

Dr Jitendra launches ‘Green cultivation’ along Highways, hails Agri StartUp entrepreneurs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In what could be a landmark for the country, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday launched Green cultivation along the National Highways beginning from the Ramban-Banihal section of the Highway in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister also hailed the successful genre of Agri StartUps evolving into entrepreneurs. This he said, is in keeping with the priorities followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the last 10 years.

To begin with, lavender cultivation will be undertaken along the Ramban-Banihal stretch of J&K National Highway. Dr Jitendra expressed satisfaction that Agri StartUps turned Agri entrepreneurs have joined hands to plant lavender on either side of the Highway and on its divider over an area of more than one lakh square kilometres.

Dr Jitendra said here today that this unique initiative has manifold objectives.

"It will try to help mitigate the damage caused to the environment by vehicular emissions, prevent road accidents by discouraging pedestrians from crossing the highway, and add to the beautification of the road", Dr Singh said. This step will not only help reduce pollution and accident proneness on the Highway, but will also promote the agri start-ups involved in the Purple revolution, the Minister added.

Dr Singh said it is heartening to



HEOPCL and CSIR-IIIM representatives during MoU signing ceremony in presence of Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at Jammu on Saturday.

witness that his idea of starting green cultivation on national highways has seen the light of the day. "Today will be remembered for J&K having set a milestone in conserving the environment for times to come", Dr Singh highlighted.

The Union Minister said that a new era of agri start-ups began in Jammu and Kashmir, with Aroma Mission born in Bhaderwah of district Doda now being talked about the world over. "Purple revolution has served the twin objective of putting both Bhaderwah and J&K on the world map", the Minister stated, adding that this revolution has now spread to other States, such as Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

"By taking a lead in the Aroma Mission, J&K has exemplified that it

would have a significant role as a great contributor to the agri economy of India in the next 25 years in the run-up to a developed India of 2047 as envisioned by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi", Dr Singh said.

"From mere farmers and agriculturists, lavender cultivators have become brand ambassadors of J&K and proprietors of their increasingly growing companies, earning themselves a name and also making the country proud in foreign lands", Dr Jitendra said. They are now going to become agri industrialists and agri entrepreneurs, he added.

Earlier, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu entered into understanding with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Anphar Laboratories

(P) Limited, JK Aroma Farmers Producer Cooperative Limited and Himalayan Essential Oils Producer Company Limited (HEOPCL) and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with them in presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr. Jitendra lauded IIIM's efforts for its new initiatives to jointly work with industries and agri-entrepreneurs, and also emphasized the importance of such collaborations between Institutions, public sector enterprises, and private companies, in driving innovation and economic growth, in the region.

Earlier, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, in his welcome address, mentioned that CSIR-IIIM, Jammu besides doing cutting edge science is equaling involved in the societal mission programmes and activities having national developmental impact.

Among others who were participated in today's MOUs signing ceremony included P. Siva Sankar, serving as the Regional Officer of NHAI, Anil Gupta, the Managing Director of Anphar Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Bharat Bhushan, Chairman of HEOPCL, and Touqeer Bagban, Founder Director of JK Aroma, Scientific, Technical and Administrative Heads of CSIR-IIIM. Dr. Deepika Singh, Principal Scientist conducted the proceedings and Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & RMBD&IST Division, presented the formal vote of thanks.



JKJA, e-Committee Supreme Court of India organise refresher programme, ECT-9-2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and guidance of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and other members of Governing Committee for Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy (JKJA) in collaboration with e-Committee, Supreme Court of India on Saturday organized one day refresher programme (ECT-9-2024) for staff members of District Courts of twin UT's of J&K and Ladakh at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy in presence of Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who was the resource person in the day long event.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, in his inaugural address, observed that the technology has proved a great accelerator in almost all aspects of human lives including dispensation of justice. He noted that e-courts represent a more viable alternative to conventional courts, harnessing technology to expedite legal proceedings. He highlighted that Court staff forms the backbone of our judicial system and any shortcoming at their part adversely impacts a judge's ability to deliver justice.

