

PGCIL hands over six TruNat machines in Jammu, Samba Districts under CSR

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)) on Tuesday handed over six TruNat machines for TB Testing at different Tuberculosis Units (TU) in Jammu and Samba Districts in J&K under CSR to Director Health Services Jammu on Tuesday.

Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of PGCIL, the TruNat machines were handed over by Rajesh Kumar, Executive Director (Northern Region-II) on behalf of PGCIL to Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services Jammu. Dharminder Kumar, DDC Member, Bishnah, Vinod Prakash Baxla, General Manager(HR) of PGCIL, Dr. Harbaksh Singh, CMO, Jammu, Dr. Jyoti Jolly, State Tuberculosis Officer (TB), Dr. Shamim Ahmad Choudhary BMO Bishnah



PGCIL members and others during a programme.

and several senior officers from PGCIL and Health Department, Jammu were present on this occasion.

The cost of the handed over TruNat Machines is Rs 89.20 lakh. These six machines have been installed at Sub District Hospitals (SDHs), R.S Pura, Akhnoor, Bishnah, Primary Health Centre, Damsal in Jammu District and District Hospital, Samba, Community Health Centre, Ramgarh in Samba District.

The main objective of CSR&S activities of PGCIL is to have tangible, impact, primarily around its area of operation with main focus on activities addressing the basic needs of society. Government of India through National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme has developed numerous strategies and mechanisms to achieve its vision of TB free India by 2025. Timely detection of the disease contributes to a

large extent in its efficient treatment and eradication and therefore, PGCIL through Procurement of 6 machines for Government Health Centers, particularly at rural area will contribute to achievement of vision of TB free India.

This project is an initiative of PGCIL in Districts of Jammu and Samba, towards improvement of health care facilities and elimination of TB from these two districts. PGCIL through its contri-

bution under CSR for eradication and elimination of Tuberculosis has put measurable impact thereof in timely diagnosis and cure of disease thereby enhancing the reach and effectiveness of TB services.

PGCIL has been continuously extending support for development of various infra-structure activities in the UT of J&K through its CSR initiatives. Sofar CSR Projects worth Rs 15 crores have already been executed by PGCIL in UT J&K.

On this occasion Director Health Services, Jammu, DDC member Bishnah , CMO Jammu and BMO Bishnah thanked PGCIL for taking up this CSR initiative for providing this particular infrastructure in the Jammu and Samba districts which will benefit the common masses in early detection of TB which will ultimately lead to freedom from this disease.

Hari Singh urges people to support Congress Party in ensuing Assembly elections in J&K



Uday Bhanu Chib, General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress speaking at public meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Uday Bhanu Chib, General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress, lambasted the central government's performance during a public meeting in Jammu North Assembly segment.

He criticized the government for failing to deliver on promises and highlighted issues plaguing various sectors such as civic infrastructure, healthcare, education, employment,

tourism, and businesses.

Uday asserted that the BJP's governance has been marked by hollow promises and ineffective policies, citing failures in addressing inflation, unemployment, and agricultural distress.

Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee, echoed these sentiments, criticizing the Jammu and Kashmir administration for its inability to provide basic amenities like ration, elec-

tricity, and water. Hari Singh urged the electorate of Jammu North constituency to support Congress in the upcoming Assembly polls, citing Congress as the party capable of addressing public aspirations and governance challenges effectively.

The meeting, organized by Rajinder Singh and former Tehsildar Kamal Singh, saw the presence of various local leaders and activists from the region.

SKUAST-Jammu inks Memorandum of Understanding with CIIT



SKUAST-Jammu representatives inking MoU with CIIT representatives.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST-J) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT) at Government Polytechnic College (GPC) Jammu.

Signed on Tuesday, by Prof. Sushil Sharma, Dean of Faculty of Agricultural

Engineering at SKUAST-Jammu, and Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of GPC Jammu, the agreement focuses on enhancing collaboration in academics, research, and skill development programs.

The signing ceremony was attended by Sudershan Kumar, Director of the Department of Skill Development J&K, who underscored the significance of such partnerships in creating opportunities for self-employment. Prof. Sushil Sharma emphasized the inte-

gration of practical skill development with traditional education to equip youth with essential tools, aligning with contemporary educational policies. Er. Arun Bangotra highlighted CIIT's advanced facilities designed to enhance skills and training for Jammu's youth.

