

J&K Bank contributes 77 pc of total agricultural lending in UT: MD

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SRINAGAR: For agricultural sector, improved credit outreach is one of the biggest enablers for achieving higher productivity and sustainable growth. In this regard, the massive push for KCC saturation and efforts to cover all the eligible farmers under the governments' nudge have provided a fertile ground for the banks and other stakeholders to take the financial inclusion to next level by using the credit history and data of the farmers for enhanced credit outreach and expeditious delivery.

J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash made these remarks on Thursday at India International Agro Trade & Technology Fair - Agro World 2022 - a premier three-day event organised by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) at Pusa Campus of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Secretary, Agricultural &



J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash visiting a stall.

Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce & Industry Dr Sudhanshu, Chairman ICFA Dr M J Khan, Co-founder Omnivores Ventures Jinesh Shah, COO National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) Aleen Mukherjee, President Roman Forum Rome Dr Maharaj Mathoo, Dean Imperial School of Agri Business (ISAB) Dr Rahul Pandey and Vice-Chancellor D Y Patil University Dr Prathapan.

Landing ICFA to bring the

world of agriculture - policy-makers, Industry leaders, Summit of states and Global business dialogue, Agri Startups Ecosystem, Agribusiness and FPOs conventions etc - on one platform, Baldev Prakash said, "The integration of farmers to the global best practices - aided by the advanced technologies, better services and farmer-industry partnerships - is the recipe for accelerating the growth. J&K Bank, being a major stakeholder in the Agri/horticulture-based economy of JK & Ladakh UTs, is also ready to join hands with the

Chamber for brainstorming of this scale and vision that I firmly believe is the way forward for doubling the farmers' income as per the vision of our Minister."

Speaking on the theme 'Better Credit Outreach for Better Agriculture', Baldev Prakash spoke about the leading and pro-active role of J&K Bank in transforming the agro-economy of J&K and Ladakh in terms of financial intermediation critical to ensure the UT's steady progress towards becoming a rich agricultural economy. "One of the success stories have been the J&K Bank's transformative Apple Project with farmers' empowerment at its core that was undertaken on a mission-mode basis across the UT.

He said with total exposure of Rs 8,944 Crores in Agriculture Sector, I feel happy to say that J&K Bank contributes 77% of the total agricultural lending in UT of J&K". He said while adding, "But there is still a

long way to go and this is where such summits can play the role as catalyst for sharing the best practices and success models of other states/UTs and with important stakeholders so as to allow cross pollination of ideas in order to attract investments, create linkages and partnerships for pushing overall growth."

Later on during India Agri-Business Awards - 2022 at 5th India Agri-Business Summit 2022, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash joined the high-profile dignitaries' panel that included MoS for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Dr Sanjeev Balyan, Ambassador of Serbia Sinisa Pavic, Member of NITI Aayog Dr Ramesh Chand and Haryana Agriculture Minister J P Dalal. Pertinently, a few dignitaries also visited the Bank's stall established to showcase an array of banking products for farmers, Agri-business, Agri-startups and other related activities.



Dr Jitendra launches India's first National Life Science Data Centre



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after dedicating to the nation 'Indian Life Science/Biological Data Centre' at Faridabad, Haryana on Thursday.

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FARIDABAD: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday dedicated to the nation India's first-ever National Repository for Life Science data-Indian Biological Data Centre' (IBDC).

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is ushering in a new era of disease study and disease management. "Indian data for Indian diseases and Indian treatment regimen for Indian patients" is the dictum. In the times to come, this data bank can also help in carrying out specific gene interventions for management and more importantly, for prevention of Metabolic Disorders like Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus which are now occurring in younger age groups, he said.

As per the Biotech-Pride guidelines of the Government of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly-funded research in India.

Supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), it has been established at Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad with a data

'Disaster Recovery' site at National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneswar.

It has a data storage capacity of about 4 petabytes and houses the 'Brahm' High Performance Computing (HPC) facility. The computational infrastructure at IBDC is also made available for researchers interested in performing computational-intensive analysis. Users can contact the data center by submitting their requests at support@ibdc.res.in.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that IBDC has started nucleotide data submission services via two data portals viz. the 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive (INDA)' and 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive - Controlled Access (INDACA)' and has accumulated over 200 billion bases from 2,08,055 submissions from more than 50 research labs across India.

