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HADP brought culture...

innovation ecosystem in Agriculture and Allied domain, along with three new faculties in Agricultural Engineering, Dairy Technology and Horticulture and Forestry, to stimulate the synergies between latest technologies, skills and research for rapid structural changes in farming, he said.

"Agriculture is the most important and sensitive sector for economy and vital to survival of humanity. To tackle wide range of impacts on people's lives due to diverse challenges worldwide, Agriculture Universities must be connected to global nervous system to quickly adopt the latest knowledge," the Lt Governor.

At SKUAST Jammu, the Lt Governor shared the policy reforms and technological interventions made in the last few years to rejuvenate the Agriculture and allied sectors.

He said the knowledge-research capital of SKUAST should be tapped to further strengthen the 29 projects being implemented under HADP, to develop mechanism to acquire tools to solve tomorrow's problems for ensuring food security, nutrition and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the Agriculture scientists and Universities to adopt whole-farm approach and work on new technology and farm innovation to create a competitive advantage for J&K and the country to build a sustainable future for the world.

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration has made it clear that climate-resilient crops, accelerated innovations and investment to increase productivity, reducing waste will be the top priority for food security and bringing transformation in the lives of farmers, the Lt Governor said.

Sustainable and Climate-Smart-Agriculture are the way forward. We must motivate farmers to adopt niche, less water-intensive and high-value crops, he said.

The Lt Governor encouraged young scientists to look for new opportunities, new interventions and inventions for sustained growth of ecological capital, maintain harmony between the market and the soil and ensure that the agriculture sector continues to serve as a strong base for our development.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the endeavors of the UT Administration for creating better market linkage to the farmers and promoting diversification, allied activities and high-density farming.

70 percent of J&K's population is dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. Our dedicated focus on training, access to extension services, financing and marketing institutions are benefitting the farming community. It is being ensured that the financing benefits reach the farmers and the youth and women engaged with the sector, he added.

The Lt Governor emphasised on assessing the progress achieved in programmes like Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, identifying the gaps and taking corrective measures in this regard. It should be ensured that more farmers are registered on Daksh portal, he added.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Vice Chancellor, faculty members and students on the occasion. He also lauded the significant contribution of SKUAST-Jammu to the G20 Summit and asked the University to prepare a roadmap for the next 25 years.

Dr. B N Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu highlighted the remarkable achievements of the University and underlined the importance of the Holistic Agricultural Development Program in transforming agriculture.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inaugurated various facilities at the University including Silver Jubilee Park, Apartment and Faculty Club and unveiled the Rajat Jayanti Smarak to mark its 25th Foundation Day. He also launched the Green Education Program, International Helpdesk and Academic Management System (AMS) Portal.

On the occasion, the former employees of the SKUAST-Jammu were felicitated for their dedicated service to the University. Publication on Startups success stories of SKUAST-Jammu, International Helpdesk Brochure and Commemorative Souvenir were also released.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council, Jammu; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Vice Chancellors of various Universities, HoDs, scientists, faculty members, staff and students were present.

CS for 100...

Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; Chief Engineer, I&FC besides others concerned.

Dr Mehta took note of the measures taken so far to stop the untreated sewage flowing into our water bodies to prevent their pollution. He directed the H&UDD to ensure that the waste collected by local bodies is segregated at source so that optimal recycling can be undertaken.

He maintained that ample awareness should be created among the public so that they are able to segregate the waste and handover it to the collection agencies separately. He also asked the department to enhance its capacity in terms of treating such waste in a proper scientific manner.

Dr Mehta observed that the landfill sites should be made attractive and odour free. He also underscored the need of incentivizing its establishment for the locals so that they do not feel any kind of reluctance. He advised them to identify the sites from the chunks of government land recently retrieved by the Revenue Department.

He also made out that no water body of J&K should be polluted. He stated that these bodies are our priceless resources and should be protected for future. He asked for ensuring that people residing near rivers, lakes, canals etc have at least septic

tanks for treatment of sewage. He also asked for creating oxidation ponds besides sewerage schemes in all the congested areas especially at Srinagar and Jammu where people don't have the provisions to create their own septic tanks so that untreated waste is not released into the environment.

