Department, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh also appreciated the teamwork of Torus and assured full support from the department.

Dr. Saad Parvez, Head Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IIEDC) attended the event and stated that IIEDC will always extend their support in grooming young talent at NIT Srinagar.

In charge of Torus Design Thinking Club, Dr. Dinesh Kumar said quiz was conducted on Kahoot!, which is a game-based learning platform, used as educational technology in schools and other educational institutions.

He said 30 minutes were packed with rapid questions, later distributed in three rounds.

"Hence, the combination of high speed and accuracy was crucial to cracking this competition. There were multiple rounds in the quiz show including screening round," he said.

Dr. Dinesh also extended his greeting to winners including Kriti Srivastava (Enrollment Number (EN): 2020BELE028) Mayank (EN: 2020BMEC088) and Anjali Bassan (EN: 2020BMEC023). He said these three students hit the ball out of the park and were awarded for their merit.

The event was managed efficiently by the TORUS team. The active involvement of the participants is highly appreciated.

Greater Kashmir



Representational Picture | File/ GK

Srinagar City

NIT Srinagar's TORUS club organizes model quiz

By GK NEWS NETWORK
7th Jan, 2022 at 1:00 AM



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SO NEWS DESK


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K H NEWS SERVICE | SRINAGAR

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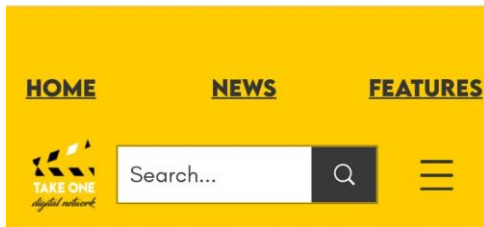
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Jammu Links News

1/6/2022

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SO NEWS DESK

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While paying rich tributes to Swami Vivekananda, on his birth anniversary which is also celebrated as National Youth Day, he said 'His teachings have inspired thousands of youth across the globe. Vivekananda was a man of wisdom and a very simple human being', Prof. Sehgal said.

He said on the occasion of Youth Day, let us come together to contribute towards the wellness and happiness of youth for making our



country a better one.

"For better future of youth, we need additional jobs to keep pace with the projected annual increases in the working-age population. We need a workforce that is well educated, and appropriately skilled," Prof. Sehgal said.

Director NIT Srinagar said the engineering institutions can play a crucial role in providing employment skillful and market-oriented education.

He said they will assure that quality of the teaching-learning

process will not be compromised. NIT is among the oldest institutions in the country. We are in a position to offer the best quality engineering programs to our students," Prof. Sehgal said.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said Swami Vivekananda was the man of principles. In his short life span, he galvanized the youth of the country with a sense of self-respect and a sense of destiny, he said.

"Providing students with skillful education is the need of the hour. Youth can make a massive contribution to the upliftment and progress of a nation," he said. Prof. Bukhari also pointed out how the digital gaps and the absence of equitable education access have already deprived countless youth of even basic education.

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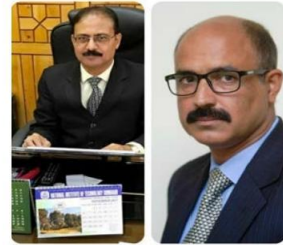
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Prof. Bukhari also pointed out how the digital gaps and the absence of equitable education access have already deprived countless youth of even basic education.

He said they will leave no stone unturned to achieve creditable space in society at both national and international levels. We will further work hard so that NIT Srinagar will be ranked among top institutions in entire country, Prof. Bukhari said.

NIT Will Always Act As Vibrant Platform For JK Youth: Director

Observer News Service

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Greater Kashmir



Representational Image | File/ GK

Srinagar

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By GK NEWS NETWORK
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Paying rich tributes to Swami Vivekananda, on his birth anniversary which is also celebrated as National Youth Day, he said, "His teachings have inspired thousands of youth across the globe. Vivekananda was a man of wisdom and a very simple human being", Prof

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by News Desk — January 12, 2022



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He said on the occasion of Youth Day, let us come together to contribute towards the wellness and happiness of youth for making our country a better one.

"For better future of youth, we need additional jobs to keep pace with the projected annual increases in the working-age population. We need a workforce that is well educated, and appropriately skilled," Prof. Sehgal said.

Director NIT Srinagar said the engineering institutions can play a crucial role in providing employment skilful and market-oriented education.

He said they will assure that quality of the teaching-learning process will not be compromised. NIT is among the oldest institutions in the country. We are in a position to offer the best quality engineering programs to our students," Prof. Sehgal said.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said Swami Vivekananda was the man of principles. In his short life span, he galvanized the youth of the country with a sense of self-respect and a sense of destiny, he said.

