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Thrust on organic...

through infusion of traditional knowledge, modern science and technology, providing improved marketing facilities and resolving several other issues like power, irrigation, cheaper credit and rural infrastructure, the Lt Governor said.

A renewed thrust is being given to organic farming to bring about a paradigm shift in agrarian policy, rural prosperity and improving the incomes and the quality of life of the farmers, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the farmer-centric reforms introduced by the government in the last two years to empower farmers of J&K, increasing their income manifold and making them AatmaNirbhar. The UT of J&K is now among the top five States/UTs in terms of farm income with a monthly income of Rs 18,918 per farmer, he added.

Greater diversification into high-value crops, value addition through agro-processing and market-linkages are taking our agriculture & horticulture sector to new heights and ensuring inclusive growth process. The improved air connectivity has given new boost to the horticulture sector, the Lt Governor said.

The UT government is constantly striving to provide farmers with direct access to modern technologies, encouraging natural farming to improve profitability & sustainability in agriculture & allied sectors, observed the Lt Governor.

Aggressive marketing & branding of local agri-products, mechanization in Agriculture and Horticulture sector, High-Density Plantation, diversification, better quality seeds, capacity buildings, GI Tagging, expansion of banking facilities, micro-irrigation has achieved rich dividends for farmers and have brought a structural change in agriculture and horticulture sector, he added.

'Vocal for Local' has opened up a plethora of opportunities for everyone associated with the Agriculture & allied sectors to grow and prosper. We are also bringing National & International players on board for enhancing the knowledge expertise and providing global market linkages to J&K's farming community, the Lt Governor further added.

The Lt Governor asked the Agriculture Universities of J&K to work on mission mode to connect more farmers with organic farming & horticulture and make them acquainted with the latest scientific know-hows.

500 enterprising farmers will be provided with handholding, knowledge-based intervention every year to harness the potential of organic produce, announced the Lt Governor.

Bridging the rural-gap is among the top priorities of the UT administration. A strong framework is being developed to increase employment and connect rural youth with the agriculture & horticulture industry. Administration will extend all possible support to the Youth involved in agricultural start-ups, the Lt Governor observed.

Special arrangements are being made to take Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to all the farmers. We are also extending maximum financial help to the Farmer-Producer Organizations- FPO's and exploring possibilities of micro-financing institutions to cater to the needs of the farmers of J&K, the Lt Governor said.

We have set a target to convert 5500 hectares of land into high density plantations in the next four years. Last year, we succeeded in planting apples in 320 hectares and sub-tropical fruits in 2400 hectares, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Agriculture Department for achieving an additional storage capacity of one lakh metric tonnes in just 18 months time.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor felicitated progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, media persons and meritorious students of the University.

Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers' welfare and Horticulture congratulated SKUAST-Jammu for getting the foundation of the new faculties laid by Lt Governor.

He asked the Department of Agriculture and other line departments along with the university to continue working in tandem to reach the farming community with all the facilities at the door steps.

In his welcome address, Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu highlighted the activities of the University and said that five-day Kisan Mela-2022 on Natural and Modern technologies is focusing on demonstration and

exhibition of proven and improved technologies developed by the university.

He also informed that three community Radio stations have been sanctioned one each for Samba, Reasi and Jammu district for the dissemination of improved agricultural technologies among farmers. The university has started one Kisan call centre for providing on the spot solution to the problem of farmers and has developed 20 start-ups, he added.

Exhibition of latest agri-start-ups, Kisan Goshities, workshops on basmati, bee keeping, walnut, mushroom, seed, sale of quality seed and planting material, live demonstration of new varieties, flower show, vegetable show, fruit show, animal show, agri-tourism, rural sports and farmers-scientist interaction, presentation by innovative farmers and cultural programme are the main attractions of the mela, it was informed.

Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Extension, SKUAST-J presented the vote of thank.

The Kisan Mela-2022 is being organized in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Floriculture, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries, Command Area Development, etc.

Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, KVIB; Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Dr. Manoj Dhar, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Inderjeet Singh, Vice Chancellor, GADVAS University; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ravinder Kumar, Secretary to Ladakh Government; Sh. Shyam Bihari Gupt, Member, Kisan Samridhi Aayog; HoDs of concerned departments; faculty members of SKUAST-J, besides scores of farmers were present on the occasion.

ACB caught Govt...

ACB received a complaint from a resident of village Sunilar, Bandipora alleging therein that he and his father had executed work in their village titled 'development of playfield by way of earth cutting and construction of retaining walls' under Block Development Office, Arina, Bandipora. He further alleged that concerned Technical Assistant of BDO Arina namely Showkat Ahmad released only a part payment of their bill of Rs 4,10,000 and demanded bribe of Rs 20,000 for release of remaining amount. It was also alleged that both father & son requested concerned officer several times for releasing remaining amount, but he remained adamant not to release remaining amount without getting bribe of Rs 20,000, he added. "ACB registered a case under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 as prima facie made out in complaint against accused public servant namely Manzoor Ahmad and started investigations. Accordingly, a trap team led by DySP Rank officer & independent witnesses caught accused officer Showkat Ahmad along with his tout Irfan Yousaf while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant. Both were arrested on the spot and bribe amount was also recovered from them in presence of independent witnesses," the official said, adding that further investigation is going on.

