

DIPR- J joins Green J&K Campaign; conducts plantation drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with Department of Floriculture Jammu, on Wednesday conducted a massive plantation drive here at Media Complex, Railhead to take forward the ambitious Green J&K Campaign.

Different species of ornamental plants including plumeria, ficus, hibiscus, chandani besides flower plants were planted by the Staff of the department to add much needed green space in the surroundings.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Information, Jammu, Sapna Kotwal

called for carrying out more such plantation drives for a cleaner environment. She urged the staff members to be part of the plantation Campaign aimed to conserve the environment. "Every individual needs to contribute her/ his bit to create a green and clean ambience in their neighborhood", she said and added that the objective of the Green J&K was to promote tree plantation to preserve the environment. Deputy Director Information (PR) Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma called for active participation of officers and staff members in spreading the awareness about the importance of a clean and healthy



Joint Director Information, Jammu, Sapna Kotwal planting a sapling.

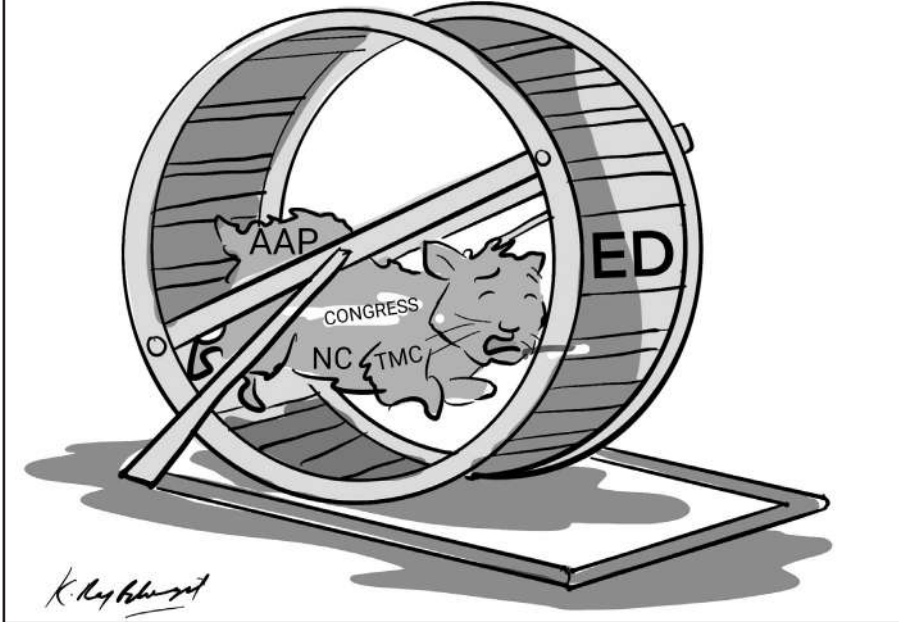
environment. "Such initiatives are bound to bring about major respite from the degrading environment besides maintaining the ecological balance", he

added. Highlighting the importance of plantation drive, Deputy Director Information HQ Dr. Rehana Akhter Bijli said

that by planting a tree each individual can play a major role in preserving the green wealth.

Joint Director Information, Jammu thanked Director Floriculture for their support in organizing the plantation drive.

The plantation drive also witnessed the participation of Cultural Officer Jammu, Parul Khajuria, Information Officer, Ashu Thappa, Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar, besides other officers and staff members along with Floriculture Officer Jammu Vikrant Kumar, Assistant Floriculture Officer Rakesh Kumar Sharma and others.



