

Director Agriculture reviews functioning of IIKSTC; holds interaction with NABL team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Wednesday reviewed the functioning of India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC) Dussoo, Pampore.

The Director also visited different sections of the trade centre and was briefed by the concerned officers regarding the functioning of different units (including packing, labelling, grading and e-auctioning unit) of the IIKSTC.

Speaking on the occasion, The Director said that the centre must adopt the latest trends regarding the quality control and marketing of saffron. He asked the concerned officer to take feedback from

the saffron growers and make all the efforts to ensure that their interests are safeguarded.

Iqbal said that e-auctioning facility at the centre created by the department aims at providing platform to the buyers to have access to quality "Kashmir Saffron" and help saffron viewers for getting optimum returns of their yield which will ultimately boost the economy of IIKSTC to the visiting team. He further discussed various initiatives taken by the trade centre for the development of the saffron sector.

He further added that the saffron purchased through this platform is tested/certified quality produce.

Iqbal said that the department is eyeing new markets at national and international

level in future with respect to the marketing of saffron therefore, new marketing channels need to be explored.

Later, the Director held an interactive session with the team of National Accreditation Board for testing and calibration laboratories led by NABL Assessor S.C. JOSHI. Director expressed his views regarding the functioning of IIKSTC to the visiting team. He further discussed various initiatives taken by the trade centre for the development of the saffron sector.

During the visit, the Director was accompanied by administrator IIKSTC Shahnaaz Ahmad Shah and some senior officers of the department.

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SRINAGAR: A four day capacity building programme for tourism stakeholders commenced here on Wednesday.

The programme is being jointly organized by the Department of Tourism and University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Dean, Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, Prof. Farooq Masoodi; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Ito; Registrar, University of Kashmir, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir and other academicians from the University and officers from Tourism Department besides stakeholders were present in the

inaugural function.

In his inaugural remarks, Prof. Farooq Masoodi underlined the need for supplementing trade experiences with academic inputs for better results and satisfying experiences. He hoped that more such interactive sessions would be held for the stakeholders to keep them abreast with changing trade patterns and practices.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Ito in his opening remarks gave a resume of initiatives taken by the Department for the handholding of tourism stakeholders in the wake of Covid pandemic during the last two years.

He said the Department

carried out a vaccination drive among all the segments of the tourism trade which gave enough confidence to tourists and the results were for anyone to decipher.

The Director Tourism reminded the stakeholders of sticking to age-old traditions of hospitality and fair practice if they want to maintain the edge among the competing tourism markets in the country.

He hoped with today's capacity building programme, the stakeholders would be benefitted in terms of latest trade practices, post Covid precautions and the traditional courtesies the place has been known world over.

Cultural Unit of DIPR organises 'Sufiyan Mousiqui' programme at Rambagh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To carry the mission of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' forward, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR on Wednesday organised a Sufiyan Mousiqui (Mangabat e Imam E Aali muqam) on the eve of birth anniversary of Shah e Wilayat, Hazrat Ali (kw) at the Cultural Activity Hall of Joint Director Information, Rambagh.

The Mangabat was presented by Mushtaq Saznawaz, SCA while as Gh. Mohammad Bhat, Music Composer and Gh. Mohideen Khanday, SCA played Sarangi and Gadda respectively.

The officers and officials of the department participated in the event.

DC Anantnag convenes TB Forum meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Wednesday chaired the TB forum meeting at DC Office, here.

The TB forum is a platform with representatives from District Administration, Health, PRI members, Journalists, Advocates and members of the civil society and is aimed to supplement and complement government initiatives for eradication of tuberculosis by 2025 and reduce stigma associated with TB.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the health department should shift to an active approach to eliminate TB from the district. He said aggressive campaigning must be carried out to ensure maximum coverage and reduce the stigma associated with TB in the society.

He said that the incentive policy for identifying TB cases where Rs 1000 is given



DC Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla chairing a meeting.

to private practitioners for notifying TB cases must be widely publicized.

Regarding the sub-national certification to be started in the district by Saturday to assess the present extent of TB eradication, the DC agreed to augment survey remuneration to surveyors by equivalent amount from their own resources. This was done to have quality service in the district.

Dr Singla lauded the DTO and his team for the work carried out so far and said that dedicated efforts have to be made to eradicate TB.

He said the focus should be on educating people particularly the high risk group that can contract TB due to other comorbidities.

Earlier, the DTO presented the achievements of the district so far. He said that the DTC center caters to Anantnag and Kulgam through 12 treatment units, 16 DMCs and 361 DOT Centres.

He said that under universal drug susceptibility testing, out of 690 patients, 627 have been tested so far. Similarly under HIV diabetes testing 100 percent of

the patients have been tested. Under Nikshay Poshan Yojana, an amount of Rs 15.79 lacs has been disbursed which covers 95 percent of the eligible cases and the remaining cases are under process.