It also hosts an online 'Dashboard' for the genomic surveillance data generated by the INSACOG labs (https://inda.res.ac.in/insacog/statisticsinsacog). The dashboard provides customized data submission, access, data analysis services, and real-time SARS-CoV-2

variant monitoring across India. Data submission and access portals for other data types are under development and would be launched shortly.

Fundamentally, IBDC is committed to the spirit of data sharing as per FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles. IBDC is being developed in a modular fashion wherein different sections would typically deal with particular type/s of life science data.

The computational infrastructure at IBDC is also made available for researchers interested in performing computational intensive analysis. Users can contact the data center by submitting their requests at support@ibdc.res.in. Further, IBDC conducts regular workshops and orientations (https://ibdc.res.in/news-and-announcement/) to assist users in submitting the data. Video tutorials for data submission to IBDC are also available at the data center website. The data center team can also be contacted at support@ibdc.res.in for scheduling of any workshop on data submission/analysis.

Warm ties between JMC & traders good for Jammu: CCI



President CCI Jammu, Arun Gupta speaking during interaction meeting with JMC Mayor and Dy Mayor on Thursday.

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JAMMU: Good relationship between Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and trader fraternity is a must for ensuring congenial atmosphere and betterment of society as whole in Jammu.

At the outset, Arun Gupta, President CCI during the interaction with Mayor Rajinder Sharma and Dy. Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria at Chamber House stated that there are certain issues which need kind attention of JMC authorities.

At present whole Jammu City is beautified by constructing footpaths only due to which there is heavy congestion thus creating lot of problems rather than providing any help or relief to the public / traders of

those areas.

Gupta further stated that in the areas where footpaths are constructed actually there is need of plantation to make those areas more beautiful.

Arun Gupta said that it was observed that during the JMC officials' drive in the old city areas, they were in the practice of lifting the items of various traders, shopkeepers which one believe is not in good taste and when we look at the old cities of northern states there are no such drives exists by their respective Municipal corporations.

We always believe and expect a conducive atmosphere for our traders to work, who are the backbone of our economy but these types of practices by the municipal corporation

only discourages our traders.

Regarding Smart parking, Arun Gupta said that we don't think that there is any need of providing such type of parking as on today nowhere in northern states such type of parking exists.

Arun also said it is imperative to mention that at present Dengu cases have spread all over Jammu and there is dire need to intensify fog drive to handle the current situation.

Arun Gupta however appreciated the civic body for taking proactive steps to beautify the city of temples and also for ensuring extreme levels of cleanliness at all the markets and residential colonies. He said that Jammu will soon find a slot in the top list of cleanest cities in the country as JMC has been doing

exemplary job in ensuring neatness and serenity. Earlier, CCI General Secretary Gaurav Gupta presented a welcome address and anticipated that the change in guard in JMC would act as a bridge between traders and the government, while ensuring progress in the efforts taken up by the civic body to make Jammu a better place to live.

Mayor Rajinder Sharma while responding to the demand of the CCI head, said that there is no valid reason for any kind of confrontation between JMC and the business class as both are interdependent on each other to ensure good for Jammu and its people. He said that JMC is looking forward to rope in business class for picking up the pace of development

in the region through all kinds of help which the traders and industrialists can offer. He also said that we are on the job of making our corporation corruption free and if anybody is found involved in such type of activities, his place is either in Jammu District Jail at Amphalla or in Kot Balwal Jail. He further said that we will honestly work with the active cooperation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu.

Deputy Mayor batted for holding threadbare deliberations to remove grudges and ensure better ties between the two entities claiming that it is a must for the good of Jammu and its population. The vote of thanks was presented by the Vice President Rajeev Gupta, who said that the traders body has high hopes in the leadership of the new mayor and deputy Mayor.

Those prominent persons who were present in the function include Rajesh Gupta, Secretary, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer, Shiv Partap Gupta, Jagdish Langer, Ravinder Sawhney, Balbir Gupta and others.

Secy Mining invites Global Mineral Business Developers to invest in J&K

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NAGPUR: Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma, has invited Global Mineral Developers to invest in Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing two-day International Conference and Exhibition on Mineral Business Development, 2022 organised at Nagpur: The theme of this mega event was "Prospects and Challenges of Mineral Based Products and Utilization of Wastes for the Make in India Initiative". Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, also extended his wishes through a special video message to the visiting delegates and organisers



Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma speaking at International Conference and Exhibition on Mineral Business Development, 2022 at Nagpur.

Mineral Information & Development Center (MIDC), India who have collaborated with Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), India and Vidarbha Economic Development Council (VED), India who have organised this

mega international event in his constituency Nagpur.

