

Functioning of Horticulture Deptt in Ramban, Udhampur districts reviewed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Horticulture, Jammu Ram Savak on Tuesday reviewed the Horticulture activities and physical and financial achievements under Capex, UT and CSS schemes in Ramban & Udhampur during his visit to the twin Districts.

At the outset, the Chief Horticulture Officer, Ramban, Vaishno Kant Gupta presented an overview of the District and apprised about the achievements made by the department under different ongoing Horticulture developmental schemes for the uplift of the farming community.

The Director Horticulture Jammu, while reviewing the ongoing schemes, exhorted upon the field staff to serve the sacred department with zeal and dedication in their respective areas of operation and disseminate the developmental schemes of the depart-



Director Horticulture, Jammu Ram Savak chairing a meeting.

ment to the last possible farmer of the district. Threadbare discussion was held about the modalities for the betterment of the poor farmers and removal of the bottlenecks in the implementation of departmental schemes.

The Director Horticulture asked for fast pacing the development schemes and 100 percent achievement of set targets in the district. He also sought suggestions from the field functionaries for providing hassle free services to the farming community and to address complaints and griev-

ances in an effective manner.

Director Horticulture also inspected the developmental activities in the ACHD farm and issued on spot instructions to Farm Manager, ACHD Rajesh Dhar. He stressed on optimum utilization of farm land for production of quantitative and quality planting material of improved cultivars of proven performance.

Meanwhile, taking a review of the progress in the implementation of CAPEX & UT Centrally Sponsored Schemes in district Udhampur, the

Chief Horticulture Officer Udhampur, Salil Kumar Gupta informed the chair about the status of various works and details of physical and financial progress made under different Departmental Schemes.

The Director Horticulture impressed upon the officers to expedite the works undertaken for the development of the departmental nurseries and achieve the targets set for different schemes by ending December 2021 to incur full expenditure well in time. He emphasised on promotion of the Horticulture Profession and facilitating a shift from Traditional Horticulture to Smart Horticulture by adopting the latest innovations like Modified High Density Plantation, Strawberry cultivation, Micro-irrigation technologies, Protected Cultivation techniques, Organic farming and Mechanization.

SMVD College of Nursing holds 41st GB meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 41st meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held here today. The meeting chaired by Maj Gen S K Sharma (Retd), Chairman, SMVDCoN, Governing Body and Member Shrine Board; was attended by Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Dr V Verma, Dean, SMVDU; Dr Sunil Sharma, Joint CEO of Shrine Board and Administrator of SMVDCoN, and; Dr Shailla Cannie, Principal SMVDCoN.

During meeting appraisals of the functioning of the College and way forward for developing this institution as a centre of excellence for providing top quality nursing education to the students were deliberated. The GB observed



Chairman, SMVDCoN, Maj Gen S K Sharma (Retd) chairing Governing Body meeting.

that COVID-19 pandemic has re-affirmed the importance of an adequate number of qualified and skilled human resources in health. Keeping in view the heightened demand for medical professionals, a proposal for enhancement of seats from 60 to 80 for B.Sc (Nursing) programme was placed before the GB. While taking a holistic view, it was decided that the same shall be done in a phased manner after taking comprehensive review of all aspects. Besides, the GB took stock of the con-

struction of additional infrastructure and faculty required for upgradation.

The meeting also reviewed the pace of construction of the link road to the various buildings planned for the college and other infrastructure and expressed satisfaction. The GB was informed that the infrastructure will come up as per the envisaged timelines in sync with the emerging requirements.

The GB while reviewing the progress on 100% placement of passed out students being undertaken

by the Placement Cell of the SMVDCoN showed their satisfaction and reiterated to continue a robust mechanism of campus placement so that maximum number of students of the college find job placements in the renowned health institutions within and outside the country.

The GB also underscored the need for completing all the required pre-placement activities in future strictly as per the envisaged timelines.

Other matters that came up for discussion in the meeting included the community programs / community-based study projects by the SMVDCoN students included Immunization Day, International Nursing Day, National Nutrition Day and World Heart Day etc. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

NEET Topper Tanmay Gupta honoured by SKJAVS Trust



SKJAVS Trust members felicitating NEET topper, Tanmay Gupta.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan (SKJAVS) Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri honoured NEET topper, Tanmay Gupta and presented a Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, memento and Certificate to him for the highest percentage in the NEET Exam and topped the exam 2021 in all over India.

Trust president Mahant Rohit Shastri said Tanmay

Gupta, who is 18 year old from Jammu, Gandhi nagar has created history by becoming the first from Jammu and Kashmir to be the national topper of NEET 2021.

He scored the perfect 720 out of 720 marks and secured All India Rank 1st amongst more than 16 lakh students who appeared in national-level test on September 12th, 2021 Mahant Rohit Shastri said and also congratulated Tanmay's parents, Dr Akshay

Gupta and Dr. Shivali Gupta for grooming him to this level and allowing him to spread his wings by getting him more competitive environment.

