

# J&K emerging as Agri Startup hub: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as Agri StartUp hub, said Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh here ON Sunday.

Dr Jitendra said, the Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path New Delhi on 26 January depicting lavender farms of Baderwah is a testimony of Baderwah and J&K being nationally hailed as the birthplace of "Purple Revolution" which is now being emulated in other Himalayan States like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as well as Nagaland.

He said the foundation of this Agri StartUp hub has been laid in the picturesque Baderwah town of district Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, where cultivation of lavender has been taken up on a large scale.

He recalled that PM Narendra Modi had in detail explained this success story in farming from district Doda of J&K in his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast and told the listeners about the small town of Baderwah where this experiment had been carried out as part of Aroma Mission by Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India.

This endeavour provides India an alternate source to propel its economy, Dr Jitendra stated.

Over 3000 flourishing lavender entrepreneurs from Baderwah have shown the youth of India a new



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing "Kisan Sammelan" at Hiranagar on Sunday.

and lucrative avenue of StartUp through agriculture which is an exclusive domain of this country and will contribute value addition to India's future economic growth and realisation of PM Narendra Modi's vision of "Vikriti Bharat" by 2047, he said.

Addressing "Kisan Sammelan" here today, the Union Minister expressed delight at the recent depiction of lavender farms of Baderwah through a tableau on Kartavya Path in the national capital on the occasion of the Republic Day. Counting it as a success story, Dr Jitendra said that drawing inspiration from the Aroma Mission, the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Nagaland have now started cultivation of lavender.

The Minister informed that more than three thousand youth of J&K are engaged in this mission which

has emerged as an avenue of self-employment as these youngsters are earning in lakhs.

Dr Singh underscored that this has been achieved due to the personal efforts of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and the government's measures to provide all possible support, be it imparting training to the youth or ensuring industry linkages for lavender products or provision of other necessary logistical aid, to spur this revolution. Lavender-made products are sold in thousands in States like Maharashtra, fetching rich revenue for the producers, he informed.

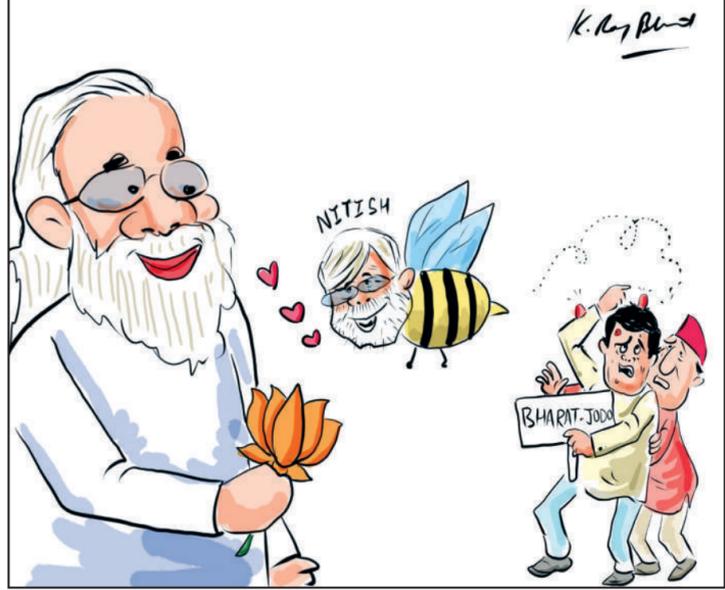
The Minister recalled that it was Prime Minister Modi who gave a clarion call of StartUp India, Stand Up India from the ramparts of historic Red Fort. Following the Prime Minister's call, people joined the movement. As a result, the number

of start-ups has now gone past 1.25 lakh from a mere 350 existing at that time, thereby placing India at number three spot in this field in the world, Dr Jitendra Singh informed.

The Union Minister urged the youth to join the agri start-up ecosystem so that they can contribute to making value addition to the economy, and help in realising the national goal of making India a number one economy in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal.

