

Horticulture Department organises awareness programme in Panchayat Gurha Jagir

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Department of Horticulture Jammu organized an awareness programme at panchayat Gurha Jagir of block Akhnoor under the chairmanship of Director Horticulture Jammu, Chaman Lal Sharma.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, Rakesh Kotwal, DLSMS Sandeep Gupta and HDO Akhnoor Varinder Sharma and HDO Khour Amit Saraf.

The event saw a large number of participants, with a notable presence of unemployed youth, underscoring the community's keen interest in agricultural development.

The Director briefed about the various centrally and UT-sponsored schemes available



Director Horticulture Jammu, Chaman Lal Sharma and others during the programme.

to farmers, with a special focus on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He elaborated in detail on the benefits these schemes offer, particularly to unemployed youth and women farmers. By setting up small-scale fruit processing units and forming self-help groups, farmers can achieve self-

reliance and create employment opportunities within their communities.

He also stressed the importance of these initiatives in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing the economic stability of farmers. "The HADP is designed to provide comprehensive support, enabling farmers to harness modern

techniques and resources for better productivity and profitability," he said. Being a kandi belt, he urged the farmers of the area to come forward and avail the benefits of different schemes for creation of irrigation sources so that they can enhance their farm production.

Further, during the programme, the Director handed

over sanction letters of Tractors, Drip Irrigation System, Irrigation pumps etc to the beneficiaries under HADP (Farm Mechanization & Automation).

Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, Rakesh Kotwal welcomed the Director and briefed about the status of different schemes being implemented in the area. He also expressed gratitude to all participants for their participation in large numbers and affirmed the department's commitment to supporting the farming community.

Progressive fruit growers also shared their experiences regarding the benefits of the departmental schemes, particularly HADP and convey thanks to the department for organising such programmes.

Handicraft Department organises awareness camp

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The Handicraft and Handloom Department successfully conducted an awareness camp at Block Pouni, Reasi, aimed at informing local artisans and weavers about the various government schemes designed to support and promote their craft. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the community, highlighting their keen interest in availing the benefits provided by the department.

During the camp Assistant Director Ujwal Singh Sambhal addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of initiatives such as the Credit Card Scheme for artisans and weavers, which offers financial assistance to enhance their businesses. He also



Assistant Director Ujwal Singh Sambhal addressing participants.

explained the Karkhandar Scheme, a unique program providing skill training and financial support to budding artisans to preserve and promote traditional crafts. Sambhal underscored the government's commitment to uplifting the handloom and handicraft sector by ensuring artisans and weavers receive the necessary resources to thrive in a

competitive market.

The camp served as an interactive platform where participants raised queries about the schemes and received detailed guidance on the application process. The Handicraft and Handloom Department reiterated its dedication to fostering a robust ecosystem for artisans and weavers, ensuring their skills and heritage.

AHD organises awareness camps across Ramban for Dairy Farmers

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Animal Husbandry Department organized a series of one-day demonstration-cum-awareness camps under the Agricultural Technology Mission Agency (ATMA) for dairy cattle farmers. These programs were conducted across various locations, including Banihal, Maho Mangit, Chanderkote, Gool, and Gandhri, under the supervision of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO), Dr. Suhail Kawoosa.

The camps aimed to educate farmers about flagship government schemes such as the Holistic Agriculture

Development Programme, Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, Integrated Poultry Development Scheme, and the National Livestock Mission. Addressing the participants, the CAHO highlighted the critical role of the livestock sector in providing nutritious food and generating employment opportunities, particularly for landless, small, and marginal farmers, as well as women in rural areas.

Experts conducted training sessions on value addition of fodder, milk, and poultry meat. Farmers were also educated on scientific methods of dairy cattle rear-

ing to enhance milk production and safeguard livestock through effective vaccination programs.

Additionally, the department distributed deworming medicines and mineral mixtures to the participating farmers to promote livestock health and productivity.

Prominent attendees at the events included Technical Officer Dr. Naseer Ahmed Mir, Mobile Veterinary Officer Dr. Rayees Ahmed Bafanda, Clinical Pathologist Dr. Mohsin Ahmad Parry, staff from the Animal Husbandry Department, PRI representatives, and local citizens.

Spring Dales Kathua hosts inspiring guest lecture by FCI Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Spring Dales English School, Changran, Kathua, organized a guest lecture on "Careers in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector," providing students with invaluable insights into one of the fastest-growing global industries.

The event featured an esteemed panel from the Food Craft Institute (FCI) Jammu, Department of Skill Development, Govt. of J&K. The speakers included Jyoti Bhatti, Principal, FCI Jammu, Prince Anayat, Lecturer & Incharge, Training and Placement Cell, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Lecturer & Programme Coordinator-CBSP, Gagan Deep, Lecturer & Event



Coordinator, and Riyaz Ahmad, Lecturer & Academic Coordinator.

Addressing students from Classes 8 to 12, the experts shed light on the diverse career opportunities in hospitality and tourism.