"Providing students with skilful education is the need of the hour. Youth can make a massive contribution to the upliftment and progress of a nation," he said.

Prof. Bukhari also pointed out how the digital gaps and the absence of equitable education access have already deprived countless youth of even basic education.

He said they will leave no stone unturned to achieve creditable spaces in society at both national and international levels. We will further work hard so that NIT Srinagar will be ranked among top institutions in entire country, Prof. Bukhari said.

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Director urges all staff members to adhere to CAB, guidelines

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Srinagar, Jan 14: To uphold the precautionary measures against the Covid19 pandemic, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir Friday conducted a special Covid19 testing drive at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

In a press release issued here, it was claimed that around 51 RT-PCR and 31 Rapid Antigen Tests were administered by the medical teams of Sub-District Hospital Habak Srinagar and Medical Unit NIT Srinagar throughout the day on campus. The results of the tests would likely arrive on Monday.

In order to ensure safety and maintain social distancing at the testing venue, officials have assigned token numbers to each person so that CAB can be adhered to, the press release added.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said in view of re-surfing in Covid19 cases in Kashmir, a special testing drive was conducted for all members on campus.

"We ensure that all COVID19 precautionary measures should be adhered to, so that there will be no risk of spreading infection at the campus," he said.

Prof. Sehgal said wearing 3-ply reusable or disposable masks is mandatory for all persons entering the NIT campus. He said these

drives would continue in the future also.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari in his message said they had already issued strict guidelines to enforce COVID19 SOPs on the campus.

"In the first phase more than 80 persons including administrative officers were administered Covid19 testing and it will be followed by more such drives," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said it is need of the hour to enforce CAB, so that we can curb the deadly infection on the campus. Currently, classes are being held online in view of Covid19 and winter vacation," he said.

Medical Officer, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat said a special testing drive was conducted on the directions of worthy Director NIT on the campus. Both RAT and RTPCR tests were conducted, he said.

Dr. Bhat said 82 tests were administered by the medical teams on Friday in which 51 were done RTPCR and rest RAT tests. Meanwhile, 2 employees were tested positive for Covid19 on RAT. They were immediately asked for home isolation, he said.

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By GK NEWS NETWORK
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Envisioning Srinagar's Smart City Plan and its Cultural Heritage

AUTHORS: DR NASIR F BUTT & PROF. (DR) RAKESH SEHGAL
(Director NIT)



Maintaining historical sense of SRINAGAR CITY

Dr Nasir F Butt, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal
Growing up and living in a city is not just a spatial and temporal experience. It rather makes a part of our life with which we associate our personal memories, our relationships, experiences, failures and successes.

We in fact live in cities which in turn live in ourselves in a collective consciousness of experience extending across generations. We generally develop an emotional relation with the city we live in. Its streets, houses, its closely knit networks of alleys and its roads, its buildings and monuments, churches, mosques, temples, markets, its efficiency, its amenities and comforts, its handiwork and civic values these all become very important part of our existence. One often feels a deep longing for one's beloved city. Urban Forman, a Turkish author once titled a country, calls this nostalgic love to one's city as homesickness in a sense of melancholy or sadness one should feel for one's city. This melancholy has a Sufi interpretation which means "longing for being not so close to God". In Paris, homesick is thought about and not in the absence, but the presence of homes that causes the sufferer homesickness. This melancholy is not a city should therefore be so strong that one should feel it one's responsibility to preserve the identity, culture, infrastructure, sustainability, its culture and heritage (both tangible and intangible) by every means possible. Moreover, every city has a distinct regional identity, that is not just confined but has evolved diachronically through ages of social, cultural, political and linguistic metamorphosis. It has its memory that is commemorated by its citizens collectively through monuments and public art works which we call cultural memory in spatial across its parts by the form of monuments, architecture, art and craft, literature and folklore. We can therefore see our cities as a living being, which is a living being and provides them a context to relate to in terms of identity and belonging. We should therefore strive to maintain the sustainability of our historical identity of our cities so that they survive longer and that they do not get buried under the dust of neglect and disrepair.

In the above context, I feel inclined to throw light on the historical identity of Srinagar and the plans and projects to develop it into a more sustainable city a smart city. Due to the growing needs to address the modern day requirements of overcrowding, transportation problems, issues of adequate infrastructure in terms of roads as well as educational requirements, major cities of our country have been listed by the Smart City Mission a comprehensive plan to develop the cities in modern ways to cater to modern needs and respond to through revolution, Information Technology, and digital

infrastructure. The mission was initiated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The Ministry defines smart city as a city which is livable, sustainable and has a thriving economy offering multiple opportunities to its citizens to pursue their diverse interests. To this end Srinagar was enlisted for the development mission in the 2017 through an open competitive process where in the applicant cities are required to compete for being selected to the mission funded by the Central Government. The official website of Srinagar District mentions that Srinagar Smart City project was approved in Round 1 challenge held in April 2017. Smart city project, according to the website comprises of two parts: (a) Area Based Development with an estimated amount of INR 2862.21 crores and (b) Pan-city Solutions with an estimated cost of INR 165.02 crores. For the purpose, Srinagar Smart City Limited has been established to transform Srinagar into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating business and opportunities for all. The aim of the present Srinagar Smart City programme according to the District website covers the following:

- Efficient land use
- Efficient housing facility to all
- Improving roads and pathways to organize transport and public movement
- Preserving and developing Open spaces like parks and gardens
- Cost effective and citizen friendly governance with digital transparency, accountability and digital services
- Giving identity to the city by promoting its local art, craft and culture

Moreover, the proposal submitted by the Srinagar city to the Ministry of Urban Development focused on improvement in the inadequate transport system which could be augmented by developing inland waterway transportation. It also focused on the need to restore and maintain the dilapidated monuments and historical buildings both public and private in the city, ensuring their proper development.

The historical sites, which are the soul of the city, have been largely neglected and poor maintenance. They need to be restored and restored without affecting their historical essence. The smart city development needs therefore need to be balanced in such a way that the historical consciousness is preserved and propagated. Srinagar is replete not only with famous gardens, monuments and shrines, but it also has a number of historical buildings which belong to the colonial period. Many such houses and mansions are either pulled down and replaced by modern buildings and commercial structures or are left to be eaten away by neglect and lack of maintenance due to high maintenance cost. Anandita Agency in one of the recently published articles has taken a peek into the "vernacular architecture" of the city



which was built according to the geographical and climatic needs of the region. The article identifies one of the special mansions named Jash Hama (built by Agha Syed Sadiq Jash in 1882) as an example of sturdy and long lasting construction which exemplifies the soil science and flood proof vernacular architecture.

To maintain the historical sense of a city is to help it keep breathing as a living entity that has a historical identity and tradition.

Srinagar has been a diverse and vibrant history long from the Marjan Empire to Kushanas, to Mughals, Sikhs and British rule. It has witnessed various cultural and religious transformations. All this history and cultural memory is stored in the historical archives, ruins, monuments, mansions, ancient gardens and forts. To maintain the historical sense of a city is to help it keep breathing as a living entity that has a historical identity and tradition. The smart city projects in the modern world of education, transportation, governance, hospitality, recreation and so on, but in cities like Srinagar, it is the long lived natural

and cultural heritage including historical monuments, art and craft, cuisine, folklore and language that attracts the attention of tourists. These must not be obliterated under the extensive network of modernization. Along with the historical monuments, language and literature, folk art and traditions should be preserved and augmented through modern technology and redefining. To achieve this end, it is not only the government bodies in the administration to be the architect of the project, it should be also the moral and emotional responsibility of the citizens to be aware and conscious about the development as well as preservation of the city's soul and DNA. The Ministry of Urban Development's mission website impresses upon the role and responsibility of citizens to achieve the goal of smart cities. It says that "The Smart Cities Mission requires smart people who actively participate in governance and welfare. Citizen involvement is crucial more so in the preservation and development of our cities and their cultural heritage, and respect the collective consciousness, shared memory, cultural history and collective identity considering them much more important than our personal or individual needs. Such initiatives of honest and emotional regard can help preserve and sustain our city without being too history and culture for forgotten."

Revival of Handicrafts in REASI

Dr. Nasir F. Butt, Dr. Sagar Nishi Qureshi
Handicrafts are the products that are produced by the artisans, either completely by the hands or with the help of tools or even by the mechanical means as long as the direct manual contribution of the artisans remains the most substantial component of the finished product.

Handicrafts refer to the main made products often made with simple traditional tools. In J&K handicrafts have remained the backbone since the time immemorial. Handicrafts played a crucial role in the preservation of traditional art, culture, heritage and skills. The crafts like embroidery, carpets, wood carving, costumes, shawls, pottery, local grain baskets etc. have a significant impact of J&K across the globe. Special skills are also provided to the young learners to promote the handicrafts in J&K. Handicrafts occupy an important position in the economic structure of J&K. There is huge potential of handicrafts in J&K as the handicrafts of J&K are known worldwide because of their attractive design, high quality and ability. Handicrafts in J&K are greatly helpful in creating the employment opportunities especially for the weaker sections of the society. There are numerous artisans who are directly associated with the handicrafts sector. This sector has huge potential in J&K and more employment opportunities should be created in the Union Territory of J&K. If proper marketing channels are made available. Presently our handicrafts earn around INR 1500 crores annually as an foreign exchange. This sector is not blooming fully because of lack of proper branding of the products, attractive designs, low capital, competition with machine made products, poor response, lack of market intelligence, poor

infrastructure etc. Terminal in J&K has also affected this industry. This industry is facing number of problems and challenges and there is need to explore the possibilities for its revival. There is need to understand the prospects and challenges of handicraft industry of J&K. Handicrafts provide an immense opportunity with low capital and can become an important source of foreign exchange. This sector is labour intensive and can create new avenues of employment especially for the rural people. Many handicrafts from J&K have gained worldwide fame for the high quality craftsmanship. Many artisans are associated with this industry. Handicrafts helps to raise the per capita income of J&K and thus contribute to the GDP of J&K. It has been observed through studies that handicrafts is the second largest industry in J&K after tourism.