Mudgal sets target of bringing down NPAs to 6 pc for Coop Banks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Co-operative Department, Yashia Mudgal on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the financial status of 34 branches of Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank (ACC Bank) and 35 branches of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank (BCC Bank) at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Shafiqat Iqbal; Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Kashmir; Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu; Director Finance Cooperative Department; Additional Secretary Cooperative Department; Joint Director (PDK/MD) Cooperative Department; Managing Director & CEO ACC Bank; Branch Heads and other concerned officials besides Kashmir based officers were present in the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, MD & CEO of ACC, BCC Banks, briefed branch wise detail of first quarter of the current financial year and highlighted issues discussed in previous meetings held on 22nd, 25th & 27th of July 2022 and also briefed about the achievements made by the banks against the targets allocated under Monitorable Action Plan (MAP) submitted for approval of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The Secretary directed the MD to revise the MAP targets to make commensurate with the RBI guidelines. The MD was instructed to improve the bank parameters and bring down the NPAs level of all the branches to 6 percent and to increase the Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio to the mark of 70 percent by the end of the current financial year. She further stressed that the Biometric



Secretary, Co-operative Department, Yashia Mudgal chairing a meeting.

attendance system be implemented in all branches, head office. The Secretary also impressed upon the management that every branch of the bank should come with an operating profit at the end of the second quarter of the current financial year. She also desired to revise the targets allocated to all branches of banks, improve

the working culture of branches and focus on recovery of the maximum number of NPA cases to bring the banks back on rails. The Secretary directed the MD of the Banks to initiate action and issue notices calling explanations of each employee who has not performed to the desired level & process their cases for disciplinary

action. She asked the MD to prepare dossiers of all officials of the bank with reference to their performance for the last decade.

The Secretary said that the cooperative objective goes deep into the realms of building the financial capabilities and self confidence especially among the rural people. The Department functions in close co-operation and coordination with various other Departments connected with the implementation of various socioeconomic plans and schemes. She directed that micro finance loan sanction should be maximized so that rural people get benefitted from the cooperative movement.

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BJP launches 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from PVC Bana Singh's home

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by hoisting the National Flag on the rooftop of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardee Honourary Captain (retd) Bana Singh's house near the International Border in R S Pura sector here.

Singh, the recipient of the highest military award-the Param Vir Chakra-for leading a team that conquered the highest peak in the Siachen area of Ladakh in 1987, welcomed the BJP leader and appealed to the countrymen to hoist the Tricolour at their homes to mark the 75th Anniversary of the country's independence. "We are Indians and it is our responsibility to keep our



J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina launching 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by hoisting National Flag on the rooftop of PVC Honourary Captain (retd) Bana Singh's house.

National Flag floating high. We have to carry forward the mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make our country proud," the army veteran told reporters.

He said when the country is observing its 75th Independence Day this month, we have to join hands together to make it strong and prosperous.

Raina said it is a pride moment for all Indians to unfurl the National Flag at their homes to celebrate 75th year of Independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav' in a grand way.

"We have launched 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Abhiyan from the house of a veteran soldier who was honored with Param Vir Chakra for his exceptional bravery in recapturing the top posts in Siachen Glacier from Pakistan," the BJP leader said.

Large number of youth falling to drugs because of cross-border smugglings of narcotics: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh has said that a large number of youth falling to drugs because of cross-border smugglings of narcotics.

Dilbag Singh today had a tour of Srinagar City and took stock of the on ground deployment and later visited Police Youth Development Centre Srinagar and reviewed its functioning.

The DGP said this while interacting with the staff and the affected persons admitted in the Youth Development & Rehabilitation Centre Srinagar.

He was accompanied by ADGP Headquarters, PHQ, M.K Sinha, ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, DIG CKR, Sujit Kumar, SSP Srinagar and other jurisdictional officers. "Because of the cross-border involvement in large



DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh interacting with officers.

scale smuggling of narcotics, a large number of youth are falling to the drug menace," he said and added, "We need to fight their evil intentions collectively."

He said that those who come out from this habit deserve respect in the society. The DGP assured all possible help from Police Headquarters for further improving the facilities in the centre.

The DGP said that JK Police besides taking care of

the drug affected persons is working hard to stop the spread of drug menace in J&K, adding that J&K Police in recent past seized a huge quantity of drug consignments sent from across the border aimed to harm our youth and generate funds for the terror groups.

The staff of Drug de-addiction centre apprised the DGP regarding the function of the centre. During the current year a total of 2451 OPD and 247 IPD drug affected per-

sons have been treated in police drug de-addiction centres in the UT.