While attending the inaugural session of this international conference as a guest of honour, Amit Sharma shared the success story of J&K created in past couple of years wherein

mining and Mineral Exploration sectors have touched new heights. He invited all prospective Global players

to invest in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir while elaborating on ample underlying scope for strategic minerals there. Several global players assured that they will come to J&K soon while mentioning their areas of interest and specialisation. During his keynote address, Amit Sharma gave a detailed presentation on the mining and mineral wealth in J&K and shared district-wise scope for different mineral availability such as Lithium, Bauxite, Limestone, Gypsum, Marble, Lignite, Graphite and

Quartzite. Secretary also disclosed that a rare precious gem Sapphire is being extracted in Padder area of Jammu division which is having an excellent quality. He added that the coal mines located in Kalakote area of Jammu have been provisioning top quality anthracite coal over last many years.

The delegates showed lot of interest in exploring the mineral wealth of J&K after this eye-opening presentation on opportunities for mineral based industries in J&K by Secretary Mining.

Sufi teachings are all inclusive and this inclusiveness is guarantee for peace: Dr Darakhshan

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KISHTWAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday visited Kishtwar and took part in Annual Urs celebrations at the shrine of Peer Syed Shah Asraruddin (RA).

On reaching Kishtwar yesterday Dr Andrabi took a meeting of J&K Waqf Board management late at night to review the arrangements related to the Urs.

She also held meetings with the Deputy Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats & Administrator of Waqf in Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani, SSP Kishtwar Shaftaq Hussain and DySP Ashish Gupta regarding the shrines management and the implementation of accountability measures of Waqf in the region.

Dr. Andrabi, accompanied by Chief Executive Officer of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Maajid Jehangir paid obeisance at the shrine of great sufi saint Shah Asraruddin (RA) and presented the Chadder on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the shrine.

She prayed for the peace and prosperity of the people of J&K and the whole nation.

Waqf Board Chairperson spoke to media and said that Waqf assets have been misused to a huge extend in the past and soon we will come out with a records-based report regarding the embe-



Chairperson JKWB, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi talking to reporters.

zement, encroachment and misuse of public assets and funds of Waqf during past many decades. "After the reports are completed, legal action will be initiated against all those who have been instrumental in looting Waqf properties for personal or political gains. No one involved will be spared", said Dr Andrabi. She added that Sufi teachings were aimed at welfare and benefit of all without the division of caste, creed and faith and this inclusiveness was the guarantee for peace.

"Radical & separatist elements need to be isolated so that we are able to live in a sustainable cordial, harmonious and peaceful atmosphere in J&K which has suffered a lot during the past more than three decades", said Dr Andrabi.

ADG Rajinder Chaudhry visits CBC J&K's exhibition on AKAM at Jhiri Mela



ADG, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry visiting CBC's 'Multimedia Exhibition' at Jhiri in Jammu.

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JAMMU: Additional Director General (ADG) , Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry on Thursday visited the five-day 'Multimedia Exhibition' organized by Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India at Jhiri, Jammu on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).

The exhibition is being organized by CBC, J&K alongside 10-day-long annual 'Jhiri Mela' after a two-year gap due to the pandemic with thousands of devotees from across the country thronging the fair to seek blessings at Baba Jittoo temple.

Speaking during the visit, Chaudhry said that the aim of the 'Multimedia Exhibition' is to generate awareness among the masses regarding various initiatives & welfare programmes of Government of India. It is an effort to familiarize people with the objective and vision behind 'Amrit Mahotsav', and how people can be a part of the campaign, Chaudhry added.

Today students from different schools and colleges, ICDS workers, PRIs, Asha

Workers, devotees and locals visited the 'Multimedia Exhibition' in large numbers.

Besides officials of civil administration, SDM Marh, Rajiv Khajuria, Joint Director CBC J&K, Ladakh Region, Ghulam Abbas, Assistant Director, AIR, Jammu, Nayeem Gulshan Raina and News Editor, AIR Jammu, Naseer Ahmad Rather today visited the exhibition.

The 'Multimedia Exhibition' showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of 'Photo Exhibits' as well as audio visual medium.

Apart from this, special section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 Years of Seva Sushasan-Garib Kalyan, wherein the achievements of the government across various sectors in the last 8 years including in Jammu and Kashmir have been highlighted. Separate corner for Azadi Quest-recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj- 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the Exhibition display.