Union Territory of J&K is an abode of vast culture and ethnic diversity. Handicrafts are carefully nurtured here for the centuries as different crafts flourished in this charming land which is visited by the millions of tourists across the globe every year. With time these arts, painted more recognition. Presently J&K is known for wooden toys, embroidery, shawls, shawl, hand knitted handicrafts from J&K face tough national and international competition but still this sector has shown promising results because of its uniqueness and utility. There is dire need to promote the artisans of J&K associated with this industry in order to promote this industry. There is need to work on cluster approach to give a boost to this industry. Technical and financial support is important for the artisans to set up units of commercial level. Special trade centres need to be established to promote this industry. More and more Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women should be formed to create handicrafts in this sector.

Showing the tourism in J&K can boost the handicrafts industry in the tourists prefer the original hand made products. The increase in the tourists in J&K will directly increase the demand of handicraft products. There are number of schemes for the artisans launched by the govt but there is lack of awareness of

these schemes among the rural people. Awareness camps should be organized in the rural areas to aware the local artisans on these useful schemes, like documentation and studies on rural handicrafts can also give beneficial results. There is need to revive the handicraft industry of J&K with new innovations. For instance new techniques of dyeing, designing, washing etc. need to be revamped. Geographic Indication (GI) Certification can also be provided to certain handicrafts and proper branding and labeling are also very important. Awareness on such kinds of schemes should be created among the artisans. It is very important to expand the market spaces for the handicrafts products. Special efforts are needed for the marketing purpose so as to make the products of national and international level. There should be the minimum involvement of intermediaries so that the artisans can enjoy the full financial profits. At least one handicraft should be promoted in one district. The skill development trainings should be restructured and some new modules should be introduced considering the employability and demands of handicrafts. Facilitation centres can be established to guide the artisans about their rights, insurance policies, welfare schemes etc. Free material centres can also be established from where the artisans can procure the original raw material to make their handicrafts. The handicraft industry has huge potential in J&K as it has covered regional and environment friendly. It can help to generate new employment opportunities in rural areas of J&K. Streamline efforts are needed to encourage, preserve and promote this industry. Special exhibition shows should be organized to encourage this industry. Some of innovative technologies should be incorporated so as to reduce the price of these commodities.

The handicrafts are one of the oldest and one of the richest cultural heritage and this heritage is transferred from one generation to another. This highly distinct of J&K is known for the great handicrafts since time immemorial. The great handicrafts in Reasi district have been than other districts, some famous handicrafts but recently the farm women of Reasi district have been making their own handicrafts and selling them directly to the buyers and tourists. Presently they are making not only the Home and Childish but many other products such as, laundry bags, footwear, pen stands, dry fruit trays, jewelry



Initially the farm women were making these handicrafts in an unorganized way for the local use or for sale at low rate. Govt. and Non-Government Organisations are encouraging these SHGs for making these handicrafts of commercial level and facilitating them to sale their produce at good prices.

By using the local grass they call it as 'Buddhi' and sold pulses two leaves with the co-ordination of JKREM JKREM should be established for an exceptional support to the farm women KVN. Reasi is constantly gaining and motivating the farm women for the commercial production of these handicrafts so that the farm women can fetch more money and improve their socio-economic conditions. This great material is easily available in the hills areas of Reasi district. Many Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Poonch block of Reasi district have come forward for the revival of these hand made handicrafts. They are making very attractive products which are having demand and are environmentally friendly. Initially the farm women were making these handicrafts in an unorganized way for the local use or for sale at low rate. Govt. and Non-Government Organisations are encouraging these SHGs for making these handicrafts of commercial level and facilitating them to sale their produce at good prices. Their handicrafts are exhibited at different levels and many people are coming forward to purchase their products. These farm women have shown interest towards in their handicrafts and have given new designs and dyes by which their markets have increased. They are making tremendous efforts to revive these handicrafts and modernizing them with their own and innovative ideas. These handicrafts are environment friendly and helpful to raise the income and employment among the rural women of the area. The demand of these handicrafts is increasing day by day because of their usefulness and uniqueness. Their innovative efforts are very supportive to protect and preserve these handicrafts. With their endeavors, these farm women have got recognition and confidence. They have developed entrepreneurial skills. This venture can progress as the crucial source of their livelihood and transform their lives.

