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J&K building modern...

industry through Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), educational institutions will have to take innovative approach to minimize the input costs for farmers and maximise output with efficient growing techniques and technological support," Sinha said.

A total of 590 students including 347 female students were awarded degrees in various subjects.

The Lt Governor congratulated the graduating students, teachers and staff of the SKUAST Jammu and all those researchers, innovators, who are contributing in building the University into a centre of excellence for Agricultural Science and Technology.

He conferred medals to the meritorious students and extended his felicitations to the women students for their excellent academic performance across the subjects and securing 10 Gold Medals out of total 11.

With their talent, intellect and skill, young women are gaining prominence in Agricultural Science and Technology. The number of degrees and awards to our proud daughters is heartening. They are the role models for young generation and have set an example by hard work in pursuit of excellence, he said.

"Our daughters constitute the core and strength of innovation ecosystem. It is a matter of pride and there is a need for scaling up the presence of woman scientists and tech entrepreneurs at all levels to secure the progress of the nation," the Lt Governor said.

Acknowledging the important contribution of women in agricultural development and allied sectors, the Lt Governor said, "Women have toiled hard as unsung heroes in the field since the start of agriculture thousand years ago. Now, their achievements in agricultural science and technology give us the hope and confidence that they will produce path-breaking discoveries and inventions in agriculture".

The Lt Governor assured every possible support to SKUAST Jammu from the UT Administration in terms of resources and extended his wishes for the university's continued success in its endeavours towards shaping a brighter and prosperous future.

He further advised the SKUAST Jammu to work on a dedicated project with immense export potential like Tulip's planting material that could address the agriculture & allied sector's need of the country.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu read out the university report and highlighted the academic, research and extension activities of the University.

Due to adverse weather conditions and poor visibility, the landing was not possible in Jammu. Therefore, the Hon'ble Vice President of India was not able to attend the convocation, he said.

The Lt Governor also planted a tree sapling in the vicinity of the university.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance Department; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Vice-Chancellors of various Universities, Heads of educational institutions, senior officials, students and faculty members of SKUAST were present.

All 3 branches...

prime minister; the legislature -- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha -- and the judiciary. All three unanimously removed Article 370 from our Constitution," Dhankhar said.

With this, Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream has been completely fulfilled, he said. Mookerjee had left an indelible mark on this land, he said.

"The land with grave imprints of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the land facing danger, has seen that danger being removed in this era. No one thought that Article 370 would be stamped out. This article, called temporary in the Constitution, became an eyesore for us," Dhankhar said.

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh attended the function.

Twenty-five startups, including 11 from Jammu and Kashmir, took part in the expo, titled "Emerging Startup Trends in North India".

68 Rajya Sabha...

complete their tenures in April.

Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies of 10 seats, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (three each), Jharkhand and Rajasthan (two each), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh (one each).

Four nominated members are retiring in July.

For renomination to the Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh, BJP President J P Nadda will have to look for a seat outside his home state as the Congress is in power there.

The Congress can also look forward to sending its nominees to the Upper House of Parliament from Karnataka and Telangana -- the states where it came to power last year. In Karnataka, four Rajya Sabha members are retiring, and in Telangana, three.

The retiring members include Manmohan Singh and Bhupendra Yadav (Rajasthan), Ashvini Vaishnav, BJP members Prashanta Nanda and Amar Patnaik (Odisha), BJP chief spokesperson Anil Bahuni (Uttarakhand), Mansukh Mandaviya and Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala, and Congress members Naranbhai Rathwa and Aneer Yagnik from Gujarat.

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, MSME Minister Narayan Rane, former Union minister Prakash Javadekar, Congress member Kumar Ketkar, NCP member Vandana Chavan and Shiv Sena (UBT) member Anil Desai are retiring from Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, the Rajya Sabha elections will be keenly watched after the political realignment in the state due to splits in the NCP and the Shiv Sena.

