

J&K Branch of ICAI awarded at Annual Function

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The J&K Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was awarded with second best branch under Small & Micro (combined) Category branch at the 72nd Annual function of the Northern Regional Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India organized at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi.

The Award was presented by Chief Guest (CA) Charanjot Singh Nanda, Vice-President of ICAI to J&K branch which was represented by its Chairman, CA Vineet Kohli, Past Chairman, CA Vikas Pordhani and CA Priya Seht, Secretary, in the



CA Vineet Kohli, CA Vikas Pordhani and CA Priya Seht of J&K Branch of ICAI receiving award from Vice-President, ICAI CA Charanjot Singh Nanda at New Delhi.

presence of Central Council Members of Northern Region CA (Dr.) Sanjeev Kumar Singhal, CA Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, CA Hans Raj Chugh, CA (Dr.) Raj Chawla, CA Gaurav Garg, Chairman, NIRC of ICAI, and other members of NIRC of ICAI.

The awards are presented annually to the best performing branches of ICAI across all Northern regions under various categories i.e Small & Micro, Medium and Mega and Large by taking into consideration various parameters of excellence in performance.

J&K branch, under the guidance of CA Vikas Pordhani, was given the award for its outstanding contributions and achievements. The Best Branch Award is a testament to the unwavering commitment to upholding

the highest standards of professionalism and service.

It is pertinent to mention that J&K Branch of ICAI has been awarded for the Seventh time at National Level amongst 175 branches and 50 overseas chapters of ICAI.

The other members of Executive Committee of J&K Branch of ICAI comprise of CA Sourav Pargal (Vice Chairman), CA Ayush Sawhney (Executive Member) and CA Nakul Saraf (Past Chairman).

Various Central Council Members, Office bearers of various branches were also present at the Annual function along with a host of Chartered Accountants and Rank Holder CA students.

SKUAST-K to hold annual two day mega farm cum exhibition Mela on March 4, 5

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: With a renewed focus on tech-driven sustainable farming, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) is gearing up to host its highly anticipated annual mega farm mela on March 4-5, 2024, at the Shalimar campus.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Pushottam Rupala, along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, are expected to inaugurate the Kashmir's biggest farm event, the 9th Technology Exhibition-cum-Seed Sale Mela, the university said in a statement.

In a bid to bolster the blue revolution after successful green and white revolutions, the theme of this year's annual two-day event has been chosen, 'Cold Water Fisheries: A Game Changer in J&K'.

While showcasing SKUAST-K's accomplishments in the fisheries sector, the mela will highlight the latest advancements in agriculture technologies.

The exhibition will display various technologies and



methods of production for tapping J&K's fisheries potential. SKUAST-K scientists will hold sessions and interactions with farmers and other interested people, informing them about fisheries cultivation. Special demonstrations of fisheries technology including fish gears and crafts and value-added fish products will be held.

Sale of fruit planting material, fish, vermicompost, animal feeds and supplements, herbs, animal and agri byproducts, vegetable and flower seeds and seedlings along with the latest farm machinery and other inputs will be held at the mela for which about 300 stalls to be setup at Shalimar campus.

Being organised by the SKUAST-K's Directorate of Extension, more than 2 lakh people from all walks of life, including farmers and students, are expected to visit the two-day event to buy the

inputs of their interest and have first-hand experience of the latest farming techniques & technologies of the various Agri and allied sectors. Agri-entrepreneurs, agri-industrialists and those interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, animal and plant husbandry, poultry, forestry, medicinal and aromatic plants, are expected to attend.

Some of the major highlights of the event include a technology demonstration, showcasing SKUAST-K innovations and startups, next-gen farming solutions, an expo of champion commercial farmers, an agri-industrial expo, farmers-scientists interface, awareness about centrally-sponsored schemes, an exhibition of ethnic and cultural diversity, participation of SHG and FPO enterprises, sale of quality seed and planting material, and agri-products.

Doctors from Jammu deliver Guest Lectures in IMSCON

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JAMMU: Dr Annil Mahajan, Former Professor & Head, Medicine, GMC Jammu was guest faculty in Annual Conference of Indian Menopause Society (IMS) at Prayagraj. He highlighted, in his invited guest lecture, that post-menopausal osteoporosis should be diagnosed and treated at the earliest to avoid any occurrence of fracture and further morbidity and mortality. He also stressed that adequate supplementation of calcium and vitamin D is important besides exercise, balanced diet, cessation of smoking, avoidance of excess coffee and tea.

He deliberated on the role of various anti-osteoporotic drugs and suggested that mild to moderate osteoporosis may be treated with lifestyle modification and preferably with anti resorptive drugs like Biphosphonates, where as severe osteoporosis with or without fracture should be treated with anabolic drugs. He clarified that Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) to be instituted in the osteoporotic women with vasomotor symptoms.

Dr Vishal R Tandon, Professor from Govt Medical College, Jammu delivered an invited guest lecture on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medical practice and research during this conference.

He said AI is becoming important in medical profession but cannot replace the final skill and decision of doctors.

He further highlighted that AI has a great role in diagnosis, screening the population, therapeutic decision making, drug safety, Research and drug development, monitoring of the patient and surgical procedures like robotics.