Elaborating further, Justice Kumar said that in J&K 15-16 courts are paperless now wherein entire records have been digitized but still we are facing difficulties because of certain issues faced by the staff in adapting to the new technology. He advised the participants to transform



Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy speaking at a programme.

their mindset and switch over to the technology for larger benefit of the society.

The Chairman further highlighted that e-Courts have the potential to revolutionize the administration of justice particularly for underprivileged and marginalized communities facing barriers to traditional court systems by reshaping access to justice and enhancing efficiency, transparency and fairness.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Y P Bourney, while presenting welcome address, highlighted the core purpose and importance of the programme. He stated that e-Courts Project was conceptualized on the basis of "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005" submitted by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India. The e-Courts National portal (ecourts.gov.in) was launched by the Chief Justice of India on 07th August, 2013 which provides case status, daily cause-list, cases filed, and cases registered through the CIS software. He emphasised the objectives, services and benefits of e-Courts. He stated that digitization has bridged the gap between the court and the litigant, ensuring

justice not only at the door step of the citizens but at their fingertips.

The first technical session was conducted by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer, who gave an introduction to e-Courts Project. He acquainted the staff about various e-court initiatives and services including their role in implementation of e-Court services of CIS, NSTEP, Virtual Courts, e-filing, etc. He again briefed about defacing and locking mechanism of e-Court fee. The learned resource person also explained the procedure of digitization of Court Case Record and DMS and discussed the role and responsibilities of the staff.

Rajeev Gupta, Senior System Officer and Faheem Manzoor, System Officer jointly conducted the second technical session. They gave a practical knowledge of various tools and gave live demonstration on CIS, NSTEP, Virtual Courts, e-filing and other e-Court services. All the sessions remained very interactive during which the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were satisfactorily answered by the resource persons.

Deteriorated, polluted Bari Nambal Lake tarnishing beauty of Srinagar

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Situated at the entrance of Shah-e-Khas in Srinagar, Brari Nambal was once known for crystal clear waters. It was one of the major tourist attractions in Kashmir. Before the 1970s, Brari Nambal had two outlets, one on the west side and the other on the north from Nallah Mar. During the 1970s, Nallah Mar had been converted into a road.

The lake stated deteriorating due to closure of the Nallah Mar outlet. Gradually, Brari Nambal's hydrology started to affect and it lost flushing capacity. The water body is ecologically important as it helps to regulate hydrology of Dal Lake by releasing its surplus waters into river Jhelum via a conduit at Fateh Kadal area. During the past nearly three decades, Brari Nambal has borne the brunt of official apathy and public greed. Absence of conservation measures increased unabated pollution



and encroachments has pushed it on the verge of extinction. Major expanse of the lagoon has been swallowed by weeds and garbage dumps.

The lagoon has been extensively encroached upon from Baba Denb side. This side has been converted into a full-fledged market. Scavengers are openly dumping used items, plastics, steel, iron and paper on the vacant land on the banks of Brari Nambal.

Research conducted by Department of Environmental Science, Kashmir University

states that Brari Nambal has lost over 10 hectares in the past over 40 years.

After spending crores of rupees to redevelop and beautify the shore of Brari Nambal Lake in Shahr-e-Khas, the authorities have miserably failed to bring visitors to the water body.

The beautification work, commissioned two years ago, is in a dilapidated condition, with wooden jetties meant for establishment of food courts wrecked on. Besides, the electric work done by the Lakes

Conservation & Management Authority (LC&MA) is rooted out from its positions.

The Brari Nambal comes under the domain of Lakes Conservation & Management Authority (LC&MA) which dredged the lake, cleaned its boundaries from encroachments, constructed walkway from all sides, completed its fencing and stopped solid waste from adjoining areas.

For the past two years, The STATE TIMES has been highlighting the deplorable condition of the water body but no major step has been taken so far by the concerned authority to save this important reservoir.

