

'One District, One Product' initiative: Lavander farming to witness major boom in Doda district

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADARWAH: Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district which is considered the birthplace of India's Purple revolution, has got a much needed shot in the arm after Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh designated lavender as a Doda brand product, to promote the exotic aromatic plant under the 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government.

The Agri- Startups, entrepreneurs and farmers associated with Lavender farming under Union Government's Aroma Mission are a happier lot as according to them, after being designated as brand product of Doda district, they not only got the national and international recognition for becoming the pioneer of Purple revolution in India but also Army, NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), department of Agriculture beside CSIR-IIIM (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine) have come forward in a big way to not only boost the production but to also provide the value addition to the Lavender products.



Women busy in Lavander farming in Doda. (Pic by Raja Rehber Jamal)

To help the Startups, Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhadarwah beside sponsoring a lavender nursery at Dradhu village of Bhadarwah has established a fully funded lavender by-products unit at Nai-Basti hamlet where womenfolk are being trained in making soaps, incense sticks, perfume, hand wash and room fresheners to provide 'Value addition' to the aromatic plant.

Commanding officer RR based at Bhadarwah said that medicinal and aromatic plants sector is a sunrise industry with plenty of opportunities for new, young, innovative entrepreneurs for starting successful, eco-friendly, natural product industries.

"Seeing the huge potential

of Lavander in Bhadarwah and after being declared as the brand product of the district, we decided to help in value addition of the aromatic plant by setting up a micro unit with all the required machinery where two dozen women are being trained by the experts in making of aromatic plant products like soap, room fresheners, incense sticks, perfumes etc," Officer added.

After being declared as brand product, NABARD has also come forward and has formed an FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) in Bhadarwah to provide end-to-end support and services to the Lavender farmers, and cover technical services, marketing, processing, and other aspects of cultivation inputs.

National Award winning farmer Bharat Bhushan said that I became a laughing stock in my village when I decided to switch from traditional maize growing to lavender farming 10 years back but after Union Government's Aroma Mission in 2016, more farmers started growing aromatic plants especially lavender and by 2020 Bhadarwah Valley became popular for starting purple revolution and today I feel proud to be a part of this as lavender has been declared the brand product of our district.

Dr Sumit Gairola, Nodal Scientist CISR Aroma Mission said that after announcement of one district one product, major focus in India on lavender is in Doda district as more and more farmers are joining the purple revolution. In next 2 to 3 years, we are expecting 5 times increase in the production, which will surely develop agri entrepreneurs that will help establishing lavender as brand of Doda in entire India. Eventually, the products which will be produced here can be easily exported and as well as marketed in different parts of the country.

Cyber crime awareness competition held poster-making

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BATOTE: A poster competition was organised by Range Police Headquarters Batote in the Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School Batote on "Cyber Crime Awareness" under the operation Pathshala.

DIG DKR Range Dr. Sunil Gupta, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma, Principal Hr. Sec. School Batote Swarn Singh, Chairman Municipal Committee Batote S. Ravinder Singh, Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Batote Kewal Krishan, Rtd. Head Master Lekh Raj Goswami and scores of teachers from Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School Batote, Govt High School Batote, Upper Primary School Tringla, Govt. Middle School Batote, Sanatan Dharm Sabha School Batote alongwith about 300 students remained present on the occasion.

The competition was organised to aware the students and Public regarding Cyber Crime. On this occasion K. K Gandhi, a Renowned Artist/Painter of J&K also displayed his skills of



DIG DKR Range Dr. Sunil Gupta along with other officers and students during the event.

painting. He also interacted with the budding artists/participants and students regarding the basics of painting.

On this occasion DIG DKR Range in his brief lecture appreciated the role of participants/students and shared his views on the latest modus operandi of cyber criminals and also aware them to be extra cautious while operating with digital transactions/use of social media etc. SSP Ramban also shared her views on cyber crime. Teachers and students also shared their experiences regarding the subject. Principal Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Batote lauded the efforts of Jammu and Kashmir Police especially DIG Headquarters Batote for

arranging such a programme which is very educative and informative.

