

Traditions, innovations, change in behaviour important to combat single-use plastics usage: Prof Dhar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt of India, and Department of Botany in collaboration with Pollution Control Committee (PCC), Jammu, J&K Govt. organized under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an awareness programme on "Stop use of single-use plastics" today at the University of Jammu.

Prof. Manoj K. Dhar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, the Chief Guest on the occasion underscored the need for reducing the plastics menace and exhorted upon the youth to act as the ambassadors for creating awareness in reducing the usage of single-use plastic and substituting it with paper and biodegradable stuff.

"Our traditional methods have been very eco-friendly and the time has come that we revisit those substitutes in addition to technological innovations to find viable solutions to plastics. We do hope that with the new laws banning single-use plastics items and technological innova-



VC JU, Prof. Manoj K. Dhar speaking at a programme.

tions we will be able to gradually remove plastics from our environment and from our lives," he opined.

To fulfil the vision of growth envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh Narinder Modi, Prof Dhar encouraged research scholars to be ambassadors for disseminating awareness about the harmful effects of the use of plastics and motivated them to come up with novel, innovative and effective alternatives for replacing plastics from the environment.

He also made the participants pledge to contribute individually as well as collectively to say no to plastics following the slogan of 6 R's i.e Refuse, Reduce,

Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and Remove Plastics.

On the occasion, Nodal Officer and the Senior Scientist from the Pollution Control Centre, Jammu, Dr Yash Pal spoke at length about the recent legal status of plastic use in India and informed about the banned thickness of the PET plastics.

Anuradha, Scientist A, J&K PCC, Jammu stressed the need to use cotton and jute bags in place of single-use plastic bags and explained the relevance of the installation of green and blue waste bins at home and institutions for proper segregation of dry and wet waste. Interestingly, Er S.C. Dutta,

Managing Director, Shalimar Thermoforming Pvt. Ltd., Jammu displayed biodegradable/compostable PLA

(Polylactic acid) laid an exhibition of the recently introduced disposables which are eco-friendly, safe for health and environment, and may prove to be a very effective and safe replacement to single-use plastics. An exhibition of banned plastic items and biodegradable alternatives to plastics were also displayed.

Prof Veenu Kaul, Head, Department of Botany, JU proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Arshad Malik, Randeep Manhas, Anil Sharma, Dimple from PCC, Jammu coordinated the event.

Prominent among others who attended the event included officials of J&K PCC, Faculty members including Prof. Namrata Sharma, Dr Sikander, Dr Harish, Dr Geeta, Dr Skarma, Dr Harpreet, Dr Bharat Bhushan, Dr Shabana, Research scholars, students, non-teaching staff, security staff and sanitary workers of the University of Jammu.

Rajni Patil reaches Srinagar, visits Bindroo's family

Congress leaders attend last rites of Deepak

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JAMMU: AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Rajni Patil, on Friday arrived at Srinagar to offer condolences to the families of the martyrs on behalf of the Congress leadership and rank and file of the party. Soon after her arrival Patil accompanied by JKPC President G.A. Mir, CWC Member Tariq Hamid Karra, General Secretary PCC S.S. Channi and others visited the residence of Makhhan Lal Bindroo, who was martyred on Tuesday. She expressed grave shock and offered condolences to the family on behalf of the Congress leadership and entire rank and file of the party. She will also offer condolences to other victims of Yesterday's selective killings. Meanwhile, Senior J K Congress Leaders today attended the last rites of Deepak Chand in Jammu an paid rich tributes to the martyr who was killed by the terrorists in a school in srinagar yesterday while on duty as a teacher.

The senior Congress leaders including PCC Vice Presidents & Former Ministers Mula Ram, Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, General secretary Manmohan Singh, President DCC Jammu Rural Hari Singh Chib, PYC President Uday Chib , Corporator Rajinder Jamwal, Parshotam Mehra and others attended the cremation at Shakti Nagar today and paid rich tributes to the martyr. They consoled the family members and relatives and conveyed deep sympathies to them on behalf of the rank and file of the party. They strongly condemned the dastardly-killing and termed it most inhuman and barbaric act of terrorists.