Nadda pays obeisance...

in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, with counting of votes scheduled for March 10.

According to BJP handout, Jagat Parkash Nadda, accompanied by National General Secretaries Tarun Chugh (Prabhari Jammu-Kashmir) and Vinod Tavre addressed meeting of senior party leaders at Katra.

Nadda had a brainstorming session with party leaders of various organisational units on further strengthening the party in the Union territory ahead of the forthcoming polls.

J. P Nadda congratulated all residents of J&K for braving hostile conditions in social and economic fields. He also praised the Karyartas who strived in odd conditions in valley to strengthen the organisational structure.

He said that the BJP as an organization has come a long way to become a major political party. He attributed this to the dedication and zeal of party activists.

BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and J&K BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manal were also present.

J&K BJP Office bearers, former Ministers, former MLAs, former MLCs, Morcha Presidents, Prabharis and other senior party leaders participated in the meeting.

Dr. Jitendra Singh presented vote of thanks.

Ravinder Raina said the visit of the BJP national president assumes significance

as elections to Jammu Kashmir Assembly is expected to take place later this year after the finalisation of the delimitation commission report.

Grenade attack: Four...

spokesman said. Police in Awantipora have busted a grenade-throwing module linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT by arresting four terrorist associates and thereby averted major catastrophic terror attacks, the spokesman said.

He identified the arrested as Aqib Manzoor Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Mudasir Ahmed Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat, Gh Mohd Ahanger son of Late Abdul Rehman Ahanger all residents of Haffu Tral and Waris Bashir Najar son of Bashir Ah Najar resident of Sheikh Mohalla Chews Uller, Tral.

Najar was involved in throwing a grenade at an Army camp at Mandoora on March 1, he said. During preliminary investigation, it came to the fore that they were carrying grenade throwing activities on the directions of Irshad Ahmed Bhat, resident of Waloo Patti who is currently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar in a murder case and Mustakeem Ahmed Ahanger alias Waheed, resident of Hafoor Tral who too is detained in Central Jail Srinagar in connection with smuggling of weapons case, the spokesman said. Both Mustakeem and Irshad are coordinating terror activities from Central Jail Srinagar, the spokesman added.

A case vide FIR No. 21/2022 has been registered and an investigation has been initiated.

More arrests are expected in the instant case once further links are investigated and established, the spokesman said.

Wanted in extortions...

in and outside the residence of the contractor.

It is pertinent to mention that six persons identified as Ajay Singh, driver of Superintendent Central Jail Kot Bhawal namely Kuldeep Kumar, a resident of Tali Morth, Gurpreet Singh alias Honey, son of Baljeet Singh, a resident of Swaran Vihar Gole Gujral, Deepak Kumar, son of Radhe Sham of New Plot, Surinder Kumar alias Babu, son of Ashok Kumar, a resident of Khour Salaria Ramgarh and Jasvir Singh alias Kaka, son of Gian Singh, a resident of Agra Chak RS Pura District Jammu were arrested in this case.

Later, all the accused were released on bail and on January 7, 2022, in the much publicised Amandeep Singh murder case, a three Judges Bench of Supreme Court granted bail to Royal Singh, who was undergoing life imprisonment.

After hearing the counsel for Royal Singh, the Supreme Court had observed, "the petitioner has already suffered incarceration for a period of more than 12 years and more particularly the fact that there is not much likelihood of the hearing of the appeal preferred by him before the High Court in near future, we deem it appropriate to grant bail to the petitioner".

The Supreme Court had directed that the petitioner be enlarged on bail on terms and conditions to be imposed by the trial court. Now after his release, being a habitual criminal Royal Singh against started extortion and betting trade. Jammu police on several complaints conducted the raid and arrested him from Delhi.

Exit polls predict...

exit polls to win the assembly polls. The ABP News-CVoter forecast an edge for the Congress in Uttarakhand, giving the party 32-38 seats in the 70-member assembly and the BJP 26-32 seats.

Goa was predicted by most pollsters to be heading for a hung assembly.

The BJP was given a clear edge by most exit polls in the election to the 60-member Manipur assembly, with the Congress being seen a distant second.

The BJP is in power in four of the five states.

The exit polls signal that the BJP remains the dominant party in these states and indicate a big swing in the AAP's fortunes as Kejriwal's party is also seen to have emerged as a force in Uttarakhand and Goa where it may corner a decent poll percentage, if not many seats.

Most exit polls also predicted a big fall in the fortunes of Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and a setback for the Congress, which had hoped to retain power in Punjab and make a comeback in states like Uttarakhand and Goa.