About 39 students participated in this competition held in junior and senior category. In Junior category the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize won by Sejal Kotwal of SDS School, Jyoti Devi of G.G.H.S Batote and Isha Sharma of SDS School Batote respectively. where as in senior category 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize won by Sajjad Hussain, Sumakshi Sharma of Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School Batote and Vridhi Gupta of GGHS Batote respectively. Mementos and certificates were given to the winners and certificates of participation were also distributed to all the participants.

Modi Govt will not leave any promise unfulfilled in J&K: Johal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
VIJAYPUR: Under the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi, the development works are going on persistently in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and it is for the first time that people have got the essence of democracy which is meant for the people, of the people and by the people as earlier governments used to work for the selected few and the dynast parties.

This was stated by DDC Member Ramgarh, Sarabjit Singh Johal after starting development work of culvert at village Barota of Panchayat Lagwal in Ramgarh Block of Vijaypur with an estimated cost of Rs 7 lakhs.

The DDC member said that Jammu and Kashmir is treading on the development path with the pace as never seen before. He said that BJP Government will leave no promise unfulfilled in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as step by step things are being accomplished as were envisaged by PM Narendra Modi. He made it clear that whatever has been said about the development revolution in the UT of J&K will be accomplished sooner than later by the BJP Government.

Later, the DDC also met with people of the area and listened to their issues and problems being faced by them. The locals demanded development of cremation by raising boundary wall. The DDC member assured that the issues putforth by the locals including the development of cremation ground will be addressed at the earliest. Others who were present include Parveen Choudhary, Shiv Choudhary, Surinder Kumar, Capt Chaman Lal, Roshan Lal, Gurmeet Choudhary and Darshan Lal.

JKTJAC holds monthly meeting, seeks resolution of burning issues

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UDHAMPUR: A meeting was organised on Sunday by Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting was attended by executive members of JKTJAC from all the eleven zones of the district. While speaking on the occasion Vinod Sharma raised burning issues of the teachers and sought the attention of the concerned authorities for their redressal. The issues which were raised by Vinod Sharma include comprehensive Transfer Policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme as assured by Principal Secretary School education, as these teachers are working in the same schools for last more than 20 years; transition of teachers grade II/III on substantive posts as per seniority as per Govt. order No. 20 Education of 2019 Dated 22.01.2019; favour of department in the Court for inclusion of 5 years ReT period for seniority benefits; DPC of teachers to masters as same hasn't been done since February 2014 thereby leading stagnation; Conversion of Head teachers

(SSA) posts into non plan posts of masters for the resolution of their salary issue; Raising of Grade pay of teachers at par with their counterparts in other UTs, Delegation of DDO Powers to Headless zones as teachers are without salary in such zones for last 2 months. He also appealed the LG administration to provide old pension scheme in favour of NPS employees of the UT so that their post retirement life not be in trouble even after serving many years. While speaking on the occasion Lekh Raj Parihar sought the release of more than 2 years pending salary and other arrears of the teachers of district Udhampur. He also sought the release of Mid Day Meals dues which the teachers have managed from their own pockets. Those who also spoke on the occasion were Sham Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Ajaz Wani, Anil Sharma, Sham Singh, Vipin Sharma, Sonika Sharma, Mohd Mustfa, Jai Parkash, Vinod Kumar, Som Raj, Ravinder Atri, Mohd Saleem, Romesh Kumar, Madan Lal, Kuldeep Singh, Rakesh Singh, Mohinder Kumar, Tilk Raj, Satpal Sharma, Sudesh Kumar, Ram Lal, Rajesh Janwal, Rinku Sharma, Ashish, Sanjay Sharma and others.

