

Rana visits organic farm, asks peasantry to emulate experiment



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana during visit to an Organic Farm.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Describing diversification in the farming sector key to productivity and economic emancipation of the peasantry, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana on Monday observed that technological advancement can bring a big turn-around in both rural and semi-urban areas.

Interacting with a progressive group of farmers during his visit to an Organic Farming Farm in the private sector, developed by Dr Uttam Singh at Malhori Jagir in Bajtala area of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, the Provincial President said success stories of innovative individuals can make a big difference in the lives of people if they emulate the successful exper-

iments in the field of agriculture.

The Organic Farming Farm, having Mango, Papaya, Dragon Fruit and Mosambi fruit trees under Indo Israeli Technique Ultra High Density Orchard Plantation is being done by using drip irrigation system.

The other unique feature of the Farm is cultivation of seedless cucumbers. The plants in this orchard are developed from tissue culture, the Provincial President was told.

Rana also went around the Biofloc Fish Farm, which forms an important component of the Farm.

Th. Baljeet Singh, Kishori Lal and others accompanied Rana during his visit to the Organic Farm at Malhori, Bajtala.

Dr Uttam Singh said the

Biofloc Technology (BFT) system has gained vital importance as an approach in aquaculture as this technology is eco-friendly besides efficient land and water use . The consumption of Biofloc by Fish has been reported to have numerous benefits such as improvement of growth rate, decrease of FCR and associated feed cost etc. This technology has already been adopted in many states and the BFT units are reportedly running successfully.

Rana wished Dr Singh success and hoped that he will generate awareness about the techniques applied so that the framers of the area, in the first instance, are motivated and inspired to make optimum use of their land holdings. Such an effort will surely give fillip to growth and improve the economic conditions of farmers.

"This technique can be used by the non-agriculturists as well within their smallest areas, as the vegetable cultivation has made a huge difference with people going for terrace kitchen gardens", he said, adding that on the same lines the High Density Orchard Plantation can be tried in lawns and backyards, especially in the countryside.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National CME on Scientific Paper Writing and Publication was organised by Jammu Menopause Society under the aegis of Indian Menopause Society (IMS) on Monday.

President IMS, Prof. (Dr) Ambuja Chorapur as Chief Guest said that scientific writing is an art and skill, which every academician/ Researcher will have to acquire to publish and flourish in the scientific community.

She said more than 1,036 online participation of the delegates and faculty in this National CME is itself a testimonial that how important is the topic.

She congratulated the organisers, particularly, Dr Sudhaa Sharma and her Jammu team for conducting the said event.

Dr. Rama Vaidya, Founder President IMS and Founder Editor In Chief- Journal Midlife Health was the National Advisor of the said CME. She said that alternate medicine doctors should also promote evidence based Medicine and Publish that with her efforts event Ayurvedic doctors also joined the said CME enthusiastically.

National Secretary General- IMS and Co-Chief Guest Dr Sudhaa Sharma, Editor in



General- JK Science and Editor in Chief-Journal Midlife Health (2016-18), said that the objective of the said CME is to educate and train postgraduates and residents in the field of scientific paper writing and getting their valuable original research published in Peer reviewed and Indexed Journals of high Impact Factor; so that new science of high quality be added in the scientific literature for the welfare of Mankind.

Prof (Dr) Annil Mahajan, Editor In General- JK Science and Editor In Chief Journal Midlife Health (2018-2020) was the Chairperson of the said scientific event and Prof (Dr) Ashok Sharma, Editor in Chief JK Science was the Co-Chairperson of the said event.

Dr Annil Mahajan while moderating the panel discus-

sion stressed and concluded that research scholars should always try to publish in standard peer reviewed and indexed Journal, should not publish in predatory Journals. Further, at all cost unethical publication practices should be avoided by one and all and they should always follow uniform manuscript submission guidelines issued by international committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Prof (Dr) Vishal R. Tandon, Editor In Chief-JK Science, Editor In Chief-Journal Midlife Health was the Organising Secretary of the said CME. He in his lecture deliberated that how Scientific Publication can be improvised and published as per the requirement of the Journal. He stressed upon peer reviewing, preparing

Statement or following STROBE and CARE guidelines, getting grammar check, plagiarism check and reference Check software applied to the manuscript for screening of their manuscript before it is submitted to any standard Journal publication.