Rising Kashmir

RE EDITORIAL

Healthcare facilities

Education and Health are two important sectors that should get the topmost priority for any government if it wants to do good to its people. Experts believe that the health of any region is not determined only by how many people are healthy but how advanced the health care system is, how much does the region pump in annuity for health facilities and how much is done to raise the infrastructure. No government can afford to put these issues in cold storage. It is not only buildings and hospitals which constitute the infrastructure but the technology, medical facilities and the man power available. However when we try to evaluate Kashmir in this background one has only seen disappointments. Not only is our health system lagging behind in providing advanced medical care, even the basic and primary health facilities are not available at some places especially in rural areas. Previous governments spent crores on health and medical care, nevertheless, when we examine the whole scenario it does not add up. These are only words which were never followed by equal amount of action. The problem doesn't end here. There is one more inadequacy which is hugely affecting our medical care, and that is the insufficient professional manpower. Many health experts are of the opinion that there are few advanced medical facilities available in the Jammu and Kashmir but due to dearth of expert medical professionals even these facilities are not availed. If attention is paid to these shortcomings, much can be achieved within a short period of time. No one can deny that fact that over the years health care facilities in J&K have improved but it has still a long distance to cover. It is the rural areas that present a grim picture despite established tertiary and secondary health care hospitals and primary health care centres. The governments have invested in infrastructures but facilities still remain out of reach to the patients in those areas. Even basic equipments have been said as not provided in the health care centres in rural areas. Lack of facilities in rural areas has been forcing patients to seek treatment in specialty hospitals putting an extra burden on them. Despite issuing number of statements from time to time about providing the state of the art medical care system in our hospitals and health centres, no significant strides have been made in this sector for past many years. Much needs to be done to stay updated for the health care sector in J&K, especially in the Kashmir valley.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death Arthur Schopenhauer

Envisioning Srinagar's Smart City Plan and its Cultural Heritage

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DR NASIR BUTT & PROF. DR. RAKESH SEHGAL

Growing up and living in a city is not just a spatial and temporal experience; it rather makes a part of our life with which we associate our personal memories, our relational experiences, failures and successes. We in fact live our cities which in turn live in ourselves as a collective diachronic series of experiences spanning across generations. We generally develop an emotional relation with the city we live in: its streets, bazaars, its closely knit networks of alleys and roads, its buildings and monuments, domes, shrines, temples, minarets; its olfactory essences, its sunrises and sunsets, its humdrum and serene calmness—these all become very important part of one's existence. One often feels a deep longing for one's beloved city. Orhan Pamuk, a Turkish author and Nobel Laureate, calls this mystical love to one's city as 'huzun' which is sense of melancholy or sadness one should feel for one's city. This melancholy has a Sufi interpretation which means 'longing for being not close to God'. To Pamuk, 'huzun' is a sought-after state and if it is the absence, not the presence, of 'huzun' that causes the sufferer distress. This melancholic love to one's city should therefore be strong that one should feel one's responsibility to preserve the identity, culture, infrastructure, sustainability, its culture and heritage both tangible and intangible by every means possible. Moreover, every city has distinct personality—an identity, that is not just synchronic but has evolved diachronically through ages of social, cultural, political and linguistic metamorphosis. It has its memory that is remembered by its citizens collectively through centuries and millennia. That memory which we call cultural memory is spread across its parts in the form of monuments, architecture, art and craft, literature and folklore. We can therefore see our cities as a living being, rather a motherly entity that cradles her children and provides them a context to relate to in terms of identity and belongingness. We should therefore strive to maintain the sustainability as well as historical identity of our cities so that they survive