Calling for action, Dr Jitendra said the areas which are either unexplored or under-explored hold the potential of making value addition to the economy, adding that the role of Jammu and Kashmir- pioneered purple revolution will be of critical importance to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Talking about the measures taken for the safety and security of residents of border areas in Jammu and Kashmir, especially Kathua, the Union Minister informed that bunkers have been constructed for them so that they can take shelter from firing from across the border. Earlier, these residents were left to fend for themselves. They would take shelter either in their relatives' places or in the panchayat, he rued. Similarly, road connectivity has been improved up to zero line on IB and 4% reservation provided to border residents, Dr Jitendra Singh added.



## Sukhnandan pays tribute to martyr Sohan Lal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and Senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Choudhary on Sunday paid floral tribute at the memorial of martyr Sohan Lal at Nai Basti Marh while recalling the valour of the brave-heart on his 15th death anniversary.

Martyr Sohan Lal, a soldier of JK Rifles Regiment of the army, sacrificed his life for the defense of the country.

Sukhnandan Choudhary said that on 28th January 2009, Martyr Sohan Lal attained martyrdom while fighting terrorists in Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering, Sukhnandan saluted the bravery and commitment of the army, which has time and again helped the country stand strong in times of crisis.

He said today's India rests on the foundation of sacrifice of the valiant soldiers. The army itself displayed India's courage and determination despite adverse circumstances, he added.

Sukhnandan Choudhary said the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fully committed to protecting the national interest, no matter what the challenges.

He said "There will be no compromise in protecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country. Modiji has given free hand to the armed forces to eliminate the enemies of the country. India is a peace-loving nation that believes in its age-old values and is committed to international law, but we will not hesitate to cross the Line of Control to protect our interests. Earlier there was a lack of political will in the country but now our government led by Prime



Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary paying tribute at memorial of martyr Sohan Lal at Marh, Jammu.

Minister Narendra Modi is resolute enough to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the nation at all costs. We stand firmly with our forces."

On the occasion, various ranks of JK Rifles, Ex Sarpanch Omprakash Verma, Ex Sarpanch Neena Anand, Bimla Devi, Bahadur Lal, Jai Ram, Mool Raj, Tarsem Kumar (Retired Subedar Army), Cap (Retired) Baichan Lal, Ex Panch Raj Kumar, Babli Kumar and local dignitaries were also present to pay homage to the martyr.

## DGP J&K flags off Road Safety Awareness rally

Assures J&K Police along with stakeholders will work to make road usage safe

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police alongwith other stakeholders will continue to work for making necessary regulatory changes as well as analysing the causes of accidents to save the lives and make the road usage safe.

This was stated by the DGP, J&K R.R Swain at the flag off function of Road Safety Awareness Rally at Gulshan Ground Jammu here this afternoon.

The rally was a collaborative effort of J&K Police, Jammu Three Sixty, District administration and Transport department.

Addressing the participants, police officers and personnel, the DGP J&K complimented and felicitated organisers for the initiative, saying that it is directly connected with saving the lives of the road users including the driv-



DGP, J&K R.R Swain flagging off Road Safety Awareness Rally at Gulshan Ground Jammu.

ers. He also complimented citizens for supporting such initiatives in the larger interest of the community. He said that death in road accidents is a very avoidable loss of lives and it is a very

painful situation when a number of people get handicapped. Multiple stakeholders have to come together to address this issue, the DGP said. The DGP J&K assured that J&K Police alongwith other

stakeholders especially licence issuing authority will continue to work on analysing the cause of accidents and wherever necessary regulatory changes will be made for the safe road usage. "I am sure with good inten-

tions and sincerity the situation will improve," the DGP added.

Jammu Three Sixty founder Vivek Mahajan expressed his gratitude to the DGP, J&K for the support in organising the rally. He thanked the participants and the sponsors.

ADGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain, DIG Traffic Jammu, Shreedhar Patil, SSP Jammu Vinod Kumar, SSP Traffic Jammu Faisal Qureshi, AIG (T&P), PHQ Manoj Kumar Pandith and officers of Traffic police and District Police were present on the occasion.

The rally was an attempt on part of the law enforcement departments, district administration and the community aimed at promotion of crucial messages regarding safe road practices and responsible driving behavior.

## Wani, Bhalla others attend Congress Screening Committee meeting

Charan Dass urges JKPCCL leaders to gear up activities ahead of Parliament elections



JKPCCL President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, Nawang Ringzin Zora and Aagar Ali Karbalai at Congress Screening Committee meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: JKPCCL President Vikar Rasool Wani, JKPCCL Working President Raman Bhalla, Nawang Ringzin Zora, and Aagar Ali Karbalai on Sunday attended Screening Committee meeting convened by Bhakta Charan Das AIOC Spokesperson Ex MP, Neeraj Dangi Member of Rajya Sabha, Bharatsinh Solanki Incharge J&K in New Delhi.

Bhakta Charan Das, while addressing JKPCCL leaders, advised to unitedly fight the anti youth policies of the ruling BJP and defeat their divisive agenda in Jammu and

Kashmir, to strengthen the party and gear up their activities keeping an eye on the forthcoming Parliament elections.

"The BJP has been emphasizing on double engine Government - same party rule at the Centre and in J&K - claiming that it would ensure faster development. Recent reports of the Central Government's agencies showed J&K Government as a failure on almost all indicators. Whenever Govt is asked about it, it has expressed its ignorance. This shows that BJP Government is not serious about meeting the basic needs

of the people," Das said. Neeraj Dangi claimed that so far BJP rule has been of "mismanagement, immense despair and agony" and the country today stands at a stage where the common people are suffering from the wounds inflicted by the government whereas Congress has been continuing its efforts to listen to grievances of aggrieved people in various areas of J&K.

Solanki exhorted party leaders to get united to fight the BJP's "wrong and anti-people policies," urging them to strengthen the Congress party at grass roots, as that, it is the Congress Party which has served and shall continue to serve the people.

Earlier JKPCCL President said Congress Party is capable enough to fight against the BJP's vendetta politics. Bhalla claimed that people want change, as BJP has failed on all fronts of governance especially unchecked price rise, record unemployment besides other anti-employees, anti-trade, anti-politics in J&K.

## Big jolt to National Conference in Jammu region, top leaders join BJP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Big jolt to National Conference in Jammu region as the top leaders of NC led by Sanjeev Khajuria alias Romi Khajuria, senior leader & District President Kathua (Rural) of National Conference who has served the NC party for the last 35 years, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party along with his District and Mandal office Bearers and hundreds of supporters.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by party General Secretaries Adv. Vibodh Gupta & Dr. Devinder Manyal, senior leader Devinder Singh Rana and former Minister Prem Sagar Aziz, welcomed them into the party fold at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

ND Tripathi, Vikram DDCs, Bani-Billawar, Basohli, Darshan Singh Thakur DP, Jangbir Singh Chiku Prabhari, Mandal President Billawar Bhubaneshwar Singh, Tilak Raj Gupta, and Prof Kulbhushan Mohtra were also present on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while welcoming the new entrants, said that BJP has worked for the welfare of people irrespective of region and religion. He recalled the names of party stalwarts like Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and others and said that the party has always served the people with nation-



BJP leaders welcoming NC leader in Party fold at Jammu.

alist feeling in heart. He insisted that Praja Parishad, Jana Sangh and BJP activists have a long history of sacrifices for the welfare of people. He said that earlier, the people had to adopt the path of struggles to achieve their rights and had to take the bullets in their chests. He said that now we have two AIIMS hospitals, ring roads, medical colleges, road networks, rail connectivity, border connectivity, and development due to the dedicated efforts of BJP activists led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that once upon a time, NC, PDP, Congress governments only looted the people and the government money

which was meant for their welfare things like houses. Now, plethora of schemes, like Sukanya, Golden Health Card, Vishwakarma Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi are initiated by PM Modi to uplift the socio-economic status of the people.