The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

Students acquainted with functioning of armed forces



SSB officials along with students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A teams of DMO and police personnel were attacked with stones during a raid, due to which 4 persons got injured and three vehicles were damaged.

As per details, a team of District Mining Officer (DMO) along with police raided a location near SoS home on receiving complaint regarding illegal mining in Pounichak area. The team, when returning back after raid, was attacked with stones near Gujjar Basti due to which three PSOs of SHO and a DMO official got injured while 3 vehicles were also damaged. A case has been registered in this regard and investigation started.

Police team attacked, 4 injured, 3 vehicles damaged

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Driver dies after tractor turns turtle

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A driver died after the tractor, he was driving, turned turtle in Pounichak area on Monday.

As per details, Balbir Choudhary, son of Faqir Chand, resident of Raipur, Pounichak got injured after the tractor, he was driving, turned turtle. He was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police has registered a case.

Science college students attacked; 4 injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two students of MAM College on Monday attacked some students of Science College causing injuries to four.

As per details, one Sangram Singh, a student of MAM college along with his friends entered Science College and attacked a student. On this, other students came to his rescue resulting in injuries to 4 more students. The injured were shifted to hospital while accused was arrested by police. The injured were identified as Varun Singh, resident of Kachhi Chawni and Rohit Sudan, resident of Sunderban. It was learnt that there was some personal rivalry behind the attack.

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■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" under the theme "Desh Ki Hifajat-Desh Ki Suraksha", 30 students of Govt. Higher Secondary Channi Himmat visited Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), 07 Bn Jammu HQ, Channi Himmat Jammu. They were acquainted with functioning of armed forces and eligibility criteria for enrolling in Armed forces at various entry levels. Arms and Ammunition was exhibited for giving first hand

information of weapons used in defence of the nation.

Shiv Dayal, Commandant 07 Bn SSB in presence of Brijesh Kumar, Commandant (Medical) and Sanjay Kumar Second-In-Command formally interacted with students and briefed them about functioning of 07 Bn SSB. He also motivated students to pursue studies sincerely and encouraged them to join armed forces at various ranks, Neelkant, DC Vipan Sharma, DC were also present on the occasion.

GDC Neeli Nallah holds awareness drive on 'Menstrual Hygiene'



Principal, GDC Neeli Nallah, Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur handing-over sanitary pads to a girl.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: NSS Unit, Government Degree College Neeli Nallah Udhampur, on the eve of International Women's Day, organised awareness drive on the theme "Menstrual Hygiene" on Monday. The programme was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Kaur, Principal, GDC Neeli Nallah, Udhampur. NSS Volunteers along with Principal and other Staff Faculty visited the slum area nearby the College and interacted with the females on menstrual health.

Further, a Defence training on the occasion of International Women's Day for the female students of the College was also conducted. The motive of the training was to prepare the girls to defend themselves physically and mentally. It also helps women to develop more confidence among themselves.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Radha Rani. Other faculty members were also present.

among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene. In the drive, Dr. Satinder Kaur, Principal along with other faculty members distributed sanitary napkins to the females of slum area.

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Nine Admin Officers transferred; 4 JKAS Officers allotted depts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a massive crackdown against bovine smuggling, police on Monday rescued 228 bovines across Jammu province in separate actions.

Acting tough against bovine smugglers, Ramban Police in a major success rescued 163 bovines under Operation Kamdhenu. Acting on specific inputs regarding transportation of bovines, different police parties of Police Stations Batote, Chanderkote and Ramban intercepted seven vehicles (JK13B 5750, JK02AQ-3147, JK05B-5493, JK21D-0643, JK021AL-7765, JK18-4179 and JK05H/6262) and during checking, 163 bovines were found laden in them which were rescued. FIR Nos 34 & 35/2022 were registered at Police Station Batote whereas FIR Nos 38, 39 & 40/2022 were registered at Police Station Chanderkote and FIR Nos 69 & 70/2022 were registered at Police Station Ramban under relevant sections of law. The overall rescue operation was made by parties under command of Insp Sudhir Sadotra SHO Batote, Insp P D Singh SHO Chanderkote and Insp Sandeep Charak SHO Ramban under supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen DySP and overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

Meanwhile, Police also rescued 8 bovines at Suketar Jhajjar Kotli Naka from a vehicle (JK13/5411). In this regard FIR No 46/2022 under sections 188 of IPC and 11 of PCA was registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and accused was arrested, who was identified as Shoket Ali, son of Khan Mohd, resident of Dharmani Tehsil Thuroo District Reasi. The arrests and recoveries were made by SHO Jhajjar Kotli Insp Devinder Singh under overall supervisions of SDPO Nagrota Pardeep Kumar.

In another action, different Nakas were laid by parties from Police Station Majalta at Battal and Manwal under control of Insp Virender Gupta SHO Majalta and supervision of SDPO Ramban DySP Bhisham Dubey. At Manwal, two trucks were intercepted and 29 bovines were rescued. FIR no. 1