Waqf Board's mega dev mission continues across J&K: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday inaugurated/ laid foundation stone of a multitude of projects across Pulwama district.

At the outset, Chairperson, Waqf Board inaugurated the newly constructed Jamia Masjid at Neva, the foundation stone of which was laid by her a few months ago. The Jamia Masjid was constructed after 30 years on the initiative taken by Dr Andrabi.

Dr Darakhshan also inaugurated the newly constructed Shopping Complex by Waqf Board at Kakapora, and also laid the foundation stone of Hazrat Mehda Bab Rishi (RA) Complex at Kakapora.

Later, the Chairperson Waqf Board met many public delegations at Pulwama and also addressed a public gathering.

She was accompanied by Waqf Board Members, Syed Mohammed Hussain, Dr Ghulaam Nabi Haleem, Magistrate Ishtiyak



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurating a multitude of projects across Pulwama district.

Mohiuddin, Executive Engineer Tariq Kaloo and socio-political leader from Pulwama Arshad Bhat among others.

Representatives of many departments were also accompanying her during the visit.

In her address, Dr Darakhshan said that the work culture in Waqf Board has witnessed a drastic change since 2022 with transparency, accountability and public connect being the new order of governance.

"We are now, for the first time in the history of the Waqf Board, undertaking construction works at all major shrines out of the resources of the Board," she said adding "earlier this

money used to go into the pockets of some privileged classes".

The money from the shrines and from all the properties of Waqf Board is now spent on the projects for upgrading facilities at the shrines, said Dr Darakhshan.

She said during Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's leadership J&K has undergone huge transformation, and so has the Waqf working system changed a lot. "People now rely on the Waqf Board and its decisions. They believe in the Board and have great hope on us, and we are committed to fulfill the aspirations of the people," said Dr Darakhshan.

Apni Party holds well-defined developmental road map as per specific needs of each constituency: Bukhari

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SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Monday said that the party has a well-defined developmental roadmap tailored to the specific needs of each constituency in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at a gathering in the Badshah Nagar area of Srinagar's Chanapora constituency, Bukhari emphasized that once Apni Party receives the public mandate to serve, it will waste no time in implementing its vision and policies on the ground.



JKAP President S.M.A Bukhari speaking at party workers meeting.

According to a press release issued here, as part of his ongoing public outreach campaign in Srinagar's Chanapora constituency, the President of the Apni

Party interacted and engaged with party members and local residents in Badshah Nagar today.

Party workers and residents briefed Bukhari about the public issues

and grievances affecting the people in this area.

Reaffirming Apni party's commitment to local development, Bukhari said, "Apni Party is unwaveringly committed to fostering a peaceful environment in Jammu and Kashmir to pave the way for equitable development across the Union Territory. Apni Party has both the will and potential to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of prosperity."

The meeting was held at the residence of Vice Chairman of DDC Srinagar Bilal Ahmad Bhat.

Congress has history of protecting interests of J&K people: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Raman Bhalla, the Working President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), on Monday asserted that Congress has always taken a "leading role" in tackling the challenges posed before the country, saying the party "very well knows how to discharge its role of sacrificing everything for the country".

Interacting with the people of the Bahu constituency, Bhalla said, "Today, the situation of J&K has become adverse owing to the anti-people policies of the government. Spiralling inflation, poverty, malnutrition, crime and challenges before the democratic values, Constitution and Constitutional institutions, can only be tackled by Congress. For this, everybody has to play an active role."

Urging the Congress workers to understand the pain faced by the people, he said, "The history of the Congress has been to reduce the pain of every section of the country. This is our present as well as the future. Hence, our priority is the country and the people. Stand with them, share their pain, and



JKPCC Working President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

work hard to help them get rid of the pain." He also said that the BJP governments at the Centre and in J&K have "committed the sin of pushing people into problems".

Addressing concerns about job opportunities and nepotism, Bhalla reiterated Congress's dedication to implementing pro-poor and pro-oppressed policies for their upliftment. He assured support for refugees, poor farmers, and marginalized communities.

Taking a dig at the BJP, he criticized the government for delaying the restoration of statehood and holding assembly elections in the UT.

The JKPCC leader emphasized the need for

unity among people in Jammu and the valley to safeguard their rights and interests. He urged the initiation of a movement to demand the restoration of statehood and the reversal of hostile laws affecting the region.

Assuring Congress's commitment to protecting Jammu and Kashmir's interests, Bhalla emphasized the party's efforts for peace and prosperity in the region. He urged public support to ensure the effective implementation of Congress's people-friendly agenda.

He underscored the importance of upcoming assembly elections and called upon the people of Jammu to reject divisive forces. He highlight-

ed the urgency for elections, signalling growing political alienation in the region.

Regarding job opportunities, Bhalla criticized the preference for outsiders in developmental projects, pledging to prioritize locals for employment. He called for public support to elect Congress candidates to address the region's issues effectively. Bhalla reiterated Congress's vision for the economic empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir's people, promising impartial development and prosperity for all citizens, regardless of their affiliations. He urged party leaders and workers to strengthen their political activities and outreach programs to stay connected with the masses.

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