

# Jammu to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project: Dr Jitendra

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JAMMU: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday said, Jammu is going to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project.

Dr. Jitendra said this during a visit to the Cannabis Cultivation Farm of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine at Chatha near here to get the first-hand information about the cultivation practices for Cannabis in the protected area of the institute and research work being carried out on this important plant.

Dr. Jitendra said, since J&K and Punjab are affected by drug abuse, this kind of project will spread awareness that this substance of abuse has diverse medicinal uses especially for the patients suffering from malignancies and other diseases.

Dr. Singh said, the signing of scientific agreement between CSIR-IIIM and IndusScan was historic not only for J&K but for whole of India as it has the potential to produce those kinds of medicines which have to be exported from foreign coun-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh visiting the Cannabis Cultivation Farm of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, at Chatha near Jammu Sunday.

tries.

This kind of project will give an impetus for huge investment in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

During the field visit, Dr Jitendra took stock of the one acre protected area where CSIR-IIIM is presently doing large scale cultivation of superior accessions of Cannabis.

The Minister also visited the glass houses with climate control facilities where research work on improving the varieties for desired cannabinoid content is being

performed.

Dr. Jitendra emphasized the importance of using latest technology and the cultivation practices for increasing the produce that would help the farmers.

Dr. Singh also stressed the need for developing newer indigenous varieties that would suit the environmental conditions of our country. He also highlighted the role of biotechnology in this endeavour and encouraged the researchers to continue pushing the boundaries of scientific development.

While briefing the media on

the occasion, Dr Jitendra said, Cannabis is a wonder plant from which FDA has approved the drugs such as Marinol/nabilone and Cesamet for treatment of nausea and vomiting, Sativex for neuropathic pain and spasticity, Epidiolex, Cannabidiol for epilepsy and being used elsewhere in countries.

In J&K, the license was granted to CSIR-IIIM, Jammu for research and protected cultivation and upon permission of GMP manufacturing, the rest of pre-clinical and clinical studies

would be completed.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, apprised the Union Minister that at present CSIR-IIIM has a repository of more than 500 accessions collected from different parts of the country.

An application to get license from Excise Department of J&K Govt. for GMP manufacturing and transportation of Cannabis material exclusively for scientific purpose has been submitted long back which is still under process, he informed.

Among others present on the occasion were Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head RMBD & IST Division, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, PSA Division, Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, IDD Division, Dr. P.P. Singh, Principal Investigator, Cannabis Research Project and Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist and I/C Technology Business Incubator and Atal Incubation Centre.

Farmer's vehicle carrying tomatoes stolen in Bengaluru.



## In absence of embankment, Basantar, Devik rivers change its route in Ramgarh Save Indo-Pak border villagers' cultivation, soil from flash floods: Sukhnandan appeals to LG



Former Minister and senior BJP leader Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar visiting flood affected area near IB.

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JAMMU: Earlier, shelling from Pakistan affected agricultural activities along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, and now, flood waters from the other side are damaging standing paddy crop in Ramgarh area in Samba District. From near BSF Nursery post to BSF Mallua post and Tanwar BSF post in Ramgarh area, there was flash flood and strong embankments along the border can only save the Indian soil from erosion in the rainy season, said former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar, adding that last year LG J&K Manoj Sinha visited Chamlayal Mela and he had assured to the villagers that embankment along Basantar river will be made so that the Indian soil where local farmers grow paddy crop in this season.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu was also ordered by LG J&K to visit and consequently Rs 25 Crore DPR was prepared but nothing was done

afterwards. Former minister Sukhnandan Kumar, who on Sunday visited the International border areas in Ramgarh sector along with Sarbjeet Singh Johal to take firsthand account of the situation, said, the farmers in border areas from Ramgarh have suffered heavy losses as thousands of acres of agricultural land along the border has been damaged in flash floods. Significantly, the flood-hit villages have no river or canal nearby and irrigation is carried out using pump sets.

"And, even in the absence of proper embankment, Basantar, Devik rivers change its route in Ramgarh area," said the former minister, adding that even at two spots, the flash flood has damaged even the fencing of border posts near Tanwar and Mullu.

Several villages in this region and those in its proximity can witness huge losses to agricultural fields in the aftermath of flash floods likely in next rains.

Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar has urged the administration to construct protection walls

along the rivulets to prevent frequent losses caused to the agricultural fields especially in border areas.

"We appeal to the LG Manoj Sinha to depute teams to the affected areas to assess the situation and issue order to Divisional Commissioner to execute already prepared DPR of Rs 25 Crore," said Sukhnandan Kumar, adding "otherwise the border villagers will be the major sufferers as there is no one to listen to their woes. Even the embankment will save the eroded land of the villagers." There is an urgent need to intervene and order the construction of strong embankments especially along border in Ramgarh sector, said senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Kumar.

