

IGP Jammu chairs Zonal level Crime Review Meeting

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JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, chaired Zonal level monthly Crime Review Meeting, which was attended by all Range DIsG; District SSsP; SSP Special Operations & Trainings ZPHQ Jammu; SP Operations Jammu; SO to IGP Jammu; Chief Prosecution Officer, Sr PO and I/C Crime Section ZPHQ Jammu; and PS and PA to IGP Jammu, to assess crime trends, review ongoing investigations, and strategize on strengthening law enforcement mechanisms across the zone. Inspector General of Police, Crime J&K, Sunil Gupta, IPS, also joined the meeting, and underlined the important aspects of new criminal laws. IG Jammu urged



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti chairing a meeting.

the district SSsP to focus on the dismantling of drug hotspots and adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards drug peddling, with a focus on breaking down organized drug networks and disrupting supply chains. District SSsP are instructed to intensify patrolling, conduct snap interceptions, and efficiently manage hotspots in drug-prone areas.

Additionally, strict enforcement of the NDPS Act was emphasized, along with swift legal action against repeat offenders and enhanced surveillance on inter-state trafficking routes. The meeting also highlighted the incorporation of technology in crime detection and investigation. Officers were urged to leverage digital forensics, and AI-driven

crime mapping to expedite investigations and strengthen precision-based policing. Additionally, officers were directed to strictly adhere to investigation timelines, closely monitor pending cases, and prioritize cases related to crimes against women, children, and vulnerable sections.

The review meeting covered topics such as implementation of New criminal Laws, NCORD, UAPA investigations etc. The performance of various districts during the year 2024 was also assessed against the goals and targets set by the Police Headquarters. Quality of investigation of the cases registered against NDPS also came up for discussion.

Parade sports ground be named after Sher e Duggar Pt. Prem Nath Dogra: Yudhvir

Highlights several issues related to water scarcity, encroachment, corruption, development issues



thorized land use. He urged the relevant authorities to take swift action against the encroachments and ensure the protection of forested areas.

To boost tourism in the region, Yudhvir Sethi proposed the initiation of bus services from Jammu to the newly established Jammu Zoo. He believed that improved accessibility to the zoo will attract more visitors, thereby enhancing local tourism and contributing to the area's economic development. Furthermore, he suggested the introduction of a laser show at the Old Park in Manda Zoo. With the relocation of animals from the old zoo to Jammu Zoo, the Old Park now lies vacant. Implementing a laser show would revitalize the space, offering residents and tourists an additional recreational option, he added. Addressing infrastructural concerns, the senior BJP leader highlighted the acute water shortages faced by residents of Bajalta, Khanna Shargal, Aithem, and surrounding areas. He attributed this crisis to delays in the commissioning of proposed tube wells and urged the Public Health Engineering (PHE)

Department to expedite these projects to alleviate the hardships of the affected communities.

Furthermore, Sethi expressed concern over the staffing shortages in the Jal Shakti Department, which have adversely affected the provision of drinking water in the entire East constituency. He emphasized the need for the department to address these shortages promptly to ensure residents have consistent access to essential water services.

Yudhvir Sethi also raised alarms about alleged corruption within the Pollution Control Department. Despite the digitalization of services intended to streamline processes, he noted that individuals still need to visit the department in person to obtain pollution clearance certificates for their establishments. This situation not only undermines the purpose of online services but also opens avenues for corrupt practices. Sethi called for immediate reforms to ensure transparency and efficiency in the department's operations.

Sethi reaffirmed his commitment to transforming the East constituency into a model of progress and harmony. He emphasized the BJP's dedication to addressing public grievances and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

7-day advanced entrepreneurship skill development program concludes at IIIM

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SRINAGAR: The seven-day Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program on the theme, "Crop Diversification through Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Rainfed Areas for Doubling Farmers' Income" concluded on Saturday at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Branch Lab, Srinagar. The programme, which lasted for seven days was aimed at empowering the aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to explore crop diversification, particularly through medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), and to enhance their income through innovative agricultural practices.

The valedictory function was presided over by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, who congratulated & complimented all participants for successfully completing the program. In his



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu giving certificate to a participant.

address, Dr. Ahmed emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in today's economy. He urged participants not to wait for government jobs but to instead choose the path of startups and entrepreneurship, becoming job creators rather than job seekers. He shared valuable insights and experiences about agri-startups and encouraged participants to collaborate with CSIR-IIIM through its incu-

bation centres. Dr. Ahmed also stressed the need for promoting crop diversification to more than double farmers' income, highlighting the potential of medicinal and aromatic plants in achieving this goal.

The program featured a series of lectures, interactive sessions, and success stories from experts, banking institutions, government officers, and successful entrepreneurs. Participants expressed their

satisfaction with the training, particularly appreciating the opportunity to interact with successful business entrepreneurs in aromatic and medicinal plants, mushroom cultivation, apiculture, waste-to-energy, and other allied sectors.

