

# SKUAST-J hosts Annual Review Meeting of AICRP on Honey Bees & Pollinators

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Annual Review Meeting of AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators kicked off at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-J) ON Thursday.

During the two days meet, about 24 centres of AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators of the country who are participating in the mega event will make scientific deliberations on diverse aspects of bee keeping.

In his address, Prof. J.P. Sharma, VC SKUAST-Jammu, who is chief guest on the occasion, said that agriculture land is shrinking day by day and as such diversification of agriculture is only way to feed the burgeoning population.

He revealed that the annual honey production in Jammu and Kashmir, UT is 90 metric tons and there is immense scope of increasing the production of honey.

He further said that at



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. J.P. Sharma felicitating an officer.

present, there are only 1.5 lakh bee colonies in Jammu and Kashmir, UT and, hence, there is immense scope of increasing number of bee colonies to 5-6 lakh. He also emphasized to introduce diversification in apiculture.

Prof. Sharma informed that a honey testing laboratory is being established in the University. This will help the farmers in testing the quality of their honey. He further said that besides increasing the production of honey efforts should be made to boost the marketing

and value addition of honey. This will help the honey bee keepers in increasing their income manifold.

Prof. Sharma further said that SKUAST-Jammu is imparting trainings in bee-keeping to supplement the income of the farmers as well as promoting entrepreneurship development among unemployed youth.

Dr. T.R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi stressed that all the honey bee centres of the country should work in unison to rectify the problems and bridge the gaps in scientific honey production technology. He impressed upon the adaptation of exotic honey bees in the local environment. He revealed that genome of the honey bees has already been studied and about 150000 genes have been identified. He suggested that P.G. scholars should be given research problems on the functioning of genes.

Dr. S.C. Dubey, ADG (PP&BS)ICAR, New Delhi in his address said that India is one of the leading exporters of honey, but the country is lacking in export of honey by-products.

He said that special emphasis should be given on domestication of bumble bee as the pollination by bumble bee results in higher fruit quality and quantity, as well as in considerable labour savings.

Dr. Balraj Singh, Project Coordinator, ICAR, AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators, in his remarks, said that honey bee production and export was one of the priority areas of the Government of India and focus was on providing self-employment to the youth.

Earlier, Dr. Pardeep Wali, Director Research presented the welcome address and research activities of the University. During the inaugural session, Dr. D.P. Abrol, Dr. V.B. Belavadi, Dr. P.K. Chhuneja, Dr. Stephen Devnashan and Dr. Harish Sharma who did pioneered work in apiculture were facilitated.

Vinod Kumar, progressive bee keeper of J&K, UT was also facilitated. Annual report on honey bee and pollinators was also released during the programme.

All the statutory officers of the University, Head of the Divisions, delegates, staff members and students attended the meeting.

Proceedings of the meeting was conducted by Dr. Sachin Gupta and vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Devinder Sharma.

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# DLSA Udhampur hosts Legal Awareness Programme on International Literacy Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Following the Common Minimum Programme provided by J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the Chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Udhampur Y.P. Bourney and overall Supervision of Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge), a legal awareness programme on International Literacy Day at Bharm Rishi Bawra Shanti Vidya Peeth Higher Secondary School Udhampur was organised by District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur on Thursday. The resource persons of the Programme were Panel Lawyer Adv. Akhil Dubey and Adv. Mallikarjun Singh Slathia. The programme was attended by the Chairperson of the School Swami Chinmaya Jyoti, Principal Ashwani Kumar, and Vice-



Secy DLSA Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge) being honoured by Chairperson of School Swami Chinmaya Jyoti.

Principal Usha Gupta, teachers of the School namely Vinod, Samriti and Neeru. The students and other School Staff were also present in the programme. The Resource persons highlighted the importance of International Literacy Day and informed the gathering about this year's theme for International Literacy Day which is "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces". The theme focuses on taking critical measures to make sure that every individual

receives a high quality, equitable and inclusive education which is extremely important for the betterment of Society. Latter, the Secretary DLSA Rajni Sharma thanked the participants for participating in the Legal Awareness Programme and enlightened them that the primary goals of international Literacy day is to convey the importance of Literacy and its necessity for Individuals and Societies and create literate and well Educated Communities across the globe.

