

Three-day training programme on Nutrition Mix Formula concludes at KVK Jammu

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The three-day training programme on "Nutrition Mix Formula for Pregnant and Lactating Women" organized under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor and able guidance of Prof. Amrisha Vaid, Director Extension concluded successfully at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jammu. The valedictory function was graced by Dr. Shubra Sharma, Mission Director, JKSRML with KVK Jammu officials.



Dr. Shubra Sharma, Mission Director, JKSRML with KVK Jammu officials.

Honour. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Shubra Sharma highlighted the significance of the training in enhancing the capacity of women mobilizers in the district. She commended KVK Jammu for organizing the programme within a short duration and emphasized its role in empowering rural women with essential nutri-

tional knowledge. Dr. Hema Tripathi in her address underscored the crucial role of the trained members in disseminating vital nutritional information to sustain the livelihoods of rural women. At the outset, Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK, Jammu welcomed the participants and shared insights into the objectives of the training which was organized for members of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM). The programme focused on hands-on training in preparing various Nutri Mix recipes to meet the nutritional requirements of pregnant

and lactating women. During the training, Dr. Sheetal Badyal, Chief Scientist (Home Science) and Dr. Poonam Abrol demonstrated techniques for premix preparation and provided detailed insights into the nutritional profiles of various food products. Dr. Ravneet Kour, Dr. Prem Kumar, Dr. Muneeshwar Sharma, Dr. Amitesh Sharma and S. Satbir Singh shared their expertise and perspectives. The training programme was sponsored by JKSRML and aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge to promote maternal and child health in rural areas.



Delegation of students from North-East posing with faculty of JU.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A delegation of students from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Meghalaya visited the University of Jammu as part of their 21-day educational and cultural exchange program aimed at strengthening national integration and cross-cultural learning. Prof. Prakash Anthal, Dean Students Welfare, University of

Jammu, extended a warm welcome to the visiting delegates and apprised them of the diverse academic and infrastructural facilities available at the university. In his address, he emphasized India's rich cultural heritage, describing it as a true reflection of 'Unity in Diversity.' Engaging in an interactive session, Prof. Anthal encouraged the students to share their experiences of visiting Jammu and staying with the local community. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the region's cultural vibrancy, hospitality, and the academic environment at the university. Among others present on the occasion included Dt. Shalhu Sharma, Dr. A. R. Manhas, Deputy Chief Proctors, Dr. Harleen Kaur, Dr. Ripudaman Parihar, assistant Deans SW, Dr. S.R. Dubey, CSO, Staff and students.

Watershed Yatra receives grand welcome in Samba amid cultural events, awareness activities

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBHA: The Watershed Yatra, under the WDC-PMKSY 2.0, was warmly welcomed in Samba by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma in the presence of DDC Member Ramesh Chander; ADDC Champa Devi; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Narsingh Dayal Verma and others. The event witnessed a massive gathering of participants, including children, youth and the members of civil society, showcasing the community's enthusiasm and support for the initiative. The celebrations were marked by a vibrant cultural program featuring nukkad natak, songs, speeches, and other performances that highlighted the importance of watershed development and environmental conser-

vation. Bhoomi Poojan and a tree plantation drive were also held, further emphasizing the commitment to sustainable development. Certificates and mementos were given away by Deputy Commissioner Samba to honor the watershed warriors who dedicated their lives to the mission of water conservation. In his address, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the positive impact of the watershed movement and commended the Samba Administration for its consistent efforts to ensure the welfare of the community. DDC Member Ramesh stressed the need for active community participation in watershed activities and other welfare-oriented schemes of the

Government of India, urging people to embrace such initiatives for sustainable progress. Celebrations at Samba Fort: A parallel function was organized at the historic Samba Fort, where DDC Chairman Keshav Dutt welcomed the Watershed Van. The event featured cultural performances such as singing, skits, and dancing, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. Certificates were distributed to watershed warriors in recognition of their contributions. Following the celebrations, the Watershed Van departed for Udhampur, where the next phase of the Yatra will continue spreading awareness about watershed development and sustainable water management practices.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Javed Ahmad Dar, held a comprehensive review meeting regarding functioning of the Agriculture department at the Directorate Office, here on Thursday. The Minister assessed the progress on agriculture initiatives across all districts of Jammu, emphasising the need for innovation, farmer support and sustainable growth in the sector. Chairing the meeting, the Minister highlighted the immense potential of niche crop cultivation, particularly those with aromatic and medicinal value. He called for greater collaboration between the Forest and Ayush departments to explore new opportunities for farmers.



