

Skill development programme on "Value Addition of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants" concludes at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The seven-day skill development programme on "Value Addition of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for health security and entrepreneurial opportunity" organized by Regional cum Facilitation Centre, Northern Region-II, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH, GoI under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir in collaboration with Department of Botany, University of Jammu concluded on Sunday.

The valedictory function started with the welcome address by Prof Susheel Verma, Head, Department of Botany, JU.

While welcoming all the guests, participants and others, he applauded the efforts of RCFC NR-II for collaborating with the Department



Imam Din, MD, J&K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation speaking at a programme in JU.

of Botany, JU and organizing this skill program in its premises.

Imam Din, Managing Director, J&K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, was the Chief Guest of the function. He appreciated the efforts of the programme in inculcating among the participants the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge about value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants for nutrition and health security, and raising start-ups.

Prof. Venu Kaul, the Coordinator of this programme, also highlighted the vital role of Medicinal and Aromatic plants endemic to Jammu and Kashmir for livelihood generation and health security and emphasized upon the significance of value addition in upskilling farmers and enhancing their income.

Twenty-five participants from the Department of Botany and School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu were the stakeholders.

A total of 17 lectures and two field visits comprised the 7-day skill development programme.

During this workshop, the resource persons from SKUAST-J, SKUAST-K, Central University of Jammu, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Jammu and Reasi), Horticulture and Handicrafts Department

(Kathua), Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (Jammu), CSIR-IIIM (Jammu), JK Entrepreneurship Development Institute and State/UT Medicinal Plants Board (Jammu) shared their expertise with the participants.

The programme motivated stakeholders to work towards setting up small entrepreneurial set ups and become job providers rather than job seekers.

Many of them have started thinking along those lines with few having prepared projects as conveyed by them in their feedback.

Dr. Geeta Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany and co-coordinator of this programme presented a formal vote of thanks. Hrishvi Manchanda, research scholar of Department of Botany, conducted the proceedings.

Vishwakarma Scheme empowering artisans: Keshav



Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra and others at registration camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra along with Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar organized PM Vishwakarma Yojna awareness and Registration Camp at Trilokpur in which a large number of women and youth were registered.

Keshav Chopra, while highlighting the benefits of Vishwakarma Scheme said that this scheme has been launched by the Central Government to uplift the Artisans, Craftsman.

Samvedna Society will continue organize these camps in future also so that maximum people can take advantage of it. Keshav added.

Omkar Verma, Anil Rakwal, Operator Vikas Kumar, Tilak Raj, Ratan Lal, Sandesh Kumar, Sushil Gupta, Priya Sharma, Deepak, Manoj and Ganesh Sharma were also present during the Camp.

JKOPA elects new office bearers



JKOPA office bearers during a meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: 14th Annual General Body Meeting / Election Meeting of J&K Offset Printers' Association (JKOPA) was held here on Sunday.

At the outset Avinish K. Anand, Gen. Secretary presented the minutes of the 13th AGM which were approved by the house and Rajneesh Kaushal, Finance Secretary also presented the annual accounts of the association under the Presidentship of Sudesh Gupta.

In the first session of the meeting many problems related to printing industry were discussed.

During the second session

the members were elected unanimously in absence of any nomination for the office bearers.

The new team elected unanimously comprises Pankaj Sethi as President, Rahul Mahajan as Senior Vice President, Avinish K. Anand as Vice President, Sanjay Kumar Soni as General Secretary, Rajneesh Koushal as Secretary, Kulku Ji Bhan as Finance Secretary and Nishant Chadha as Joint Secretary. The office bearers were declared elected by the Returning Officer Satish C. Jandiyal of JKOPA has announced the appointment of new office bearers for the term 2024-2026.

Newly elected team honoured

the ex Presidents Ravi Gupta, Arun K. Gupta, Sudesh Gupta and Girish Kapoor: President Pankaj Sethi also honoured Aamish K. Anand of A-Won Printers and Satish C. Jandiyal of Rohini Printing Industry for winning the awards during National Award for Excellency in Printing organised by All Indian Federation of Master Printers, New Delhi.

The newly elected president Pankaj Sethi, said that his team and he will endeavour to work honestly and diligently for the upliftment of the printing industry in the J&K State.

Calender for the year 2024 was also released by the Senior Members of the Association.

Randhawa leads cleanliness drive at Hari Ki Poudi ahead of Ram Temple Consecration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a spirit of devotion and service that resonates with the heart of every Hindu, Vikram Randhawa, senior BJP leader and former MLC today led a cleanliness drive at Hari Ki Poudi Bahu Fort here today.



