

Expanding business, market opportunities for farmers, holistic Agri dev steering JK towards transformation: Dulloo

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JAMMU: "Expanding business and marketing opportunities for farmers with a well planned holistic agriculture development is immensely helping Jammu and Kashmir to move towards historic transformation", stated Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo.

ACS said this while addressing a mammoth gathering after inaugurating one day Buyer-Seller meet organized by the department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing (HP&M) here on Wednesday.

Over three hundred growers and farmers, SHGs, FPOs and entrepreneurs hailing from different parts of J&K participated in the event.

The meet also witnessed a great participation of buyers which included big merchants, exporters and multinational companies like Reliance, Big Basket and Amazon. Besides, many potential buyers/exporters/stakeholders including HFN, Unmati Cooperatives, Uniwool, JKDCUL, Sarveshwar addressed the gathering.

Participating buyers appreciated the initiative of the department which will provide an exclusive opportunity to interact directly with the growers/farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Atal Dulloo appreciated the ini-



Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo addressing a gathering.

tiative of the HP&M department for conducting such events and accentuated the fact that these help understand our weaknesses and strengths which ultimately helps in providing better business environment. He said that the government has launched a holistic agriculture development programme in J&K. The conceptualization, formulation and approval of the massive transformative mission to reform agriculture and allied sectors in J&K was finalized and translated on ground in just 5 months of time, he added.

Pertinently, the humongous exercise began with the constitution of Apex Committee under the Chairmanship of Mangla Rai by the Lieutenant Governor and culminated with the finalization of transformative mission for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in J&K with the potential to transform the subsistence agriculture of J&K into sustainable commercial agri-

economy.

Atat Duloo said the approved plan comprising 29 project proposals shall push agriculture and allied sectors to a new trajectory of growth with economy, ecology and equity as its guiding pillars, he shared. He also announced that the government has taken up the task of providing GI tagging to another 20-25 products that will give us an edge in the international markets. Besides, a high-level committee has been set up to take steps for export promotion of our significant products.

ACS appreciated the efforts and achievements of the department in e-NAM Trade and informed that the UT has achieved pivotal position in Inter-state e-NAM trade in a very short span of 3 months. He underscored the importance of encouraging processing to garner better returns and hoped that the buyers would evince keen interest in the unique and high-quality produce of J&K.

ACS further shared that the government has recently constituted a Marketing Board for facilitating the regulation of mandis and conferred various powers to the Board and the director Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K. The unified licensing has been approved as also the declaration of CA stores/warehouses/stores of FPOs/Cooperatives as sub-yards of Mandis for undergoing trade on e-NAM.

He said the HP&M has moved towards transparent e-auction system for allocation of space in mandis and e-NAM trade has increased from a less than Rs 1 crore to over Rs 23 crore in a span of 3-4 months, besides taking lead at the national level in inter-state e-NAM Trade.

Director HP&M, Vikas Sharma, advised the participants to make the best use of the platform provided in this buyer seller meet. He hoped that this initiative will help empower our farmers/growers in order to realize maximum dividends.

It was informed that the department has successfully organized similar meet at Kolkata last month and after the Jammu meet, it shall organize buyer-Seller meets at Srinagar and Hyderabad and subsequently at other potential locations in the Country.

He dwelled upon various ini-

tiatives of the department and the measures taken to strengthen marketing of J&K products within India as well as in international markets. Market reforms, institutional development, Infrastructure in terms of CA Stores, Grading/Packing Lines, Reefer Vans, Marketing and Branding Centers and strengthening Market intelligence shall be the focus of department, he stressed.

Speaking on the occasion, DGM APEDA, Vanita, deliberated upon the initiatives of the organization towards promotion of J&K agriculture and Horticulture. She informed that APEDA, in a first, recently introduced Mishri variety of cherry to Singapore market and Kashmir Apples to Hongkong which she termed as new milestones for local products. Later, a buyer seller interaction session was conducted where participants had a thorough and candid discussion on different aspects related to business promotion.

DG CAD, DG Sericulture, MD JK Agro Corporation, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Secretary Kissan Board, Joint Director HPM and HPM staff and representatives from SKUAST Jammu, JKTPO, NRLM were present on the occasion.

Congress leader Vicky Bali with supporters joins BJP



Congress leader Vicky Bali with supporters joining BJP at Azad Nagar in Jammu.