From Madhya Pradesh, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan, BJP members ajay Pratap Singh and Kailash Soni and Congress member Rajmani Patel are retiring from the Upper House of Parliament.

In Karnataka, the retiring members are Rajeev Chandrasekhar of the BJP and L Hanumanthaiah, G C Chandrashekhara and Syed Nasir Hussain of the Congress.

BRS' Joginipally Santosh Kumar Ravichandra Vaddiraju and B Lingaiah Yadav are the retiring members from Telangana. The Congress, which is in power in Telangana, can hope to send at least two of its nominees to the Rajya Sabha from the state.

From West Bengal, Trinamool Congress members Abir Ranjan Biswas, Subhasish Chakraborty, Mohammed Nadimul Haque and Santanu Sen, and Congress member Abhishek Mann Singhvi are retiring from the Upper House of Parliament.

In Bihar, RJD members Manoj Kumar Jha and Ahmad Ashfaq Karim, JD(U) members Aneel Prasad Hegde and Bashistha Narain Singh, BJP member Sushil Kumar Modi and Congress member Akhilesh Prasad Singh are completing their tenures in the Rajya Sabha.

BJP members Anil Agrawal, Ashok Bajpai, Anil Jain, Kanta Kardam, Sakaldeep Rajbhar, GVL Narasimha Rao, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, Sudhanshu Trivedi and Harnath Singh Yadav, and Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan from Uttar Pradesh are retiring.

TDP member Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, BJP member C M Ramesh and YSRCP member Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy from Andhra Pradesh are retiring from the Rajya Sabha.

BJP members Saroj Pandey and D P Vats are retiring from Chhattisgarh and Haryana respectively.

In Jharkhand, BJP member Samir Oraon and Congress member Dhiraj Prasad Sahu are retiring from the Upper House of Parliament in May.

In Kerala, CPI(M) member Elamaram Kareem, CPI member Binoy Viswan and KC(M) member Jose K Mani are retiring in July.

Among the nominated members retiring in July are Mahesh Jethmalani, Sonal Mansingh, Ram Shakal and Rakesh Sinha of the BJP.

SEC discusses Panchayat...

from experiences in the previous revision where over seven lakh electorates were added.

Discussions revolved around the mother roll and supplementary roll conducted in October and November 2023. SEC Sharma projected an addition of three lakh new electorates in the upcoming Panchayat roll revision.

The meeting addressed the availability of soft/hard copies of the last updated Panchayat electoral rolls, serving as the draft for the new qualifying date of January 1, 2024. Integration of supplements prepared due to continuous voter updation with reference to January 1, 2023, was also discussed during the meeting.

During the meeting, several key decisions were made regarding the printing of Electoral Rolls (ER) and the availability of necessary infrastructure, including printing machines with focusing on the publication of the draft roll in both online and offline modes.

The SEC also stressed the inclusion of new voters in Panchayat rolls whose names already exist in assembly rolls. Besides, the meeting also covered the updation of

Electoral Registration Officers (ERO), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AERO), Panchayat Election Booth Officials (FEBO), and other details on district websites.

The meeting also addressed the financial requirements for each district related to electoral roll updation and SVEEP activity.

The meeting also held discussions on a tentative schedule for the revision, the creation of a handbook for revision procedures, and thorough deliberation on other pertinent issues.

New criminal laws...

of the new criminal laws.

Further, the conference will also deliberate on futuristic themes in policing and security like the challenges posed by new technologies such as AI, Deepfake etc. and ways to deal with them, it said.

The conference also provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress, which is also presented before the prime minister every year.

The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from district, state and national levels on identified themes, the statement said.

Best practices from states and Union territories under each of the themes will be presented at the conference so that states can learn from each other, it said.

Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference, it added.

Free flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in this year's conference.

This will provide an opportunity to senior police officials to share their views and recommendations on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country to the prime minister.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. The following year, after the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the MHA and the Intelligence Bureau, outside the national capital.