Also present were Dr. J. S. Soodan, Dean of Faculty of Dairy Technology, R. S. Pura, Dr. R. K. Srivastava, HoD of Soil & Water Engineering at FoAE, and other teaching staff members from both institutions.

Khatana affirms Modi Govt's commitment to Gurez-Bandipora Tunnel Project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANDIPORA: On the third day of his visit to Bandipora district, senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, made surprised visit to Gurez Hospital and chaired a meeting with senior officers.

The MP, accompanied by former MLA and senior BJP leader, Faqir Mohammad Khan, ST Morecha President, Arshad Khan, and other party leaders, also addressed a public gathering of over 700 people at the Dak Bungalow.

During his surprise visit to the hospital, Khatana interacted with patients and staff, asking the medical personnel to provide the best possible healthcare facilities to the local population. The MP's hands-on approach highlighted the government's commitment to improving healthcare services in remote areas. Addressing the gathering at the Dak Bungalow, Khatana emphasized the Modi government's priority



BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana chairing a meeting.

of developing every corner of the country, regardless of geographical barriers and without discrimination. He stated, "The proposed tunnel between Gurez and Bandipora is a top priority for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's government. This project aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to locals, as Gurez remains cut off from the rest of the world for six months due to heavy snowfall."

In a meeting with local officers, the MP directed them to disseminate information about centrally sponsored

schemes in local languages and conduct regular awareness camps. This initiative is aimed at ensuring that the masses can fully avail themselves of various welfare and developmental schemes.

Former MLA and BJP leader Faqir Mohammad Khan brought attention to alleged embezzlement in the Grameen Bank, urging that the hard-earned money of the people be returned respectfully. Khan also called for an audit of all centrally sponsored schemes in the area, signally pilferage of public money. Additionally, he

requested an increase in the rice quota provided by the CAD from 5 to 10 kg per person. Addressing the unique challenges faced by the region, Khan proposed, "Tenders for development works in the area should be called in offline mode. Due to snow, we have only six months to complete works in Gurez, and the online process is very time-consuming. The government should consider our demand."

District President, ST Morecha BJP, Irshad Ahmed Khan raised the issue of over 400 refugee families who

sought asylum in Gurez in 1947, calling for a special package for their settlement. He also highlighted the need for a permanent principal at GDC Gurez, stating that the current arrangement of an additional charge by another principal is affecting the college's functioning.

The local leaders also demanded the launch of new projects in the area and a special recruitment drive to address unemployment concerns. The visit of MP Gulam Ali Khatana underscores the BJP's efforts to connect with remote areas and address long-standing issues. The focus on healthcare, infrastructure development, and welfare schemes reflects the party's commitment to inclusive growth. However, the demands raised by local leaders, including concerns about financial irregularities and the need for tailored administrative processes, highlight the complex challenges facing this geographically isolated region.

Dir Agriculture launches new honey packaging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen on Tuesday launched new packaging of Honey produced at Departmental Farms/Apiaries, featuring upgraded packaging to maintain quality and meet consumer demands at revised rates at Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu.

Director Agriculture, Jammu addressing the launching event emphasized that the new packaging and revised rates demonstrate commitment of the Department to support the Apiculture industry and providing quality products to our consumers.

He added that the new packaging include glass bottles replacing plastic bottles



Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen launching new packaging of Honey.

to ensure quality. He also disclosed that FSSAI registration of Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu for Honey also been done to meet the quality parameters for sale of Honey.

He further expressed that newly designed stickers with FSSAI number and detailed information about the honey and facilities available at DCTC, Apiculture

Development Scheme, Krishi Bhawan, Jammu such as Honey Processing Unit, Honey Bottling Unit, Honey Testing Lab, Demonstration cum training center and Bee Flora Garden to make the packaging attractive & informative so that the concerned farmers/consumers can get the benefits. He said that half kg packaging is also introduced to make it customer

friendly.

Appreciating the initiatives taken by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu such as providing training, mentoring, and infrastructure support to the Beekeepers, Director Agriculture commended the efforts which have not only helped the beekeepers but also contributed significantly to the growth of the Apiculture Sector in the

Jammu Region.

He assured that these initiatives aim to promote high quality honey marketing and provide consumers with a premium product at reasonable rates. The revised rates will ensure fair pricing for both producers and consumers effective from 15th July.

Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension) Satish Sharma, Deputy Director (Central)/ Liaison Officer Apiculture & Mushroom Development, Jammu Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Agronomist Vikas Padha, Subject Matter Specialist (RL) Darmesh Vaid, and Assistant Entomologist, Jammu Rajesh Verma graced the occasion with their presence. The programme was effectively conducted by Amit Sharma AEA Apiculture.