longer and that they don't get buried under the dust of neglect and destruction. In the above context, I feel inclined to throw light on the historical identity of Srinagar city and the plans and projects to develop it into a more sustainable city—a smart city. Due to the pressing needs to alleviate the modern day pressures of overcrowding, transportation problems, issues of adequate infrastructure in terms of medical as well as educational requirements, major cities of our country have been listed for the Smart City Mission—a comprehensive plan to develop the cities in modern ways to cater to modern needs, especially through retrofitting, Information Technology and modern infrastructure. The mission was initiated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The Ministry defines smart city as a city "which is livable, sustainable and has a thriving economy offering multiple opportunities to its people to pursue their diverse interests." To this end Srinagar was enlisted for the development mission in the 2017 through an open competition system wherein the aspirant cities are required to compete for being enlisted in the mission funded by the Central Government. The official website of Srinagar district maintains that Srinagar Smart City project was approved in Round 3 challenge held in April 2017. Smart city project, according to the website, comprises of two parts: (a) Area Based Development with an estimated amount of Rs. 2089.24/ crores and (b) Pan city Solutions with an estimated cost of Rs. 255.05/ crores. For the purpose, Srinagar Smart City Limited has been established to transform Srinagar "into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating harmony and opportunities for all." The aim of the present Srinagar Smart City programme according to the District website covers the following: -Efficient land use. -Inclusive housing facility to all. -Improving roads and pathways to organise transport and public movement. -Preserving and developing Open spaces like parks and gardens. -Cost effective and citizen friendly governance with online transparency, easy accessibility and digitization. -Giving identity to the city by promoting its local art, craft and culture. Moreover, the proposal submitted by the Srinagar city to the Ministry of Urban Development focused on improvement in the inadequate transport system which could be augmented by developing inland waterway transportation. It also focused on the need to restore and maintain the dilapidated

monuments and historical buildings—both public and private—in the city, among other aspects of development. The historical sites, which are the soul of the city, have been slipped into neglect and poor maintenance. They need to be revived and restored without affecting their historical essence. The smart city developmental works therefore need to be balanced in such a way that the historical consciousness is preserved and propagated. Srinagar is replete not only with famous gardens, monuments and shrines, but it also is home to hundreds of private mansions which belong to the colonial period. Read Full article on www.risingkashmir.com

(Dr. Nasir Faried Butt is Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management, National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal Srinagar and Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Sehgal is Director, National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal Srinagar)



We the citizens should always strive to make our conscious presence in the preservation and development of our cities and their cultural heritage, and respect the collective consciousness, shared memory, cultural history and collective identity considering them much more important than our personal or individual benefits

Agriculture and Food Security

The concomitant attainment of food security and environmental sustainability would require innovative interventions as main driver for change

DR MUSHTAQ AHMAD

Population growth rates globally have so outstripped the linear rate of increases in food production that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that 70% more food must be produced over the next four decades in order to nourish adequately a human population projected to exceed 9 billion by the year 2050. Population growth rates globally have so outstripped the linear rate of increases in food production that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that 70% more food must be produced over the next four decades in order to nourish adequately a human population projected to exceed 9 billion by the year 2050. The odds for attaining such an unprecedented increase, which would require the raising of the historically linear increases in annual food production by 37%, is substantially lessened by the consequences of climate change and variations on crop production systems. The inherent difficulties in achieving this unprecedented increase are exacerbated by the yield-depressing consequences of climate change and variations and by the pressures on food supply by other competing demographic and socioeconomic demands. With the dwindling or stagnant agricultural land and water resources, the sought-after increases will therefore be attained mainly through the enhancement of crop productivity under eco-efficient crop production systems. 'Smart' crop varieties that yield more with fewer inputs will be pivotal to success. Plant breeding must be re-oriented in order to generate these 'smart' crop varieties. We also make the case that plant breeding must be enabled by adequate policies, including those that spur innovation and investments. To avert and reverse the worrisome trend of declining capacities for crop improvement, a new generation of plant breeders must also be trained. Equally important, winning partnerships, including public-private sector synergies, are needed for 21st century plant breeding to bear fruits. We also urge the adoption of the continuum approach to the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as means for ensuring robustness of the components of its value chain. Compellingly also, the National Agricultural Research and Extension System require comprehensive overhauling and



strengthening as crop improvement and other interventions require a sustained platform to be effective. The development of a suite of actionable policy interventions to be packaged for assisting countries in developing result-oriented breeding programs is also called for. The frequent occurrence of drought and floods, that invariably results in acute food shortages, and an additional 40 to 170 million more people will be undernourished as a direct consequence of climate change. Indeed, the overwhelming prognosis is that extreme weather events such as heavy precipitation, heat waves, and rising sea levels will occur in many parts of the world during the 21st century with resulting floods, drought, and salinity as the most critical consequences. The strategies for devising solutions to these constraints will vary across geographical regions as the types and magnitudes of the problems will vary. For instance, though there is the consensus that rainfall is expected to increase globally overall, some places will actually be receiving less annual rainfall while the seasonality of rains and hence the timing of the cultivation of crops will also change. More worrisome yet, the frequencies of occurrence and

durations of the extreme weather events are also expected to increase. This generational challenge of producing enough food for a rapidly growing population under extreme and changing weather conditions is further exacerbated by dwindling agricultural land and water resources. There are no more redundant water resources and arable lands to deploy in augmenting the already over-stretched ones in many parts of the world. Other noteworthy drivers for food insecurity include the competing demands on scarce, depleted, and over-used arable lands and scarce food stuff for productions of bio-energy and livestock feeds. Equally confounding current conventional efforts to increase crop production sustainably is the prohibitive economic and environmental costs of the deployment of further agricultural chemicals as means for boosting yields. Success in attaining the imperative of producing more food under worsening climatic conditions and with a severely constrained natural resources base hinges on the need for efficiency, that is achieving more yield per unit of input. For the eco-friendly 'knowledge intensive' 21st century Green Revolution that will replicate the dramatic yield increases of its