The Chief Secretary also advised them to visit the Municipal Corporations like Mumbai, New Delhi, Indore, Ahmadabad etc for learning from their experiences. He asked them to study all the successful models there to adopt the most suitable ones in the UT. He asked them to ensure that the directives given by the NGT are fully implemented for safeguarding the environment.

History scripted: LS...

the Constitution amendment bill were also cleared by the House. When the proposed legislation goes to Rajya Sabha for its consideration, it will be called the Constitution (106th Amendment) Bill, officials said.

Setting the tone of the debate, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi made a strong pitch for bringing OBC women in the ambit of the proposed law and asserting that any delay in bringing the reservation into effect would be "gross injustice" to women.

Intervening in the debate, Home Minister Amit Shah brushed aside apprehensions of a delay in the implementation of the proposed law and asserted that the next government will conduct a census and delimitation exercise soon after the elections, setting in motion the process to make women's reservation a reality.

Shah indicated that women's reservation will become a reality after 2029.

The home minister pushed back against the opposition's criticism for not including an OBC sub-quota and asserted that the BJP has given more representation to the community than those claiming to speak for them.

Nearly 29 per cent or 85 BJP MPs, 29 Union ministers, and 365 of its 1,358 MLAs, which is over 27 per cent, are from the OBC category, Shah said. He said over 40 per cent of its MLCs also belong to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The debate also saw rival political parties claim credit for women's reservation, with Gandhi saying that the bill was a dream of her late husband and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who made attempts to grant reservation to women in local bodies in 1989 but failed, and BJP members asserting that former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee brought the bill twice only to be met with unruly scenes in the House.

The bill was brought in 2008 during the coalition government led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and passed by the Rajya Sabha, where it was introduced, in 2010. However, the bill could not be passed in the Lok Sabha due to political differences. It subsequently lapsed with dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi was the lone voice of opposition to the bill contending that the measure would provide reservation only to "savarna women", and exclude OBC and Muslim women who have little representation in Parliament.

The AIMIM has two members in Lok Sabha.

On the issue of immediate implementation of the proposed law, Shah said such a move would lead to allegations of partiality and insisted that the matter be best left to the delimitation commission which would carry out the exercise in a transparent manner:

"If we do it and Wayanad becomes reserved you will say it is a political step. If Hyderabad becomes a reserved seat, Owaisi ji will say it is politically motivated," the home minister said. Wayanad in Kerala is represented in Lok Sabha by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Shah said the delimitation commission was an appropriate forum for demarcation of constituencies reserved for women as it is chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge and has representation from political parties.

Several members had demanded immediate rollout of women's reservation and criticised the provisions that said that the quotas will come into effect after the delimitation exercise undertaken after the first census after the commencement of the proposed law.

Speaking on the bill, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said, "Women's reservation is dependent on two totally indeterminate dates, can there be a greater jumla? Forget 2024, this may not be possible in 2029."

Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi said, "For the last 13 years, Indian women have been waiting for their political responsibilities, and now they are being asked to wait for a few more years -- two years, four years, six years, eight years."

Several opposition leaders said that the women's reservation bill was a panic reaction of the government after the formation of the opposition group INDIA.

"We support the bill. We want to empower all women. But this is nothing but a 'jumla'. This is nothing but a panic reaction (of the ruling dispensation) to the formation of the opposition group INDIA.... This government has no intention of empowering women. Their only intention is to capture power," Janata Dal (United) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh said.

NCP member Supriya Sule termed the legislation a "post-dated cheque" and demanded the government spell out the date and timeline for its implementation.

Akali Dal member Harsimrat Badal also targeted the BJP over its leaders being booked for crimes against women.

"Women wrestlers, who brought so many medals, have been sitting for months but the Babuhali is still sitting here," she said, referring to former Wrestling Federation of India president and Lok Sabha member Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by several women wrestlers. Singh has denied the charges.