Dr Anil Mehata - President Jammu Society of IMS and Dr Meeta Gupta - Secretary, Jammu Society IMS were the Joint secretaries of the said CME. Dr Meeta, Editor In Chief Journal Midlife Health (2020-2022); Prof (Dr.) Neelam Aggarwal Editor In Chief Journal Midlife Health (2016-18) and Prof (Dr) Ashok Sharma Editor in Chief JK Science were the chairpersons of the scientific sessions. National Faculty, Dr Mira K Desai, Senior Editor; Indian Journal of Pharmacology

(2013-2016); Dr Bikash Medhi-Editor In Chief- Indian Journal Pharmacology; Dr Vikas Agarwal Editor in Chief-Indian Journal of Rheumatology; Dr Geetha Balsarkar-Editor In Chief, Journal of Obst and Gynaecology of India (JOGI); Dr. Laxmi Shrikhande-National Corresponding-Editor Journal of Obst and Gynaecology of India (JOGI) and Dr Durga Prasanna Misra Associate Editor- IJR, Journal of Royal College of Physicians (Edinburg) and Rheumatology International participated in the Panel discussion which covered various sensitive issues related to publications like authorship criteria, Plagiarism, Unethical Publication practises, Impact Factor of a Journal Vs Impact Factor of research, Predatory Journals, choosing Journal for research.

The panel discussion was moderated by Prof Dr Annil Mahajan and Prof Dr Vishal Tandon. More than 650 National delegates, National Faculty and Members of Indian Menopause Society Participated in the said Scientific Event. Dr Meeta Gupta - Secretary Jammu Menopause Society conducted the proceedings and delivered votes of thanks.

SCERT's Video Translation Workshop aims at producing vernacular content

1,800 videos to be made available in Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri: Experts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Aiming to make digital educational content available to the students of Jammu and Kashmir in vernacular languages-Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri-the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, is organising a three-day workshop from September 27-29 at its divisional office in Benina here.

Some half a dozen educational and IT experts are in the process of translating at least 10 videos to be presented before the NCERT and Team Diksha, Ministry of Education, Government of India for assessing their quality.

This will invariably pave the way for translating some 1800 videos produced by TieTacLearn-an initiative supported by Central Square Foundation (CSF) and Google.org.

Director SCERT, J&K, Prof Veena Pandita, said that lack of digital vernacular school content affected tens of thousands of students across Jammu and Kashmir. "Whatever is available is either not of



Officials during a workshop of SCERT.

good quality or is unaffordable to our students," she said and added, "We've decided to translate high quality, animated, pedagogically sound, curriculum aligned (NCERT) Maths and Science content in three languages viz. Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri."

Technical expert with Diksha, Riyaz Ahmad Reshi, said the tool available on Diksha platform enables registered users to upload videos online to be translated into any target language.

"The videos, once translated, will be hosted on Diksha portal where from they will be accessible to a student after scanning a QR Code energised in their text-

books," Reshi said.

"Students belonging to Grades 1-5 will benefit from the learning material available in the languages they know and understand better," Reshi added.

Pertinently, the newly launched education policy aka NEP 2020 prioritises universal foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) in primary school and beyond by 2027.

"The availability of digital content in vernacular languages will aid the basic learning, namely reading, writing, and arithmetic at the foundational level," Reshi said.

A participant described the content available as of now as 'haphazard' and 'fortu-

itous'. "Translating professional content will certainly make things easy not only for a teacher but for a student as well," Roohi Sultana, a middle school teacher said.

Another teacher, Anjali Raina, while echoing Sultana's views said the availability of high quality digital content in vernacular languages will lighten the burden of teachers in many respects. "Sometimes, it's exceedingly difficult for a teacher to get to the level of a child," Raina said. "Because most the content to be translated is animation based, it will help do away with the monotony and instil student participation with interest," Raina added.

The workshop will go on for another two days where-in the participants would scan as many videos as possible for translation into vernacular languages.