After over three years, neither the LC&MA did enable the atmosphere of alluring visitors there nor ensured watch and ward of the developmental works involving expenditure of Rs 18 crore. Locals and the passersby have been expressing their strong displeasure over the official apathy, calling it "utter failure of the concerned department, which failed to stick to its commitments". Apart from the damage, the Lake is currently producing massive foul smell in the area though summer is yet to come.

ANTF Jammu arrest drug peddler, recovers narcotics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough, the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) apprehended a notorious drug peddler, Ravi Raj, and seized a commercial quantity of narcotics from his possession in Jammu.

The operation, aimed at eradicating drug abuse from society under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan program, unfolded near Panjthirthi, Jammu, where Ravi Raj was intercepted with the contraband in his car, an Alto bearing registration number JKO2AW-5900.

Led by Inspector Meenu Sharma and supervised by Tanveer Ahmad, Dy SP ANTF Jammu, the team from police Station ANTF Jammu orchestrated the successful operation under the overall guidance of SSP ANTF J&K, Raj Kumar.

The case has been registered under FIR No. 05/2024 under Section 8/20 NDPS Act at Police Station ANTF Jammu, with investigations underway.

In light of this achievement, ANTF Jammu has called upon the public to step forward with any relevant information to combat the drug menace effectively, ensuring the protection of the younger generation from its harmful effects.

The locals allege that the execution of fresh developmental works was a "big loss" to the public exchequer, saying "The present status of the location depicts how executing agency allegedly swindled money in the name of beautification works, after which the site was not taken care of properly".

Conservation of the lagoon, including dredging will be undertaken at a cost of Rs 16.91 crores under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), footpaths, kiosks and food courts will be constructed at a cost of Rs 8.05 crore. The LC&MA has spent millions of rupees in the recent past to ensure the aesthetic of lake besides making it a point of attention for visitors. But, according to experts, water circulation is important for conservation of Dal Lake and the lagoon.

"There is need to restore arteries of the Dal Lake for maintaining its hydrology. Conservation measures like dredging of Brari Nambal and other outflow channels will help to restore natural drainage of Dal Lake and improve its water quality", the experts said.

Under operation Clean-up, police conducts raids at several drug hot-spots across Jammu District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs in the society and give more momentum to work on anti-drugs front, Jammu police today under Operation Clean-up conducted raids at several drug hot-spots across the Jammu District.

A team of Jammu police along with ITBP raid in the notorious area (Rajeev nagar) of Police station Bahu-fort and Dhadap area of Police Station Satwari and searched one by one houses of notorious drug peddlers who are reportedly actively involved in this illegal trade.

The team led by SP South and SDPO City East and South assisted by SHO Bahu fort, SHO Bagh e bahu, SHO Satwari, IC Police Post Narwal and IC Police Post Gadi Garh searched and checked the hot spots of drugs smuggling. During the search ninety five thousand and nine hundred fifty rupees recovered in the presence of magistrate from the house of one drug peddler.

Twenty persons picked who were found in suspicious conditions at Rajeev nagar area, along with 18 persons from Dhadap area.

Similarly under Operation Clean surprise search was conducted in Dogra Hall and Kabir Basti area under the Subdivision City North



which was supervised by SP City North Shivam Siddarth. Different teams were constituted headed by SDPO City Devinder Singh Bandral-JKPS and concerned SHO namely Inspector Vikas Dogra SHO Bus stand. During search 47 suspects were searched.

Under Operation Clean-up surprise search was conducted in Chand Nagar, Behind Fish Market and surrounding areas of Police Station Nowabad's Jurisdiction. The operation was supervised by SP City North and different teams were constituted under the command of DySP Hqrs Jammu assisted by SHO Police Station Nowabad, I/C Police Post Canal and other officers of Police Station Nowabad.

During the operation extensive search of the suspects was conducted in which total 23 suspects were searched.

Another raid under operation clean-up was conducted in Reshamgarh Colony in the jurisdiction of police subdivision city west jammu today by the different police parties of Police Station Bakshinager and Police post Sarwal. During operation 22 suspects have been thoroughly searched.

