

# LG calls for establishing 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Centres on priority

**HADP's 29 intervention focuses on quality, productivity**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for establishing 2000 Kisan Khidmat Centres on priority for hand-holding and clusterization and linking all farmers to institutional credit.

"Timely and hassle-free credit to small and marginal farmers would play important role in increasing production, he said while chairing a high-level meeting to review performance of Agriculture Production Department and progress made in agriculture, allied sector and flagship scheme of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Highlighting the important role of SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir in conceptualizing Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, the Lt Governor said the continued support of the two Universities in implementation of 29 projects should be ensured.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a high-level meeting to review performance of Agriculture Production Department on Wednesday.

He further directed to extend Daksh Kisan module to colleges to inform budding entrepreneurs about scope and opportunities in agri-business.

The High Density Plantation Scheme has been extended to 13 Crops now. The farmers should be provided with guidance and support to chart out a new course and reap the benefits of technology extension, better infrastructure and improved marketing facilities, the Lt Governor told the officials.

The Lt Governor congratulated the officials and all stakeholders generating overwhelming response from farmers

community. It should be our collective endeavour to provide effective IT support for monitoring of HADP's project implementation," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor issued instructions for using Common Service Centres as learning facilities for youth and directed for monitoring every step of HADP by constituting a dedicated and exclusive IT team with the required technical support. Directions were also passed to Banks to monitor credit

disbursal at the highest level. He also called for increasing the reach of YouTube channels and to publicise the mobile applications on App download stores and also streamlining Daksh Kisan for hybrid skilling of farmers.

The meeting, at Civil Secretariat, was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Shailendra Kumar, Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (Addl. Charge); Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO J&K Bank; Dr Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir and other senior officers.

## Sapna Kotwal inspires students at Bantalab Boys Pahari Hostel

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Secretary, Advisory Board for Pahari Speaking People Jammu and Kashmir, Sapna Kotwal, graced the Boys Pahari Hostel in Bantalab on Wednesday and took a significant step towards uplifting the hostel's educational landscape by providing books. This addition to the hostel's library was made possible through collaboration with Director Libraries, Mohammad Rafi.

Addressing the gathered students, Sapna Kotwal expressed her enthusiasm about this initiative and its potential to elevate the hostel's educational standards. "Education is the key that unlocks countless opportunities in life. Make the most of the resources available in this upgraded library to broaden your horizons and



Secretary, Advisory Board for PSP J&K Sapna Kotwal with students.

chase your dreams," she passionately urged, motivating the young minds to embrace the wealth of knowledge.

Encouraging the students to view the hostel as more than just a place to stay, Sapna Kotwal emphasised, "This hostel is not just a place to stay; it's a sanctuary of learning. Let it fuel your ambitions and aspirations, propelling you towards greatness." She stressed the significance of collaboration

and mutual growth, adding, "In the journey of self-improvement, never underestimate the power of learning from your peers. Collaborate, exchange ideas and grow together."

"You carry the legacy of a vibrant culture within you. Embrace it with pride and let it inspire you to soar to greater heights," she urged, instilling a sense of cultural identity and purpose among the young learners.

## Sham Sharma felicitates veterans of Jatt Chun Biradari

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Senior BJP leader and former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday felicitated the veterans of Jatt Chun Biradari who have completed 80 years of their successful journey of life, in a special function held at Devsthan Bandowala (Pallanwala), Jammu.

Recognizing the significant contributions of the Jatt Chun community to the society, Sham Lal lauded their pivotal role as the backbone of the area, with agriculture being their mainstay, providing grains for the sustenance of the entire community.

Sham expressed admiration for the progress made by the younger generation of the



Senior BJP leader, Sham Lal Sharma felicitating the veterans of Jatt Chun Biradari.

Jatt Chun Biradari.

During the event, the former minister extended special appreciation to Er. Ashok Singh for setting a unique example by facilitating the veterans of the Biradari.



## Properties worth over Rs 41 lakh of drug smuggler attached in Baramulla

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday attached movable and immovable properties belonging to an alleged drug smuggler in Baramulla district.

"Acting tough against drug smugglers, police have attached properties of a drug smuggler worth Rs 41.85 lakh in

Baramulla," a police spokesman said.

He said the attached properties include a newly constructed house (Rs 11.46 lakh) and a vehicle (Rs 5 lakh) belonging to drug smuggler Mohammad Naseer Bhatti, a resident of Madiyan Kamalkote in Uri tehsil.

"The investigation proved

that the said movable and immovable properties were raised/used for illicit trafficking by the drug smuggler," the spokesman said.

He said 1.17 kg of contraband brown sugar and Rs 25.39 lakh cash were recovered from the accused and his accomplices at the time of raid conducted at Kamalkote.