Others who accompanied the former minister include DDC member Sarbjeet Singh Johal, Sarpanch Kali Dass, Sarpanch Kuldeep Kumar, Shiv Choudhary Mandal Pardhan B&P, Naib Sarpanch Parveen, Panch Rakesh Kumar, Sarla Swarn Singh and Raj Kumar.

## Dogri album 'Raaje Jambulochan Ne Basaya Jammu Shair Ji' released

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JAMMU: Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta along with Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal and Rakesh Wazir, Chairman, All India Devotional Songs Committee jointly released Dogri Album "Raaje Jambulochan Ne Basaya Jammu Shair Ji", during a function organized at Press Club, here on Sunday.

Pardeep Kumar, EO, Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Corporator from Kamal Nagar, Ban Talab, Kuldeep Singh Chib, Y S Jasrotia, former Chairman, Housing Corporation Ltd, renowned music composer Ravi Sharma were the guests of Honour on the occasion.

The mesmerizing Dogri song presented by H N Music Studio has been sung by budding singer Ravi Raghuvanshi with upcoming models Arjun Singh Jamwal and Aish



Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta along with Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal and other releasing an album.

Rajput from Reasi district as co-star cast in the album that depicts the scenic beauty of hilly belts and heritage sites of Jammu. The music director of album Sahil Nath, video director K K Malhotra, assistant director, Prerana Sharma were also present on the occasion.

In his address, famous singer Ravi Raghuvanshi shared that "though many dogri albums have been created on number of Maharajas and Dogra legendaries but this album is

first to pay tributes Raja Jambulochan who laid foundation of Jammu where finally Dogra rulers ruled for about a century.

While speaking on the occasion, chief guest, Sunaina Sharma Mehta congratulated Ravi Raghuvanshi and is co-star team for such a unique initiative that promote our art and culture besides generates employment opportunities and also engage youth in productive works. She lauded the efforts of musicians, singers and artists for

promoting and glorifying the diverse culture of J&K by producing songs in Dogri language and hoped that such songs cross borders to reach their admirers.

Team Jammu chief, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said "this Dogri album is not just another piece of music but it showcase unique culture and communal harmony that existed in Dogra community since ages. Jammu where lion and goat used to drink water together from a same pond was first seen

by Raja Jambulochan following which he laid foundation of Jammu. It clearly shows the piousness of Duggar land, which is also known as a land of great warriors.

Zorawar further said that the government must open its door to the world of music industry besides film industry and ensure its presence felt here in a big way. He said that the video track made by Ravi Raghuvanshi involving young budding artists is the greatest example of their intellectual, creative and latent ability that needs to be harnessed for their optimal self-actualisation.

Pardeep Kumar, Rakesh Wazir and Y S Jasrotia in their respective addresses said that the mind of the creative genius is a strange and wonderful thing. They said that the youth who are engaged in such activities should be encouraged both by the Government and social organisations.

## JKJA's 40-hours Mediation Training Programme for advocates concludes

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SRINAGAR: The 40 hours Mandatory Mediation Training programme organised by Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, for the Advocates of Kashmir province, concluded successfully on Sunday at J&K Judicial Academy (JKJA), Moominabad, here.

That training was started on 19th of this month with an objective of fostering strong foundation of alternative dispute resolution methods within the legal community, enhancing their abilities to address disputes with efficiency, compassion, and fairness.

Spread over five days, the training programme delved into various facets of mediation, including communication skills, active listening, neutrality, and ethics. The participants' unwavering enthusiasm and active engagement showcased their determination to enrich their understanding of mediation practices. During the program, it was emphasized that the significance of mediation is in alleviating the burden on courts and expediting the resolution of disputes.

Distinguished experts on the subject were instrumental in guiding the participants through the intricacies of mediation practices.

Dr. Aditi Choudhary, Senior Judge Trainer, reflected on the immense potential of mediation to

bring about transformative change in the lives of individuals and communities. She said, "Mediation empowers parties to take ownership of their conflicts, promoting amicable resolutions that endure beyond the courtroom. The commitment shown by the participants reflects their dedication to uphold the principles of justice,".

A.J. Jawad, Senior Advocate Trainer, commended the participants' dedication and passion throughout the five-day program. He expressed that it was truly heartening to witness the participants' growth and enthusiasm as they imbibed the essence of mediation. "I firmly believe that the skills acquired during this training will significantly contribute to their effectiveness as legal professionals," he said.

Speaking about the program, Amit Gupta, Coordinator, Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh thanked the Director, J&K Judicial Academy, all the trainers and participants for their participation and commitment in making the program a resounding success.

He also expressed gratitude to Chief Justice and Mediation and Conciliation Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as also the Member Secretary, Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) for their guidance and support.