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JAMMU: Vicky Bali, a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress (INC), alongwith his supporters joined the BJP at Azad Nagar, Upper Gadigarh in RS Pura-Jammu South Constituency, here on Wednesday.

Vicky Bali, who has been associated with the INC and has held several key positions in the party, joined BJP under the leadership of Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Rekha Mahajan, President BJP Jammu South, Mandal President Vijay Sharma and District General Secretary Pushpinder Singh Charak.

Vicky Bali is expected to play an important role in the BJP in the upcoming elections.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that BJP is committed to serving the people and improving the lives of the general public.

He stressed that the party is committed to working on the

issues that matter most to the public, such as health, education, employment, and infrastructure.

He also highlighted the importance of civic engagement in the democratic process. Billawaria said, "We are working on the slogan of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', which means 'Together with All, Development for All'. We strive to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the fruits of development."

He said that the way people are getting support in the Jammu South-RS Pura assembly constituency, they have full faith that BJP's victory in this upcoming election is assured. Rekha Mahajan, while welcoming Vicky Bali, informed that Vicky entry into the party fold shall boost the morale of the BJP cadre and help us to take the policies of government to the Gross root level. She said that every worker of the party works with

the principle of the nation first in mind and the prime minister has himself established the highest benchmark of serving the society and the nation selflessly. Rekha also welcomed the prominent persons for their decision to join the party, saying "the BJP has always acted as a family that respects everybody and cares for everyone".

She said the party has always opened up arms for those who want to serve the nation and society.

Vicky Bali thanked Deputy Mayor Jammu and said that it was an honour to have him join the BJP.

Vicky Bali said that he was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his work and wanted to join the BJP to contribute to the growth of the nation and to help create a better future for all Indians.

He believes that Prime Minister Modi is the right leader to bring about the much needed change in the country.

DB disposes of Suo-Moto PIL regarding maintaining safety, purity of drinking water source

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JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice M.A Chowdhary disposed of PIL which was initiated on the basis of a news item captioned "Doodhganga no more 'milky' courtesy official apathy" that came to be published in daily newspaper.

The news item disclosed that heaps of garbage were lying around Doodhganga Filtration Plant built in the year 1972 which supplied water to more than two lakh people in different areas of Srinagar. Accordingly, a Division Bench of this Court took cognizance of the news item and issued notice at the first instance to J&K Pollution Control Board, Department of Public Health Engineering and Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Thereafter several directions have been

passed to ensure that the pollution in and around the Doodhganga Stream and Doodhganga Filtration Plant is eradicated.

When the PIL Came-up for hearing, DB observed that a response filed by Shaqir Haqani, amicus to the compliance report filed by the Pollution Control Board reveals that a similar application raising the issue which has been raised in this appeal was filed before the National Green Tribunal [hereinafter referred to as the 'NGT']. The response of the amicus further discloses that NGT has taken cognizance of the matter and issued several directions from time to time. The order dated 8th March 2022 passed by NGT Delhi has been placed on record.

DB on perusal of order dated 8th March 2022 passed by NGT, Delhi, it is abundantly clear that the issue is pending considera-

tion of the NGT Delhi and a very effective directions have been passed to tackle the issue of pollution of Doodhganga Stream and Doodhganga Filtration Plant.

DB is satisfied that with the intervention of NGT, Delhi, the needful shall be done by the Union Territory of J&K to prevent the pollution and environmental degradation of Doodhganga Stream and Doodhganga Filtration Plant. The NGT is still seized of the matter and is monitoring the implementation of the directions issued from time to time. With these observations, DB observed that there is no reason to keep this PIL pending in this Court and the proceedings in this Public Interest Litigation are thus closed and Deputy Commissioner, Budgam is directed to pay a sum of Rs. 25,000 to Shaqir Haqani, amicus who has ably assisted the court in the matter.

Gujjar community always supported PM's slogan of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat': Randhawa

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JAMMU: Gujjar community people have always supported the slogan of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to keep the country safe and secure from those, who are hell bent to disturb the peace and prosperity of the nation. This was stated by former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Vikram Randhawa while interacting with the people of Bhatindi in Bahu Assembly Segment under Public Outreach Programme.

The interaction was arranged by ST Moreha BJP JKUT President Ch Roshan Hussain.

A large number of people attended the interaction and apprised the visiting leader about the problems being faced by them.

During interaction, the



Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa interacting with people at Bhatindi, Jammu.

people informed about the issues being faced by them including damaged street lights, lanes and drains vis by lanes, increasing population of stray dogs, etc.

