

Training Programme on 'Value added Agriculture: A Pathway to prosperity in Kandi Areas of Jammu' held

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Training Programme on 'Value added Agriculture: A Pathway to prosperity in Kandi Areas of Jammu' was organized by the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu (sponsored by JKST&IC project) for the Rural Women & Youths of village Badholi, block Dinga Amb of District Kathua under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi.

Sharma (Co-PI of the JKST&IC project) and Chief Scientist, Horticulture, KVK Samba attended and participated in the PROGRAMME. While giving the welcoming address, Prof P.S. Slathia highlighted that in the rural Kandi Areas in Jammu where low rainfall limits crop production, minor fruits thrive naturally despite the harsh conditions, therefore, developing Agripreneurship through the value addition of these minor fruits since the rural Kandi Area in Jammu is dominated by traditional and minor fruits like Desi mango, Gal gal, Chakotra, Jhamiri, Khatta, Kimb, Ber, Aonla, Jamun, Karonda, Phalsa & Bael etc. which presents a significant opportunity for rural women and youth. There is a vast production of underutilized and underexploited minor horticultural crops which could be used as the "future crops" to supplement our nutritional needs.

Prof Poonam Parihar deliberated upon the value addition of minor fruits which can substantially uplift rural livelihoods by creating a range of economic and social benefits. She said that this programme will help to preserve and promote regional identities by showcasing local fruits, contributing to cultural heritage and local pride. She further added that a shift from agriculture to agribusiness is an essential pathway to revitalize Indian agriculture and to make more attractive and profitable venture. Agripreneurship has the potential to contribute to a range of social and economic development such as employment generation, income generation, poverty reduction and improvements in nutrition, health & overall food security in the National economy. Agripreneurship has the potential to generate growth,

diversifying income, providing widespread employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas and the minor fruits with their diverse characteristics and untapped potential, offer significant opportunities for value addition and entrepreneurship which enhances farmers' incomes by leveraging their unique qualities, nutritional benefits, and cultural significance. Prof Jagmohan Singh briefed the participants about the importance of value addition, industrial growth, urbanization & globalization. He laid practical demonstrations on Value addition of Mango & Ber into many values added bi-products e.g., Mango Squash, Mango Juice & Ber Candies. Dr Neerja Sharma said that value addition is an important aspect of Agripreneurship, significantly enhancing the economic value of agricultural products through various processes and innovations. Entrepreneurs can create innovative products, enhance agricultural incomes, and contribute to sustainable practices not only providing higher value products but also creates local jobs in processing and marketing. Dr. Brijesh Aijarawat, Chief Scientist, Extension Education, KVK Kathua discussed about the value addition of minor fruits which contributes to poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement as well as ensure household food and nutritional security adding women participation through employment and income generation. The Programme was attended by Mukesh, Kumar, Artist cum photographer and UG, PG & Ph.D students of SKUAST-Jammu. A vote of thanks was presented by Sudesha Rani, Panch of the village Badholi.

Meeting was attended by large number of legendary retired Police Officers including IPS Ranjit Singh, SSP Suresh Kumar, SSP Ashok Bhagat, SP Vice President of League J S Chib, Yoginder Singh, Sat Pal Sharma, DSPs, office Incharge Ramesh Sharma and others.

Ex-Police Veterans condole demise of tourists in Terrorist attack

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ex Police Veterans held condolence meeting in Retirees Police office Gandhi Nagar to pay homage to the departed souls of tourists who were brutally killed by Pakistan sponsored terrorists in Pahalgam. Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President Retirees Police League District Jammu. All members criticized the terrorists attack and appealed Centre Government to strongly act against Pakistan, immediate destroy the terrorists launching pads along LOC. India has to take back Pakistan occupied Kashmir, they said and added, "We are very strong and world power. How long we are going to tolerate loss of innocent armless citizens. Tourists killings is totally beast act by Pakistani terrorists."



Ex Police Veterans after the meeting.

ICAI takes out candle March in memory of Pahalgam terror attack victims



Members of ICAI taking out candle march in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organized a candle march on Thursday at the ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu, to pay tribute to the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and to denounce the act of violence.

CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman of the J&K Branch of ICAI, shared his grief and condemnation, saying, "This horrific act has left us all in mourning. We stand united with the victims' families and the community during this tragic time. These acts of terror only deepen our commitment to peace and solidarity." The event witnessed a

strong turnout of Chartered Accountants and local residents, who came together in a heartfelt show of support. It served as a powerful symbol of shared sorrow and resilience. The J&K Branch of ICAI urges strength and unity in response to this tragedy and reaffirms its dedication to promoting peace and brotherhood.