'Accomplish demands of technicians in PDD'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: A meeting of JK Technical Employees Federation was held on Sunday at Guest House Mandli Tehsil Billawar District Kathua in which Provincial President Jammu H.D Singh appealed the Government of JKUT to accomplish the pledged demands of technician 3rd employees of PDD. He said recently in the month of December 2021 agreement was made between agitated employees of PDD under the banner of JKPEEC and government representative ADG Police, Div. Com. Jammu and MD JPDCL, in which the demand of DPC of tech 3rd cadre shall be addressed on priority in time bond manner was



Members of JK Technical Employees Federation during a meeting.

agreed along with removal of stagnation period of years of Tech 3rd by carrier progression after 7 years of services. He said that in this regard a letter from administrative department was issued in which all the managing directors of power corporations were sought comments regarding the proposal for deduce the posts of tech 3rd and induces in

the tech 2nd tech 1st and senior technicians accordingly to create promotion avenues in the department. "It is sorry to say that after lapse of two months the matter is not solved in time bond manner. It is matter of calamity that during the 23 years chief engineer JPDCL office which maintains the record of DPC in Jammu province has failed to finalize

the seniority list of tech. 3rd employees in their districts as per their SSRB merit" he added. He requested Principal Secretary to Government Power Development Department to intervene the matter and resolve it in time bond manner. Rajinder Singh Sr. Vice President, Jarnail Singh Treasury Sudesh Kumar Joint Secretary, Naveen Sharma Circle President & Shivehran Singh Adviser, Chanchal Singh, Dharmesh Vikash, K.P Singh, Karan Singh, Kapil Dev Singh, Prithvi Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Parmod Kumar, Mango Ram, Sanjeev Kumar, Bharat Bhushan and Balbir Singh were also present in the meeting.

Pahari Tribe ST Forum announces Panchayat-level committees



A section of dignitaries during the workshop.

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KOTRANKA: Pahari Tribe ST Forum, a socio cultural organization for welfare of Pahari Tribe, held one day workshop on contemporary issues related to Pahari Tribe at Dak Bungalow Kotranka. During the programme Panchayat level committees of block Kotranka, Budhal and Khawas were framed and announced.

Prominent members of Pahari tribe took part in the one day convention and in one voice reiterated demand of due ST Status to the Pahari ethnicity.

Speakers on this occasion deliberated upon their demand for Scheduled Tribe status and said that their genuine demand has unfortunately been ignored since decades and Pahari tribe is still waiting to get its genuine right of ST status. After the release of draft by the delimitation commission in which 5 out of 8 MLA constituencies of Rajouri Poonch, has been reserved for ST and this too in the area

predominated by the natives of Pahari Tribe in the twin border district is just like a do or die situation for Pahari Tribe to raise their concern with full conviction. Confidence of natives of Pahari tribe is very low after this report and this can only and only be restored by rendering due ST status to Pahari Tribe.

They said that Pahari ethnicity constitute a tribe well mentioned by the government of India with constitutional amendment and live in hilly, tough terrain of border area lacking the deficiency in all sectors and also are part of seasonal migration every year and fulfills all prerequisite to be given Schedule Tribe status as cleared by all panel reports, Backward Commission Reports and Constitutional Amendments.

The speakers hailed the concern shown by Government of India in recent times which clearly indicate that Pahari is set to get their basic right of Schedule Tribe status that got delayed for such a long time by some quarters with vested interests.

The speakers also pointed PM Modi government who is having complete majority and works with full conviction and will definitely address this genuine demand of much deprived tribe.

From time to time different committees and expert panels declared Pahari tribe as the downtrodden ethnicity. Pertinent to mention since 1993 every Governor and Chief Minister of J&K has recommended due ST status to Pahari tribe, added. Moreover in the last three years most of the prerequisite lackings has been rectified with logical findings. The aim of announcing panchayat level bodies is to raise the gravity of concern which is of prime importance as per as Pahari Ethnicity is concerned, further added.