## DGPC Jammu seeks two assembly seats for Sikhs of JK UT

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** While addressing the press conference, Balvinder Singh Vice President stated that as per media reports Govt of India is going to present J&K Reorganization (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the Lok Sabha to pave the way for reserving two assembly seats for Kashmiri Migrants and one for displaced person from Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

"This is a welcome step but it is surprising that minority community of Sikhs of J&K including those residing in Kashmir and in Jammu province are being met with grave injustice at the hands of the present regime," Balvinder said in a press conference here on Wednesday.

Though equality and jus-



Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC talking to reporters.

justice demands that two seats should have been kept for Sikhs also, one for Sikhs of valley and one for Jammu, which has equal population as that of population of Kashmiri Pandits and has suffered greater hardships in its survival since 1947 till date, he said.

DGPC Jammu impressed upon the Central Govt to do

justice with 3.5 lakh Sikhs and 12 to 14 lakh POJK DPs not only in their interest but in the interest of nation in future even the Parliamentary panel on Home Affairs has also recommended 8 Assembly seats for POJK DPs in its report no. 183 dt. 22 Dec 2014.

While addressing the media, Surjit Singh

Secretary stated that POJK DPs are the first saviours of J&K state, fought the Pak Army/Tribal raiders to defend the State and faced genocide sacrificing more than 40,000 lives, dislocation, struggle, misery etc. for more than seven decades are being ignored by all the successive govts.

This is in fact step motherly treatment to a community which actually fights for nationalism and stands with country, he added.

Needless to mention that this community having population of 3.5 lakh can affect 10 assembly seats.

DGPC strongly demanded that the proposed bill be modified to grant at least two-2 assembly seats to Sikhs of Valley and Jammu province from migrant quota

and also the share of Sikhs of Jammu from 8 seats kept reserved for PoJK DPs of 1947.

Other prominent personalities who were present in the press conference include DGPC Jammu president Ranjeet Singh Tohra, Surjit Singh Gen Secretary, Ranvir Singh Jt Secretary, Jagpal Singh Cashier, Harjit Singh and Gurmeet Singh members and Incharge Dhamar Parach Committee DGPC, Tejinder Singh, Avtar Singh member DGPC, Manjit Singh, Surinder Singh Wazir, T P Singh, Manmohan Singh, Jasbir Singh, Balwan Singh, Daryodan Singh, Onkar Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Rajinder Singh Retd ZEO and Tejinder Singh Naib Sarpanch.

## J&K Admin takes historic decision to allow Muharram procession

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Administration on Wednesday addressed the long pending demand of Shia brethren by allowing the 8th Muharram procession on traditional route from Guru Bazar to Dalgate after three decades.

"While taking the religious sentiments of Shia brethren into the consideration, the administration decided to allow the procession tomorrow", Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said on Wednesday. "I congratulate Shia brethren and Kashmiri public, who are known for their affection", he said and added that it is due to their contribution to the present peaceful environment, which made it convenient for administration to take this historic decision.

The administration, after several round of talks with Shia Muslim community representatives of all groups and local committee of Guru Bazar, has got assurances from all stake holders that the sacred religious event would be conducted and culminated peacefully. Accordingly, all security arrangements would be put in place and general public especially members of Shia community are

informed that no one shall be allowed to take out any other procession individually or collectively on the route except the one to be taken out from Guru Bazar which has the permission from the Administration

Any one violating the orders shall be very strictly dealt with as per law.

However, he said that the timing for the procession shall be from 6Am to 8Am in the morning considering the working day on tomorrow and to avoid hardship to general people.

He informed that both Lt. Governor and Chief Secretary have directed for considering the demand positively and closely monitoring the situation. Regarding civil arrangements for the mourners he said that SMC will conduct cleanliness drive, drinking water facility and availability of two ambulances will be also ensured besides buses will be made available at Dalgate.

Div Com said, "I hope it would be clean and peaceful procession. The success of this decision will be precursor for more decisions in future, and strict action will be taken against any mischief by anyone."

## Ban on prescription of branded medicine in SKIMS widely lauded, but should also apply to OPD: Patients

**SHAKEELA ANDRABI**

**SRINAGAR:** On May 15, 2023 the centre has warned doctors at Central Government-run hospitals and CGHS wellness centres to comply with the norms of prescribing generic medicine failing which action will be taken against them. Following the guidelines of the Central Government, the (SKIMS) Soura issued an order extending the ban on prescription of branded medicines at the Institute. Simultaneously, it also issued directions to bar the visits of representatives from Pharma companies to the premises of the hospital.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura issued an order to all HoDs of the hospital to prescribe generic drugs only.

The order reads "It has been conveyed by DHGS, GOI and endorsed by Director SKIMS and ex-officio Secretary to Government, that all medications prescribed in the Government hospitals should be generic medicines

only and not in any case branded medicines".

