

Workshop held on Floriculture Mission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A workshop on Floriculture Mission was organized in Jammu on Monday to trap local production of loose flowers, having a huge market worth of approximately Rs 20 crore annually under the guidance of Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, IHBT Palampur, CSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay informed participants that his institute is ready to support commercial floriculture in Jammu to trap local production of flowers by providing all viable support. K K Sharma, Director Agriculture highlighted various schemes under J&K Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department for



A dignitary speaking at a workshop.

doubling farmers income. Sunil Singh, Joint Director Floriculture welcomed initiatives of IHBT Palampur for distribution of necessary material with training to flower growers. Tejinder Singh Wazir, President Jammu Flowers Cooperatives Ltd expressed gratitude to CSIR IHBT Palampur and Floriculture Department for such joint

ventures aimed to transfer technology from lab to land.

On the occasion, scientists from IHBT Palampur Vikas Soni, Ankush Bajaj and Gurpreet Singh provided live training on different aspects of commercial floriculture.

Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Vijay Upadhyay joined the meeting through virtual mode.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BSF and CISF aspirants on Monday held a protest demanding job in paramilitary personnel forces. The protesters, who have cleared all the rounds required to obtain the job, have accused the BJP of "deceiving" them with false assurances.

The protesting students have also raised serious allegations against Union Minister and BJP leadership saying that Union Minister last year had promised to increase the vacancies.

When the notification for the recruitment of 1,356 constables in BSF and CISF was issued in 2018, lakhs of aspirants from Jammu and Kashmir had applied for the posts. In February 2021, the final list of the selected candidates was rolled out for

BSF, CISF aspirants demand Govt job



BSF and CISF aspirants raising slogans during a protest.

only 1,356 candidates instead of the assured added 2,000 posts, they said.

"No one has paid heed to their genuine demands. The BJP has only deceived them with false assurances. Following the issuance of notification for the recruitment of 1356 constables in CISF and BSF in 2018, several thousands of aspirants

from J&K had applied for the posts. When the aspirants raised their voice to increase the number of advertised posts, the BJP leadership assured the aspirants if they voted in favour of BJP in DDC elections the Govt would further add 2,000 posts to the existing vacancies. But nothing of that sort happened", protest-

ers said.

"We had been waiting for their selection for the last three years despite completed all the rounds of recruitment process," they said and urged the Union as well as J&K government to provide joining order to them at the earliest otherwise all the aspirants to intensify the agitation.

NNK presents play 'Ghalib at Quarantine'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natraj Natya Kunj (NNK) Jammu presented a play 'Ghalib at Quarantine' at NNK Studio, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on Monday. Written and directed by young director Roheet Verma, the play revolves around a character, who got stuck at some place amid COVID crisis and sudden lockdown.

Being got stuck for long time, he relates himself to Mirza Ghalib who got stuck in a similar way at 1857. He enacts his poetries, his letters and his life-incidents to pass his time.

The play shares some interesting facts about Ghalib and his attachment to Delhi. The play

shows Ghalib's journey in the most aesthetic and engaging way and was designed in such a way that it depicts era of Mirza Ghalib. Character of Mirza Ghalib was wonderfully enacted by Balwinder Singh while music was given by the Director himself. Set of the play was designed by Meenakshi Thakur while costumes were designed by Anu Thakur.

Production was managed by Garima Chopra and Kiran Salaria while lights were designed and executed by Shazi Khan and Aaditya Bharti. The singers included Aayush Trakroo and Shobhna Sharma while Nitish Kumar was Rhythmist.

NDS organises e-Dogri Kavi Goshti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised 40th digital an "e-Dogri Kavi Goshti" wherein Eight Poets and Seven Poetesses recited their poetry on varied subjects like Lohri , Social Evils , Romance , Environment and Patriotism.

Well known Dogri, Hindi and Urdu poetess Kusum Sharma "Antra" presided over the proceedings whereas Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS and Yash Paul Yash General Secretary Nami Dogri Sanstha organised and supervised the Goshti.