Earlier during the tour, the DGP also visited many places of Srinagar city which included Noorbagh, Sadepora, Sangam, Eidgah and other areas of the old city.

He reviewed on ground security and deployment arrangements.

While interacting with the officers, the DGP said that every measure enforced by JK Police and other security forces is aimed to safeguard the lives of the people.

"Pakistan is continuously attempting malicious and false propaganda to vitiate the growing peace in J&K," he said adding that JKP along with other security forces has been working and would continue to work for providing better environment to the people.

PIL seeking to provide modern gadgets to Traffic Police DB directs AAG to take instructions whether modern gadgets have been provided to traffic officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Smile Social Youth Club seeking a direction upon the Traffic Police of the Union Territory of J&K to provide modern gadgets such as breath analyzer, Night Vision Speed Guns to Traffic Police and install speed governance and traffic cameras so as to control the traffic, a Division Bench (DB) of Jammu & Kashmir High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajesh Sekri issued notice to respondents.

AAG Raman Sharma, appearing for the respondents, has accepted notice on behalf of the respondents and seeks time to take instructions whether breath analyzers and Night Vision Speed Guns have been provided to the traffic officers and whether speed governance and traffic cameras have been installed at appropriate places.

Kazmi condemns police lathi-charge on Jal Shakti workers Appeals LG to ensure justice for protesting daily wagers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party's senior leader and President Apni Trade Union, Aijaz Kazmi has condemned the police Lathicharge on the protesting PHE workers in Jammu.

In a statement issued here, Kazmi said that instead of trying to suppress the protesting employees who are out there demanding justice, the authorities must give them a patient hearing and fulfill their genuine demands.

Pertinently, the police resorted to lathi-charge on the daily wagers of the Jal Shakti Department in Jammu after they gathered outside the office of the Department's Chief Engineer on Monday.

The protesters were demanding their immediate regularisation, a long pending demand of these workers. Kazmi said, "It

is sad to see that these poor workers, who have been giving their blood and sweat while working in the department for the past many years, are being victimized by the governments by refusing to regularise them. The traditional political parties such as National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are responsible for the injustice that these poor workers are facing now."

Kazmi urged the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to look into the matter personally to ensure the protesting workers get justice.

He said, "These workers are part and parcel of the society, and their demands are genuine. I request LG Manoj Sinha Sahib to intervene in the matter to ensure these workers get justice."

ISRO offering financial grant to selected StartUps: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is offering financial grant to certain selected StartUps in the Space sector.

Pertinent to mention that within just over two years of the "unlocking" of the Space sector on the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more and more number of private participants are coming forward with proposals related to various aspects of Space technology and research.

Significantly, within a short time, several StartUps have already registered with ISRO for various Space related projects.



Some of these projects also deal with upcoming futuristic areas like Space debris.

Specifically responding to the question, the Minister informed that six Startups were selected and supported by ISRO with a grant-in-aid of maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each in areas like geo spatial information, propulsion and Robotics/AR/VR.

The reply by Dr Jitendra further states that ISRO,

along with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, launched ANIC-ARISE-1.0 program that aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance.

The Minister said that 24 StartUps submitted their proposals, out of which six StartUps were selected and supported with a grant-in-aid of maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each.

While in the last eight years, the number of StartUps in India has gone up from around 350 to over 70,000. The StartUps in the Space sector is a new phenomena which started after the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the public private participation.

DB directs Com/Secy Home to take call on Muharram procession through Sgr city in 3 days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Shia Community of Srinagar through its secretary seeking direction upon the state authorities to allow the Shia Community to take out the religious processions in holy month of Moharram especially on the date of August 8, 2022 from Guru Bazaar to Dalgate and to provide security for the said procession, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal disposed of PIL with the direction to Commissioner/Secretary Home or any other competent authority to consider the representation of petitioner most expeditiously preferably within three days as the month of Moharram has started.

