

Director CSIR-IIIM inaugurates Farmers Awareness Program at Dhar, Uttarakhand

STATE TIMES NEWS

TEHRİ: In order to augment the aromatic farming under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III and transform hilly regions to Aroma Valleys, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, organized a productive Farmers Awareness Program in Dharpayakoti village, Block Kirtinagar, Tehsil Garhwal, Dehradun, Uttarakhand." Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu inaugurated the programme. The event hosted at the Dhar Regional Development Institute, focused on promoting the sustainable cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in the region, a cornerstone of the Aroma Mission Phase-III.

On this occasion, IIIM celebrated two significant milestones: the successful cultivation of rosemary and the launch of lavender farming



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu honouring a woman farmer.

in the region. The central theme was the transformation of remote hilly areas of Uttarakhand into "Aroma Villages" through aromatic plant cultivation, heralding a new era of economic development and environmental sustainability.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, highlighted the initiative's under CSIR Aroma Mission to

empower rural communities by fostering entrepreneurship, creating sustainable livelihoods, and advancing self-reliance.

Dr. Ahmed also emphasized the economic potential of aromatic plant cultivation, which can thrive in Uttarakhand's challenging terrain while promoting environmental conservation.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Suphla Gupta, Senior

Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer of CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III, informed the farmers about accessing high-quality planting materials and technical support for oil distillation and value addition to their produce. Dr. Gupta's remarks reinforced the mission's dedication to supporting rural communities in achieving long-term agricultural prosperity.

Dr. A.S. Rawat, Former Chief Scientist from CSIR-NBRI Lucknow, encouraged farmers to adopt aromatic crop cultivation as a means to achieve higher economic returns and regional prosperity. Beside him, Dr. J.S. Butola, Professor at HNBGU Srinagar and Founder of Human India, and Ajay Pal Singh Panwar, Founder of Dhar Kshetriya Vikas Sansthan also addressed the farmers. Both experts, have long associations with supporting local

farmers, applauded the program's efforts in bringing the benefits of high-value aromatic crops to the region.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from women farmers, rural community members, and representatives from various parts of Uttarakhand, including Chakrata, Thauldhar, Chamba, and Pauri Garhwal. Participants explored the possibilities of transforming their regions through aromatic farming.

In the afternoon session, the team of experts toured the farmer's field, reviewed ongoing agricultural initiatives under the Aroma Mission, and commended the farmers' achievements. The program marked a pivotal step in Uttarakhand's journey toward becoming a hub for aromatic and medicinal plant cultivation, fostering economic growth and environmental resilience in the state.

IIM Jammu welcomes global thought leaders at IFAC-2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated the 2nd International Finance and Accounting Conference (IFAC-2024) at the Patanjali Classroom, Academic Block, IIM Jammu on Thursday. Themed "Navigating the Future of Finance, Accounting, and Banking: Building Financial Resilience," the conference brings together leading scholars, practitioners, and industry leaders to explore strategies for fostering resilience in the financial and accounting sectors.

The inaugural ceremony began with a lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by an address by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, who emphasized the critical role of such platforms in addressing contemporary challenges in finance and accounting. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Manoranjan



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu lighting a ceremonial lamp.

Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomeries Ratings, who provided an insightful analysis of the global financial environment, and Arati Porwal, Country Head - India, CFA Institute, who highlighted the significance of adaptability and resilience in a dynamic financial landscape. Their perspectives set the stage for impactful discussions throughout the conference.

The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Jabir

Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Conference Chair, IFAC 2024, and Dr. Vedika Saxena, Conference Co-Chair, IFAC 2024. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem. Spanning two days, IFAC-2024 serves as a platform for deliberating on emerging trends and challenges in finance, accounting, and banking while fostering global collaboration and thought leadership.

DGP conducts pipping of newly promoted SP



DGP, Nalin Prabhat with other officers at pipping ceremony of newly promoted SP, Ravinder Singh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police

(DGP), conducted the pipping of the newly promoted SP, Ravinder Singh, in the presence

of B S Tuti, IG, Sandeep Wazir, AIG Personnel, and Syed Altahir Gillani, SO to DGP.