They emphasized the importance of making passion-driven career choices and provided a detailed

overview of the industry, including its dynamics, global prospects, and technological advancements.

The session highlighted FCI Jammu's commitment to excellence in education, offering diploma and certificate courses in areas such as culinary arts, food production, bakery, front office management, food and bev-

erages, housekeeping, and other allied sectors. The event also witnessed the participation of 31 students from Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua, led by Prof. Romika Bassin.

This collaborative effort under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Spring Dales School and GDCW Kathua enriched the session's interactive environment. The visiting students explored the Atal Tinkering Lab of the school, fostering innovation and hands-on learning.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. R.K. Gupta, Director of Spring Dales English School, emphasized the importance of such events in

expanding students' horizons. He remarked, "Such events are vital in broadening students' horizons, equipping them with knowledge, and motivating them to excel in unconventional career paths."

The session concluded with the inspirational quote from the movie 3 Idiots: "Kabil bano, kamyabi toh jhak maarke peeche aayegi" (Strive to be capable; success will follow), leaving students motivated to pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

The event not only educated students about career possibilities in the hospitality and tourism sectors but also inspired them to embrace innovative thinking and a passion for learning.

Prof. R.K. Gupta, Director of Spring Dales English School, emphasized the importance of such events in

expanding students' horizons. He remarked, "Such events are vital in broadening students' horizons, equipping them with knowledge, and motivating them to excel in unconventional career paths."

The session concluded with the inspirational quote from the movie 3 Idiots: "Kabil bano, kamyabi toh jhak maarke peeche aayegi" (Strive to be capable; success will follow), leaving students motivated to pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

The event not only educated students about career possibilities in the hospitality and tourism sectors but also inspired them to embrace innovative thinking and a passion for learning.

ADC Doda visits Gai Dessa, review winter preparedness, inspects departments

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda, Sudershan Kumar, visited Gram Panchayat Gai Dessa and was warmly welcomed by local residents and officials. The visit aimed to improve governance, address public issues, and ensure welfare in the area.

During the visit, the ADC held a meeting to discuss ways to improve administration and resolve community concerns quickly. He also visited the Model E-Governance Centre, stressing the importance of digital services for easy access to government schemes. The ADC assured locals that their concerns would be addressed promptly.

The ADC inspected several key departments, including the Higher Secondary School Dessa, healthcare facilities, the Jal Shakti Department,

and ongoing infrastructure projects. At the school, he met with students and staff, emphasizing the importance of good education and promised support for improving school facilities. In healthcare, he directed officials to ensure better staff availability and adequate medical supplies.

Winter preparedness was also a major focus of the visit. The ADC reviewed plans for essential services, road access, and the supply of food and medical resources. He gave instructions for timely road clearing, pipeline repairs, and ensuring clean drinking water.

The ADC praised local authorities and community members for their efforts in promoting development and cooperation. He reassured residents that the administration would continue to support them and work towards timely resolution of their issues.

Valedictory ceremony of three-day training program for CPIOs held

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The three-day training program for Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) concluded today at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udhampur, with a valedictory ceremony aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

The program, organized at SKPA Udhampur, witnessed the participation of 15 officers, including SPs and Dy.SP.s from the Jammu and Kashmir Police. It was designed to enhance their knowledge and skills for the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The sessions focused on addressing challenges and sharing best practices related to RTI applications and disclosures.

In his valedictory address, Shri Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director (Indoor/Trainings), commended the participants for



A participant officer receiving certificate.

their commitment to fostering transparency and empowering citizens through the RTI framework. He highlighted the pivotal role of CPIOs in ensuring access to information and strengthening public trust in government institutions.

Gupta lauded the proactive engagement of the participants and encouraged them to uphold the principles of openness and accountability

in their roles. He reiterated SKPA's commitment to continuous capacity-building initiatives to support a transparent governance system. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates to all participants. Shri Gupta extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the trainers, speakers, and attendees for their invaluable contributions to the program's success.

MSCBM Trust, NZCC inaugurate Week-long National Art Workshop 'Kartavya Bhoomi'

STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNITOP: The Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust, in collaboration with the North Zone Cultural Centre, has inaugurated a week-long National Art Workshop titled "Kartavya Bhoomi" at the scenic location of Patnitop. This unique initiative aims to bring together artists from diverse cultural backgrounds to celebrate and promote the rich heritage of Indian art.

The workshop has attracted participation from talented artists across the country, including Lakhn Singh Jat (Jaipur, Rajasthan), Rahul Mhetre (Mumbai, Maharashtra), Uma Shankar Pathak (New Delhi), Suraj Kumar (New Delhi), Raju Battula (Hyderabad), Kiran Varikilla (Hyderabad), Taslim Sona (Banswara, Rajasthan) and Kusumavati Hira (Pune, Maharashtra).

These artists, representing various art forms and traditions, will collaborate and cre-

ate masterpieces inspired by the beauty and essence of Patnitop.