The Senior Congress leaders described the series of selective killings at will by the terrorists as a dangerous situation and total failure of the centre Govt. and UT administration to contain militancy and ensure the protection of the minorities and employees in Kashmir valley.

They demanded that the government should ensure the safety of minority community members including employees posted in different areas of valley. The leaders also demanded adequate ex gratia relief of atleast one crore to each martyr of selective killing, although no amount can compensate the loss of the shattered families.

'Innovative Farmers' Conference concludes at SKUAST-J



Advisor, Farooq Ahmad Khan visiting stalls at fair.

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JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Ahmad Khan, on Friday exhorted upon agriculture universities to focus on imparting practical knowledge among students so that they could connect themselves with various aspects of agriculture and develop themselves as 'Job Providers' rather than 'Job Seekers'.

Advisor was speaking as a chief guest at the valedictory function of 'Innovative Farmers' conference which was organized during ongoing 5-day Northern India Regional Agriculture Fair 2021 here at SKUAST Jammu. "There is great need to involve UG and PG students in entrepreneurship development programs as their expertise and potential can do wonders in transforming the business world in the field of

agriculture", Advisor maintained.

Advisor said that farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh would be benefitted immensely from this Innovative Farmers Conference wherein Padma Shree awardee farmers and National awardee farmers interacted with them and shared experiences of their success in agriculture and allied enterprises. He appreciated Professor J P Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST- Jammu, for bringing remarkable progress and development in the working culture of the university. Meanwhile, Advisor also inaugurated a fruit, vegetable and flowers show and inspected exhibitions and stalls demonstrated by the university, line departments, farmers and start-ups. During his visit to the Fisheries unit, Advisor

advised the participants to focus on promotion of snow trout and Mahseer species of fishes in Jammu region.

Farooq Khan also e-inaugurated the Faculty Club of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry. On the occasion, an Agreement was also made between Bhopinder Singh an entrepreneur of Rajouri district and SKUAST- Jammu on commercialization of Condensed Tannins Enriched Multi - Nutrient Block Technology (MNB-CT). Padma Shree awardees Bharat Bhushan Tyagi and Hukam Chand Patidar and awarded farmer, Lieutenant Colonel Subhash Chander Deshwal also shared their journey of success.

KVKs from SKUAST- Kashmir namely Anantnag, Kargil-II, Shopian, Kulgam, Puhwama and division of Fruit Science, Shalimar besides farmers from all districts of Jammu division participated in the fruit show. Director Agriculture, K. K. Sharma; Director Horticulture, Ram Sewak; Statutory officers of university, HoDs of various departments; faculty members, students of SKUAST-J besides scores of farmers were present on the occasion.

Principal DG BOC inaugurates multimedia exhibition at Katra

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KATRA: Regional Outreach Bureau, J&K, Ladakh region, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Friday kicked off an eight day multimedia exhibition on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' at Government Higher Secondary School, Katra.

The multimedia exhibition was inaugurated by Satyendra Prakash, Principal Director General, Bureau of Outreach & Communication, Ministry of I&B.

Prakash said that besides the mainstream freedom fighters of India's freedom movement, the unsung heroes have also find a special place in these exhibitions. Prakash also said that the other aim of conducting these



Principal DG, BOC Ministry of I&B, Satyendra Prakash and others visiting exhibition at Katra.

exhibitions is to showcase the regional freedom fighters so that the local population must be informed of their contribution during the freedom movement. The exhibition today has also displayed freedom fighters of Himalayan Region including J&K like Brigadier Rajendra Singh who has been called the 'Saviour of Kashmir'.

Prakash also reiterated five

pillars as impressed by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on the inauguration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav i.e. Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolves at 75 and said that these five pillars must be our guiding force for moving forward keeping dreams and duties as inspiration.

Besides students, artists & other audience, the exhibition was attended by Amit Kumar; Joint Director, BOC, New Delhi abd Ambika Soni, AD Tourism, Katra, Manik Singh Rathore, Under Secretary, Transport, Ranjit Kour; State Taxes Officer who are officers on special duty on Navratri festival and Sheikh Mudasir Amin, Media and Communications Officer, PIB Jammu. The Exhibition comprised of rare photographs, video clips, a touch panel, a photo collage and audio-visual consoles on freedom fighters. The vintage photographs of the freedom fighters and important movements during the freedom struggle have also been included in the exhibition.

families from Kharnaling actively participated in the special programme and resolved to resettle at their native place in the next few years.