Pertinently, TieTacLearn has created one of the largest open-source repositories of high-quality curriculum aligned digital learning resources comprising some 12,000 videos available free of cost for everyone.

Jat Mahasabha holds meet, Biradari's issues highlighted



A participant speaking during Jat Mahasabha meet in Samba.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: A meeting of All India Jat Mahasabha J&K was held at Village Plura, Distt. Samba Tehsil Ghagwal on Monday under the Chairmanship of their President Ch. Mannohan Singh. Biradari people in large quantity attended this meeting which was held to discuss the various Biradari issues. Speakers asked Ch. Mannohan Singh to raise their issues with the authorities. They were of concern that Biradari issues are not being given the due priority by Govt and this is causing considerable damage to economical and financial situation.

Ch. Mannohan Singh on hearing the people, took this meeting as an occasion to raise these issues. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha to

acknowledge the issues of Jat Biradari. Choudhary in his address said that abrogation of Art.370 amalgamated our state's legal and constitutional rights with the rest of our country's. That means Jats of J&K should get the benefit of OBC category at par with the Jats in 11 states of our country. 90% of our Biradari people live on Border and they have to face losses on every front due to border disturbances. This category will help us provide a better and stable future for our children when it will open doors of

more jobs for them and access to better opportunities.

Ch.Mannohan Singh said that border people are dependent on their lands and agriculture to earn their livelihood and have no other source of income other than their agricultural income, but these lands fall under border fencing area and hence have to be left uncultivated. Govt uses these lands for military purposes but fail to provide any kind of compensation for the loss of farmers. Choudhary asked the authorities to provide alternate

Mock drill on earthquake readiness held



DC Rahul Yadav witnessing mock drill.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: District Administration in collaboration with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Monday conducted a mock Drill on earthquake preparedness here in the premises of Government Degree College.

Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav presided over the Mock Drill executed by Special Rescue and Response teams of NDRF and SDRF headed by Assistant Commandant, 13 BN NDRF, K.H Ranjit Singh and Dy. S.P. SDRF Rannish Sharma. An earthquake-like situation was created at Government Degree College, Kathua presuming that the building partially collapsed due to the earthquake. The NDRF, SDRF, Ambulance services conducted the rescue operation and seriously injured and others in different medical conditions were shifted to makeshift base camp by following laid down procedure. Creating situations like reaching to the disaster victims, rescue from multi storey buildings, cutting of

walls, lifting of heavy debris were demonstrated by the NDRF, SDRF, Fire Services personnel and ambulances using different techniques and tools. While lauding the efforts of the stakeholders involved in the mock drill exercise, the Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Yadav said the motive was to make all concerned departments and agencies operational ready to deal with the situation of earthquake disaster. He said Kathua district is located in IV & V of Seismic Zone, which shows the vulnerability to earthquakes in the district is severe. He said the mock drill is a learning exercise for all participating departments, agencies besides NCC, NSS and other College students. The DC

appreciated NDRF for well coordinated drill and said such mock exercises will go a long way to create awareness among the people and keep the stakeholders in readiness to face any eventualities. He said more such drills will be organised in other parts of the district in coming times. Earlier, a tabletop exercise was held at the DC office complex the other day where the roles and responsibilities besides real time situation and response actions by concerned departments were discussed at length. ADC Kathua Atul Gupta; District Disaster Management Officer; Suninderjeet Kour; CMO and other concerned officers of Fire services, Police, Traffic and Municipality were also present on the occasion.

MC Rajouri organises public awareness programme on solid waste management & segregation process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a series of activities are being organised in the district and similar activities are also being carried out under the Chairman ship of President Municipal Council Rajouri Mohammad Arif along with Vice President Bharat Bushan Vaid.

In continuation of these activities, the Municipal Council Rajouri today organised an awareness program on Solid waste management and segregation process. Among the others, President MC Rajouri, Mohammad Arif; Vice President MC Rajouri, Bharat Bushan Vaid; Former President



MC Rajouri member speaking during a programme.