Senior BJP leader, Vikram Randhawa and others at a cleanliness drive at Hari Ki Poudi Bahu Fort, Jammu.

This noble initiative, undertaken in the auspicious lead-up to the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, reflects a profound understanding of the importance of maintaining sacred spaces with utmost purity and respect.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa emphasized the significance of cleanliness at religious sites.

"Temples, as sanctuaries of faith, hold a special place in the hearts of every Sanatani. The Swachhata Sankalp Abhiyan, guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inspires us to ensure that these sacred

spaces are maintained with utmost devotion and respect", he stated.

"In Hinduism, the act of maintaining cleanliness in temples is considered a form of devotion. The cleanliness drives at religious places are not only a practical initiative but also a symbolic gesture of preparing the sacred space for the auspicious occasion of the Ram Temple consecration," he added.

The senior BJP leader expressed his gratitude to the volunteers, party members, and the local community for actively participating

in the cleanliness drive.

"The support and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved in this initiative are a testament to the shared commitment to preserving the sanctity of our religious sites. This drive is a reflection of our reverence for our cultural heritage," he added.

He said that the nationwide Swachhata Sankalp Abhiyan, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a call to action for citizens across the country to contribute to the cleanliness and beautification of religious sites.

Jammu Bar extends gratitude to LG for declaring public holiday on Jan 22

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ) expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the administration of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for declaring a public holiday in recognition of the 'Shri Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha' Celebration.

The occasion was the thoughtful recognition of sentiments associated with the celebration of 'Shri Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha' at Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. Presided over by President Vikram Sharma Sr. Advocate, the meeting witnessed the active participation of key figures, including Amit Gupta - Vice President, Parvesh Singh Salaria - General Secretary, Chetan Mishri - Joint Secretary, and Utkarsh Pathania - Treasurer. Other prominent members present at the meeting included Advocate Rakesh Sharma, Advocate Sudarshan Sharma, Advocate Ajay Singh Manhas, Advocate Jatinder Singh Tikken, Advocate Radha Sharma, Advocate Rohit Sharma Sr., Advocate Rajesh Lalotra, Advocate Rajesh Verma, Advocate Satinder Gupta, Advocate Amit Manhas, Additionally, advocates Rohit Sharma (President YLA) and Gagandeep Singh Lucky (Vice President YLA) were present, along with many others.

Each member conveyed their appreciation, emphasizing the significance of the administration's decision and also extended thanks to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for fostering an inclusive environment that upholds the diverse cultural and religious fabric of the region.

Shri Ram Pran Pritisha; DBPS organizes two days Hawan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two days Hawan was organised by Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) in connection with Bhagwan Shri Ram Pran Pratishtha programme in Ayodhya under the chairmanship of DBPS President Ved Parkash Sharma.

A religious function was organised in the premises of Sabha in which a large number of members/prominent citizens, social and religious activists participated. Senior BJP Leader Advocate Chander Mohan Sharma was the Chief Guest. Ved Parkash highlighted the sacrifices made by large number of Karsevaks for making this day a dream cum true.



DBPS members performing Hawan at Jammu on Sunday.

Senior member of the Sabha Advocate P.C. Sharma appealed the people to celebrate this day with more enthusiasm than Diwali since Bhagwan Ram has returned to his birth

place after 500 years.

Retd. Commissioner JMC Soujanya Sharma, B.S. Jamwal Ex. DC, Subash Shastri prominent Social activist and Youth President DBPS Ritiz

Khajuria appealed the people to celebrate this day with zeal and pray for the Ram Rajya to returned India.

Sabha Vice-President Verindar Mohan Magotra, N.C. Sharma, Satyanand Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Shiv Ram Sharma, Barita Ram Sharma, M.L Padha, Sunil Sharma, Gurdas Sharma, S.S. Baru, Sham Lal Mishra, K.L. Sharma, Prem Balotra, Som Nath, Girdhari Lal Sharma, Devinder Sharma (Baboo), Rajesh Bargartra, Satpal Sharma, Kanav Sharma, District President B.J.Y.M Raman Sharma and others also spoke on the occasion.

Shahnawaz appointed as National Secretary of AICC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Congress appointed Shahnawaz Choudhary as AICC Secretary and tasked him assignment of Incharge of Odisha Congress.

Choudhary hails from village Hari of Surankote tehsil of border district Poonch and is third one from J&K to be elevated to AICC Position after Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ghulam Ahmed Mir.

An order in this connection has been issued by AICC General Secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal after approval by the Congress high command.