The people expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for grating reservation in their favour.

"Our children will now can compete with other students pursuing their education in higher educational institutions and will surely perform better", the people said, adding that

their children will now have avenues to work in multinational companies after studying in better institutions.

"After pursuing higher education, which earlier was not possible, our children can also start their own venture and contribute a bit towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. While speaking, former Legislator assured the people of redressing their issues by taking up with the concerned authorities in phased manner. "Gujjar community people

AJKPC holds protest, demands clearance of rent & arrears by Army Depot Kanyala



President AJKPC and others during interaction meeting.

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JAMMU: Locals of Panchayat Halqa Kanyala, block Dansal on Wednesday held a protest here in Jammu led by Anil Sharma, President All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, wherein the protestors presented their several demands related to 15 Field Ammunition Depot(15FAD, Jindrah) situated in Panchayat Kanyala.

While addressing the media persons after the protest demonstration, Anil Sharma, President of the AJKPC who is also Sarpanch of Panchayat Halqa Jindrah informed that over 40 years ago, Locals of Panchayat Kanyala had given their agricultural land on rent basis to Army for construction of this Field Ammunition Depot on the assurance of J&K government and senior officers of the department of defence that local Youth of the area would be given preference and a quote of at least 25 percent for all recruitments for labourers for the 15 FAD, Jindrah.

Sharma informed that for

over 3 decades, the Depot officers continued to abide by the assurance and had absorbed the local youth in recruitment as labourers in the depot but now for the last 10-12 years, the commandants and other seniors of the depot are reluctant in honouring their own promises.

The AJKPC president said, the locals have given their agricultural land for the establishment of an ammunition depot and now they are being deceived.

It was also informed by other protestors that pending rent arrears of 8 years and full rent of 4 years is not being paid to the landlords against the lands which is absolute injustice with them. Even during the protest people chanted " Bharat Mata ki Jai, Indian Army Jindabad " However they said "Being locals of the area, we are natural but unpaid guards of this Jindrah Field Ammunition Depot as we keep a strict vigil of any discrete unscrupulous activity near this depot and we consider it as our duty but it should be reciprocated posi-

tively".

They also appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and defence Minister Rajnath Singh to intervene in the matter and ensure 20 to 25 quota in labour recruitment in the 15th FAD, Jindrah. AJKPC president also apprised that soon their delegation would meet Divisional Commission and Deputy Commissioner Jammu besides officials of the defence department.

Prominent people who were part of the protest demonstration and addressed the media include Kaka Ram, Gopal Krishn, Balwant Singh, Ram Rattan, Kuldeep Sharma, Bittu Kumar, Subash Sharma,ShahMohammadMus taq Ahmed, Bali Ram, Sanjay Kumar, Pedho Ram.



KP employees' delegation calling on DAP leader GM Saroori.

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JAMMU: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits employeee on Thursday Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DAP) and former legislator, G.M Saroori and discussed various issues.

After listening to their issues patiently, Saroori assured them that he took

their genuine issues with LG administration for early redressal.

Saroori said Democratic Progressive Azad Party stands is firm in addressing genuine issues of Kashmiri Pandit employees, daily wagers, Casual Labourers, Rehbar E Khel, NYC, NRHM and others.

Rekha inaugurates water pipeline in Digiana

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan along with local Councillor Tirath Kour Raina and District Vice President and Ex Corporator Sardar Paramjeet Singh tour in Mohalla Roop Nagar and its adjoining areas, Digiana in Ward 58 and inaugurated works with an estimated cost of Rs 21 lakh for water pipeline besides laying of internal

pipes amounting to Rs 5 lakh .

On the occasion, Tirath Kour said that the directions have already been passed to the concerned ones for the identification of the necessary location where there is a shortage of water and also they were asked to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) where either the overhead tanks or the bore wells are required and submit the same to the Government for accord of



BJP District President Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan interacting with people.

necessary arrangement of funds.

Paramjeet asserted that

BJP is committed to providing all basic amenities like adequate drinking

water, power, education, healthcare facilities and other civic facilities to the

people of all columns of society in Jammu.

Complementing the people after the start of work on the schemes, Rekha said that it was the long genuine pending demand of the locals that had been fulfilled.

Interacting with the people, Rekha Mahajan said that development programs have been launched in every constituency of Jammu district south with the aim to provide better amenities to them.