20th century 'input intensive' precursor. The growing of diverse 'smart' crop varieties that are capable of producing 'more with less' is in accord with this 'greener' perspective. This will of course require the re-orientation of many aspects of crop production systems with plant breeding and the cultivation of the resulting high yielding, well adapted, input use-efficient and resilient crop varieties constituting a major component of the interventions. The concomitant attainment of food security and environmental sustainability would require innovative interventions as main driver for change. Crop improvement, by fostering genetic gains that aid food production through enhanced productivities, is a very critical component of systems of the sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI). We make the case therefore that plant breeding, by translating the potentials inherent in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) into 'smart' crop varieties; can engender a most significant impetus for sustained food security even as human population increases and extremely inclement weather conditions constrain crop production. To achieve this, plant breeding must be re-oriented in a number of very critical ways.

(From RK Archives)



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NIT Srinagar's EcoCult hosts a virtual extempore competition for students

Such sessions are important for the all-round development of the students': Director NIT

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Srinagar, Jan 25: The Ecological Club (EcoCult) of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday organised a virtual extempore speech competition titled, "Extempore Mania" to provide students an opportunity to think out of the box.

Students from various departments participated in the competition and spoke about various issues pertaining to data theft, social media challenges, and other relevant topics.

In his message, in-charge-Director NIT Srinagar MF Wani appreciated the organizers for organizing such events. Such initiatives are aimed to provide a stress-free atmosphere on the campus, he said.

"Our society is transforming rapidly and in this growing and changing era, there is an urgent need to include global awareness issues in our local discussions. It is important for the all-round development of our students," Prof. Wani said.

He said such sessions help students in conceptual learning to gain pertinent knowledge about cultural, political, economic, and environmental issues revolving around the world.

Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said the importance of the extempore speech is it helps to think and develop a presence of mind and it directly helps brain to react fast. "It enables the student to think out of the box and off the feet and is a great platform to develop communication skills and time management," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said technology can play a significant role in order to achieve the goal. This would help us to make this world a better place for a diverse and globalized society, he said.

During the virtual event, the participants of several batches were given an on-spot topic for which they had to speak for a



maximum of 5- minutes.

Chairman EcoCult, NIT Srinagar, Prof (Dr.) Harveer S. Pali said the primary aim event was that students should be updated with current happening, trends in media across the global world.

"Such events are need of the hour. It makes students ready for future challenges. The world is getting interconnected inclusively and in this era, the youngsters have to learn about relevant topics, he said.

Dr. HS Pali also encouraged the students and the organizers for their collective efforts. He also expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sehgal for providing support for such activities on the campus.

The competition was judged by Dr. Nasir Farid Butt of the Humanities and Social Science department, who showed total transparency and gave remarks to every student. He also appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee for organizing various events amidst online classes.

Dr. Butt said appreciated the efforts of the Eco-Cult team and stated that enhancing the sense

of responsibility through education among the modern generation is vitally important in this era.

In the competition, the first position was bagged by Arsalan Reyaz Beligh (CIV 2020) who spoke on: 'Does a smoking ban infringe the rights of a smoker?'. It was followed by second position by Ifrah Shah (ELE 2020) who spoke on 'Inefficacy of Indian Education System and NEP 2020.'

Similarly, the third position was bagged by two students including Parvash Tickoo (MECH 2020) and Mohammad Ibrahim Salaria (CIV 2021) who spoke on 'Data theft by Social Media platforms' and 'Procrastination: How it affects our everyday life and Why is it important to know its Psychological and Neurological Mechanics?' respectively.

The event was hosted by Naqshab Agnihotri and Gopika Mahajan. It was coordinated by Ishika Gupta, Anirudh Bhasin, and the members of EcoCult. While a formal vote of thanks was presented by Naqshab Agnihotri to the participants for making the event successful.

NIT Srinagar's EcoCult hosts a virtual extempore competition for students

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By KNS

Posted on Jan 25, 2022 | Updated on Jan 25, 2022



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NIT Srinagar gets 163th position in Internshala ranking

Director NIT extends greetings says it is a proud moment for the institution

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SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged 163rd position in Internshala annual ranking 2021 out of 1123 participating colleges across India.

Head Training and Placement Department, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar said NIT Srinagar has been ranked 163 Internshala ranking 2021 out of 1,123 participating colleges across India.

"Apart from that institute has also got 51st position out of 207 participating colleges in the north zone," he said.

