

## J&K officers attend Centre-State Science Conclave at Ahmedabad

### STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: To strengthen the State-Centre coordination and collaboration mechanism in building a robust STI ecosystem and promote innovation and entrepreneurship, a Centre-State Science Conclave was inaugurated at Science City Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 10th and 11th September 2022 by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Science and Technology (S&T) department Ministers of States and Union Territories, Secretaries of S&T Departments of States and UTs, Senior Officers from GoI, representatives of over 150 start-ups, large number of innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the conclave.

The event was held to deliberate upon plans and strategies for fostering state-centre S&T synergy and coordination and focusing on critical issues of state and national interests for socioeconomic development

of the nation as a whole.

The event began with inaugural session presided over by Prime Minister followed by leadership session which was moderated by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union MoS Science and Technology.

After this session, 8 plenary sessions in different thematic areas were held in which Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology Department, J&K government gave a power point presentation on the working of Department of Science and Technology, J&K Government and also about the functioning of JK Science Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

He disclosed that JKSTIC in collaboration with DBT, Govt. Of India and CSIR are establishing two industrial biotechnology parks in UT of J&K one at Handwara Kashmir and another at Ghati, Kathua, Jammu. Bhagat highlighted

that JKSTIC in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, GoI, is establishing sub-regional science centre in the heart of city Srinagar besides other routine works / programs under Science Popularization, Sponsored Research and Extension Schemes. He added that there are 123 R&D projects sponsored by JKSTIC from last year.

The Commissioner Secretary said that the research findings/outcomes of the research undertakings would be implemented for solving the problems and recommendations shall also be put forth before the relevant organizations for taking them to the ground implementation. He added that JKSTIC has also launched Innovation Challenge program to promote innovation and encourage novel ideas.

Speaking on other initiatives, Bhagat said that JKSTIC has identified 150 innovators and start-ups across UT and is

planning to organize an innovators/start-ups meet with investors and industrialists across the country. He added that the meet is intended to provide an access and platform to the budding innovators and start-ups for investment, collaborations, connections and networking needed to launch and convert their ideas and initiatives into scalable business models and business organizations. The Commissioner Secretary remarked that the meet can be game changer for the innovators and start-ups to gain exposure and get connected to the industry and investment agencies, venture capitalists across the country.

Among others, Dr Nasir Shah, Addl. Director JKSTIC; Sanjay Kharoo, Joint Director; Bilal Ahmad, Joint Director besides eight start-up innovators led by Sheikh Inayat Ullah, Innovator, CEO Startup Move Beyond attended the conclave from J&K.

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## FICCI to collaborate with Dept of Handicrafts, Handloom Kashmir

Mahatma Gandhi Shanti Yatra continued for day-2 at Kulgam

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Spreading the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, the Shanti March continued in Kulgam on second day, on Sunday.

The Shanti Yatra started from Middle School Rangrez Mohalla, Kulgam where the Headmaster of the school handed over Gandhi Marshal to Principal L/K Nazir Ahmad Wani Govt BHSS Kulgam.

The Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Principal HSS Watalengoo, SHO Kulgam and many officers and officials from Education and Police department were present during the event.

Later, the Shanti March reached to HS Pariwan via HS Okay and HS Nilow.

The Chief Education Officer Kulgam, M.A. Rather informed that Peace March will continue tomorrow upto Selpora where District Administration Shopian will receive Gandhi Marshal for further Peace Yatra.



Director H&H Kashmir Mahmood Ahmad Shah interacting with female members of FICCI FLO group Amritsar.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a move to build stronger ties, a group of 40 empowered female members of FICCI FLO group Amritsar on Sunday interacted with Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir Mahmood Ahmad Shah at Kashmir Haat Srinagar.

The group was from Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry FLO ladies wing which have over 18 chapters

and FLO Amritsar which is having a strong presence of 350 empowered women as its members.

The FICCI team was lead by Shikha Sareen Chairperson and Manpreet Kour vice President Amritsar Chapter and the group of female members was received by Amina Asad Chief Designer, School of Designs.

While giving a brief of the activities, the team was amazed to see the rich collec-

tion of the centuries old prized Kashmir Handicrafts preserved at the institute and also minutely watched the master craftsmen of different crafts working on making the master pieces of their respective crafts.

The Chief Designer gave a short brief about the activities of the institute particularly about the digitization and design bank.

While interacting with the group, the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir gave a detailed brief about the activities particularly the efforts Department is doing to promote the GI certified crafts through various mediums including FM stations and Advertisements at Country's major Airports.

The FICCI team assured support in terms of doing joint programs with the Department especially holding of some major exhibitions for the artisans of Kashmir Division in the coming winter at Amritsar.

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tion programmes of Forest Department, including Green J&K Drives, 75 students (Bal Brigade) were also felicitated with certificates for their involvement in afforestation activities and supporting the establishment of Bal Van in Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Gera PCCF & HoFF thanked the UT Administration for all the support. He remembered the Forest Martyrs Day was also observed in other Forester's Memorials.