Pahari Tribe ST forum has formed panachayat level committees in all blocks of Rajouri, Poonch, Uri, Karnah and all areas where Pahari Tribe is residing. The programme was conducted and managed by Muneer Mirza and Gurdev Thakur.

Pahari Tribe ST Forum executive members who interacted includes Adv. Ahsan Mirza, Vikrant Sharma and Nikhil Gupta

Those prominent who were present includes Ayub Pehalwan, Hamid Malik, Master Pritam, Zumarat Khan, Sain Khan, Captain Baldev, Jagat Ram, Manzoor Naik, Manzoor Malik, Nadeem Mir, Rashid Shaheen, Master Arif, Raja Latif, Suba Ram, Shakeel Bhat, Muneer Mirza, Master Aslam, Basharat Rather, Master Romesh, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Iqbal Thakkar, Rangbaaz Khan, Shabir Aftaton, Kamal Nain, Rafiq Wani, Surjeet Thakur, Suneet Singh, Owais Rashid, Kabir Rather, Nazir Khan and many more.

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KATRA: Every effort would be made to explore and exploit the full tourism potential of the areas and places of Tourist interest around Katra and would be given full attention for the economic development of the area and for providing maximum employment opportunities. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Reasi, who is also Vice Chairman Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Babila Rakwal who was accompanied by Addl.SP Katra Amit Bhasin and SDM Katra Anagreg Singh while speaking to a delegation of Hotel & Restaurants Association, Katra (HRAK) & Federation of Hotels, Restaurants, Industries & Commerce of Jammu Region (FHRICJR) The delegation among others was comprised of President HRAK & FHRICJR Rakesh Wazir, HRAK Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar, Sr. Vice President Virender Kesar, President Patnitop Area



HRAK delegation honouring DC Reasi Babila Rakwal.

of FHRICJR Kushal Magotra, Secretaries Suraj Parkash, Prabhat Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Members Mangal Singh, Ankush Gupta, Piyush Sadhotra, Romesh Chander etc. While speaking on the occasion Wazir emphasised that besides Yatra of Vaishnodevi the Yatra to Shiv Khori Shrine too has increased tremendously and need of the hour is this that all the facilities connected with Shiv Khori including Helicopter Service between Katra to Shiv Khori and back, early start of Rope way at Shiv Khori, installation of Shiv

Khori sign boards enroute Katra to Bhawan and between Jammu to Katra and Udhampur to Katra, re-starting of live Aarti on Mh One Channel etc. be started at the earliest. He further said that Emphasis on developing the places of pilgrim/Tourist interest around Katra including Dhansar Baba, Nau Devian, Sear Baba, Sula Park, Devi ki Pindian be made because all these places have got the vast Tourism potential and can increase the stay of the Yatri to manifold and likewise the employment opportunities as

well. Shyam Lal Kesar emphasized for Check on Traffic Police so that they may not harass the Tourists/pilgrims coming to Shiv Khori/ Vaishnodevi and the pilgrims may not take back home bad name of the Union Territory. He further said that the government of India had already directed different agencies including IndianOil Corporation Ltd to spend 100 crore under Swatch Iconic Places scheme at Katra Vaishnodevi and it is the same scheme under which other religious places like Golden Temple, Kamakhya Temple, Som Nath Temple, Ajmer Sharief, Jagannath Temple were given funding and most of Authorities connected with these places have already spent that amount and rather even more than that but in Katra Vaishnodevi leaving aside 13.33 crore which is spent, for rest of amount even project Report/Scheme is not submitted and requested that though not directly pertains to her but still being Deputy Commissioner may pursue the concerned for expediting the

things so that funds may not get lapsed. Virender Kesar emphasized for early start of Separate 10 crore water scheme already sanctioned for hotels at Katra vis-a-vis follow up of making of projects/reports of already sanctioned schemes including Prasad Scheme which otherwise will get lapsed and 50 cr which have come under it would get wasted. He also stressed for early completion of Deva Mai-Oli Mata stretch of Katra-Mathwar-Akhnor road. Kushal Magotra said that light & Sound show at Reasi Fort and Katra be started at the earliest and fully appreciated the recently opened Fountain Park at Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu and said that same can be started here at Shalamar Park. Babila Rakwal listened the delegation patiently and said that each and every point raised and discussed in the meeting would be considered sympathetically and points which pertains to her would be done shortly and the points which pertains to others would be taken up with them so that full Tourism potential of the area is tapped.