The institute also recorded a good internship selection with 182 offers out of 625 applicants. In addition, it also got 39 pre-placement offers (PPO) out of 2429 registered students.

Similarly, the awards to NIT Srinagar were presented during a virtual felicitation ceremony on January 29, 2022," Dr. Obbu Chandra said.

Director NIT, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal extended greetings to the entire fraternity for making the institute's administration proud.



He said "creating a vibrant internship culture for students will be always a priority,".

"Despite various challenges, the Training and Placement Department led by Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar played a vital role in placements and prepared students for internships also in well-reputed companies," he said.

Prof. Sehgal said in the rapidly changing ecosystem, it is very important to focus on the skills and knowledge that are relevant to the future.

"We have secured 163rd position in Internshala annual ranking 2021. It is a proud movement for all of us," he said adding that in the current session more students will be prepared for internships at reputed companies.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof Kaiser Bukhari termed the Internshala rankings as a positive message for the NIT Srinagar. He congratulated Head T&P, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar, and his whole T&P team for their joint efforts in the rankings.

"NIT Srinagar is committed to act as a vibrant platform for its students. We will further work hard to improve our ranks in future and make our place among top NITs in the entire country," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said this ranking will positively influence the job and training opportunities for our students on the campus.

As per the Training and Placement Department, over 385 students of NIT Srinagar got job offers, while 280 students were placed in different companies across the country during 2021-22 placement sessions.

While 135 students were selected for 6 months internship and started from 3rd January 2022, they will be getting a monthly stipend during the internship from rupees 80,000 per month to 35000 PM, officials said.

Founded in 2010, Internshala is a technology company on a mission to equip students with relevant skills and practical exposure to help them get the best possible start to their careers.

It is considered among India's leading internship and training platforms with over 40,000 paid internships in engineering, MBA, media, law, arts, and other streams. Internshala honours institutions and colleges for putting significant efforts in helping their students find an internship and thereby improve the internship culture.

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By KL News Network - 5:36 pm January 31, 2022

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Excelsior Correspondent

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Srinagar

NIT Srinagar gets 163rd position in Internshala rankings



Representational Image File/GK

GK NEWS NETWORK

Published on : 01 Feb, 2022, 1:38 am . 1 min read

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NIT Srinagar gets 163rd position

January 31, 2022, 6:04 pm

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NIT Srinagar gets 163 position in Internshala rankings

Director NIT extends greetings says it is a proud moment for the institution

Srinagar ,January 31 (Scoop News)-The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged 163rd position in Internshala annual ranking 2021 out of 1123 participating colleges across India. Head Training and Placement Department, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar said NIT Srinagar has been ranked 163 Internshala ranking 2021 out of 1,123 participating colleges across India. "Apart from that institute has also got 51st position out of 207 participating colleges in the north zone," he said. The institute also recorded a good internship selection with 182 offers out of 625 applicants. In addition, it also got 39 pre-placement offers (PPO) out of 2429 registered students. Similarly, the awards to NIT Srinagar were presented during a virtual felicitation ceremony on January 29, 2022, Dr. Obbu Chandra said. Director NIT, Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Sehgal extended greetings to the entire fraternity for making the institute's administration proud. He said "creating a vibrant internship culture for students will be always a priority." "Despite various challenges, the Training and Placement Department led by Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar played a vital role in placements and prepared students for internships also in well-reputed companies," he said. Prof. Sehgal said in the rapidly changing ecosystem, it is very important to focus on the skills and knowledge that are relevant to the future. "We have secured 163rd position in internshala annual ranking 2021. It is a proud movement for all of us," he said adding that in the current session more students will be prepared for internships at reputed companies. Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari termed the Internshala rankings as a positive message for the NIT Srinagar. He congratulated Head T&P Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar, and his whole T&P team for their joint efforts in the rankings. "NIT Srinagar is committed to act as a vibrant platform for its students. We will further work hard to improve our ranks in future and make our place among top NITs in the entire country," he said. Prof. Bukhari said this ranking will positively influence the job and training opportunities for our students on the campus. As per the Training and Placement Department, over 385 students of NIT Srinagar got job offers, while 280 students were placed in different companies across the country during 2021-22 placement sessions. While 135 students were selected for 6 months internship and started from 3rd January 2022, they will be getting a monthly stipend during the internship from rupees 80,000 per month to 35000 PM, officials said. Founded in 2010, Internshala is a technology company on a mission to equip students with relevant skills and practical exposure to help them get the best possible start to their careers. It is considered among India's leading internship and training platforms with over 40,000 paid internships in engineering, MBA, media, law, arts, and other streams. Internshala honours institutions and colleges for putting significant efforts in helping their students find an internship and thereby improve the internship culture.

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