Brahman Sabha holds Inter-School Symposium on Bhagwan Parshuram

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dogra Brahman Sabha, Chanakya Chowk, Parade is celebrating Bhagwan Parshuram Janam Utsav. As a part of week-long celebrations, inter-school symposium on the life and contribution to the humanity by Bhagwan Parshuram was organized in the Parshuram Hall of DBPS (Jammu). The function started with two minutes of silence as a mark of respect to the victims of Pahalgam Massacre.



Students of DBN Amar Villa receiving the winner trophy.

The schools including Heritage School, DBN Amar Villa Talab Tillo, JK Public School Kunjwani, Shiksha Niketan School Gandhi Nagar, SD Tarapuri

High School Gandhi Nagar, and Maharishi Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School Sainik Colony participated in the competition. Each school was represented by two students who

spoke on the life and contribution of Bhagwan Parshuram to the humanity. Rishu Gupta of DBN Amar Villa secured the first position, Janya Kapoor of Heritage School stood second and Aardhya Sharma

of Maharishi Vidya Mandir High School secured the third position. The overall championship trophy was won by DBN Amar Villa Higher Secondary School. The performance of the speakers was evaluated by prominent people including Anjali Sharma, Former Station Director AIR Jammu, Prof. Bharat Bhushan Vice President Rashtriya Bhasha Prachar Sammiti Wardha and Kusam Sharma Antra, a prominent poetess and writer. Soujanya Sharma, former Commissioner JMC, also shared his views with the speakers to improve their eloquence for better expressions and for good presentation. He also thanked the schools for sending their

students for making this function a grand success. President Dogra Brahman Pradhini Sabha, Ved Prakash Sharma while addressing the students and the participants he congratulated them for elaborating the teachings of Bhagwan Parshuram. He said that his teachings have a great relevance in the present scenario, he asked the students to work with dedication and zeal to improve the life of downtrodden and underprivileged people of the society. Among others those who were present includes Shiv Ram Sharma, PC Sharma, Chander Mohan Sharma, M.L. Padha, Jagannath Sharma, Ramesh Sharma. The function ended with the vote of thanks.

Traders express solidarity with families of Pahalgam Martyrs, condemn terrorist attack

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the call of the Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Jammu traders in large numbers took out Mashaal Rally (candle march) from Federation office to Bikram Chowk to pay tributes to the tourists who attained Martyrdom in Pahalgam Attack on Tuesday. Traders, while passing through main road ware house, raised slogans against Pakistan and the anti-national forces who are behind this attack. With thunderous chants that reverberated defiance, traders rallied to express their solidarity with the families who lost their loved ones in this attack. Speaking to the media during



Traders taking out Mashaal rally in Jammu.

CGPWA condemns Tourist killings, supports action against Pakistan
STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) has strongly condemned the dastardly killing of 25 Hindu tourists and one Tourist guide by the Pak sponsored terrorists at Baisaran, Pahalgam on Tuesday. In a statement, the General Secretary of the CGPWA, K B Jandial said that all members of the Association are traumatized at the brutal killing of innocent tourists who had come from different States of the Country to enjoy the mesmerising Kashmir. The horrifying tales of the surviving kins of the killed tourists that are flashed on TV channels have made everyone shocked and grieved. Extending full support to the Modi Govt for all actions that it would take to avenge this crime against humanity and bring justice to the killed tourists, the Association said that it appeals for peace and harmony in J&K. The Association also conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families & pray for grant of strength to them to bear this tragedy & eternal peace to the departed souls.

the protest, Deepak Gupta, President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu voiced searing concerns about Pakistan's direct complicity in providing sanctuary to terrorists through its sinister intelligence agency, ISI and Army. Deepak Gupta strongly condemned Pakistan for carrying on the policy of enmity against India and harboring terrorists on its soil and using them to threaten life of the people in JKUT. He further emphasised that

the recent attack was a blatant attempt to derail peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir: Deepak Gupta urged upon the Central Govt., UT Administration and police authorities to take immediate action against those involved in the Aforesaid incident and further urged that thorough probe be done in the said incident. He stated that such barbaric acts of targeting innocent lives is an attack on the democratic values of society and deserve to

be universally condemned. They must be met with determination and collective action. He called upon the Central and U.T Government and all concerned agencies to ensure that the guilty are brought to justice and law and order is maintained in the UT of J&K. Strongly condemning the brutal terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, Deepak Gupta said that this inhumane and senseless act of violence, targeting innocent civilians, is a stark reminder of the continued threat posed by those who seek to disrupt peace and harmony in the region. This cowardly act of violence against innocent lives is an affront to humanity. "The Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families during this difficult time. The Federation extends its deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones in this tragic incident. Our thoughts and