## Talent of India has become inspiration for all globally: Dr Andrabi Presents Rashtriya Prerna Awards at Indore

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: Minister of State and Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Sunday presented Rashtriya Prerna Awards 2023 at Indore during a colourful event held by India Book of Star Records in association with Rashtriya Vaikalpik Upchar Paddhati Parishad.

Dr Andrabi participated in the event as the Chief Guest while as Member of Parliament from Indore Shankar Lalwani also graced the event.

Rajib Pal, the Director of the IBSA sketched the achievements of the awardees in the Vishwaguru Bharat National Debate held on the occasion.

Awards were presented by



Chairperson JKWB Dr Darakhshan Andrabi presenting Rashtriya Prerna Awards 2023 at Indore.

Dr Andrabi to the people from different walks of life for their innovative and inspiring contribution.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Darakhshan said that India has emerged as the global leader under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The talent of India has become the inspiration for all globally. Indian mind power has begun leading the world. The Prime Minister had infused new energy into the brilliant minds of India. Our innovative and scientific approach is being acknowledged throughout the world",

said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

She emphasized on the awardees to continue their unique work in their respective fields and also inspire others to go things differently so that they also join the vast contributor's club of India.

She applauded the efforts of the organisers for felicitating the talented people from different walks of life at National level.

"We all need to celebrate the talent of India at different levels. We have to strengthen the innovation culture in the country so that we are able to enhance the speed for achieving the status of a developed nation with the ability to lead the world towards common good and prosperity", said Dr Andrabi.

## Salute Tiranga Organization to organise Tiranga Yatra from August 1

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JAMMU: Salute Tiranga Organization (STO) to organise Tiranga Yatra from August 1, 2023.

While addressing the media today here in Jammu, the president of STO, Rajesh Jha said, "We are pleased to inform you that the upcoming 'Tiranga Yatra' is going to be organised by STO."

The journey will start from 1st August to 15th August 2023 with aims to promote the important message of national unity, independence, and integrity, he added.

He further briefed the Program, "On 1st August 2023 at 11:00 am, the Yatra will be inaugurated with a Shikara rally on Dal Lake in Srinagar."

Where the opening speech will be delivered by me along with other national officials, he mentioned.

Rallies will also be organized in vari-



President of STO, Rajesh Jha addressing a press conference at Jammu on Sunday.

ous cities to provide people with an opportunity to connect with the spirit of nationalism, he said.

During the journey, STO will actively participate in various social activities and visits to old age homes and educational institutions," Jha mentioned.

On 15th August 2023 at 8 AM, a grand flag hoisting and convention will

be organized in Jammu, with the participation of nationalist brethren from across India, Jha stated.

In a press conference the National Organizing Secretary Satchidanand Pokhariyal Sanghathan Mahamantri, Sri Sampat Saraswat Jammu Kashmir Prabhari, Sanjay Saraf Rashtriya Mahamantri, Muzzafar Hussain Kalal, Pradesh Adhyaksh were also present.

## Bhalla intensifies campaign for ULB, Panchayat polls



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

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JAMMU: JKPCC has gone aggressively for the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections across J&K.

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and others put their heads together to chalk out the strategy at Trikuta Nagar Jammu Ward-53.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Aman Bawa, Baldev Raj Gupta, Ashok Khajuria, Advocate Davinder Parihar, Dheeraj Gupta, Retd Chief Engineer Sunil Gupta, Bhushan Langar and Rajesh Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that party is of the view the local body elections would be a litmus test for the Congress' reach among the voters ahead of the poll-packed years.

"2024 is a challenging year for the Congress party. We have a new party president in the form of Kharge who has stressed on regrouping Congressmen and their voters. The polls coming in the form of ULBs and Panchayats would test our preparations for the future," said Bhalla.

Coming to State politics, Bhalla hit out the BJP-led Government terming it the most callous dispensation so far.

"Entire J&K is living with

the sting of their anti-people actions. Poor and destitute are being robbed of their rights. Different sections of society are on the roads to get their basic needs fulfilled while the Government is busy wasting public money in the name of cheap publicity," said Bhalla.

"The Government is fleeing away from the questions relating to people of the State," Bhalla said adding that Jammu and Kashmir "lost its identity" under the BJP and appealed to the people to support Congress in the fight for the restoration of statehood.

Bhalla said, "BJP regime has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir in various spheres, as it lost its identity, status, right over jobs, lands, opportunities of trade and transport and business besides whatsoever selections and recruitment were done in the UT, witnessed corruption and scams." Bhalla asserted that Congress is the only viable alternative to the "divisive policies" of the BJP which he said, "has vitiated the political, social, secular, and democratic atmosphere in the country and Jammu and Kashmir".

"Congress party is committed to restoring the lost glory of the state when it will be in government with the blessings of aggrieved citizens of J&K," he said.