Agriculture Minister, Javed Ahmad Dar chairing a meeting.

The Minister asserted on highlighting progressive farming practices for encouragement of other farmers. "We need to showcase our success stories whether in high-tech farming or progressive techniques so that more farmers feel encouraged to adopt modern practices," the Minister asserted. He asked the officials to conduct regular field visits, engage directly with farmers and guide them towards sustainable agricultural methods. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness about government schemes, ensuring they reach every farmer at their doorstep. Javed Dar emphasized speedy distribution of farm machinery, bore wells and poly housing facilities to enhance productivity. "Despite staff shortages, I see the agriculture depart-

ment doing commendable work," he said, encouraging the officers and field functionaries to play a proactive role in empowering the farmers at the grassroots level. The Minister also reviewed strengthening irrigation infrastructure, timely distribution of quality seedlings and planting materials besides increasing farmer accessibility to resources that boost yield under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). Javed Dar appreciated the outstanding work done in Kathua, particularly in mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting and establishment of a millet restaurant, which has empowered women farmers under HADP. "I want this Kathua model to be replicated across other districts. Farmers must be encouraged to adopt high-tech farming, exotic vegetables, organic methods, and other high-yield practices to transform agriculture for better economic prospects," the Minister emphasized. The Minister stressed that agriculture is key to economic sustainability and called for a collective effort to make the sector more profitable and resilient. Earlier, Director Agriculture Jammu, A. S. Reen, provided a detailed presentation on the department's achievements and challenges. He highlighted efforts in irrigation development, organic farming, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and exotic vegetable production. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Extension Satish Sharma, Chief Agriculture Officers, and other senior officials.

Army commemorates Nowshera Day with Veer Naris, veterans, school children

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NOWSHERA: In a solemn and momentous occasion, Indian Army, under the aegis of Ace of Spades Division and White Knight Corps, organised a grand Ex-Service Men Outreach Programme in Naushera district to mark culmination of Commemoration ceremony of Nowshera Day. The event was attended by 400 plus locals and honoured the gallant sacrifices of veterans, Veer Naris and Bal Sainiks, while celebrating the indomitable spirit of the locals who fought alongside Army with little regards to their own life or property to save the Motherland. Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, SM, General Officer Commanding, Ace of Spade Division, Abhishek Sharma, DC Rajouri and other military and civil administration Dignitaries laid wreath at Veer Bhoomi in remembrance of Nk Jadunath Singh, PVC and other fallen heroes who made supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. The event was followed by cultural program by the school children of border village, Jabbar and Sai Baba



Army officers presenting prize to winner students.

School, Nowshera. Their excellent performances displayed the local culture and talent. GOC, Ace of Spade Division awarded the school children and teachers for their enthusiasm, passion and dedication. GOC also interacted with people of Naushera & ESMs wherein heartfelt felicitation to the esteemed gallantry awardees and Veer Naris of Naushera town and nearby border villages was performed. The event also witnessed the institutionalisation of Shan-e-