Balbir presents portrait of Guru Ravidass Ji to BJP kisan leader and photojournalist

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth and General Secretary of the Indian branch of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, presented a portrait of Shri Guru Ravidass Ji to Rakesh Pant, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kisan Morcha. Local photojournalist Seva Ram was also honored with a portrait during the event. BJP Media Cell member Sanjay Bakshi was present on this occasion.

Speaking on the significance of the gesture, Balbir Ram Rattan highlighted the invaluable contributions of



Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth presenting portrait of Shri Guru Ravidass to Rakesh Pant, Gen Secy BJP Kisan Morcha.

Guru Ravidass Ji, a revered 14th-century saint. He

noted Guru Ravidass Ji's efforts in eradicating discrimination and untouchability and promoting unity, brotherhood, and equality in society. "Guru Ravidass Ji's

life is a source of inspiration for all Indians, reminding us of the importance of unity and mutual respect," said Rattan.

Accepting the portrait, Rakesh Pant expressed admiration for Guru Ravidass' teachings and their relevance in building a cohesive society. "Guruji's ideology continues to guide us toward creating a stronger and more inclusive society," Pant remarked.

Sanjay Bakshi emphasized the role of saints like Guru Ravidass in shaping the moral and cultural fabric of India. "The teachings of such great saints have always given a new direction to society," he said.

The event underscored the enduring legacy of Guru Ravidass and his profound impact on fostering social harmony and equality.

DC discusses preparation of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-Sensitive Zone Master Plan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also Chairman Monitoring Committee of Eco Sensitive Zone of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, held a meeting on Thursday regarding the preparation of Zonal Master Plan for the implementation of provisions of Eco Sensitive Zone of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The meeting, attended by Wildlife Warden Jammu (Member Secretary) Vijay Kumar and other committee members, focussed on developing a strategic approach to protect and manage the 10 square kilometer Eco-Sensitive Zone notified in 2021. During the extensive deliberations, the committee comprehensively discussed activities that will be prohibited, regulated and poten-



DC Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting regarding preparation of Zonal Master Plan.

tially promoted within the zone, in strict adherence to environmental protection guidelines. The Chairman specifically directed that Jammu Development Authority and Jammu Municipal Corporation should be actively involved in the planning process. The objective is to preemptively protect the eco-sensitive zone from potential adverse

developmental activities that might compromise its ecological integrity. Eco Sensitive Zones are critical buffer areas surrounding protected wildlife habitats, designed to act as a transition zone between core wildlife areas and surrounding regions. These zones are established to minimize negative external impacts on wildlife and

ecological systems, implementing regulated human activities to ensure environmental conservation.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Can, Toph, Bohri, Chatha, Satwari, Pounichak, Bhagwati Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 14 from 8 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Burnal, Rakth Muthi, Devipur, Ballian Da Bagh, Palkwan, PHE line BSF, Jourian, MES, Tvoli, Bakore and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 13, 16, 18 and 20 from 7 am to 11 am. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Vijaypur 1st, Vijaypur 3rd and its adjoining areas will remain affected on December 13 from 8 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on December 13 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Ganotra and Degyal Brahmin Bi-Annual congregation on Dec 15

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JAMMU: Bi-Annual congregation of Ganotra and Degyal Brahmin Biradari will be held on December 15, 2024 (Sunday) at Devsthan Kharha Madana (Purnmandal).

As per release issued here the Biradari will organize religious function including Hawan. Bhandara will take place in the afternoon.

All the Biradari members are requested to participate in this religious function and seek blessing of Bua Dafi.