On same lines under Operation Clean", SHO Akhnoor along with police party launched operation in Jio Potta Akhnoor. During raid checking and frisking of lot of suspects was conducted.

Similarly today Operation clean-up was launched in

Maralian general area within jurisdiction of Police Station Miran Sahib and search were conducted in the area. It is pertinent to mention here that there have been complaints pouring in from certain sections of society to maintain vigil, specially with regard to Chitta hotspots. Police team was led by Irshad H. Rather SP headquarters Jammu along with Nikhil Gogna SDPO RS Pura, Inspector Abid Bukhari SHO PS Bishnah and Inspector Bopinder Singh SHO PS Miran Sahib. ITBP was also part of this raid.

The local population present there, also gathered and cooperated with the police in getting the search conducted. During the search 23 kulas were checked, 29 suspects were rounded up.

There after the local population present there was briefed to remain vigilant and not to indulge in anti social activities. There after a naka was launched on Maralian Pulley and thorough checking of the vehicles was also conducted. The people of the area also appreciated the efforts of the police and hailed the action of the police.

Jammu Police enjoined upon all the citizens of Jammu to be aware of drug menace and report any incident to jammu Police and their identity shall be kept secret.

5-day workshop for Capacity Building of School Administrators concludes



Participants of 5-day workshop for Capacity Building of School Administrators.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Jammu, on Saturday concluded a comprehensive 5-day CBP for school administrators aimed at enhancing the capacity and skills of school administrators.

The program, organized under the aegis of the Department of Educational Planning Management and Monitoring, brought together 75 school leaders from various districts of Jammu division to engage in intensive training sessions and collaborative learning experiences.

The program was designed to address the evolving challenges and responsibilities faced by school administrators in today's dynamic educational landscape. With a focus on leadership development, strategic planning, and effective management practices, participants were equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive positive change and foster excellence in their respective schools.

Throughout the 5 days, participants engaged in a diverse range of sessions on PFMS, child rights, Student assessment and evaluation as per NEP2020, Challenges in educational Administration, NCF-School education,

overview of SQAAP, Leave rules, Heritage education, GEM literacy, Effective resourcing and governance through school clusters, Mental health and hygiene, Innovation and administration, National initiatives besides field visit to ATL and Aghaaz labs at GHS Gandhi Nagar and AR/VR lab at GGHSS Bakshi Nagar.

The program was facilitated by renowned experts and practitioners from diverse fields including Prof. Gurudutt Japee (Gujarat University, Ahmedabad), Sandra Malhotra (Principal DIET Jammu), S.M Sahni (Retd.KAS) former Director Tourism, Isha Jeerath(KAS), Dr. J. N. Baliya (Head Department of Educational Studies) Central University of Jammu, Rajeev Khajuria (Advocate) (President, National Development Foundation), Dr. Chand Trehan (Psychologist), Dr. Balgar Singh (A.O), Rohit Sharma (A.O), Rajesh Hali (A.O), Rakesh Chobher (A.O), Navneet Gupta(A.O).

The program also provided a platform for participants to share best practices, exchange ideas, and build networks with fellow administrators from different schools and backgrounds. Interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities enriched the learning

experience and encouraged collaboration and peer support among participants.

The programme was coordinated by Arsh Kour (AO) and Dr. Balgar Singh (AO) was Associate Coordinator.

The programme was managed by the faculty of SCERT, Rohit Sharma, Dr. Harpreet Kour, Monica Sharma, Deepak Kumar, Dr. Jyoti Sudan, Shazia Kousar, Farhat John, Dr. Seema Zakir and Meena Thakur.

Joint Director SCERT Jammu, Prof. Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, presided over the valedictory function in the presence of the faculty of SCERT including Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors.

She extended sincere gratitude to all the participants, facilitators, and resource persons who contributed to the success of the Program and further pronounced the commitment of JKSCERT in supporting the professional development of school administrators and promoting excellence in education across the Jammu Division.

The program ended with a vote of thanks by Surjeet Kumar Sharma, Head A.U.III. Certificates of appreciation were distributed among all the participants and resource persons.