

# Greater Kashmir

## Irani inaugurates 2 modern research labs at KU

Interacts with scholars, students through video-conference

**Srinagar, June 3:** Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smriti Irani, on Friday inaugurated two state-of-the-art laboratories at University of Kashmir, from New Delhi through video-conferencing.

The research laboratories at University's Department of Botany have been upgraded in tune with international standards, under Rastriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA). Rs 1.57 crore had been earmarked under the central scheme for these laboratories—Biological Invasions Research Lab and Plant Physiology and Biochemistry Lab.

Inaugurating the laboratories online, Irani—



who addressed students, scholars and academics—said: "We are always there to provide our full support, both administrative and infrastructural, to institutions of higher learning. It is now the responsibility of authorities in these institutions to engage students and scholars in meaningful and cutting-edge research so that their respective State in particular and the country in general is benefitted."

Irani congratulated the KU authorities and J&K team of RUSA for successful launch of these projects.

She also announced Centre's plans to set-up Language Labs in all states "soon" and also make efforts to "internationalize curriculum" in educational institutions.

Interacting with the HRD Minister on the

occasion, J&K's Minister of Education, Naem Akhter appreciated the efforts of the HRD Ministry in giving impetus to higher education sector in J&K. "This e-launch of laboratories has come at most appropriate time and it is going to have a very positive effect on research pursued by students in J&K's higher educational institutions."

He also informed the Union Minister about supplementary shift started by University of Kashmir from this academic session and also updated her about status of two engineering colleges coming up each in Jammu and Kashmir Valley.

On the occasion, Irani also interacted with some research scholars from Department of Botany and responded to their queries regarding fellowships and other issues.

Minister of State for Education, Culture & Tourism Priya Sethi, Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, Dean Academic Affairs Prof MA Wani, Dean Research Prof Sheikh Javid Ahmed, Registrar Prof M A Sahaf, Mission Director RUSA J&K, deans of various faculties, heads of departments and senior officials from the University administration and IT & SS were also present during the digital launch event.