Naushera Award to recognise outstanding contribution of the people of Naushera in the varied fields of academics, sports, social work and journalism. Notable personalities from these domains were presented with the prestigious Shan-e-Naushera Award, a testament to their exceptional achievements and service to the nation. Veterans of the region, who have long served the nation with unwavering dedication, were honoured with respect

and admiration. The heartfelt tributes to Veer Naris underscored the immense sacrifices made by the families of our fallen heroes. The event also provided an opportunity for interaction and camaraderie amongst the ex-servicemen, fostering a sense of pride and unity. The occasion was marked by emotional moments and a renewed commitment to the ideals of duty, sacrifice, and nation-building. The GOC, in his address, reaffirmed the Army's unwavering support to the families of veterans and the local populace, emphasizing the critical importance of preserving the legacy of courage and resilience that Naushera stands for. In the run up to Naushera Day Celebrations Indian Army conducted various events to include Brig Usman Inter District Cricket Tournament, outreach to Hill Community, Multi Speciality Medical Camp wherein 38 Artificial Limbs and 15 Wheel chairs were distributed, Cross Country Run for School Children and various other professional and Vocational Courses.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Jammu, saying that criminal elements have become emboldened, carrying out shootouts and burglaries in broad daylight. "Such brazen acts of crime have sent shockwaves among the people, especially housewives, elderly citizens, and children, making them feel unsafe even within their own homes", Sadhotra lamented while addressing a workers meeting at Kathua which was organized by Ajit Kumar Sharma District President National Conference Kathua and Neelam Sharma Incharge Women Wing Kathua Block Basholi and K K Bakshi Sr. Vice President Kathua and Shakeel Ahmed Block President Kathua. He said that criminals appear to have no fear of law enforcement, as they continue their sinister activities against civ-



Former Minister, Ajay Sadhotra addressing workers meeting at Kathua.

ilized society without any deterrence. This situation reflects serious lapses in policing and governance, due to dual control, leading to an atmosphere of insecurity, he said while holding the B-JP responsible for alarming and deteriorating situation. In this context, Sadhotra also referred to the reports of excessive use of force and harassment of Makhani Din in police custody in Billawar leading to his suicide and the killing of Waseem Ahmed Malla, allegedly by the army under circumstances not yet entirely clear, saying such incidents instil sense of insecurity and fear among the people. He hailed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for ordering own inquiry to bring out the truth as the present government is helpless to tackle such situations due to dual control. Referring to the political and administrative changes following August 5, 2019, Sadhotra stressed that there must be a course correction to undo the damage caused by those decisions. He asserted that the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood has weakened governance, leading to a situation where crime and lawlessness are on the rise. "The situation is going out of control, and the administration must take immediate and effective measures to address it," Sadhotra said. The National Conference

General Secretary sought full statehood to be restored, and the democratically elected popular government to be empowered to effectively tackle the worsening law and order situation, ensuring fast track development, combating burgeoning unemployment and fulfilling the aspirations of the people. Others who spoke on the occasion were Abdul Gani Malik Former Minister Sham Narayan Mehta District President Kathua Rural, Satwant Dogra Provincial President Women Wing, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghubir Singh Manhas District President Rural, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Ch Naresh Bittu, Abdul Gani Teli President OBC, Randhir Singh Chib, Ashwani Charak, Pinki Khalsa, Priyanka Sharma, District President Women Wing Jammu, Sumita Bhan, Anju Grover, Veer Ji, S Sewak Singh Retd SSP, Aman Manhas, S Harjeet Singh, S Pardeep Singh.

DB directs Parties to complete pleadings before March 20, 2025

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: In the much publicized Public Interest Litigation filed by Ravinder Sharma Former MLC of Congress challenging the power vested with the Lieutenant Governor to nominate five members to the J&K Legislative Assembly, a Division Bench (DB) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri adjourned the matter for March 20, 2025 and directed Parties to complete pleadings by the next date of hearing positively. DB also issued notice in an application filed by Ravinder Singh retired JKAS Officer and others seeking impleadment as party. In the application filed through Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed submitted that petitioners actually belong to POJK (Pak Occupied Jammu & Kashmir), as their ancestors

migrated during 1947 Disturbances from their original places and the applicant No. 1 originally hails from Barmang (Rawlakote), Tehsil Plandri and the applicant No.2 from Village Saver, Tehsil Bagh and their record finds mention in the records maintained by the Provincial Rehabilitation Officer (PRO), J&K Government. The ancestors of the applicants who were Sikhs along with people belonging to other faiths, underwent unprecedented circumstances including communal violence and finally the then Government came out with certain rehabilitation schemes /cabinet decisions for rehabilitation of the affected families. The aggrieved/affected migrants were initially kept in camps and slowly and slowly they were temporarily settled at various nooks and corners of the erstwhile J&K State and even some took refuge outside J&K.