DB further directed to the Commissioner Secretary or any other competent authority after taking inputs to the maintenance of religious harmony and the law-and-order situation from all security agencies of the nation consider the aforesaid representation as directed.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, DB observed that taking out religious procession especially in Kashmir depends upon the law and order situation.

This Court is unable to assess the land order situation as well as the involvement of security of the nation in taking out such religious processions.

It is in-fact domain of the administration/security agencies and other stake holders to take call on it and to form opinion depending upon the law-

and-order situation, religious harmony and security of the nation.

DB further observed that the petitioner has preferred a representation in this regard to Commissioner/Secretary Home on 25th of June 2022, a copy of which has been filed as annexure.

AG DC Raina assisted by Iliyas Nazir Lawway GA submits that Commissioner/Secretary will consider the said representation in light of the observations made by this Court above.

DB disposed off PIL with the direction to commissioner/secretary Home or any other competent authority to consider the aforesaid representation of the petitioner most expeditiously preferably within a period of three days as the month of Muharram has started.

LAHDC Leh Councillors to celebrate Independence Day separately if their official status not defined

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Councillors of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh have warned that if official status of Councillors is not announced on 5th August, on the occasion of Ladakh Rpal Ngam Tuston 2022 celebration, they will not attend the celebration of Independence Day organised by the Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh but instead celebrate it separately. A delegation of all

councillors of LAHDC Leh called on CEC, LAHDC, Leh on Wednesday regarding the defining of status and official protocol for Councillors of LAHDCs. "As discussed by the HOCB, LAHDC, Leh in his last meeting with the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, if the official status is not announced on Aug 5th on the occasion of 'Ladakh Rpal Ngam Tuston 2022', members of LAHDC,Leh will not attend the celebration of Independence Day organ-

ised by the UT administration and celebrate it separately," said a joint statement issued by LAHDC Leh Councillors.

Councillors argued that the process of strengthening the LAHDCs starts with the defining of the official status and protocol for the Councillors of both the LAHDCs, adding that the Home Minister had assured to strengthen LAHDCs when he announced the grant of UT status to Ladakh in the Parliament.

JKOA to conduct week-long activities on 'Bone and Joint Day'



JKOA President, Dr. Rajesh Gupta talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Bone and Joint Day is being celebrated on the 4th of August every year since 2012.

Every year week-long activities starting from the 1st of August to the 7th of August

have been organized throughout the country. "Jammu and Kashmir Orthopaedic Association (JKOA) has planned to conduct series of activities on the occasion for the benefit of general public," Dr. Rajesh K Gupta, President

of JKOA told reporters here on Wednesday. Dr. Rajesh informed that JKOA have planned many activities across the UT of J&K mainly focussing on basic life support skill training/First aid training to general public, police personnel, traffic police personnel, school children and drivers. "Free Orthopaedics checkup camps, Yoga session, walkathon etc. are planned to celebrate the Bone and Joint Day," he added.

The press conference was also attended by Dr. Sanjeev Gupta (Vice President), Dr. Abdul Gani and Dr. Deepak Tickoo (Executive Members).

JKPCC will launch Padayatra on August 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Wednesday announced that the party will launch district-wise Padayatra on August 9 as a part of the exercise to rejuvenate the grassroots organisation in the J&K.

Chairing a preparatory meeting of Congress workers here, Working President JKPCC, Raman Bhalla said that the entire leadership and cadre of the party will participate in padayatra. Bhalla said that the Indian National Congress pays rich tributes to all those who fought for India's freedom, defeated the politics of divide and rule and those who came together to give



Working President JKPCC, Raman Bhalla chairing a meeting.

the country, its great Constitution, and those who put India on the path of progress, prosperity, social justice and harmony.

He asked that party functionaries to take part in the Yatra, voluntarily in the larger interest of the nation.

Earlier, Yogesh Sawhney assigned the duties of

DCC, BCC and Ward Congress functionaries for under taking Bharat Jodo Yatra within the Municipal areas of Jammu City and its outskirts and appealed to the party functionaries as well as the general public to cooperate with Yatris to make the programme a success.