CAD Jammu imparts training programme under ATMA



CAD Jammu officials and others during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Carrying forward the mission of Principal Secretary Agriculture production department Shaliendra Kumar, Department of Command Area Development (CAD)-Jammu, under the aegis of Director CAD Jammu, S K Gupta, the initiative taken under the Project officer soil and water management, Bhupinder Gupta was

executed by a team of experts O.P Sharma and Vishal Raina assisted by S.D Sodhi.

One day training of farmers under ATMA was organized to educate the rural people of Panchayat Derha Baba of Reasi district on water conservation aims to sustainably manage the natural resource of fresh water.

During the training programme, the experts held a

vigorous discussion to utilize the irrigated facility to its utmost state of recently constructed irrigation channel in order to diversify the cropping pattern towards cash crops.

Ex PRI members of Panchayat and participating farmer salutation the initiative taken by the CAD department for the upliftment of meager and outlying farmers to earn their livelihood.

Rissam meets members of civil society in Gadigarh



Chairman JK Congress RGPRS Sandeep Singh Rissam addressing public meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chairman J&K Congress Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan (RGPRS) Sandeep Singh Rissam continuing the ongoing outreach program of RGPRS convened a meeting with members of civil society in Gadigarh area regarding the prevailing problems and getting suggestions for betterment of the area.

People from social, religious, transport & business organizations were present in the meeting who spoke and highlighted

various issues of the different panchayats of the area and around.

The people gave valuable suggestions for upliftment of the area and for getting better facilities from different departments and assistance required for general public.

In the meeting prevailing issues like increasing drug problem in Jammu, pending refugees compensation, absence of an elected government in J&K and many burning issues concerning the people

of the area were discussed.

Chairman J&K RGPRS Sandeep Singh Rissam while interacting with members of civil society appreciated the feedback provided and appealed to the participants to play a greater role in betterment of society in the area.

He said that members of RGPRS will reach each and every panchayat and assured that he will continue to work for betterment of the area and also get in touch with various departments to get better facilities for the area like regular supply of drinking water; uninterrupted power supply; repair of potholes in road and other problems with which people of the area are aggrieved.

Sandeep also said that in absence of an elected government the people are suffering a lot and soon the Panchayat and state elections should be held so that an elected representative can solve the problems of the people.

Youth should contribute in promotion of Dogra Culture: Prof. Mohtra



Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra along with others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Managing Director of Parmeshwari Care and Cure Charitable Trust, Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra, along with Trust Member Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, recently chaired a function organized by a team of Dogra youth led by Surinder Singh Gilli at Ban Talab, Jammu. The event aimed at promoting Dogra culture among the local youth, symbolized by the offering of Dogra

Pagris to many attendees.

Prof. Mohtra, serving as the Chief Guest, highlighted the Trust's ongoing mission to foster Dogra culture through various initiatives across Jammu. He emphasized the importance of embracing Dogra attire, cuisine, and language in daily life to preserve and propagate their rich heritage.

Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, the Guest of Honour, echoed Prof. Mohtra's sentiments, urging everyone to take

pride in their Dogra identity and actively contribute to its promotion.

He emphasized the significance of wearing Dogra dress, preparing Dogra meals, and speaking Dogri as integral parts of daily routines.

Surinder Singh Gilli expressed optimism that the younger generation could maintain their cultural roots by integrating Dogra traditions into their lives. Noteworthy figures such as Dharminder Singh

Manhas, Randhir Singh, and others were among those honored with Dogra Pagris during

NDA urges MoS Jal Shakti to address issues of daily wage workers in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A delegation of Nations Development Association (NDA), representing the daily wage workers of Jal Shakti Department in Jammu and Kashmir; met with the Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary to request regularization of daily wages and timely payment of salaries.

The delegation, comprising Swarn Singh Charak, Founder Cum Chairman, Sushil Singh Charak, Founder cum General Secretary, and Deepak Singh Charak, Finance Secretary, urged the Minister to intervene

the event, underscoring their commitment to preserving and celebrating Dogra culture.



NDA delegation calling on Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary MoS JSD, GoI.

workers. Regularization of daily wages for workers serving the department for many years, they said adding that timely payment of salaries, ensuring regular disbursement of dues.

The delegation expressed their gratitude to the Minister for their time and consideration and looks forward to a positive outcome.