# Retired police personnel hold meeting, discuss issues



Retired police personnel during a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The retirees of Police League District Jammu on Thursday held a monthly meeting which was presided over by Karanjit Singh, DSP (retd) and President Retirees Police League District Jammu.

Main issues raised include that of pending issues of arrears and pension discrepancies among equal ranks.

"Medical facilities to be

available all retirees and free medicines be available in Police Hospitals like life saving drugs," Karanjit said adding that zonal level meeting of all districts of Jammu Zone and Kashmir Zone be organized after proper involvement of all Districts Leagues wherein DGP J&K will be invited.

Large number of Retirees including SSP Ch Chirag Din , SP Ranjit Singh, SP

Prithvi Raj Sharma, SP Som Raj Datta, SP D.D Sharma, DSP Ashok Bhagat, DSP B.L Koul, DSP Kuldeep Raj, DSP Mohinder Singh, DSP Khalil Ur Rahman, DSP S M Jangral, Inspector Yoginder Singh, Inspectors Subash Raina, SI Dhian Singh, Ved Raj Bali, Sat Pal, Shamsher Bhagat, Raghuraj Singh, Manohar Lal, ASI Ashok Kumar Sharma.

# NSS Unit of GGM Science College distributes books in slum on International Literacy Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: NSS volunteers of Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College distributed books in the slum area on International Day of Literacy under the patronage of Principal, Dr. Rajesh Gupta and guidance of NSS PO, Dr. Deepali Mahajan under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.



NSS volunteers and faculty distributing books among slum dwellers.

Considering the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, this year, the theme of this year's International Literacy Day is 'Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces'.

International Literacy Day is observed across the world to remind people about the importance of literacy for the betterment of communities, societies, and individuals, and also to highlight the positive effects of a higher literacy rate.

To promote education;

books were distributed to the needy children in slum area by NSS Volunteers.

Educating children saves lives and builds stronger families, communities and economies. Empowered, educated kids have healthier, better-educated children and higher wages -helping to break the cycle of poverty.

# Kritika's book 'Lost n Found' released

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The latest book of author Kritika Rampal 'Lost n Found' was released in Jamm. The book is based on heart wrenching story of a common woman and divided into 7 chapters. The book was released by Kiran Bakshi who was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Tariq Khan, known film maker was the Guest of Honour.

Prominent among others present on the occasion included Shivdev Singh,

Brij Mohan and Bharat Bhushan. Published by 'notion press', the 80-page book is available at leading online platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.

Pertinent to mention here that author is a budding writer who has written few Bollywood movies and web-series like Angithe, Am I Next, Lines, Wishlist etc. A software engineer by profession and writer by choice she spends her free time writing about subjects around her.



Kritika's book 'Lost n Found' being released in Jammu.

# DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal visits NCC Training Academy Nagrota



Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, DG NCC interacting with cadets at Training Academy, Nagrota.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: DG NCC, Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh on Thursday visited NCC Training Academy at Nagrota.

On arrival at the Academy, he was given a Guard of Honour by NCC cadets of 2 J&K Battalion NCC.

This was followed by briefing by the Camp Commandant, Col Rajesh Jasrotia on the conduct of Camp and conduct of training of Cadets.

The DG NCC witnessed training of cadets under the supervision of Army Instructors. He was also shown small arms firing by

cadets including simulator training.

DG highlighted the role of NCC in national integration and creating future leaders with a sense of discipline and secular outlook and lead the society with the ideals of self-less service.

DG NCC also felicitated the meritorious NCC officers (ANOs) and cadets for their achievements and interacted with media personnel.

The DG NCC appreciated the efforts of NCC training staff and cadets and exhorted all stake holders to live upto the motto of NCC "Unity and Discipline".