After paying homage, a brief function was held at Forest Headquarters Sheikhdagh, Srinagar for distribution of Departmental Awards to 17 frontline Forest Officers and staff for outstanding performance in the field of Afforestation/ Forest Protection/ Training and Capacity Building/ Demarcation for the year 2021-22.

On the occasion Nazir Benazir, Chairman NGO was also felicitated for his dedicated efforts in afforestation.

## J&K Forest Dept observes 'National Forest Martyrs Day'

### STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department on Sunday observed National Forest Martyrs Day to pay homage to the brave Forest Officers and frontline staff who laid down their lives while protecting the forest wealth in Jammu & Kashmir Forest Martyrs Memorial, Shankaracharya Hills, Srinagar; erected in memory of Forest Martyrs of J&K, was dedicated by the frontline forest staff to the J&K Forest Department in presence of Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF.

Also present on the occasion were Dr. Neel Gera, PCCF & Chairperson Pollution Control Committee and T. Rabi Kumar, APCCF Kashmir. They laid wreaths at the Forester's Memorial to pay tributes to martyrs on this day. Besides, senior forest officers, regional heads of various allied Departments and frontline staff also offered floral tributes and prayers to the martyrs to mark their respects.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India had declared 11th of September as National Forest Martyrs Day in the year 2013 in recognition of the infamous Khejarli Massacre of 1730.

In J&K, around 100 forest officers/officials have laid their lives for protection of rich forest wealth of the Union Territory and in recognition of their supreme sacrifice, the Forest Department has erected four

Foresters Memorials recently. Out of the four, two are located in Jammu and in Kashmir; two memorials have been erected in Shankaracharya Hills and Kashmir Forest Training School, Chittendar. National Forest Martyrs Day was also observed in other Forester's Memorials.

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reflect employment potential and should lead to a visible impact on ground in next 3-5 years. He also emphasized that the project components should be scientifically justified, with adequate provisions of trainings and capacity building and with clear key interventions and key output/outcomes along with total financial implications of the project with breakup depicting central share/NABARD/ Beneficiary share & UT share.

While concluding the meeting Dr Magla Rai and the Apex Committee decided that in order to give this futuristic roadmap a final shape the Apex committee would visit J&K in person w.e.f 27-29 September 2022 to deliberate on the projects on one to one basis and all revisions, modifications, amendments shall be made during the 3 days consequent to which the viable and approved projects shall be submitted to the Government of J&K for approval.

## Former DG ICAR discusses holistic dev of agriculture in J&K

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Director General, Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr Mangla Rai on Sunday chaired the first meeting of Apex Committee constituted for holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Dr. Ashok Dalwai; Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Dr PK. Joshi, Secretary, NAAS New Delhi; Dr Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, Dr HS Gupta, Former Director, IARI, JP Sharma, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu and Nazir Ganai Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; besides senior officers of APD, HoDs of line Departments, Members of technical working groups and other officers of APD.

Outside UT based Apex committee members participated in the meeting virtually while as other officers attended the meeting in person from civil secretariat Jammu as well as Srinagar. At the outset Dr. Mangla Rai recapitulated the proceedings of the two day multi-stakeholders Convention at SKICC, Srinagar during July 2022 for Holistic Agriculture Development in J&K during which an in-depth analysis of agriculture and allied sectors, challenges and opportunities for planned inclusive growth to make the sectors more vibrant, profitable, market driven and employable was presented. Dr. Mangla Rai reiterated on the policy recommendations that emerged from the two-day Multi-stakeholders

Convention to put agriculture & allied sectors on a new trajectory of growth, transforming subsistence agriculture to sustainable agriculture. Consequent to these policy recommendations 30 project proposals were recommended by Mangla Rai and the Apex Committee for attaining visible growth in agriculture and allied sectors in J&K in a short term during next 3-5 years. The recommended project proposals included Project/ scheme for development of Seed and Seed Multiplication chain; Project/ scheme for promotion of mass multiplication of quality planting material for various fruits, Niche crops (saffron, kala zeera, apricot, walnut, honey etc.), sustainable agriculture/organic agriculture; Project propos-

al for promotion of food processing and value addition, Proposal for formation of 300 sustainable FPOs and innovative approaches in extension. Mangla Rai, Ashok Dalwai, Atal Dulloo, Dr PK. Joshi, Dr Prabhat Kumar, Dr HS Gupta, JP Sharma, Nazir Ganai shared their expertise, experience and valuable inputs for formulation of these projects and gave a detailed overview of their importance on a one to one basis and interacted with the Technical Working group members by sharing valuable insights and project wise guidance to proceed further in formulating preliminary project proposals. Dr Ashok Dalwai and other Apex Committee members also deliberated on these 30 projects and emphasized on focus areas and key points while formulating the projects. Atal Dulloo while speaking during the meeting emphasized that the projects formulated must be of high quality, technically feasible/ viable, doable, clear, should



ACS APD, Atal Dulloo and others during a meeting.

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