

# DC Kupwara kick-starts plantation drive at Dedikot

Urge people to plant more & more trees for protection of environment



Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din planting a sapling.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: In connection with the celebration of World Forest Day a function was organised by the Forest Department Kehmial division at Dedikot, Kupwara.

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner planted a Chinar tree in the compound of the FPP office

and kickstarted the plantation drive in presence of DFO Kehmial, Mohammad Ayoub Pandit. He was also presented guard of honour by the Forest Protection Police (FPP).

Speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the aim of celebrating World Forest Day is to generate awareness among the people for the importance of planting trees. He emphasised

the role of trees in protection of the environment and human survival and urged upon all stakeholders including the general public to plant more and more trees in this plantation season.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers for involvement of Youth Clubs in plantation drive.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner distributed tree saplings among various farmer beneficiaries.

Earlier, the DFO informed that there is a target of plantation of 2 lakh tree saplings during the current season in the Kehmial forest division. Out of which 1.60 lakh saplings have already been planted.

Other officers including DFO also spoke and gave awareness to the participants about the importance of World Forest Day.

# MANU University celebrates International Forests Day, conducts mega plantation drive

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: International Day of Forests was celebrated with zeal and enthusiasm at MANU University Campus Patwaw, Budgam.

In this regard, a mega Plantation drive was organized at MANU University Campus in which 550 trees of Deodar and Kayur were planted.

The drive was organised by the JK Forest Department, Pir Panjal Division, Budgam in collaboration with MANU University.

The plantation drive was also attended by Regional Director, Dr Mohammad Ajiaz Ashraf, Deputy Director FPF, Principals MANU ASCW, CTE, DFO Budgam, Faculty of MANU University besides scores of students from various schools.

Speaking on the occasion, the Regional Director said that such plantation drives are very crucial to increase Forest cover which will eventually ensure a balanced ecology, environment and climate.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza also launched a plantation drive at Beerwah, Budgam to mark the celebration of International Day of Forests.



Forest officials and students planting a sapling.

the DC said that a massive campaign regarding afforestation is being conducted across length and breadth of the District to enhance Green Cover of the District. He urged upon youth to participate actively in these activities and converge it with Eco-tourism to increase footfall of tourists in the District.

District Forest Officer (DFO) Budgam, Mohammad Ashraf Katoo on the occasion said that

the department's target is to plant 1.2 lac trees this year. He said that the Forest Department is custodian of the Forests, in this regard the Department is actively pursuing afforestation to mitigate Global Environmental concerns.

J&K is blessed to have good Natural Forest cover of around 48% which is above the National average standing at 33%, the DFO remarked.

The DFO, further said that, Over the last one year, the Forest Department at Budgam has ensured that afforestation work is carried out in all 294 Panchayat Halqas across the District.

The DFO appealed and urged upon the public and participating students that its their social and moral responsibility to protect and preserve forests for the larger interest of society.

DC Kupwara visits fire victims of Ganaie Mohalla

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Imam Din today visited the fire victims of Ganaie Mohalla Kupwara whose residential houses got damaged in a fire incident.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner expressed grief over the fire incident and extended sympathy with the families of the fire victims.

Deputy Commissioner also provided an immediate cash relief of Rs.10,000 each to seven families whose houses were severely damaged and gave Rs.5,000 to the family whose house was partially damaged.

Earlier, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, kitchen utensils, blankets and other essential stuff was distributed among the affected families by the Relief officials.

# AYUSH conducts series of medical camps in Shopian

## Distributes immunity boosters, medicines among 3,666 beneficiaries

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: Indian System of Medicine (AYUSH) Shopian, distributed free immunity booster medicines among 3666 beneficiaries during free medical camps at health and wellness centers & Ayush dispensaries at Turkwangan, Dachoo, Trenz Mir Mohalla, Heerpora, Zarken, Reshnagri, Sedow, Kapran, Ayush unit Shamshiora and J&K Bank Wachi since March 05. During these camps, doctors including Dr. Prince Ashiq Nabi, Dr. Mohammed Amin Sofi, Dr. Shameem, Dr. Fahmeeda, Dr. Shaayaq Indrabi and Dr. Altaf Hussain treated patients while pharmacists Saleem Altaf and Ghulam Mohammad Lone distributed free immunity boosters and medicines among 3666 beneficiaries. The medical camps were attended by a large number of senior citizens, men, women besides children and employees.

On the occasion, ISM authorities highlighted the benefits of strong immunity created by these immunity booster drugs to fight COVID-19. The beneficiaries of the concerned areas were asked to encourage people from other areas to come forward and take free immunity boosters.

The people were advised to use face masks and hand sanitizers or wash hands with soap frequently.

Moreover, locals were directed to cooperate with the district administration in containing covid disease and were also assured that the district administration is always on forefront to provide better health care facilities to the people of the district. District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Shopian, Dr. Ishrit Ahmad Hakeem visited free medical camps and took stock of availability of medicines and other arrangements.

The citizens of the district appreciated the department for organizing such camps and said that people should come forward and take benefit of such camps.

# Spring Blossom Festival begins at Center of Excellence Zawoora

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, Bashir Ahmad briefed about the importance of trees and how the siltation is controlled by growing more and more trees.

