

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

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 other potential buyers/exporters/stakeholders including HFN, Unnati Cooperatives, Uniwool, JKDC-CUL, Sarweshwar 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.

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 be interested in the unique and high-quality produce of J&K.

economy.

Atal Dulloo 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.

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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, JKTP, NRJL were present on the occasion.

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.

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Congress leader Vicky Bali with supporters joins BJP



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

STATE TIMES NEWS

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.

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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 directs XEn I&FC to file fresh affidavit disclosing steps for restoration of wetlands, marshland, flood channels

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a contempt petition filed by Rashpal Singh and Ors, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice(Acting) Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekri, directed the Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control for filling a fresh affidavit by or before the next date of hearing disclosing therein the steps taken with regard to prevention and restoration of wetlands/marshland/flood channels as well as lands recorded as 'khads' in the revenue record as also for preserving the sanctity of river Tawi from being polluted by the waste and toxic water emanating from authorized/ unauthorized colonies alongside river Tawi by including stringent and effective measures.

He said instead of talking about big things the BJP leadership is focusing on local issues which can make a big difference in the lives of people.

"BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has done tremendous work to ensure that every section of the society gets its due share with discrimination and lopsidedness becoming the things of past", Randhawa said.

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



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

STATE TIMES NEWS

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 Morecha 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

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 have avenues to work in multinational companies after studying in better institutions.

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"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

Baskin Robbins opens outlet at Bahu Plaza

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Baskin Robbins, the world's largest chain of ice-cream specialty store, on Wednesday opened its outlet at Bahu Plaza for the customers.

The outlet was inaugurated by Attar Singh Kukreja in presence of owner Maninder Singh Kukreja in the North Block of Bahu Plaza near Dominos Pizza. Maninder invited the public to celebrate the New Year by visiting the Bahu Plaza store and experiencing the vibe firsthand.

Baskin Robbins, which was opened to serve Happiness, serves milk based, vegan based and even Sugar-free Ice creams.

"We serve Ice Cream, Thick Shakes, Waffles, Sundaes, Cakes, Sticks



Attar Singh Kukreja in presence of owner Maninder Singh Kukreja and others after inaugurating an outlet.

the world's largest ice cream chains globally.

"Our exciting menu with includes universal favorites like the delicious Mississippi Mud and Mint Milk Chocolate along with local favorite flavors like Honey Nut Crunch and Alphonso Mango," he said.

Baskin Robbins is one of

KP employees' delegation meets Saroori



KP employees delegation calling on DAP leader GM Saroori.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandit employees on Thursday met 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.

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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

pipes amounting to Rs 5 lakh.

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