# Protest of Reserved Category Employees completes 100 days

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association (AJBRCEA), Kashmir continued their peaceful protest for 100th day in Jammu on Thursday. As routine, the protesters gathered at Dr B R Ambedkar Chowk Park, Jammu but found both entrances of the park locked and guarded by Police personnel in presence of a senior official from administration. As employees were not allowed to enter park, they staged a protest on road just outside along boundary wall of park without hampering traffic movement. A female teacher Geeta Devi also got faint and fell on stairs, who was shifted inside

park. Later she was shifted to Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar in a police van.

It is pertinent here to mention that since start of peaceful protest, the day after targeted killing of Rajni Bala in Kulgam, All Jammu based employees serving in Kashmir Division are holding peaceful protest in a dignified and peaceful. The protest would continue till the committee constituted by LG, will submit report regarding framing of a comprehensive transfer policy and implementation of the same. AJBRCEA urged LG not to force and motivate employees to come on roads, as an attempt which was made by administration by not allowing the employees to enter park.

# DoPK celebrates traditional Vitasta Diwas

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Daughters of Panun Kashmir (DoPK) celebrated traditional Vitasta Diwas on banks of Ranbir canal here on Thursday. For last many millennia, Kashmiri Pandits worship river Vitasta as an incarnation of Mata Parvati and as such DoPK, women wing of PK, has been observing the day for last 32 years on the bank of Ranbir canal which is a tributary of river

(Chenab). The programme was organised by Vimla Churungoo, Secretary DoPK and attended by senior members like Sunita Raina, Santosh Sharma and Vijay Sapru. Vimla Churungoo presented the welcome address while proceedings of the programme were conducted by Upinder Koul. An Aarti was also recited along with floral tributes followed by lighting of earthen lamps, which were later immersed in canal.

A number of PK leaders were also present on the occasion. Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion included Virender Raina, Satish Kissu, Sundri Lal Koul, Adv Kashmiri Lal Bhat, Sanjay Ganjoo, Shadi Lal Koul Rais, Ravi Punjabi, Surinder Dhar and Mohan Lal Raina. Convener PK Youth, Sameer Bhat administered oath to participants for keeping struggle of homeland alive and vibrant.

# Dedicated Duggar Channel essential for promotion of Dogri, sister languages, culture: Sham Lal



J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Dedicated Duggar Channel is essential for the promotion of Dogri, a major language of J&K State which will nurture and promote culture of all adjoining areas and the sister languages spoken in the region, said Sham Lal Sharma.

Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister accompanied by BJP Secretary Rekha Mahajan, was listening to the grievances of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party headquarter, Trikuta

Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances. They narrated their woes and sought kind intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved.

A deputation from Sunderbani raised demand for revival of Duggar Channel. A deputation of 'Saksham Bharat Mission' raised their demand to release salary of 5000 persons. A deputation raised demand

for public shed at Roop Nagar.

Besides these issues, routine development issues related to departments of PDD, PHE etc. were also raised. Sham Lal Sharma gave patient hearings to the problems of the people, which were taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Sham Lal Sharma, addressing on the occasion said that BJP leaders are daily listening to the grievances of the public in the party headquarter in order to address their various types of concerns. He said that the maximum issues raised by the people and various deputations were immediately raised with the concerned department officials and their immediate solutions were sought to the satisfaction of the masses.

Rekha Mahajan coordinated and recorded all the grievances presented by the visiting people and deputations.

# DB upholds life-imprisonment of husband, in-laws in dowry death case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, upheld life-imprisonment of husband, mother-in-law and sister-in-law in dowry death case.

