

DC Kupwara kick-starts plantation drive at Dedikot

Urges 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 Kehmil 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 Kehmil, 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 emphas-

sized 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 Kehmil 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 Satellite 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 Aijaz 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,



Forest officials and students planting a sapling.

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.

Speaking on the occasion,

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 Mohallah 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.

The 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 Turkwangam, Dachoo, Trezn Mir Mohalla, Heerpora, Zarken, Reshnagri, Sedow, Kapran, Ayush unit Shamshipora 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.

Omar's statement on movie 'The Kashmir Files' bewildering: Y V Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement on film 'The Kashmir Files' saying that 'it's far from the truth' is simply odd and bewildering. It was stated by J&K BJP Spokesman, Y V Sharma in a statement issued here on Monday. Sharma further said that in his statement, Omar had also said that Muslims & Sikhs too had faced the same gun.

Sharma pointed out that film's focus are Kashmiri Hindus and it depicts hitherto unpublishized real stories of atrocities committed on them. Targeted killings of several leaders, ordinary people amounted to genocide etc which was the reason of their exodus from Kashmir in 1989-90, he added. "Kashmiri Hindus are the aboriginal dwellers of land of Bhagwan Shiv, Parvati & Saraswati. The film has created waves in country & abroad. It has also been appreciated by Prime Minister & the Home Minister for its true depiction of the events," he added.

Reacting to Omar's statement, Sharma asked him to

specify which part of the movie was untrue? Were episodes regarding killing of Indian Air Force officers, killing of innocent men women & children in Nadimarg untrue? Were killings of Tika Lal Taploo or N K Ganjoo untrue? Is it not true that slogans 'Ralliv, Chhaaliv and Gaaliv', as depicted in movie, were raised at that time, he asked. Bollywood has made several films earlier also about terrorism in Kashmir but theme of none was atrocities committed on Kashmiri Hindus by terrorists as majority movies were based on fiction (unlike the present one which is based on facts) and eulogised terrorists & tried to find alibis in support of terror activities, Sharma pointed out.

He further said that a coalition government of National Conference & Congress had started tottering from 1987 itself after coming to power. "By 1989, or even earlier, there was often chaos & confusion everywhere. The vacuum caused was filled by subversives very rapidly. The rot set in during these coalition years of NC-Congress gov-

ernment was responsible for the events that culminated in late 1989 & as 1990 dawned. In 1989, NC was unable to mark death & birth anniversaries of Late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on September 8 & December 5 respectively. NC cadres were virtually forced to remain hiding in their houses. What more proof is required for abject surrender of the government to the subversives," asked Sharma, reminding Omar that Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar & Anantnag refused to sign detention warrants against Shabir Shah, a separatist, who was arrested from Ramban on September 27-28, 1989 and someone very important and highly placed ordered him to be sent to Srinagar rather than taking him to Jammu? Who was this person when Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister?

Sharma added that he would remind Omar that Advocate General & AAG refused to appear on behalf of the Government in the courts to present his case. There was Hartal for four

days in which widespread arson & terrorist activities took place & five precious lives were lost. There was not a semblance of an effort to take fast deteriorating situation under control. The point, he said, is that the edifice of the government had crumbled & its writ had vanished in 1989 itself. It were the terrorists who called the shots then having gained an upper hand.

The BJP spokesman reminded Omar that when Lok Sabha elections were declared, political activists were unable to do any canvassing. "Such was the impact of terror in the valley that when votes were being cast for Lok Sabha seats on November 22, 1989, in Kashmir, terrorists placed TV sets near polling booths & challenged people to cast vote & take away TV set as a gift due to which none stirred out. When Rubaiya Sayeed was kidnapped on December 8, 1989, the Valley came to a grinding halt. On her

release after five days of captivity, thousands of people marched jubilantly through the streets of Srinagar with released men of JKLF, carrying them on their shoulders & firing AK47s. Dr Farooq Abdullah was still the Chief Minister at that time. Omar needs to recall that there were more than 2,000 terror incidents throughout the Valley in 1989. Hundreds of lives were lost, many were maimed & administration under Farooq had absolutely no clue about handling situation. In an act of short-sightedness, Dr Farooq further released 70 hard-core terrorists, between July & December 1989, from several jails, many of them later became torch-bearers of armed Jihad," he asserted.