The plantation drive was kick started by Vice Chairman LCMA, Bashir Ahmad.

Among others present on the occasion were Secretary LCMA, Irfan Ahmad, Executive Engineer LCMA, Shafat Ahmad; Project Officer LCMA, Gazalla Abdullah; Range officer, LCMA, Younis Ahmad and other staff members besides students from various schools.

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be kept open from 21st March to 15th of April for general public and will showcase blossom of world class high density exotic fruit plants.

The main attraction of the programme was display of world class high density planting material besides exhibition of different fruits and latest Horticulture machinery.

Divisional Commissioner and VC inspected the stalls and interacted with the farmers and entrepreneurs who had come from various districts to participate in the event.

Divisional Commissioner, while speaking on the occasion, said that the aim of the festival is to attract tourists and increase the income of the farmers. He urged upon the farmers and other entrepreneurs to take advantage of various government schemes.

Emphasizing that government of India is bringing a tremendous transformation in the development scenario of the region. The Center will

diversify of medicinal plants, beautiful nomadic shepherd kothas, grassy meadows and the sound of Bhringi River which is soothng.

The local trout fish is a delight for Anglers. He said Daksam is a destination that would make any one fall for its charm and needs to be promoted as an high end Ecotourism destination.

On the occasion, saplings of different species were planted by locals and forest officials. The local public as well as volunteers were also provided conifer saplings free of cost for planting in homes and suitable places.

Similar programs were also conducted in all five forest Divisions of South Kashmir including Kulgam, Awantipora, Anantnag, Shopian and Kulgam where Senior officers from local administration, representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Biodiversity management committees, local Auqaaf committees, students and NGOs participated in large numbers and hundreds of saplings were planted.

He said the double engine govt in the Centre is a dream merchant. They are deceiving the people one pretext or the other.

Price rise of essential commodities are touching the sky and the common people are unable to sustain their life govt is raising non issues to divert the attention of the common people.

The meeting was organized by Thakur Raghvir Singh and Rakesh Sharma.

Jammu and Kashmir, VC KVIB said that people should take full advantage of the interventions and subsidy schemes of Horticulture, KVIB and other departments.

She exuded hope that the present day youth will be the drivers of the change as they are at the front line in adopting new technological interventions in the field.

Director General, Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, in his welcome address gave a brief about the festival saying that the aim behind holding the event was to divert attention of the tourists to Horti-Tourism apart from other locations.

He said that the festival is a first of its kind approach in Jammu and Kashmir for strengthening farmers' economy.

He said that aim of the festival is to introduce world class variety of plants to the farmers in order to increase production.

# Border people neglected by BJP Govt: Sadhotra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Addressing Block National Conference workers meeting at Marh the other day, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Central Secretary lambasted the J&K Govt for its failure to address the problems of the Border people of Marh, Akhnoor, R.S. Pura and Bishnah.

While announcing the name of Charanjit Singh Langeh, Manhas said that Langeh will constitute Block Committees within week times and ensure that Block Committees reach to the grass root level workers to strengthen the party.

Those who were present on the occasion included Capt. Jodhinder Lal, Ankush Abrol, Ghauri Ram Bhagat, Rakesh Sharma, Ghar Singh Corporator, Randhir Singh and Rakesh Sharma.

# DC Kulgam kick-starts plantation drive at GGHSS

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: On the occasion of International Forest Day, Special Forest Division Kulgam today organized a plantation drive at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Kulgam with "One child one tree."

The event was kick started by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat by planting a conifer sapling in premises of the school.

School management and students also participated

in this plantation drive by planting saplings of various plants.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of forests and added that forests are pivotal for survival and existence of life. He said it is unimaginable to think of the existence without forests.

He added that forests are the source of priceless health and other benefits so everyone must protect this precious resource.

Dr Bilal said that we all, especially village panchayats, Civil Society Groups, Tribal community groups, need to join the forest department in protection and management of forests.

Later the Deputy Commissioner also released a Calendar and a book about the activities of Forest Division Kulgam.

Among others, ADC, DFO and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Ali said sale counters for conifer saplings have also been set up at all major forest offices and nurseries for the general public. He informed that under Har Gaon Haryali each village is being covered for greening of areas outside forest areas and for making our villages more green.

Under One Beat Guard One Village program, thousands of plants have been planted in South Kashmir.

He said thousands of mandays of employment has been generated through MNREGA Convergence in South Kashmir during the current financial year.

During this year, the department has also celebrated 'Forestry Week' from 14th to 21st March, 2022 where more than 1.25 lac medicinal plants and Wild Apricots were planted and walnut dibbling was done on a voluntary basis by Forest staff across five forest divisions of South Kashmir to increase Green cover and to provide food to wild animals in forests in order to minimize wild animal conflicts over and above the regular approved planting targets.

The Conservator of Forests informed that more than 18 trek routes have been developed by the Forest Department in

South Kashmir.

Eight trek routes have been opened in different districts here and rest will be opened by next month with melting of snow in higher reaches.

He said under the flagship Green J&K Drive program, 10 Lakh saplings of Deodar, Kail, Other broadleaved and wild fruit species have been planted in newly established Plantation Units across the four districts of South Kashmir during the current financial year.

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