As per the charge-sheet, statement of deceased-Sita Devi was recorded by ASI-Babu Ram along with Head Constable-Gushu Ram and was produced at Police Station on June 16, 1998, wherein she informed that she got married with Balwinder Singh about 4-5 months back. After sometime, her in-laws started taunting her and beating her without any cause. After few days, they burnt her with kerosene oil. The

statement was read over to her and she acknowledged the same to be correct. On receipt of statement, FIR under Sections 307/34 of RPC was registered. As Sita Devi succumbed to injuries, the offence was converted from 307 RPC to 302 of RPC. After completion of investigation challan was presented and on February 14, 2005 1st Additional Sessions Judge Jammu convicted appellants for commission of offences under sections 302/498-A/149 of RPC and awarded life imprisonment along with fine of Rs 5000 each, for commission of offence under section 302/149 of RPC and imprisonment for one year and fine of Rs 1,000 each for commission of offences

under Sections 498-A/149 of RPC.

The Division Bench after hearing Senior Adv Sunil Sethi assisted by Adv Mohsin Bhat for appellant whereas Additional Advocate General Amit Gupta for the UT, observed that appellants though have led evidence in defence but the same is not trustworthy and in fact becomes meaningless in view of cogent and strong evidence led by the prosecution. DB after perusal of the judgment impugned, found that the trial court has dealt with all issues raised by the parties very aptly. DB considered the contentions raised by the appellants but we have not been able to persuade ourselves to take any view other than that of

trial court. "Judgment dated 14.02.2005 passed by the Court of 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu in File No. 59/Sessions titled 'State versus Bir Singh & Others' is upheld and the sentence awarded to the appellants Balwinder Singh, Babli Choudhary and Neelam Choudhary is confirmed. As appellant Nos 2 to 4 are on bail, their bail bonds are cancelled and they are directed to surrender before Superintendent, District Jail Jammu within a period of four weeks from today taking into consideration old-age ailments of Babli Choudhary (mother-in-law). On failure to surrender, the trial court shall proceed in accordance with law," DB observed.

# HC sets-aside conviction of Patwari in trap case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court set-aside conviction of a Patwari, namely Ghulam Mohammad Kumar who was awarded two years imprisonment by 1st Additional Sessions Judge Baramulla (Special Judge Anticorruption Baramulla / Bandipora / Kupwara). It was argued by the appellant herein that one Khurshaed Ahmad Lone had made a complaint against him for demanding bribe of Rs 2,500 for making necessary entries in the revenue record, while being posted as Patwari Bomai Sopore, which culminated into registration of FIR No.39/2006 at Police Station Vigilance Organisation of Kashmir. After completion of investi-

gation, charge-sheet was presented before the court of law; and after facing trial for long 13 years, the appellant has been convicted by the trial court and has been sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for two years and fine of Rs 10,000 for the commission of each of the offences punishable under Sections 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 161 of RPC.

Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary after hearing both the sides observed that it is well settled that in absence of evidence regarding demand of bribe, the appellant-accused cannot be held guilty on the basis of the evidence, unworthy of acceptance. "After going through the entire evidence, I am of the view that there is no acceptable evi-

dence to prove demand and acceptance of the bribe money within the meaning of Section 161 of RPC. Under these circumstances, the findings of the trial court that the prosecution has established the charge of demand and acceptance of bribe with ultimate recovery of tainted money from the accused-appellant, cannot be accepted and agreed. In peculiar circumstances, it cannot be held that the prosecution has succeeded in proving the essential ingredients of demand of illegal gratification, made by the accused-appellant, from the complainant for doing an official act. Though a vain attempt seems to have been made by the prosecution to bring the factum of demand relying upon these witnesses, but their evidence does not support the complainant

in material particulars to bring home, beyond reasonable doubt that a demand of Rs 2500 as bribe was made by the accused-appellant for doing an official work while acting as a public servant. Court further observed that having regard to the aforesaid factual background and the law laid down on the subject, it is held that the trial court has not appreciated the evidence properly and thus reached a wrong conclusion to hold appellant/accused guilty of the offences of which he was charged.

As a sequel to the afore-stated discussion, the conviction recorded against the appellant-accused would necessarily have to be set aside, the court observed and allowed the petition, setting-aside conviction and sentences awarded to appellant.