Accordingly, it was first held in Guwahati in 2014, Ramnagar in 2015, the National Police Academy in Hyderabad in 2016, the BSF Academy at Tekanpur in 2017, Pune in 2019.

Magnitude 3.9 earthquake...

on Thursday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. According to NCS, the depth occurred at 9:01 am. The NCS said that the depth of the earthquake was registered at 180 kilometres.

Gulmarg Gondola earns...

alluring. The J&K Cable Car Corporation runs and manages the Gulmarg Gondola, considered the flagship attraction of Kashmir tourism. It is possibly India's most popular ropeway, and at a height of 14,000 ft, it is Asia's highest operating cable car.

Besides the enhanced revenue and visitor trips, the Corporation, during the last year, improved and enhanced the service delivery by improving the ticket issuing mechanism, undertaking several safety tests and overhauled the second phase of the Gondola with latest technology.

Tourists undertaking the Gondola rides have memorable experiences to share. "It was an amazing ride. The bookings were seamless. I invite people from all across to enjoy the experiences of Gulmarg Gondola", said Akshay from London who is on vacation at Gulmarg these days. Another tourist couple Shubham and Ajat, who are visiting Gulmarg for the first time, were fascinated by the arrangements and sanitation at both the phases of Gulmarg Gondola. The experiences were echoed by another family from Delhi.

"The people of Gondola are so friendly. My daughter fell cold and these people helped her with everything they could", said a tourist from Vietnam, Kentran who was keen to visit the place once again.

Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Raja Yaqoob has appealed to tourists to avail the online mode of ticket selling for their convenience, time saving and curbing the chances of any black marketing by any tout. He said the Corporation is committed to improving the tourist experience by giving them easy, hassle free and safe rides.

He assured of even better facilities in the days to come and appealed to tourists to adhere to timings mentioned in the ticket to avoid any inconvenience. He said tourist feedback is being taken seriously and necessary improvements in customer services are being made. It may be mentioned here that the Gulmarg Cable Car comprises two phases; one from Gulmarg resort to Kongdori valley and the second from Kongdori to Apharwath Peak.

Major reshuffle in...

addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, IAS:2007, Commissioner, State Taxes, J&K, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, in addition to her own duties, till further orders

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS:2009, Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, holding additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Prasanana Ramaswamy G, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Commissioner, Survey & Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Commissioner), J&K, in addition to his duties, till further orders.

Niraj Kumar, IAS:2010, Additional Resident Commissioner and ex-officio Secretary, Resident Commission, J&K, New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Transport Department; Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS:2010, Commissioner, Survey & Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Commissioner), J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Labour & Employment Department. He shall also hold the charge of the posts of Administrative Secretary, Skill Development Department and Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Talat Parvez Rohella, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Enquires; Rehana Batul, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, holding additional charge of Secretary, Public Grievances and Labour Commissioner; J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Information Department; Bhupinder Kumar, IAS:2011, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, IAS:2012, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS:2012, Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, School Education Department. Mohammad Aijaz, IAS:2012, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department. He shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shiv Anant Tayal, IAS:2012, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department; Vikas Kundal, IAS:2013, Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited; Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, IAS:2013, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Public Grievances. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Nazim Zai Khan, IAS:2013, Administrative Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K; Shakeel-ul-Rehman Rather, IAS:2013, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora; Rahul Sharma, IAS:2013, Transport Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Member, Special Tribunal, J&K; Hashmat Ali Yatoo, IAS:2013, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, has transferred and posted as Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K; Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS:2013, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir; Owais Ahmed, IAS:2014, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation. He shall also hold the additional charge of the posts of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for Implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission and Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Athar Aamir UI Shafi Khan, IAS:2016, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, holding additional charge of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for Implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission and Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam; Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, IAS:2017, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Minga Sherpa, IAS:2017, Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, holding additional charge of the posts of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and Director, Information, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director Tourism, Jammu, shall hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Jatin Kishore, IAS:2020, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Uri, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Director Information, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shishir Gupta, IAS-2020, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramnagar, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Ramnagar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Asif Hamid Khan, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, J&K; Babila Rakwal, JKAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Cooperatives Department; Anil Koul, JKAS, Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department; Shabnam Kamili, JKAS, Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department; Rajinder Singh Tara, JKAS, Custodian General, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Transport Commissioner, J&K; Anoo Malhotra, JKAS, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K; Prediman Krishen Bhat, JKAS, Director General, Development Expenditure Division-I, Finance Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, State Taxes, J&K; Bhawani Rakwal, JKAS, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority; G.A Sofi, Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary (Technical) in the Agriculture Production Department; Shiv Kumar Gupta, JKAS, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Director, Command Area Development, Jammu; Mohammad Shafiq Chak, JKAS, Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K; Om Prakash, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri; Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Bandipora.