Dogri and Hindi poet and Executive Member NDS Dr. Sushil Bhola conducted the proceedings in his unique poetic style.

Poets who participated were Madan Lal Sharma, Neelam Verma Mehotra, Arun Sharma Banathia, Sudershan Kumari "Darshi", Shambu Ram Pyasa, Sunita Sharma, Tarsem Mahajan, Sumaina Kaila, B.S Jamwal, Dr. Sushil Bhola, Jatinder Jolly, Usha Kiran "Kiran", Joginder Singh and Kusum Sharma "Antra".

Kusum Sharma "Antra" in her presidential address said that it is heartening that even in the current pandemic conditions the NDS is continuing its Literary endeavours and bringing the literary community on board. She complimented

NDS and the participating poets for a successful quality poetic Meet.

Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila said that writers and poets always enlighten and show mirror to the society which is important for growth and mental health of the society.

Dr. Sushil Bhola appealed that the inhabitants especially the youth of Duggar should read the Dogri Literature and Rich Dogra History to know the insight of Dogra Culture and ethos of Duggar.

Those who listened and appreciated were Prof. Anupama Sharma Patron Youth Wing NDS , Aradhana Sharma , Bachan Bhagat , Rohit Choudhary , Nidhi Kaila Choudhary , Kulbhushan Singh Jamwal , Wing Commander Dr. Deepak C Dogra , Group Captain Dupinder Singh , Sanjeev Sharma , Sanjeev Gupta Sagar , K.D.Koul Mehboob , R.K Uppal , Ram Paul Dogra , Daleep Singh Blowaria , Ravi Khajuria , Dr.Kamal Sharma , Arun Khajuria , Surinder Bindi Aala , Surinder Singh Manhas and Sunil Sharma Bishan Singh Dardi , Vinod Bajaj and Neelam Sharma.

Dr. Chanchal Sharma upcoming poetess of Dogri and Organising Secretary of NDS extended vote of thanks.

BJP striving to transform people's dreams into reality: Sham Langar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Convenor Industries and Trade Cell BJP, Sham Lal Langer on Monday asserted that the saffron party is striving hard to transform people's dream into reality as many revolutionary steps have already been taken in J&K to satiate aspirations of inhabitants of the UT.

In a statement issued to media persons, Sham Langar said that people are so much contented with the working of BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi that they are appreciating the approach and working methodology through which their issues and problems are being addressed with exemplary ease. He said that the steps which the Modi gov-

ernment has taken in the Union Territory are unprecedented and have transformed the region from a sordid and disturbed territory into a place which is the most happening one in the country as development as never before is being witnessed here without any discrimination on the basis of region, which the people confronted here since independence.

"AIMS, IIT, IIM, and other bonanzas speak volumes about BJP government's feat in the J&K UT and therefore people should support the saffron party for a complete change-over as the approach adopted by other parties in the past was pessimistic which led

Traffic Cop helps differently-abled man to cross Road

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With winter in full, most of us have arranged heating gloves, warm jackets etc and try every measures to protect ourselves from cold waves but traffic police spend hours under the relentless cold. In a moving display of humanity, HC Pran Nath and Sgts Ravinder Kumar posted at TCP Nagrota, Sgts Ravinder Kumar picked up the pedestrian in their arms, who is differently abled, to cross the road at most busy junction of Jammu city i.e. TCP Bypass Nagrota.

"Salute to our Jammu traffic police, glaring example for others to follow," said RR Ridhan a pedestrian.

"There are still some values left," said Sunil Sharma, a Dhabba owner at Nagrota.

'Universal health insurance PMJAY SEHAT scheme provides ray of hope to ailing poor across J&K'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jyoti Devi, a 40-year-old woman from Bari Brahmana, Samba district Jammu and Kashmir has extended her gratitude to the Government for providing assistance for her treatment under the PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Narrating her ordeals, she said a few months back a fatal road accident landed her in the hospital with a fractured leg. The mishap shook her whole family as they knew they could not bear the treatment cost.

