## 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 Abiyaan (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, Naeem 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, frani 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 Shelkh 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.

## Efforts on to turn Kashmir into hub of quality research: Govt



Srimager: Minister of Education Naeem Akhtar today said that the Government is committed to turn Hashmir into a hub of world class research with focused attention being given to upgradation of facilities in higher education.

The Minister was today speaking at a function to inaugurate upgraded laboratories at Department of Botany, University of Kashmir by Uniou Minister of Human Recourses Development Ms Sur it Irani via video conferencing. Minister of State for Education and Technical Education Ms Priya Sethi, Vice Chancellor. Prof Khurshid Andrabi, other officials and students attended the function. The two laboratories have been upgraded under RUSA at a cost of R 1 57 grows.

Akhtar informed the Union Minister that the state Government has taken many initiatives to give a fillip to higher education in the state. He said that start of evening classes at EU has created 1800 new seats for students. He further added that there are other plans for academic and social intervention that will help in overall upgrading of facilities at the institutes of higher learning. He and that seeing their initiatives 25 ocholars from USA have returned to Eashmir to pursue research and teach students here.

The Minister said that the upgradation of these laboratories will be game changing for university and together with active help from Union Minister the state will be turned into a hub of world class research. "RUSA assistance will go a long way in strengthening the infrastructure for promoting research work of national and international significance in respective academic disciplines." he said.

The Union Minster said that such laboratories need active and continuous research utilization by the university. She said that internationalizing curriculum is also under active consideration and impetus will be given to local languages too. The Union Minister also interacted with students over various challenges facing the education sector.

## HRD Minister inaugurates 2 advanced research labs at KU

Addresses students, scholars through video-conference

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