Speaking on the occasion, Anuradha Baru, President of the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust, emphasized the Trust's dedication to fostering artistic expression and encouraging the younger generation of Jammu to embrace art. She remarked, "This workshop is a significant step towards preserving our artistic legacy while inspiring young minds to contribute to the cultural fabric of our nation."

She also expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Furquan Khan, Director of NZCC, for his unwavering support and sponsoring the Art Workshop.

The event has been lauded for its efforts to bridge cultural divides and provide a platform for artists to exchange ideas, techniques, and perspectives. Over the course of the week, participating artists will also engage with local

communities, conducting interactive sessions and exhibitions to showcase their work.

The workshop, set against the picturesque backdrop of Patnitop, not only aims to celebrate the diverse artistry of India but also underscores the role of art in promoting unity and mutual understanding. The Trust and its collaborators hope that initiatives like "Kartavya Bhoomi" will leave a lasting impression on both the participants and the spectators, inspiring them to carry forward the spirit of creativity and innovation.

Hemant Kushwaha qualifies Ph.D

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Hemant Kushwaha, a research scholar in the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in



Management under the guidance of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, a faculty member at the School of Business, SMVDU. Kushwaha conducted a study on "Essays on Business Legal Expenses Insurance". Her research has been published in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the B categories based on the ABDC indexing and under SCOPUS. Additionally, Hemant Kushwaha has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor (Commerce) at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (Deemed University). She extends her heartfelt gratitude to the School of Business at SMVDU for their essential resource and unwavering support throughout her research journey. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Professor, Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Professor Jyoti Sharma, Head of the School of Business, and other committee members congratulated Hemant Kushwaha and wished her a bright future.

Jyoti Prakash Utsav of Mahatma Dewan Sahib Ji Maharaj celebrated at Udas Marg Mandir

STATE TIMES NEWS

RS PURA: The 102nd Jyoti Prakash Utsav of Mahatma Dewan Sahib Ji Maharaj, the revered 22nd Guru, was celebrated with great religious fervor and devotion at Udas Marg Mandir, R.S. Pura. The auspicious event was held under the supreme supervision of the 23rd Guru, Shri Bhagwan Dass Ji Maharaj, and witnessed participation from devotees across Punjab, Haryana, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The annual celebration brought together followers who gathered to express



Dignitaries during the programme at R S Pura.

their deep devotion and honor the teachings of Mahatma Dewan Sahib Ji Maharaj. Devotees also sought blessings from Bhagwan Dass Ji Maharaj and Raj Mata Binla Devi Ji. The atmosphere was filled with spiritual enthusiasm and reverence, as the sacred traditions were observed with sincerity.

The Shiromani Sant Kabir Trust, R.S. Pura, played an integral role in the celebrations, showcasing their heartfelt devotion and commitment to upholding the legacy of the great Sant Baba Dewan Sahib Ji Maharaj. The Trust members paid tribute to the present Guru,

Shri Bhagwan Dass Ji Maharaj, and expressed their dedication to promoting the spiritual teachings of the Udasin tradition. Trust Members present were Chaman Lal (President), Master Balak Raj, Shashi Bala, Anju Devi, Sushma Devi, Harinder Mahajan, S. Kirtan Singh, Darshan Kumar, Naresh Kumar, and Rita Devi were among the prominent trustees who participated in the event.

The celebrations concluded with prayers and blessings for universal peace, prosperity, and spiritual growth, leaving the devotees spiritually uplifted and united in their faith.

SMVDU hosts lecture series by external experts for bachelor of design students

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an engaging Lecture Series for Bachelor of Design (B.Des) students, featuring renowned external experts from the field of design and innovation. The Lecture Series at the University campus covered various topics, including sustainable design, user-centric innovation, and emerging design technologies. Prominent speakers include Prof. Mihir Bhole from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Dr. Taruna Singh (Department of Design, DTU), Monica Singh (Artist and Designer), Prof. Ranganath. M. Singari (Former Head of the Department of Design, DTU) who shared their expertise and engaged students in thought-provoking discussions.

The lecture series also included faculty interac-



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

tions wherein Ar. Abhinay Gupta and Dr. Yatheshth Anand (Head, SoME), and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assoc. Professor, SME) also participated with other Bachelor of Design Program faculty members.

The interactive sessions offered students a chance to gain a deeper understanding of contemporary design challenges and trends.

The speakers also highlighted the significance of design thinking, prototype development, and the integration of aesthetics and functionality in mod-

ern-day problem-solving. The Lecture Series received an enthusiastic response from students, who actively participated in Q&A sessions and appreciated the opportunity to connect with industry leaders.

Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Design program at SMVDU informed "SMVDU is the first university in the UT of Jammu of Kashmir to offer a Bachelor of Design course and the program is being mentored by Prof. Lalit.K.Das (Former

Professor of Design, IIT Delhi)". Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Exposing students to the wisdom of industry experts broadens their perspectives and enhances their ability to apply design concepts practically."

SMVDU plans to continue organizing such knowledge-sharing events to nurture innovation and prepare students for successful careers in the ever-evolving field of design.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."