Rishpal Singh, JKAS, Additional Commissioner (Central) in the office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K, has been transferred and posted as Custodian General, J&K; Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Director, Command Area Development, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary; Pawan Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Additional Commissioner in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Resident Commissioner and ex-officio Secretary, Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi; Narinder Khajuria, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Chief Secretary, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Charandeep Singh, JKAS, Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Labour Commissioner, J&K; Sham Lal, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Director, Panchayati Raj and ex-officio Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Shafat Sultan, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation; Sukhdev Singh Sanyal, IKAS, Special Secretary, Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Patnitop; Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS, Project, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar; Sher Singh, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Patnitop, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Jammu; Sandeep Seointra, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; and Naresh Kumar, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

Delegation of Prominent Writers, President KCCI call on Lt Governor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

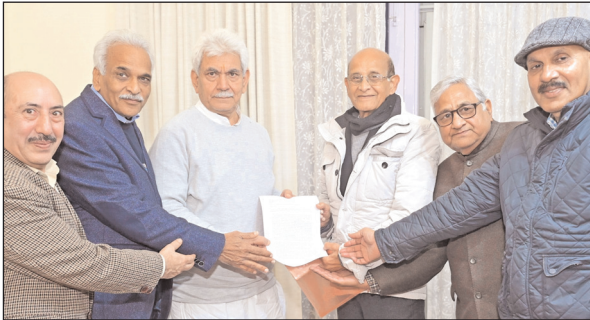
JAMMU: A delegation of prominent writers led by Ramesh Arora, former MLC

called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, on Thursday.

The delegation was comprised of Prof. Lalit Magotra, Dr. Nirmal Vinod and Brij Mohan.

Javed Ahmad Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber

of Commerce & Industry, and Gaurav Gupta, Honorary Secretary, Jammu Club and former Secretary General, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu also called on the Lt Governor.



Prominent writers calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

Social Welfare Deptt celebrates Braille's Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Social Welfare on Thursday celebrated 215th birth anniversary of Louis Braille at residential school for visually impaired at Roop Nagar, here with great fervour

the facility of library now available in the home.

Director General, Social Welfare Department, Vivek Sharma and Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya, Harvinder Kour were guests of honour



Comm Secy Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda and others at a programme.

and enthusiasm.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sheetal Nanda, who was chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated additional facilities in the Home including a library and music room for the visually impaired children.

Sheetal Nanda complimented the children who participated in the event and also won medals in the National Judo Championship recently held in Amritsar. She appealed all the visually challenged children of the UT to avail

at the event. DG, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of the day for visually impaired persons. He congratulated the students who have excelled in various fields like academics, sports and cultural activities. Officers and officials from Social Welfare Department, students, alumni of residential school and family members of students were present on the occasion.

The students of the institution along with many alumni namely Suraj Singh, Rahul Kumar and Sanjay Vidrohi presented mesmerizing performances including singing and skits on life history and contribution of Louis Braille.

The event ended with vote of thanks by Superintendent of the Home, Vikrant Narwalia.