prayers are also with those who have been injured, and we sincerely wish them a swift and full recovery," Deepak said. Among those who were present in the Mashaal Rally were Dheeraj Mahajan, Sr. Vc. President, Vishal Gupta, Vc. President, Abhimanyu Gupta, General Secretary, Rahul Gupta, Secretary, Nitish Gupta, Cashier of the Federation, Rajesh Bhagotra, President Sugar Association, Munish Mahajan, Former Sr. Vc. President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Atul Gupta, President Transport Association, Rajesh Gupta, Former President TFWHNM, Manu Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, Kapil Gupta, Harish Gupta, Prushottam Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Keshav Pal Gupta, Raghav Gupta, Nitin Gupta, Ashwani Sharma, Vijay Gupta, Praful Gupta, Naman Gupta, Rinku Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Kurnesh Gupta, Palli Gupta, Muna Kohli, Raju Gupta.

Senior Citizen Services Support Club Chowadhi expresses condolences on demise of innocent tourists



Club members during condolence meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The members of the Senior Citizen Services Support Club, Chowadhi, Jammu, extended deepest and heartfelt condolences on the tragic and tearful demise of innocent tourists, who became victims of a deliberate and targeted terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on the afternoon of April 22, 2025. This heinous crime and cowardly act by militants has shaken the conscience

of every peace-loving citizen. In solidarity with the bereaved families and to mourn this irreparable loss, a condolence and prayer meeting was solemnly held under the chairmanship of Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta. During the gathering, members expressed their anguish and outrage over this brutal incident, while strongly condemning the forces of terror that continue to threaten the harmony and sanctity of our nation.

"We pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and to offer strength, courage, and solace to the families grappling with this unbearable loss. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them during this deeply sorrowful time," they said. The Senior Citizen Services Support Club stands united in the face of terror and reaffirms its faith in peace, justice, and the resilience of the people of India.

Randhawa inaugurates civic works at Ward 47

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Goswami Basti, Qasim Nagar (Ward No. 47) witnessed a significant development as MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, formally inaugurated the newly constructed lane and drainage system, aimed at improving the living conditions and basic civic infrastructure in the locality. The inauguration event was attended by departmental officials, including AE Bhavnesh Manhas and JE Pranav Shivgotra, who supervised the completion of the project. Present on the occasion were Sharda Devi (Ex-Councillor), Surjeet Singh (Mandal President), and several other prominent dignitaries including Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Sharma, Dalbir Singh, Yashpaul Chohan, Sanjay Baba, Mohinder Sharma, Sumit Kumar, among others, who expressed their appreciation for the swift developmental work. In addition to the infrastructure unveiling, a public outreach program was conducted to directly engage with the residents of Ward No. 47. The MLA interacted with locals, listened to their grievances, and noted suggestions for future improvement. One of the major issues highlighted by the public was the acute water shortage being faced in the area. Residents shared their concerns regarding irregular supply, lack of clean drinking water, and the urgency of the matter, especially with the onset of summer. Randhawa assured the public that addressing the water crisis is a top priority, and promised that he would take up the issue with the Jal Shakti



MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurating civic works.

Department and relevant authorities for immediate and long-term solutions. He also stated that plans are underway for upgrading the water supply infrastructure in the ward. He emphasized that such public meetings and inaugurations are not just ceremonial, but a platform for transparent governance, accountability, and people-driven development. This initiative reflects a strong commitment by the leadership to listen to the people, address core civic issues, and push forward the agenda of holistic development in every corner of the constituency.

ABDPSS holds protest rally against Pahalgam terrorist attack

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In response to the recent brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, a massive protest rally was organized today at Channi Himmat, Jammu, by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS), supported by various religious and social organizations. The protest reflected intense public outrage and a united call for justice and national solidarity. Volunteers from Satsang Prachar Seva Mandal, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat, and Vichar Kranti Manch International, along with prominent citizens and retired officers, participated in large numbers. The rally began at Channi Himmat Main Chowk, winding through the streets of the locality and culminating at Tawi Chowk. Women partici-



Samiti members taking out protest rally.

pants raised vociferous slogans against terrorism and Pakistan, asserting their demand for peace and protection. The protesters raised key demands: stern action against Pakistan, the creation of a Separate Union Territory for Jammu, and immediate elimination of terrorists and their local supporters. Speakers at the rally urged unity and

firm national response, declaring, "We stand in solidarity with the victims' families and demand swift justice." In a strong symbolic gesture, an effigy of Pakistan was set ablaze, representing the collective anger of the people. Prominent figures present included Sushma Sharma, Poetess Girija Sharma, Dr. Vijay

Sharma, Subash Shastri, Ajay Bhalla, Rohit Shastri, Yash Paul Sharma, Parveen Kumar, and many others from the region's social and religious circles. The protest sent a clear message: the people of Jammu will not remain silent in the face of terrorism; they will stand united, resilient, and demanding justice.