Adhivakta Parishad organises conference on contributions of Guru Teg Bahadur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Adhivakta Parishad Udhampur on Sunday organised a conference on contributions of Guru Teg Bahadur ji in Udhampur under the chairmanship of its President Adv Pankaj Dubey which was attended by the prominent persons of Udhampur. President Sanatan Dharm Sabha J&K and Uttar Kshetriya Vayvstha Pramukh of RSS Sh Purshotam Dadhihihi ji was the chief Speaker whereas Sardar Surjeet Singh ji, District Secretary Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Udhampur was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme began with a patriotic song 'Balidaan Kahanda Eh Desh Te Marna Dharm Te Marna' followed by 'Subhashiti', 'Prastavana' and Welcome addressed by the organisers. President Sanatan Dharm Sabha J&K and

UttarKshetriya Vayvstha Pramukh of RSS Sh Purshotam Dadhihihi ji as chief Speaker elaborated the contribution and Sacrifice of Ninth Sikh Guru 'Guru Teg Bahadur Ji' for the protection of Nation and Society. He said that the contribution of Guru Teg Bahadur ji for the people of J&K is immemorial. When Kashmiri Pandits were forced to change their religion by the Mughals under Aurangzeb. About 500 Kashmiri pandits headed by Pandit Kripa Ram came to Guru Ji to seek his help. Guru Teg Bahadur saved them from Aurangzeb. Guru Teg Bahadur was the savior of humanity, principles and ideals of the society. Due to his contribution in saving the religious beliefs of Indians, he was considered as 'Hind Di Chaadar' (Shield of India). He said that the Aurangzeb ordered Guru ji either to accept Islam or perform a mir-

acle. However, Guru Teg Bahadur ji refused and protested against the cruelties of Mughals. At last, he sentenced death to Guru Teg Bahadur ji and Guruji made his supreme sacrifice. Sardar Surjeet Singh District Secretary Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Udhampur who was chief guest on the occasion said Guru Teg Bahadur was a warrior with a versatile personality. He sacrificed his life for people of India, and was one of the selfless martyrs who helped various Indians to peacefully practice their religion. Guru Teg Bahadur was the symbol of bravery and courage. Due to his huge contribution and sacrifice, he will always be remembered by the people of India. He quoted several shlokas from Guru Granth Sahib. Advocate Pankaj Dubey District President Adhivakta presented vote of thanks.

DC Reasi visits various exam centers, takes stock of arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakhiwal on Sunday inspected various JKSSB examination centres to take stock of various arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Account Assistant examination in the District here today. During the visit, the DC also inspected various examination centres set up in the district Reasi to take stock of facilities and arrangements put in place for smooth and transparent conduct of written examination. The DC impressed upon all the heads of educational institutions to ensure that appearing candidates do not face any difficulty during the examinations and also ensure strict adherence to all the SOPs of COVID-19. The DC enquired about the facilities made available for the candidates like seating, cleanliness, drinking water; lighting and maintenance of social distance in examination centres. Pertinent to mention here that the District administration has made elaborate and full proof arrangements for the smooth and fair conduct of exam in the district. In this regard, the District administration had appointed invigilators, supervisory staff, observers and flying squad teams for the fair and successful conduct of examination at all the centres besides adequate security arrangements at the respective centres. Besides additional staff had been appointed for taking and receiving exam booklets /OMR sheets from and to the strong rooms under full security. All loopholes had been plugged leaving negligible chance of any incident during the examination.

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