Shastri also asked the teachers and parents to provide conducive atmosphere to all the children of J&K for their overall development. Mahant Rohit Shastri congratulated the Tanmay Gupta and urged to all students to have a proper direction in life, as only when one has a direction, one can fulfill his/her goal.

He also asked the Tanmay Gupta to try to take small steps towards their goals everyday to lead to bigger achievements.

Trust General Secretary Parbodi Gupta, Jagdev Singh Chib, Rajeshwar Shastri, Vijay Shastri, Naresh Shastri, Uttam Sharma and Rakesh Gandotra were also present.

Jammu's Major Poonam Sharma shines at Mrs India International Queen 2021 contest



Daughter of the soil, Major Poonam Sharma receiving award money during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The daughter of the soil, Major Poonam Sharma has brought laurels to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in general and Jammu in particular by becoming second Runners-up at Mrs India International Queen 2021 contest, the grand finale of which was held on November 7, 8, and 9 at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi.

Pertinent to mention here that Mrs India International Queen contest is India's biggest and best beauty pageant for married women. Poonam Sharma is presently serving as a Major in Indian Army and her husband Atul Sharma is a Squadron leader. Hailing from Bhour

camp in Chatha, Jammu, Poonam is daughter of proud parents Om Parkash Sharma and Chanchal Sharma.

This year, the title of Mrs India International Queen 2021 went to Dr Jyotsana Chadha (PT) from Gurugram, who was presenting a cash prize of INR 1 Lakh while Shipra Sharma from United Kingdom emerged as first Runner-Up and won a cash prize of INR 50,000. Major Poonam Sharma from Jammu became 2nd Runner-Up thereby bringing home a cash reward of

INR 25,000.

The grand pageant was judged by Rohit Khandelwal- Mr. World 2016, Adline Castellino- Miss Universe 2020- 3rd Runner-Up, Ankita Saroha- Director of India International Queen, Manju Upadhyay- Winner of Classic Mrs India International Queen 2020, Amrit Kaur- Classic Mrs India International Queen 2020 2nd Runner-Up, Pooja Gangyan- Mrs India International Queen 2020 1st Runner-Up, Dr Nita Hazarika- Mrs India International Queen 2020 2nd Runner-Up, Sonali Sherry- Celebrity Makeup Artist and Tarun Choudhary- Director of Shiv Med Private Limited.

HC upholds PSA of two

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The J&K High Court upheld the detention of Nazir Ahmed Wani and Bahsir Ahmed Wani passed by District Magistrate Kupwara.

Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed the petitions with the observations that there is no merit in the petitions.

While upholding the detention order, Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that the detaining authority has clearly stated that it has analysed in detail the police dossier as also the other facts and circumstances which have been elaborated in the grounds of detention and the documents annexed with the grounds of detention. It is on this basis that the detaining authority has come to a conclusion that the petitioner is involved in activities inimical to the security of the State and, as such, it has become imperative to detain him under the provisions of Public Safety Act.

Sadhotra seeks enhanced compensation to farmers for crop loss



Senior NC leader, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra addressing a convention.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: It is really sad and unfortunate that even after passage of 22 days of crop loss due to heavy rains and hailstorm in Jammu, Govt has failed to deliver compensation to suffering Kisans. It has exposed BJP Govt's anti-Kisan mindset and insensitivity towards problems of Kisans. It was stated by former Minister and Senior National Conference leader, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra while addressing a daylong convention of delegates and prominent workers of Mandal Block at Sum, held under chairmanship of local leader Pt

Pardeep Sharma.

Speaking further, Sadhotra said that earlier it was told that compensation at a rate of Rs 600 per Kanal will be provided to farmers, but no measure in this regard has been taken till date.

"Further, providing compensation a rate of Rs 600 per Kanal for huge losses is nothing but a cruel joke with the farmers who are already suffering a lot. Keeping in view the quantum of losses, com-

penation at the rate of at least Rs 1,800 per Kanal should be provided to the farmers enabling them to cultivate next crop without any problem," he added.

Rahgbir Singh, newly appointed President (Rural) was also felicitated on the occasion. Singh assured the senior leadership and other colleagues that he shall work hard to further strengthen the party besides taking programmes and policies of party to every doorstep in J&K.

Subedar Kartar Chand, Pawan Singh and Mohinder Pal joined the party, who were welcomed by the senior leaders. Others who spoke on the occasion included Pardeep Sharma, Bishan Dass Bhagat, Khajur Raj Bhagat, Charan Dass Bhagat, Ch Ajit Lal, Baldev Raj, Sat Pal and Lajpat.

JTC holds protest in support of demands



JTC members and residents during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Highlighting their demands and grievances, a number of activists of Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front J&K (SKFJK) held a protest on Tuesday at Nagrota under the leadership of its President, Shadi Lal Pandita.

Pandita said that member of Kashmiri Pandit community are suffering a lot due to numerous reasons while high inflation has further added to their woes. He urged the Government to increase monthly cash relief from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per family per month immediately so that poor people can have a sigh of relief.