He has been associated with party from his teen years and served party on different positions. He started his political



journey with Congress party as NSUI volunteer.

He served NSUI as National General Secretary. After his successful stint in NSUI, he served Indian Youth Congress as National General Secretary and later on contested election for the post of J&K Youth Congress President and became first elected President of J&K Youth Congress.

Currently he was serving Congress party as Vice

President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress and is elected DDC Member from Surankote A Constituency.

His political journey signifies a remarkable rise from grass-root activism to national level leadership position.

The rank and files of JKPC congratulated him and extended heartfelt thanks to party high command for granting regional representation in AICC.

Expressing gratitude to party high command especially to Sonia Gandhi, AICC President Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and AICC GS(O) KC Venugopal, he pledged honest and dedicated service in his new role.

Respect law and rules in lives and become good human being: Khoda advises students

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the initiative to upgrade the knowledge of students, the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) on Sunday organised a lecture of former DGP & CVC, J&K, Kuldeep Khoda at BALGRAN, Home for Destitute Children. Khoda is also the President of the CGPWA.

Khoda spoke on ethics in educational institutions especially for the students in pursuit to their excellence in studies and extra-curriculum and gave tips for it. He listed many suggestions for becoming good students and consequently, responsible citizens. These included developing aspirations to become some professional with some role model.

Saying that hard work is the key to success, he cautioned against detraction in their mind while studying and temptation for evils and indecent activities. He told



Former DGP, Kuldeep Khoda interacting with inmates of BALGRAN.

them that there are universal principles and ideals of good human being and students must follow these in their life.

A good, disciplined, hard working student would gradually become a good and responsible citizen also, he added.

Khoda also advised students to respect law and rules in their lives and become a good human being. He referred to the urgent need for preservation of ecology and environment

and said that the world is heading for ecological disaster and its painful signals are currently discernible by unusual weather. It is the duty of everyone to contribute in bring more and more green cover in our areas to combat adverse climatic conditions.

Similarly, he stressed the need for following traffic rules in their areas. Traffic chaotic conditions are also attributed to non-compliance traffic rules by the motorists and the pedestri-

ans on the road.

During interaction with the students, Khoda gave tips to the students in cracking examinations with focus on competitive examinations.

He advised students to focus on their subjects and to acquire in-depth knowledge of different issues. He emphasized the need of communication and said students should shed shyness to speak out their mind to clear their doubts on any subject when they get

opportunity. Developing confidence in themselves was another advice he gave to students for any examination or test.

Students sought solutions to their problems in focusing on studies and cracking competitive examinations.

The Secretary, BALGRAN, Prof. R D Sharma, former VC, Jammu thanked CGPWA and Khoda for this laudable initiative to upgrade knowledge of these destitute students.

Among those present on the occasion included President of BALGRAN, V K Raina, General Secretary, CGPWA, K B Jandial, Patron BALGRAN, Prem Gupta IPS (ret'd), S D Swatantra IFS (ret'd) and Subash Sharma IFS (Ret'd).

The CGPWA, Jammu has been arranging two lectures and interaction in a month for the students. Former Chief Secretary and State Election Commissioner, B R Sharma is slated to deliver next lecture in this series.

Arya Pratinidhi Sabha felicitates members of Ram Mandir Consecration



Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Jammu and Kashmir members and others at a Shobha Yatra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the aegis of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Jammu and Kashmir, a felicitation ceremony for the members of the Ram Mandir Consecration was held in Arya Samaj Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The Ram Mandir Consecration to be held on January 22, 2024 in Ayodhya. Members from all the Mandirs in the area of Gandhi Nagar were honoured and congratulated while boosting their morale leading up to this momentous occasion. Arrangements were

made to host them to make the Shobha Yatra a resounding success. The Shobha Yatra was begun from Gole Market and the procession was welcomed in Arya Samaj Gandhi Nagar by the Arun Chowdhary (President, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha Jammu and Kashmir) along with the core committee members Arun Kumar Gupta (Vice President), Yogesh Gupta (Treasurer), Rajeev Sethi (General Secretary), Narendra Trehan, Bharat Bhushan, Arun Arya.

The event was graced by the

Presidents and members of all the Arya Samajs of Jammu and Kashmir.

Facilities pertaining to the refreshments were made to cater to all the participants.

The importance of such activities is to highlight the sentiments of the people who awaited for so long for such a historic and momentous occasion in all our lives.

The vote of thanks was presented by Arun Chowdhary who wished the participants well for their endeavour in the grandiose opening of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.