The District Tuberculosis Center has also provided treatment support honorarium of Rs 16000 to 12 patients.

The participants were informed that the district will commence the Sub National Certification from Saturday whereby a cluster based survey will be carried out in the district. A 30 member survey team will conduct the survey in 15 clusters to assess the present TB scenario in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, CMO, HoD Medicine GMC Srinagar, MS GMC Anantnag, and representatives from WHO, PRI members, representatives from media and NGOs among others.

Dialogam, the Chairman was informed by Principal GMC that the campus is nearing completion and will be made operational in the coming days. The DDC said that the GMC is a first of its kind institution in South Kashmir and he is hopeful that the institution will make its mark as a leading academic college not only in the UT but in the entire country.

The DDC visited the new campus of GMC Anantnag at Dialogam, Receiving Station Shankerpura, Govt Polytechnic Dooru and paid obeisance at Ziyarat Sharif Kabamarg.

The Chairman visited Govt Polytechnic College at Larkipora where a plantation drive was organized by the Social Forestry Division, Anantnag. He said that under the ambit of Har Ghar Hariyali initiative of the government, plantations have been carried out throughout the district and he is hopeful that the initiative will augment the green cover in the district.

He also appreciated the dedication of the District Officers and appealed to the people to enthusiastically participate in the development.

The Chairman also paid obeisance at Ziyarat Sharif Kabamarg, Hazrat Anantnag.

Inspecting the new campus at

eficiaries.

He visited Shankerpura Receiving station and expressed hope that the augmentation of the power infrastructure in the district will ensure 24x7 power supply in the area. He also visited the Receiving station at Dooru and directed the concerned officials to ensure adherence to the notified power schedule.

The DDC Chairman also visited the Sub District Hospital at Dooru and interacted with the patients. He was satisfied with the quality of healthcare being provided. He also inspected the oxygen plant at the facility and took stock of the progress of providing SEHAT cards to the local populace under Ayushman Bharat.

He impressed upon the officials from health department to ensure that all people are enrolled under PM SEHAT so that health cover can be availed by all.

The DDC was accompanied by DDC Member Shahabad Shabir Ahmed Dar, ACP, BDC Shakeela Banoo among others.

DDC Chairman conducts tour of Dooru, Shahabad constituency

He prayed for the overall development of the district. He also took stock of the facilities being extended to the devotees at the facility.

Gorsi visited Block Shahabad Dooru and interacted with the PRI members. He took stock of the development works being undertaken under District CAPEX, MGNREGA and 14th FC.

He impressed upon the PRIs and officials to ensure works are completed as per the timeline.

He said that the development plan for the next year has been formulated under MGNREGA and emphasized that priority must be given to works of public importance. He also stressed on holding Gram Sabhas at regular intervals.

The Chairman informed the people present about the ongoing Vigilance Awareness fortnight and appealed to the locals to participate enthusiastically in the campaign. He asked the people to cooperate with the administration and earnestly provide inputs for inclusion of deserving beneficiaries and exclusion of non-deserving ben-

DEO Kulgam reviews health, purification of electoral rolls

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Wednesday kick-started daylong 'Youth Engagement and Outreach Initiative Programme' under Mission Youth initiative at Government High School, Behibagh, here.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged the unemployed youth of the district to come forward and avail benefits under various self-

employment and ambitious schemes of the Mission Youth.

The DC said that the aim of conducting the programme is to provide awareness and motivate the unemployed youth of the district to get benefitted under various employment generating schemes of the Government.

He appealed to the youth to become job providers instead of job seekers by way of establishing their own self-employment generating units under various employment

generation schemes of the Government.

He urged upon them to utilize their energy towards brightening their future.

During this daylong programme, resource persons from Employment Department Peerzada Ajiaz and Rayees Iqbal disseminated information to the participants regarding the schemes of Mission Youth J&K.

Besides, the resource persons from other line departments also presented the

employment schemes.

Present on the occasion were AD- Employment Kulgam, Block Development Officer, Behibagh, Resource persons from all line departments, Youth Club members and PRIs.

DC Srinagar holds public grievance redressal camp at Panzinara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In connection with the Public Outreach Programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Panzinara in the outskirts of Srinagar district and presided over a Public Grievance Redressal cum Awareness Camp under Weekly Block Diwas initiative.

The Weekly Block Diwas programme was held within the premises of Boys High School, Panzinara which witnessed large participation of people from Panzinara-A, Panzinara-B and other adjoining areas of Shaltang Tehsil of Srinagar District. During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local DDC members, PRI representatives, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC particularly the long pending issue arising out of jurisdictional dispute with Baramulla and Bandipora.