Others demands highlighted included announcing a package

of Rs 20,000 for unemployed youth of KP migrants, providing at least one job to each household, establishing three satellite townships in Kashmir Valley, granting ex-gratia for huge losses faced by KPs, providing compensation to over-aged youths, removing illegal occupation of land, properties and religious places in Valley, providing political reservation and minority status to Kashmiri Pandits etc.

Shuban Raina, Rakesh Ambardar, Vijay Bakshi, Vinod Bhat, Raj Kumar Bhat, S L Kar, Mithan Pandita, O N Raina, Ram Krishan, Satish Pandita, Surinder Zutshi, Om Prakash Mahajan, Charanjeet Singh, Gurmeet Singh, G A Khan, Ab Rahman Dar and Javid Ahmad.

BSS Panjgrain distributes clothes among border dwellers at Suchetgarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The J&K branch of Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS) today distributed woolen clothes among the needy persons at the border village of Suchetgarh in Jammu with the help of BSF officials.

The clothes were distributed to the needy persons by Swami Bhaskarananda Assistant Secretary BS Kolkata-International Head Office, Swami Satyamitrananda Secretary of Jammu Branch, Swami Tyagabratnanda Secretary of Diamond Harbour Branch, West Bengal, Swami Jayanathananda Secretary of Puskar Branch, Rajasthan in presence of BSF Commandant 36 Bn, Deputy Commandant, Pardeep Malik and Assistant Commandant, Jaswant Singh and other prominent persons of the area.

BSF Commandant said that the initiative for providing winter clothing to poor and needy sections of the



BSS members and BSF officials distributing clothes among border dwellers.

society especially border dwellers and other activities of BSS highlight and reinvigorate our ethical traditions and serve as a guiding force for the betterment of humanity. BSF Commandant appealed to the Sangha to continue its humanitarian services for the disadvantaged sections of the society.

Swami Satyamitranandaji Maharaj, Incharge BSS JK UT also highlighted activities of the organization in his address. He said following the ideology of its great founder

Pramanandaji Maharaj, BSS have been carrying out various campaigns at their level to distribute warm clothes among the needy people every year.

Meanwhile, Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association members honoured BSS members for their noble initiatives for the welfare of poor and needy persons. Association members present on the occasion Sangra Chief Patron, Shashi Sharma President, D.K Chanhuan General Secretary and Noor Muhammad.

Kashmir-a safe haven for fake drug trade

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: Citizens of India can choose any kind of business for their livelihood as it is their fundamental right, which has been guaranteed by Constitution of India but deadly trade like selling fake medicines is neither approved legally nor by any religious institution. The pace, at which the trade is flourishing, especially in Kashmir, is really a cause of major concern. According to media reports, the European Alliance for Access to Safe Medicines has discovered relatively recently that counterfeit versions of lifesaving prescription medicines for cancer and serious cardiovascular diseases are also being sold to consumers online.

Developing and under-developing countries are an obvious target for counterfeiters, because cost of genuine drugs may be beyond reach of much of the population and legal controls are often weak. Analysts say that business of spurious drugs is not a new to world as it persists throughout the decades.

The trade of fake and poisonous drugs has a strong grip on Asian Countries particularly in China, Pakistan, and India. In India, J&K has become a paradise of this illicit and counterfeiting trade, and in J&K, Kashmir is the nucleus of the trade of spurious medication. Various surveys, calculations and figures were

given out by J&K Drug and Control organization, showing that out of total counterfeit medicines, 81 per cent are found in Kashmir, which shows that Kashmir is ahead in this trade and a safe abode for its promoters.

It seems there is a strong nexus between the drug mafia and shoddy pharma units that pump huge quantities of these drugs in the valley. There is a Medical Supplies Corporation in JK to control supply of fake drugs but it has lost its significance because it failed miserably to prevent illicit supply. The tenders to supply medicine to Government hospitals are given to those companies who offer large supply at meager rates consequently, other companies having Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate GMP fail to get tender because they are unable to minimise rates of quality medicines.

The shelves of every chemist are full of fake and poisonous drugs but nobody dares to speak against them. People are in a dilemma and with administration to investigate the matter so that culprits, who play with the lives of people, are put behind the bars. Tenders for supply of medicines to Government hospitals should be given only to GMP certificate holders. Overall, it is a matter of health and wellbeing so there should be no compromise.

Under this order, the DGP has sanctioned Rs 12000 each in favour of four wards of serving police personnel who have excelled in masters degree examinations. Similarly Rs 8500 each has been sanctioned in favour of five wards of serving police personnel who have secured good percentage in graduation level examinations. The amount has been sanctioned out of the Central Police Welfare fund.

Pertinent to mention here that during the current year, the DGP has sanctioned around Rs 1.6 crore in favour of meritorious wards of Police personnel/SPOs.

The meritorious scholarship is aimed to promote the merit and instill the spirit of competition among the wards of police personnel. The meritorious scholarship schemes of Jammu and Kashmir Police include scholarships for wards of serving, deceased and martyred police personnel and SPOs for class 10th & 12th. Special reward is also given to the students who perform exceptionally well at college/universities and technical courses level examinations. Rewards are also given to the wards who crack competitive exams like UPSC, JKPSC, NEET, NET, CSIR etc.