"The doctors at the hospital said that the estimated cost of the treatment was around Rs 50 thousand. My husband is a tailor and it was beyond his reach to meet the expenses," Jyoti said as tears rolled down her eyes.

"Somehow we come to know about the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) which came as a ray of hope for the family" she said.

For specialized treatment, they went to Pathankot, 100 kilometers from their residence and took the treatment under PMAY SEHAT card free of cost. "It was not less than a miracle," she said.

Jyoti said, "SEHAT card helped us a lot, as our financial condition is not good. It was impossible without this scheme," she added.

Expressions of relief and joy were mirrored on Jyoti's face, the happiness in the family has returned back. The four-member family is now happy and urged people like them to get benefits from central sponsored schemes.

"From that day, I am spreading awareness among my relatives and neighbors regarding

the scheme. Now, most of the families have registered themselves for the PMJAY SEHAT and are getting benefits from it," she said.

Like Jyoti, there are many poor families who have received treatments under PMJAY scheme. The mission has brought happiness to many poor people. Now people are getting a treatment done at major hospitals of the country.

Ankush Kumar, a resident of R S Pura, Jammu says he was suffering from kidney problem and the doctors advised him for immediate surgery. "But the family was not in a condition to bear the costs. We are poor people as my father was a labourer who died last year; it became impossible for me to go for treatment" he said.

"Then I came to know about the AB-PMJAY, SEHAT scheme. I went to a private nursing home at Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The treatment cost was around 40 thousand rupees, and the same was done under the PMAY SEHAT card for free," he said.

"Now my health is good and I am doing a job in a factory at Gangyal and living happily with my family" he said with great satisfaction.

Kumar expressed gratitude to the central government and LG Manoj Sinha administration and stated that such schemes are the need of the hour and a ray of hope for poor families like him.

"The whole process takes a few days. All is done online. There are other schemes also for the poor people and people should take benefit from such schemes," he added.

As per official figures

around 29 Lakh beneficiaries have been registered so far in Jammu division. The Health Department has expedited the registration process as the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha has set the deadline for March 31, 2022 for completing the registration process.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlying commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."

The main aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir. SEHAT stands for Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine. It is a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.

It provides free-of-cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K. It also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis. This means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.

It covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc, and up to three days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses like diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.

Police plans to open part-time counselling centre for drug addicts in Reasi



SSP Reasi, Shailender Singh interacting with parents of drug addict children.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police is planning to open part-time counselling centres for drug addicts in Reasi district, a senior officer said on Monday, warning stern action including booking of narcotics peddlers under Public Safety Act to counter the menace.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Shailender Singh sought cooperation of the parents whose children have become drug addicts and said anyone willing to give up the drug abuse would be recommended to drug de-addiction centres for their rehabilitation in to the mainstream.

Police are working on a multi-pronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse among the youth. On the one hand 250 drug peddlers and abusers have been booked in 206 cases registered in the last nine months, on

the other hand, police are working on rehabilitation of the addicts so that they successfully shun the path of drug abuse, the officer said.

Singh was chairing an interaction between police officers and parents of addicted youth in the lawns of district police office Reasi. Family members of 30 addicted youth from across the district participated in the meeting and assured full cooperation to police.

Police are planning for the opening of a part time counselling centre for (drug) addicts in Reasi and parents should bring their children to attend counselling sessions, the SSP said.

He said to eradicate the drug menace from the society and to save the future generations the citizens should strengthen the anti-narcotics drive of police and must contribute in the war against drug peddlers. The drug addicts who are

ready to give up shall be recommended to de-addiction centres for their rehabilitation to mainstream, he said adding the drug peddlers involved in the dirty business should refrain from such type of activities otherwise they shall be dealt with more strictly under law and shall be booked under PSA in near future.

Describing drug abuse as a major challenge , the SSP said the addiction is a disease and the family members are the first to know about this problem.

"Without the support of family, police cannot eradicate the menace. So family members should come forward and join hands with police against drug abuse, he said.