Modi Govt committed to 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal': Arvind

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West Constituency, on Thursday reaffirmed the Modi Government's commitment to providing clean and safe drinking water to every household under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme. He emphasized this while chairing a meeting with officers of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to address water supply issues in his constituency. The meeting was attended by Sunil Gandotra, SE Mechanical PHE; HS Reen, Executive Engineer Mechanical; Rajesh Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE Civil; Sanjeev Gupta, AEE PHE; and Anil Katoch, AEE Mechanical. Atul Bakshi, Mandal President was also present. Arvind highlighted that the Central Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated JJM scheme with an aim to ensure piped water supply to every household in the country, reflecting the government's focus on improving the quality of life for all citizens. "The Modi Government is determined to bring about transformative changes in the water supply infrastructure to achieve this goal," he said.

and focus on maintaining water reservoirs in his constituency. He emphasized that water reservoirs should be cleaned on a regular basis, with dates and locations properly maintained. "The cleanliness and upkeep of these reservoirs are not just about ensuring water quality but also maintaining them as exemplary sites. These reservoirs should be maintained so well that parents can proudly take their children there to learn about the source of their drinking water," he added.

Arvind directed officials to promptly address any issues hindering water supply and ensure that the objectives of JJM are met without delay. He emphasized the need for regular maintenance of water supply infrastructure and urged the officials to establish mechanisms for effective grievance redressal. The senior BJP leader reiterated his commitment to the welfare of the people of Jammu West and assured that his office would actively monitor the progress of water supply initiatives. He called upon the public to bring any water-related issues to his notice, promising swift action.

The MLA expressed confidence in the efficient implementation of the JJM scheme and its ability to transform the lives of millions by providing them with clean and safe drinking water.

Sakeena inaugurates, addresses KU's Annual Youth Festival-'Sonzal'

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday stressed on the need for preserving Kashmiri culture and language, adding that we need to promote our mother tongue for our bright future. The Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Kashmir University's Annual Youth Festival-'Sonzal' at Convocation Complex of Varsity here on Thursday.

The seven day festival is being organised by Division of Youth Affairs, Department of Students Welfare, University of Kashmir.

Addressing the massive gathering of Professors, Deans, HoDs, Research scholars and students, Sakeena Itoo advocated for safeguarding Kashmiri language and traditions, in the face of modern influences. "Our Kashmiri culture and language is very unique, we all need to be very proud of our culture and heritage and celebrate it to its maximum extent", Sakeena said.

"Language is the foundation of our culture. Without it, we lose touch with the



Social Welfare Minister, Sakeena Itoo speaking at a programme.

narratives, stories and customs that have defined us for centuries. I urge the professors and students here to not only cherish the beauty of our Kashmiri language and culture but also ensure that it thrives beyond academic spaces," she added.

She called upon the student community that it is your responsibility to protect and promote our culture, while also using the power of knowledge to address the issues that affect us on Thursday. "Kashmir University has provided you the knowledge and wisdom, now it's up to you to create a future where both our heritage and our progress walk hand in hand", Sakeena Itoo said.

Highlighting on the contribution of Kashmir University, the Minister remarked that the Varsity is

the 'beacon of knowledge and social progress' of Kashmir, highlighting that the University has produced professors, scholars, researchers who are significantly impacting various sectors like education, governance, technology as well as for preservation of our cultural heritage.

"Kashmir University is not only a place of academic learning but a hub of social change and intellectual growth. It has produced individuals who have contributed immensely to the development of our society and preservation of our cultural heritage across the globe", Sakeena Itoo maintained.

Commending the University for organising this Youth Festival, the Minister said that the 'Sonzal' is a very unique

platform to promote and preserve the Kashmiri language which is an integral part of our cultural heritage. "Cultural outreach initiatives, like 'Sonzal', demonstrate University's commitment to nurturing creativity, preserving traditions and empowering the youth," Sakeena Itoo remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted the significance of the festival in fostering creativity, unity and curiosity among young minds.

"Our university is committed to providing platforms like Sonzal to nurture the talent and potential of our students in various ways," she said.

Prof. Khan also outlined the University's breakthroughs and achievements, including the implementa-