Giving detail of this weeklong Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program, Dr. Nasir-Ul-Rashid, the coordinator informed that on day 1, after an impressive inaugural session, Dr. O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd. PCCF), delivered a keynote address on "Forests & Food through Traditions & Techniques." The day also included discussions on marketing strategies for MAPs. On last and the 7th day, Dr. G.S. Naqash, Former Director of Floriculture and Horticulture, interacted with participants and shared tips on entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors. He highlighted how the growing culture of crop diversification has given rise to new startups

and entrepreneurs.

Dr. Sartaj Shah, Joint Director of the Agriculture Department, special guest has discussed various government schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and encouraged participants to take advantage of these initiatives. Dr. Nasir Ul Rasheed, the program coordinator, provided an overview of the week-long program and shared insights into the day-wise schedule. Dr. Phalisten Sultan conducted the proceedings of the valedictory function, while Dr. Nasheeman Ashraf delivered the formal vote of thanks.

The event was attended by scientific staff, technical staff, administrative staff, scholars, trainees, and other dignitaries. A total of 24 participants from different parts of the country successfully completed the training program and were given the certificates by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed.

younger generation and encourage a progressive mindset."

The event concluded on a high note, with attendees lauding Suresh K. Bangotra for his creative vision and dedication to meaningful cinema.

The poster unveiling served as a prelude to what promises to be a thought-provoking and impactful cinematic journey.

This remarkable occasion not only celebrated the art of filmmaking but also reinforced the importance of addressing societal issues through creative expression.

It left the audience inspired and eager to witness the powerful message of 'Beti' unfolds on the screen.

Mohan Lal advocates for concrete embankment of river Chenab, Kandi Canal, District status for Akhnoor in Budget Session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a passionate address during the ongoing budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat strongly raised pressing issues concerning the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, particularly highlighting the urgent need for concrete embankment of the River Chenab from Steel Bridge Akhnoor to Hamirpur Kona, spanning 21 kilometers.

He warned that without immediate action, villages such as Siteriala, CK Pur, Maira, Chak Sikander, and Indri face the imminent threat of being washed away due to the rising water levels of the Chenab. "Every year, crores are spent on temporary protection works. The government should focus on a one-time solution by channelizing and constructing a concrete embankment from Steel Bridge to Hamirpur Kona to safeguard hundreds of kanals of agricultural land belonging to our farmers," he asserted.

The MLA further pressed for funds to be allocated for the long-pending Kandi Canal Project in Akhnoor, which aims to meet the irrigation needs of

dozens of Kandi villages in the constituency. He emphasized that the project has been stalled due to a shortage of funds, despite its potential to transform the agricultural landscape of the region.

In addition to these demands, Mohan Lal Bhagat called for the upgradation of existing lift irrigation schemes in the area, with special attention towards the Balgara Irrigation Scheme and Amabaran Irrigation Scheme to ensure adequate water supply to farmers.

To further enhance water conservation and environmental sustainability, he advocated for the construction of check dams on Sumah, Gandharwan, and Panjgrain Nallas/Khads. "These check dams will not only help raise the water table but will also enhance scenic beauty and support the growth of flora and fauna. The stored water can be effectively utilized for irrigation and other purposes," he stated.



Addressing the desilting of distributaries, minors, and sub-minors of the New Pratap Canal, the MLA stressed that regular maintenance is crucial for the smooth functioning of irrigation channels and ensuring adequate water supply to the farmers.

Concluding his address, Mohan Lal Bhagat reiterated the long-standing demand for District Status for Akhnoor: "Akhnoor today comprises three sub-divisions, seven tehsils, and three municipalities, with a population and area surpassing many existing districts.

It is time the government recognized the growing administrative needs of the region and granted Akhnoor the status it rightfully deserves," he urged.

Institution of Engineers, Jammu Centre celebrates World Water Day

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JAMMU: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre celebrated World Water Day on Saturday with the theme "Glacier Preservation". The event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and Senior Engineers along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Centre.

On this occasion, Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister, Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Department, Government of J&K UT was the Chief Guest and Satish Sharma, Minister for IT, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Science & Technology, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, ARI & Training graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K, also accompanied as another Guest of Honour. Further, Er. Itikhar Ahmed Kakroo, Chairman, J&K Water Resources (Regulation & Management) Authority



Cabinet Ministers Javed Ahmed Rana, Satish Sharma and others during the event.

(JKVRRRA) & Jose George Pottakkal, Head, Western Himalayan Regional Centre, National Institute of Hydrology, Jammu were the Keynote Speakers. Er. Anil Verma, P&E Chairman, IEI, Jammu Centre presided over the function. Er. Anil Verma, Chairman in his Welcome Address introduced the day's theme to the audience. He drew an analogy between blood and glaciers and explained that the way blood is important for human life so are the glaciers for sustenance of water on this planet.

Javed Ahmed Rana, Chief Guest stressed upon preservation of glaciers which is not only important to protect the

environment but also necessary for ensuring the wellbeing of millions of people. He further said that we should re-affirm our commitment to protect these vital resources of fresh water through research, policy measures, community involvement and innovative solutions to safeguard our glaciers for future generations.