A police spokesman said all parents expressed their willingness to join hands with law enforcement agencies and were enthusiastic to help children to come out of addiction.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCCL, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Patel Nagar, Hatli Morh, Shiva Nagar, Sarswati Nagar, Azad Puram, Krishna Colony, Hazi Colony, Karan Nagar shall remain affected on January 18 and 19 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Sawan Chak, Old Bus Stand shall remain affected on January 18 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jarai Chowk, Foot Bridge W No 10, W No11 and Old Bus Stand shall remain affected on January 19 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to DC Mohalla, Khalki Mandi, Upper Mandi, Shivalik Bal Niketan High School , Jatt Mohalla, PHE shall remain affected on January 18 and 19 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Chak Pullan, Lower Jagat Pure, Rajiyani shall remain affected on January 18 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Changran Ward No. 17, Chak Desa Singh, Manke Talab, Pratap Nagar shall remain affected on January 19 from 9 am to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Railway Road, SC Mohalla, Chak Ram Singh, Govindsar shall remain affected on January 18 from 9 am to 2 pm.

PCC condoles demise of mother of Shiv Dev Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has deeply condoled the sad demise of Dhan Devi, Mother of Th. Shiv Dev Singh, Ex-MLA. JKPC President G.A. Mir and other senior leaders expressed deep shock and grief over the sad demise and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Th. Shiv Dev Singh and other members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul in heaven. Prominent among those who condoled the death included Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, Ravinder

Sharma, Th. Balwan Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Mannohan Singh, Kanta Bhan, Hari Singh Chib, Ashok Sharma, G.L. Chalotra, Kuldeep Raj Verma, K.K. Pangotra, K.C Bhagat, Sanjeev Sharma, Pankaj Dogra, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Gurdarshan Singh, Shashi Sharma, Pawan Raina, Manjit Singh Jatt, Nanderinder Gupta, Sanjeev Panda, Karan Bhagat, Satish Sharma, Rajvir Singh, Suresh Dogra, Col. Swarn Singh, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria and Gurmeet Singh.

New Disinfection Technology to combat pandemic in railways, buses: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said here that CSIR's newly developed Disinfection technology is being installed to combat pandemic in railway coaches, AC buses, closed spaces etc.

The Minister informed that the UV-C technology developed by the Ministry of Science & Technology through CSIR-CSIO (Central Scientific Instruments Organisation) is totally effective for mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and will also remain relevant in post-COVID era. The technology

has been successfully tried in Railways, AC Buses and even the Parliament House and is now open for general roll-out for use by common masses, he said.

Dr Jitendra was speaking after releasing the CSIR Guidelines on Disinfection Technologies for Mitigation of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission.

However, Dr Singh cautioned that even after installation of this disinfection technology, everybody is advised to strictly adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour including use of face mask, maintaining social distance, avoiding crowds etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that CSIR will write to Election Commission of India for use of this technology during indoor meetings with limited capacity for the ensuing Assembly polls in 5 States in the wake of ban on physical rallies and roadshows for a specified period of time.

He said, UV-C air duct disinfection system can be used in auditoriums, large conference rooms, class-rooms, malls etc. which provides a relatively safer environment for indoor activities in the current pandemic.

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

(MoHUA) Manoj Joshi said on the occasion that CPWD will work along with CSIR for wider dissemination and adoption of UV-C air duct disinfection system in Government and Private Buildings.

A.K Malhotra, Executive Director, Railway Board informed that the UV-C Disinfection Technology has been successfully tested for one month in Railways coaches from Bandra to Chandigarh covering a distance of 1000 kilometres.

He said RDSO(Research Designs and Standards Organisation), Lucknow has recommended for the use of

this technology in all Railways coaches in a phased manner.

Amit Varadan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said that the UV technology was successfully used in AC Buses of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) and informed that his Ministry is eager to carry forward for all Passenger Transport Vehicles.

DG, CSIR, Shekhar C Mande, Dr Rajesh Gokhale and senior officials of CSIR Labs across the country joined the event in Hybrid Mode.