Raina said that not only in Jammu, but also in Kashmir, the people are holding the symbol of BJP in high esteem having faith in Modi government. He said that the BJP has worked for the welfare of every individual from every area. He said that PM Modi has united the whole nation, which has won the hearts of people from every corner. He also said that

opposition parties formed the INDI alliance to stop Modi ji from doing people welfare works but their ill-alliance has failed now due to ever growing popularity of PM Modi. He said that Sanjeev Khajuria is a senior politician who has experience of many decades of public working and the party believes that he will further the mission of BJP to serve the people and the nation and will leave no stone unturned to gather maximum votes and support for the BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Devinder Singh Rana said that the BJP welcomes every new entrant with love and soon every new entrant feels himself/herself as a party of the BJP family, which reflects the clear heartedness of BJP activists.

Prem Sagar Aziz said that now the local BJP unit is further strengthened with the joining of Sanjeev Khajuria and added that the development works in the area will be boosted. Sanjeev Khajuria said that people are benefitted by the Modi government welfare schemes at the ground level. He said that Modi has made every Indian proud across the borders and the new world order sees India with high hopes now.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

## Principal Secy inaugurates All India Urdu Mushaira

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAAACL) on Sunday organised All India Urdu Mushaira at Abhinav Theatre here to commemorate celebration of 75th Republic Day.

The annual event, started in the year 1960 by JKAAACL, was joined by the renowned poets of J&K and other states and UTs of the country.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, inaugurated the literary gala in presence of Vice Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi,



Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta lighting ceremonial lamp.

Secretary, JKAAACL, Bharat Singh, and others. On the occasion, Secretary JKAAACL highlighted the significant role of literary personalities and events like this Mushaira in shaping new ideas in the

world of literature and culture. Such events not only bring together the literary talent but also celebrate our linguistic and cultural heritage, he added. The Mushaira witnessed the participation of

Chander Bhan Khayyal from Delhi, Jyoti Azad Khatri from Bhopal, MP, Aslam Rashid from Guna, MP, Asrar Chanderi from Chanderi, Madan Mohan Danish from Gwalior, Krishna Kumar Toor from

Dharmshala, HP, Reenu Nayyar from Jalandhar besides local poets including Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Srinagar, Parvez Manooos, Srinagar, Ahmad Shanas, Jammu, Khurshheed Bismal, Rajouri, Ghulam Nabi Gafil, Marwah Dachan, Touseef Tabish, Baderwah, Suhail Sadeeqi, Bhaderwah, IrfanArif, Poonch and Parvez Malik from Rajouri, Darhal.

On the occasion, it was informed that the first ever Dogri Kavi Sammelan will be held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, on 30th January, 2024, as a part of Republic Day celebrations.

## Madhu Arora appointed as Advisor in DoT

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Sunday approved the appointment of Madhu Arora, ITS, Chief General Manager, Telecom, West Bengal circle as Advisor in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in the rank and grade of Special Secretary to Govt of India (GoI).

Madhu Arora is the topper of 1986 batch of ITS and transformed West Bengal circle during her tenure spanning over 2.5 years. West Bengal circle which used to rank in the bottom 4-5 circles in terms of perform-



ance, consistently ranked in the first 5 circles after she took over as CGM, Telecom, West Bengal. She has a stellar career spanning over 35 years and standout academic excellence records which include Merit List position holder in class X CBSE Board examination

and Topper of ITS 1986 batch. She possesses degrees-BE in Electronics and Communication from Delhi College of Engineering, MBA from University of Queensland and LLB from Campus Law Centre of Delhi University achieving top ranks.

She contributed immensely in restructuring of BSNL on business lines as the nodal Principal GM. Recognised as a dynamic, focused and empathetic leader, she is in line for consideration as Member Secretariat in the rank and grade of Secretary to Govt of India in near future.