Besides, they also demanded for macadamization of roads, augmentation of water and power supply, repairs of drainage system, bank ATM facility, establishment of veterinary center and construction of Common Facilitation Center in the area.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp. He also assured the people of Panzinara and other adjoining areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority particularly with regard to jurisdictional issues. The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the purpose of

4 drug peddlers arrested; contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from society, Police in a series of actions has arrested four drug peddlers in Baramulla on Wednesday and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

As per details, Police in Baramulla at various checkpoints established across the district, arrested four drug peddlers identified as Shahnaaz Ahmad Shah, son of Gh Ahmad Shah, resident of Shah Mohalla Nihalpora; Amandeep Singh, son of Jaqtaar Singh, resident of Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Aqib Sheikh, son of Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Sheikh Mohalla & Sameer Ahmad Sheikh, son of Gulab Sheikh, resident of Hawal at present Waripora Kunzer and recovered 5 Kg Poppy Straw and 385 gm Charas from their possession.

Moreover, a vehicle (Maruti Ertiga) bearing registration No PB07BC-8625 being used by accused persons was also seized. All drug peddlers were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered in Police Station Pattan, Tangmarg & Kunzer.

Trucker, accomplice nabbed with 13.912 Kg poppy straw

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua Police, continuing its 'War against Drugs' recovered approximately 13.912 Kg Poppy Straw (Bhukki) like narcotics near Galak Naka and arrested 2 persons in this connection.

As per details, on directions of SSP Kathua R C Kotwal, a police team led by PSI Ravinder Thakur Incharge Police Post Ramkot under supervision of SDPO Billawar Arvind Kumar during Naka checking duty at Galak noticed a suspicious Truck (PB10HJ-1635), which was signaled to stop for checking.

On thorough checking, approximately 13.912 Kg Poppy Straw (Bhukki) was recovered from the vehicle. The driver was identified as Jasvinder Singh, son of Yoga Singh, resident of Ward-5 Chanderlok, District Ludhiana while accomplice was identified as Ramesh, son of Prem Chand, resident of Ghoata, Tehsil Ramnagar. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 21/2022 under sections 8/15/29 of NDPS Act and 3/4/25 of Arms Act was registered at Police Station Billawar.

Meanwhile, locals of village Bamiyal, Nagrota intercepted a vehicle (JK20-4474) and during frisking found it laden with 3 bovines, which were rescued. Soon the villagers informed police and handed over driver, namely Ashiq Ali, son of Mohd Ali to police.

Woman injured in head-on collision between vehicles

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A woman was injured in a head-on collision between a private car and an SSB vehicle near Bemina area of Srinagar on Tuesday. As per details, the accident took place between an i10 car and SSB's vehicle, causing injuries to one Sabia Yasmeen, wife of Imtiaz Ahmad Shah, resident of Bemina, who was shifted to SMHS hospital.

Assam resident arrested with Ganja at Jammu Railway Station

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GRP Jammu on Wednesday arrested an Assam resident and recovered 7 Kg Ganja from his possession.

As per details, GRP Jammu arrested one Devi Ram Nath, son of Dineshwar Nath, resident of Satkali, District Durang, Assam at Railway Station Jammu with a consignment of 7 Kg Ganja. FIR No. 01/2022 under section 8/20 NDPS was registered at Police Station GRP Jammu & investigation started.

Two narco-smugglers arrested with heroin, weapons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Wednesday detained two narco-smugglers with 5 gm heroin along with weapons.

As per details, a team of Police Station Bahu Fort constituted under the supervision of SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari and led by SHO Police Station Bahu Fort Insp Nayat Ali during Naka near Bathinda Morth, rounded up two suspects in a vehicle (JK02CD 1822). The suspects were identified as Yashwant Pathania, son of Yudhvir Pathani, resident of Dignana and Pankaj Bhagat, son of Son Nath Bhagat, resident of Tej Mongor, Gali-1, Jalandhar (Punjab) at present Bari Brahma, Samba. On search, 5 gm heroin, a magazine of pistol, 2 live cartridges and a Toka was recovered from them. During further questioning, one 12-bore double barrel rifle, one cartridge of 12-bore, 2 air-gun pistols and a sword were also recovered. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 51/22 under sections 8/21/25/29 of NDPS Act and 3/4/25 of Arms Act was registered against them at Police Station Bahu Fort. Jammu police is working intensively to uproot chains of drug supply in the region and thorough questioning of accused is going on to know origin of drugs supply chain.

Two bootleggers arrested, 60 lts illicit Lahan destroyed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police on Wednesday arrested two bootleggers and recovered illicit liquor besides destroying 60 lts Lahan.

Doda Police said that in two separate cases, FIRs were registered at Police Station Badaurwah and Police Station Assar and 60 lts illicit Lahan was destroyed by a team from Police Station Gandoth Police. Two accused were also apprehended and illicit liquor was recovered from their possession which they were carrying for illegal sale in Bhalra, Assar and Changa areas. FIR No. 20