Renowned folk singers like Padama Dorje, Dorjay Stakmo, Stanzin Paljor and others mesmerized the people of Kharnak with melodious folk songs. Many educated youths along with their parents and grandparents not only witnessed this special occasion but also got introduced to their ancestral homes and properties for the first time. They had the opportunity to interact with their relatives, friends, and neighbours at Kharnak.

Such programmes will definitely prove helpful in the long run for their resettlement as well as to preserve and promote endangered but rich nomadic culture of eastern Ladakh.

Chairman PHDCCI Jammu calls on Union Minister of Steel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman PHDCCI Jammu, Rahul Sahai led delegation of PHDCCI to meet and present memorandum to Ramchandra Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Govt Of India in Jammu.

Sahai was accompanied with Rahul Bansal from Kashmir Steel Industries the biggest and noted steel manufacturers of J&K.

Sahai briefed about the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry established in 1905, a proactive National Apex Chamber working at the grass-root level with strong national and international linkages.

The Chamber acts as a catalyst in the promotion of industry, trade and promotion of entrepreneurship. Also briefed about working of PHDCCI in J&K .

Sahai congratulated Ramchandra Prasad for a for a PLI scheme worth Rs 6322 crores for 5 yrs period having investment of Rs 40000 cr and asked Minister that how this scheme could benefit Jammu and J&K or



Chairman PHDCCI Jammu, Rahul Sahai handing over memorandum to Union Minister, Ramchandra Prasad.

any plans of investment in Jammu under this scheme.

Sahai also assured full support in target set by steel ministry in special steel of 42 million tons production.

Sahai emphasized on setting up a mother industry in Jammu like Rail coach factory or any other industry from central Govt so that steel consumption and production be increased in JK UT , Sahai said J&K being a special UT the MSMEs should be given some concession in the price of steel

by SAIL and Govt could consider setting up of a Service Centre for further processing of Steel (from coil to sheets) which will improve the supply situation of steel for the local industry. Rahul Bansal stressed upon purchase preference for the existing TMT bar industries of J&K.

He applauded minister that all the Central Govt projects are only using branded TMT Bars in spite of best quality local TMT's are available JK UT. He

suggested to have some purchase preference for local TMT steel industries of J&K which can further result into employment and consumption of steel.

Ramchandra Prasad Singh gave a patient hearing to PHDCCI Delegation and assured that Steel ministry is very serious about Development of steel industry in J&K and will definitely keep these points in mind while framing a policy for steel industry in J&K.

Ramchandra Prasad Singh was accompanied by Soma Mondal Chairman Steel Authority of India who briefed about future plans of sail in J&K to boost steel industry in UT.

Others present were Puneet Kansal Ias Joint Secretary Ministry of Steel , Govt of India , other senior officers from Ministry of Steel and Anoo Malhotra Director Industries Jammu.

Visits of Union Ministers non-productive, flop show like B2V programme: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Visits of Union Ministers has proved non productive and flop show like Back to village (B2V) programme, said Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, former Minister and senior National Conference leader while inaugurating Trikuta Institute for youth at Burj for undergoing training for recruitment in Army, Paramilitary & Police as constables and officers. He appreciated the efforts of Mr Amit an Ex-serviceman for opening it and wished him all success. "BJP Govt instead of concentrating on creating more & more employment avenues it is busy in milling hollow slogans to exploit youth and doing wasteful expenditure by wasting state exchequer on visits of Union Ministers and programmes like B2V," Sadhotra said. It is unfortunate the govt offices has a desert look as employees/officers were busy with making the arrangements for visit of Union Ministers & common man was forced to face difficulties to get their day to day problems solved, he added. He further added that the BJP's hollow slogans of two crore per year employment to youth in the country then 50000 employment in J&K and now 80% of employment in five years by present Lt. Governor has proved all Jumlas like Rs 15 lakh to every individual.



Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra speaking during inauguration of Trikuta Institute for youth at Burj in Marh.

BJP Govt. should come out with comprehensive employment policy to win over the frustrated, disgrusted & disappointed youth due to fast rise in unemployment, he said.

Others who spoke were Ghar Singh Chib Corporator, Retd.

ZEO Marh Vishwanath, Retd. Prof. Naseeb Chand, Natha Ram Bhagat, Rakesh Pahalwan, Choudary Govind, Amit Manhas, Prabu Dayal, Surinder Kumar, Advocate Mithun Bhagat and Advocate Shubam.

NAUP criticises Union Govt for growing unemployment in J&K UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Awami United Party (NAUP) criticised Union Government for growing unemployment in the J&K UT in the absence of any employment policy for the youth.

NAUP provincial president Uttam Chand said that Jammu has not received any real benefits after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. Meaningful gains should be transferred to Jammuites as already jobs and resources cannot be given away to outsiders, he said. The political accountability is urgently required in J&K otherwise bureaucracy will remain uncontrollable, he said adding that Legislative Assembly is the need of hour. Rajesh Gandotra Provincial General Secretary and Nater Pal Distict President were also present on the occasion.

Various organisations condemn killings of Govt teachers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Various organizations condemned the killing of two government teachers Surinder Kour and Deepak Chand at Eidgah area of Srinagar and demanded action against terrorists.

Chairman United Kashmiri Sikhs Progressive Forum (UKSPF), Baldev Singh Raina, in an online meeting, condemned gruesome killings of teachers from minority community.

Singh appealed to the youth to understand the nefarious design of enemy and defeat them by maintaining communal harmony.

Singh on behalf of all the members of UKSPF extended his solidarity with the bereaved families in this hour of mourning and further prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and fortitude to the grief-stricken families.

Chief Spokesperson of UKSPF Sandeep Kour while addressing the press conference in Jammu stated that such

Rana asks political leadership to unitedly foil Pak designs of trampling harmony in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLA Devender Singh Rana on Friday gave a clarion call to mainstream political leadership to take a clear position on disturbing target killings in the Valley and stand united to foil the attempts of Pak designs of trampling communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir:

"Time has come to name and shame the rogue nation of Pakistan for unleashing terror regime in our land of Rishis and Sufis for her nefarious, inhuman and barbaric designs", Mr Rana told a gathering from Nagrota Assembly Constituency, which called on him here this morning, adding that enough is enough now.

He described the recent spell of target killings and terror mayhem as a matter of grave concern for the people who are yearning for peace, tranquility and progress of J&K that is undergoing the worst phase of



Former MLA Devender Singh Rana addressing a gathering.

its chequered history by the gun culture, which is alien to its glorious ethos. The open support from across the border cannot be condoned by giving any respectability to Pakistan, which should in fact be condemned unequivocally for holding to ransom the entire population of this country for furthering its vicious agenda. Therefore, the people in general and the political leadership and civil society in particular must rise against the scourge to restore back the pristine glory of the abode of sufism and spiritualism, he added.

Rana said peaceful co-existence and progress is subject to normalcy, which has been eluding in this part of the country due to intermittent acts of terror violence. This calls for a firm and united political approach by rising above the party affiliations to isolate those believing in violence in achieving political objectives. An onerous responsibility is cast upon the political leadership to call spade a spade and denounce violence in any manifestation, he maintained.

The former MLA referred to the recent killings in Srinagar

and said the perpetrators should be dealt with iron fists. They have trampled the culture of mutual co-existence which is blot on the glorious past of the Valley. And, the scale of condemnation by the locals and solidarity with the victim families stands testimony to their trust with peace and tranquility. This spirit is to be maintained and sustained to send a terse message to the terror regime and their mentors, he added.

"The time of issuing statements and ritual condemnation messages is now over; given the gravity of the situation", Rana said that a united fight has become imperative to meet the challenge, lest the monster of terror eats up the vitals of the inclusive society.

During his interaction, Rana expressed gratitude to the people for their unflinching support, assuring that he will always remain at their beck and call.