The applicants herein are displaced persons of 1947 from POJK especially Tehsils Plandri and Bagh which are now under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and initially 25 seats had been earmarked for POJK and then one seat was defreezed in 1975 vide J&K Constitution 12th Amendment Act, 1975 and, have been reduced to 24. The prescription/reservation of one seat for the Displaced Persons of POJK vide impugned provisos do not satisfy the political aspirations and the right of franchise of the Displaced Persons of 1947 who are externally displaced persons comprising of more than 40,000 families from Districts of Poonch, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur of erstwhile Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir appeared to have migrated which is presently under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and the impugned provisions

also include the Migrants of 1965 and 1971 Wars and the Court may kindly appreciate that Kashmiri Migrants which is a minuscule minority are internally displaced persons which have been granted two slots, out of which one is reserved for women and the said class of persons have migrated from Kashmir Province which is being administered by the Govt. of India and is a part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand the applicants who hail from Tehsils Bagh/Plandri (POJK) which is since 1947 under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and a puppet Government installed by the Pakistan is administering the affairs of POJK and the Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK are the worst sufferers politically, socially, economically, culturally, as their identity got vanished because of their scattered rehabilitation in different

camp throughout Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country. In order to ameliorate the hardships of the Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK, the respondents should have given the due representation proportionate to their sufferings and inadequate representations in various political institutions especially in J&K Legislature out of the 24 reserved seats but by virtue of the impugned provisions only one seat has been earmarked in J&K Legislative Assembly for the Displaced Persons of POJK and the applicants who are Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK seek the kind indulgence of this Court to afford them reasonable opportunity of being heard by impleading them as party respondents or in the alternative the applicants be allowed to intervene in this matter of wide public importance. The applicants as well as other

Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK will suffer irreparable loss and injury in case the instant application is not allowed and for the submissions made hereinabove, the applicants herein are necessary parties and for this reason, the indulgence of this Court is warranted. It is pertinent to place before this Court the expressions and soul of the unanimous Resolution adopted by the Parliament of India on February 22nd, 1994 in which the Government of India alongwith all Parliamentarians belonging to every political spectrum have unanimously pledged in the August House that POJK is an inalienable part of Jammu & Kashmir and the Govt. of India is committed to get it back from the illegal PAK occupation. The Home Minister and Defence Minister have also recently reiterated the same stand of Govt. of India in various forums.

It is further submitted that Court may also appreciate that the right of franchise of Internally Displaced Kashmiri Migrants is being protected by installing Special Polling Stations in the Kashmiri Migrant Camps in J&K and other parts of the country to allow them to vote for candidates of their choice in their respective constituencies from which they are internally displaced, whereas, in the case of Externally Displaced Persons of 1947 of POJK, no such right has been provided to them in order to get an adequate proportionate representation in the J&K Legislature especially for the 24 seats reserved in POJK areas category, thereby depriving them of their equitable right to exercise their franchise to political representation of their choice. That for securing the ends of justice qua the Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK, 10 seats out of 24

vacant/unfilled are required to be allocated to J&K Legislative Assembly for fulfilling the political aspirations of unrepresented category of externally Displaced Persons of 1947 from POJK, as was earlier done vide J&K Constitution 12 Amendment Act, 1975 with special reference to the people who have migrated from Muzaffarabad, Poonch and Mirpur Districts. That the Constitution of India especially its preamble speaks of justice social, economic and political and as already pointed out the applicants who are victims of neglect since 1947 nothing substantial was done to uplift their status and thi petition wherein the impugned provisions have been called question and for the just disposal of the above titled PIL, it would be just and proper in case the applicants are permitted to espouse their cause particularly the injustice meted out to them since 1947.