Municipal Committee sh Rajinder Gupta, EO MC Rajouri sh Mohammad Yaqoob, Hon'ble Councillors sh Pushvinder Gupta, Hon'ble Councillor Mamta Dutt, Hon'ble Councillor sh Sanjay Sharma, Hon'ble Councillor sh Sudarshan

Sharma, Hon'ble Councillor Gulfam Akhter, Hon'ble Councillor Sameen, Hon'ble Councillor Faheem Akhter; respected citizens, sanitation workers, Anganwadi workers and urban dwellers, experts of NGO's and others in hundreds attended the pro-

gramme. In his address, President MC Rajouri, Mohd Arief said that Solid waste management is a critical environmental problem that has a direct impact on both the environment and public health and the need of an hour is to work out a suitable plan to manage the solid waste effectively to minimise its negative effects on health and environment. The President also urged the public to shun the use of single-use plastic and go for the eco-friendly alternatives to polythene to protect the environment and rivers. He also said that such programs help

to understand the consequences of improper management of waste and how it may ultimately pose a serious threat to their lives and well-being. Vice President MC Rajouri, Bharat Bushan Vaid while interacting with the participants said that public awareness and their participation is key to successful waste management. Experts of solid waste management and segregation from Jammu also interacted with the participants and threw light on several measures which can help manage and segregate the solid waste effectively.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Monday visited Fruit and Vegetable Market (Mandi) Narwal and reviewed the development works executed there under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), Smart City and other schemes. The Div Com also interacted with the members of Traders association, stakeholders and listened to their grievances.

The Stakeholders demanded repair of interior roads, more auction sheds, alternative exit road, better lighting, drinking water provision, toilet complexes, bank Branch, in Mandi premises, besides extension and transfer of lease, up-gradation of existing shops from

Ground + 1 to Ground + 2 or 3, better sewerage network etc.

While responding on the issue of extension of lease agreements and its transfer, the Div Com instructed the concerned officers to send proposals and resolve the issue. It was informed that a Committee has been constituted for resolving the issue and the committee has also prepared a report/ proposal.

On the issue of up-gradation of existing allotted shops, the Div Com issued directions to the Chief Town Planner to visit the shops area and put up a proposal for Ground +2 and Ground +3 structures of shops as there are provisions under Development Act to designate certain areas as special zone where, in special bylaws can be prescribed.

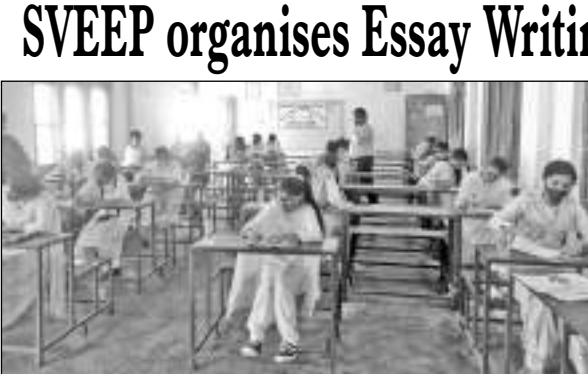
Dr Langer also directed the PWD, Revenue authorities for assessment of alignment for the alternative road, and finalize all the modalities like land Title transfer of land etc to resolve the traffic problem. Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the physical and financial progress on works taken up under the languishing projects scheme, PMDP and Smart City Project. While reviewing PMDP works it was informed that 90 percent work on the drainage system has been completed while remaining work is in progress.

The Div Com directed the Executive Engineer to ensure completion of all the ongoing works within stipulated time frame. He also reviewed in detail the progress on development works execut-

ed under the Smart City Project.

The CEO Jammu Smart City Project Limited and Project Consultant agencies apprised the Div Com about the progress on ongoing works including up-gradation of fruit and vegetable market, up-gradation of sheds, flooring of sheds, construction of bridal paths, development of park, up-gradation of roads, footpath, drain covering, construction of toilets, vending kiosks, canteen, entrance gate etc.

The Div Com directed the Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department and JSCPL officials to work in close coordination and resolve issues of identification of land and others to facilitate smooth execution of work for their early completion.



Students appearing in essay writing competition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the guidance of District Election

Officer Jammu, Anshul Garg, DC Jammu, Nodal Officer SVEEP/ELC