Satish Sharma, Minister highlighted that we should try to lead simple life in order to protect the environment and at the same time go far afield to protect the environment thereby preventing further degradation of glaciers so that the future generations can also enjoy the

fruits of mother nature.

Khurshid Ahmad Shah, MD, Jal Jeevan Mission conveyed that local communities should be engaged in conservation efforts. He stressed upon initiatives like sustainable practices, such as rain-water harvesting and organic farming which reduced the strain on glaciers resources. He also administered World Water Day Pledge to the audience.

Itikhar Ahmed Kakroo described the current position of glacier reduction because of erratic weather patterns & drying of water bodies. He advocated for research by Govt. Agencies & Academia for adoption of Water

Conservation Management Strategies. He also emphasized that water scarce districts must be focused by Govt. to address the issue and community engagement be encouraged.

Jose George Pottakkal highlighted the importance of glaciers and their current state including the situation of glaciers in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He also stressed upon consequences of glacier melting & various efforts for glaciers preservation.

During the seminar, Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE; Er. B. L. Rawal, FIE; Er. Sachin Tiekoo, MIE; Er. Gopal Sharma, MIE; Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, MIE; Er. Hemdeep Singh Ishar, AMIE; Er. Joy Ganjoo, AM Technologist, Er. Akash Dugotra, AMIE & Er. Anil Kumar, AMIE also presented their papers on the theme.

Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI Jammu Local Centre presented the Vote of Thanks to the august gathering and media personnel for active participation.

Shiv Sena demands name of Mughal Road to Maharaja Gulab Singh road, Mughal Garden to Maharishi Kashyap Garden

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded to change the name of "Mughal Road" connecting Poonch-Rajouri of Jammu division to Kashmir to the name of "Gulab Singh", the founder of Dogra dynasty and the first Maharaja of Jammu-Kashmir state and to name the Mughal Garden of Kashmir after Kashyap Rishi.

Shiviks Sain gathered on J a m m u - P a t h a n k o t National Highway near Bari Brahmana under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni and protested by holding placards with the words "Mughal stamp is not acceptable on prestigious places", Party state chief Manish Sahni said adding that Jammu Kashmir was never a slave of the British. The dreaded Mahmud Ghaznavi, who dreamed of capturing India, had to return after swallowing humiliation



Shiv Sena activists staging protest in Jammu.

during his attack on Kashmir.

"There are no descendants of the Mughals here, then why is the history of the Mughals being forcibly imposed on us. According to mythological beliefs, the credit for settling Kashmir goes to Maharishi Kashyap and he was the first to rule over it. It was named Kashyap after him, which has now become Kashmir, but it is unfortunate that his memories have been almost erased while his descendants, Kashmiri Pandits are still in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Dogra people behave similarly the name of the Mughal Garden of the

Rashtrapati Bhavan in the capital Delhi has been changed to "Amrit Garden".

Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha to immediately change the name of "Mughal Road" to "Maharaja Gulab Singh" and the Mughal Garden of Kashmir to "Maharishi Kashyap Garden".

On this occasion many leaders and workers including Vikas Bakshi, Raj Singh, Shashipal, Deep Kumar, Shamlal, Neeti Devi, Sunita Kumari, Uttam Kumar, Rohit, Om Prakash, Jatindra Sharma, Bishan Dasr were present.

Short Movie 'Beti' released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-awaited poster of the short movie 'Beti', directed by the visionary filmmaker Suresh K. Bangotra and produced by a famous writer, actor and director of short movies Dr Rajinder Thappa, was unveiled at an impressive event held at the Press Club Jammu. The movie aims to address crucial societal issues and inspire the younger generation with its impactful narrative.

The event was graced by Chief Guest, Babu Rampaul, former Minister and Zonal President. National Conference, whose presence added profound significance to the occasion.



Former Minister Babu Rampaul and others launching movie.

In his address, Babu Rampaul spoke passionately about the importance of eradicating drug abuse among the youth and fostering a culture of responsibility and awareness. His words resonated deeply with the audience, setting the tone for an inspiring evening.

Among the honored guests were Jayesh Gupta, Vikash

Sharma, and Ankush Abrol, who were recognized for their invaluable contributions to society. Special guests Baldev Raj Nagotra and Retired S.P. Bishan Dass also graced the event with their presence, lending an air of prestige to the gathering.

The evening's highlight included captivating perform-

ances by renowned actors Rajinder Thappa, Rupesh Raj, and Akashy Bangotra, whose artistry left the audience enthralled. Adding to the charm of the event were the talented actresses Rupali Sharma, Bhavana Kamal, Asha Bangotra, Nisha, and Kajal, who brought grace and elegance to the occasion.

The movie 'Beti', under the directorial expertise of Suresh K. Bangotra, promises to shed light on pressing social issues while emphasizing the importance of empowering women.

Speaking about the film, Bangotra said, "Beti is more than a movie; it's a message. It seeks to ignite a sense of responsibility among the