Bahujan Samaj Party member Sangeeta Azad, Bharat Rashtia Samithi leader Nama Nagewara Rao and Shiv Sena member Bhavana Gawali wholeheartedly supported the bill.

Twenty-seven women members cutting across party lines participated in the

debate on the bill, with BJP legislators coming out in support of it and the opposition members demanding its immediate implementation.

At present, there are 82 women members in Lok Sabha, out of the total strength of 543.

SC to reconsider...

stipulates that no member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote cast in Parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article 194(2).

In 2019, a bench headed by then chief justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing an appeal filed by Sita Soren, JMM MLA from Jama and daughter-in-law of party chief Shibu Soren, who was an accused in the JMM bribery scandal, had referred to a 5-judge bench the crucial question, noting it had "wide ramifications" and was of "substantial public importance".

Sita Soren was accused of taking bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in 2012. She had contended that the constitutional provision granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution be applied to her.

The three-judge bench had then said it will revisit its verdict in the sensational Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery case involving Shibu Soren, a former Jharkhand chief minister and ex-union minister, and four other party MPs who had accepted bribes to vote against the no-confidence motion against the then P V Narasimha Rao government in 1993. The Narasimha Rao government, which was in a minority, survived the no-confidence vote with their support.

The CBI registered a case against Soren and four other JMM Lok Sabha MPs but the Supreme Court quashed it citing the immunity from prosecution they enjoyed under Article 105(2) of the Constitution.

Today, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said it will set up a seven-judge bench to examine the matter afresh and "straighten" the law even as Attorney General R Venkataramani opposed reconsideration of the 1998 judgement.

"We are of the considered view that correctness of the view of the majority in PV (Narasimha Rao case) be reconsidered by a bench of seven judges. The purpose of Article 105 is to ensure that members of the Parliament and the state legislatures are able to discharge their duties in an atmosphere of freedom without fear of consequences which may follow for the manner in which they speak or exercise their vote on the floor of the house.

"The object is not to set apart the members of the legislature as persons who wield higher privileges in terms of immunity of general law of the land which citizens of the land do not possess," the bench said.

As the proceedings commenced today before the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna, MM Sundresh, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for Sita Soren, submitted the matter was a regular criminal appeal which involves the question of application of the PV Narasimha Rao case verdict.

Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, referred to the facts of Sita Soren's case and said to qualify for protection under Article 194(2) of the Constitution, applicable to MLAs, bribe had to be taken for proceedings for business or function of the House.

"(Shibu) Soren had received a bribe for the no-confidence motion (for voting against it) in the Parliament. There is nothing (in Sita Soren's case) to do with the business of the House. The function must have a nexus with the legislative business or purpose," he said.

Rebutting his submission, the bench said, "As a constitution bench, if we have a particular issue which deeply affects the morality of our polity, shouldn't we take an opportunity to straighten the law.

"We have four eminent counsels appearing in this. What better opportunity to straighten the law? Normally you don't want to get into a broader issue of law where you may not feel that you'd get the correct assistance because then the entire burden is on us. Even then we take up the burden sometimes. But here you have squarely a conflict between the viewpoints...we should set the law straight," the bench said.

Senior advocate PS Patwalia, who was appointed amicus curiae in the matter, stated there was a "fractured" kind of concurrence in the PV Narasimha Rao judgement which necessitated that the matter be referred to a larger bench.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for one of the intervenors, echoed the views of the amicus curiae (friend of the court).

Sita Soren had appealed against the Jharkhand High Court order of February 17, 2014 refusing to quash a criminal case lodged against her for allegedly taking bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the 2012 Rajya Sabha elections. The CBI had accused her of accepting bribe from one candidate and voting for another.

CB files chargesheet..

and would get all of them employed in MES (Military Engineering Services), Railway or banks, he said. On this pretext, the accused collected huge amounts from the complainant and other victims and later cheated them, the spokesperson said.

A preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima facie established and subsequently, a case was registered for in-depth investigation, the spokesperson said.