Though Muslims & Sikhs too faced the gun during those times, condemnable as it is, it must be noted by Omar that it was only Hindus, the originals of Kashmir, who

VC, LCMA launches plantation drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Forestry Day, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has started the plantation Drive.

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.

Speaking on the occasion,

Vice Chairman, Bashir Ahmad briefed about the importance of trees and how the siltation is controlled by growing more and more trees. It was informed that the Watershed Management Division is going to plant 72500 number of plants during this month at three different areas of catchment of Dal lake.

Watershed Manager, Gazalla Abdullah, while taking the reference of the theme of this year of World Forestry Day, "Forests and sustainable production and consumption" briefed about the importance and role of forests and urged the people for the conservation and safeguard of the forests.

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.

International Day of Forests observed across South Kashmir Forest Department holds series of plantation drives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Conservator of Forests, South Kashmir, Irfan Ali Shah planted a Deodar tree sapling in Kokernag and Daksum forests to kickstart the celebrations of International Day of Forests which is observed every year on March 21.

DFO Anantnag Mohammad Ramzan Mir, DDC chairpersons, BDC Chairpersons nd members, SDPO Kokernag, SHO Larnoo, SHO Kokernag, Officers from local administration, Range officers, members of local Anqaaf committee, Local Municipality officers, NGO representatives, media and local public in large numbers were present on the occasion.

Highlighting the importance of World Forestry Day, the Conservator of Forests underlined the importance of understanding the value, significance and contribution of the forests in balancing the life cycle on earth.

He said the theme for

International Day of Forests 2022 is "Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption". He said that it signifies that the water we drink, air we breathe, medicines we take and shelter we have comes from forests only, hence there is need to use the forest products in an judicious manner.

He sought cooperation from public representatives, community organizations and the general public for addressing issues like forest fires and soil denudation, which pose a serious challenge to the green gold.

After kick-starting plantation drive at Kokernag and Daksum, he also inaugurated a trekking route developed by the Forest Department for local youth, nature lovers and Trekkers in Daksum forests.

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 reached.

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 till date in newly established Plantation Units across the four districts of 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 lacs 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.

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 man-days of employment has been generated through MNREGA Convergence in South Kashmir during the current financial year.

Moreover, he said the Green India Mission is being implemented for the first time in South Kashmir in Shopian District and shall be gradually extended to Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama districts as well. He said Greening of all major religious places including Shrines, Gurdwaras, Temples etc in South Kashmir shall be taken in mission mode by

Forest Department during this year so that locals get benefitted both spiritually as well as by clean environment when they visit shrines and temples.

He also informed that maintenance of all water bodies especially inside forest areas has initiated under "Van Se Jal Jal Se Jeevan" program

He further added that most of the Forest Rest Houses in South Kashmir have been opened for online booking and many new Rest Houses are being constructed including at Aharbal waterfall Kulgam to promote Ecotourism.

Conservator of Forests said that homestay program is also being introduced for tourists and visitors so as to generate employment for local youth and also appreciation and understanding of our rich cultural ethos

He said Daksum was chosen for kickstarting International Forestry Day celebrations because it's covered by the snow-covered Pir Panjal range with verdant coniferous forests with rich

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

The local trout fish is a delight for Anglers. He said Daksum 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 Anqaaf committees, students and NGOs participated in large numbers and hundreds of saplings were planted.

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

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 fore front 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 being holding the event was to divert attention of the tourists to Horti-Tourism apart from other locations. He said that Horti-tourism 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.

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

Manhas District President Jammu Rural A and Ajay Kumar Sadhotra was the Chief Guest.

On the occasion Thakur Raghvir Singh Manhas announced Charanjit Singh Langeh as Block President Marh.

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

Those who were present on this occasion included Capt Joginder Lal, Ankush Abrol, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Rakesh Sharma, Ghar Singh Corporator, Randhir Singh and Rakesh Sharma.