The order has also reiterated that visits of medical representatives to the Government Hospitals' premises are completely curtailed. Communication about the new launches (of drugs by pharma companies) must be sent via email only, the MS SKIMS, said.

SKIMS authority said that the ban on prescription of branded drugs was already in vogue and the order reiterated the communication by DGHS'. He said the ban was imposed on prescription of branded drugs for patients admitted to the hospital and would not affect those seeking treatment on OPD basis.

"In-patients are covered by Ayushman Bharat Scheme and for the scheme, it is important that generic drugs are prescribed," he said. He further said that such drugs were available and provided to patients in the Institute.

OPD patients, on the other hand are unhappy with the decision, some of them told The STATE TIMES that

doctors in hospital should be made to prescribe generic medicine as hundreds of elderly and needy patients visit the hospital every day for routine check-ups. But the medical practitioners even Senior doctors are prescribing branded medicines even to the elderly which is very expensive and cannot be afforded by the elderly and common man.

It is important to mention that, the DGHS issued an order for reinforcement of a ban on prescription of branded medicines in Central Government run hospitals and those under Central Government Health Schemes. The order clearly instructed all the doctors working in such hospitals to prescribe only generic drugs.

In 2017, J&K Government had ordered that doctors in Government hospitals prescribe only generic medicines as part of Jammu & Kashmir Drug Policy. The order saw poor implementation, primarily due to non-availability of such medicines.

## India will be among world's top 3 economies in BJP's 3rd term: Modi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday made a strong pitch for a third term for his government, promising to make India the world's third-largest economy with a faster-than-now pace of growth and development.

On a day when the opposition Congress submitted a motion of no-confidence in his government in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister reeled out statistics to showcase the developmental agenda of his government and exuded confidence in eradicating poverty as well as making India a developed nation in the next 25 years.

He slammed naysayers for opposing developmental projects, saying some people have a habit of trying to stall any good work.

Opening a world-class convention and exhibition centre at the site of an outdated Pragati Maidan in the heart of the national capital, Modi said the entire nation was witnessing the result of work done by his government since coming to power in 2014.

He named the 123-acre complex, that will host the G20 Summit in September, Bharat Mandapam.

There is a slugfest between the opposition who have named their coalition as 'INDIA' and Modi's BJP which is trying to identify itself with Bharat while saying India was used by coloniser East India Company and



banned organisations like People's Front of India and Indian Mujahadeen.

"At the beginning of our first term, India was the world's 10th-largest economy. In the second term, today India is the fifth largest economy in the world. I assure the country that in the third term, India's name will be among the first three economies of the world," he said.

India has been talked about as the bright spot amid a gloomy world economy.

The country, he said, is witnessing the result of his government's work. "India's development journey is not going to stop."

"India will reach in top three economies of the world. That is Modi's guarantee," he said. "I would also assure the countrymen that in our third term after 2024, the country's development journey will move

forward at a faster pace."

Modi government's second term ends in May next year.

Without naming anyone, the Prime Minister slammed naysayers for trying to block development projects. "Bharat Mandapam like infrastructure should have been built decades ago. But only I was destined to construct it," he said.

People with negative attitudes did everything possible to stop its construction, even approaching the courts, he said. "Some people have a tendency to try and stall every good work."

These people, he said, opposed the remodelling of the iconic Rajpath, the site of the annual Republic Day parade, into a more grandeur Kartavya Path. But the same people are privately appreciating the good work and they will some day appreciate Bharat Mandapam and may even come to speak at some event here.

Highlighting achievements of his nine-year tenure, Modi said the number of passengers handling capacity at Delhi airport has gone up from 5 crore annually in 2014 to 7.5 crore.

While the number of airports in the country has increased from 70 to about 150, 40,000 km of rail lines have been electrified in nine years as compared to 20,000 km in the previous 70 years.

City gas infrastructure was present

in just 60 cities before 2014 and environment-friendly CNG and piped gas is now available in over 600 towns and cities, he said.

"India can develop, definitely it can. India can remove poverty, it definitely can. And I will tell you the basis behind this belief of mine," Modi said citing a Niti Aayog report that mentioned 13.5 crore people have come out of poverty in just five years.

Modi said now "we have a target for the next 25 years" to make India a developed nation.

"We have set out with the dream of a capable India, a developed India. We have to give India that height, we have to reach that success, which every freedom fighter had dreamed of," he added.

He also announced that the national capital will soon have the world's largest museum - Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum.

Modi further said India was building infrastructure at a fast pace, and the country is moving ahead on the principle of 'Think Big, Dream Big, Act Big'. India is now home to the world's largest solar-wind park, the longest tunnel at 10,000 feet and higher altitude, the largest cricket stadium, the tallest statue, Asia's second-biggest rail-road bridge and highest motorable road, he said.

Prime Minister also unveiled a G20 coin and a G20 stamp.