The relevant record was seized, statement of witnesses recorded and other material evidence was gathered and offences of cheating against the accused for luring the complainant and other unemployed youths have been established, he said.



Ancient Mela Patt begins with religious fervour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Three-day annual holy Mela Patt, devoted to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhadarwah valley, began on Wednesday evening with full religious fervor and gaiety.

To commemorate the historic meet between Mughal emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Bhaderwah, three day Ancient and historic Mela Pat started at Mohalla Khakhhal of Bhaderwah with performing all rituals.

Mela Pat- a symbol of Nag culture, is celebrated every year on Nagpanchmi and hundreds of people from all walks of life converge at Khakhhal Mohallah to pay obeisance to the bravery and spiritual power of Raja Nag Pal.

Hundreds of people from different parts of the UT of J&K irrespective of cast and religion



A glimpse of Pat Mela celebrations at Bhadarwah.

are participating in the festival.

The festival was first celebrated in 16th century by King Nag Pal, the ruler of small principality then called Bhadarkashi presently known as Bhadarwah.

The historic festival is being organized after 7 days of conclusion of the Kailash Yatra in which thousands of people drawn from different parts of the UT and elsewhere partici-

pated to take blessings of Vasuki Nag.

Chairman Organizing Committee Advocate Naresh Gupta, Ex MLA Daleep Singh Parihar, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhadarwah Virendar Razdan, Advocate Chanderkant Gupta, Sanjay Saraf and others were also present on the occasion.

The traditional Dikko Dance, a unique folk dance, was also

performed, which is a regular feature of the festival and people irrespective of religion, cast and gender participate in it, which makes this festival a symbol of Peace, Pride and communal harmony.

On the occasion, display of 'Patt' was performed with complete rituals. The royal robbing that was presented by King Akbar to Raja Nagpal of Bhadarwah in his honour was also displayed during the 'Mela Patt'. On the occasion, people also installed many stalls of eatables, toys, religious books and others at the venue. Meanwhile elaborate security arrangements were made in and around the venue of festival to thwart any untoward incident. SHO Bhadarwah Jatinder Singh Rakwal was present along with his team at the venue to supervise the security arrangements.

Div Com flags off 9th Rishi Kashyap Swasthya Sewa Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rishi Kashyap Swasthya Seva Yatra organised by National Medicos Organisation (NMO) from 19th to 23rd September 2023 was today flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar for conducting medical and health awareness camps in border areas.

During the 5 day campaign, over 200 doctors and other medical staff would organise free medical cum Health awareness camps in the border and remote areas of all the districts of Jammu Division.

The main objective of the camps is to provide Health Services to the border residents at their doorsteps. In the camps, the locals will be provided free medicines, free blood sugar and B.P check up, besides spreading awareness on Health and wellness.

This year the main focus of the RKSSY

will be Health check-ups and spreading awareness among the rural masses about anemia/malnutrition and its causes.

The National Medicos Organisation is a leading Pan India organization of qualified doctors and medical students, functioning throughout the country.

The NMO aims to organize and motivate allopathic doctors to serve under-privileged sections of the society settled in the tribal villages and slum areas of India.

All the participants who had assembled at Jammu on 19th September 2023 at Trikuta Yatri Nivas Amphalla Jammu were sent to different border areas of Jammu province.

Speaking at the function, the Divisional Commissioner appreciated the Efforts of National Medicos Organisation (NMO) and others for organising health camps in

rural and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir to address the basic health issues of people at their doorsteps and creating awareness among general public about the prevention of different diseases and their treatment. He specially recognised the efforts of doctors from different states of India who provided their free and self-less services to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Govt. Medical College Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta also graced the occasion and welcomed all the medicos from all over India to render their voluntary services in the interest of Healthy Jammu and Kashmir.

Other organisations who are supporting National Medicos Organisation in smooth conduct of camps are Seva Bharti, Seema Jagran Manch and medicines are provided by Seva Bharti Gujarat.

Jal Jivan Mission: DC Rajouri starts work on 2 WSSs at border villages

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Wednesday kick started work on two crucial water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal also addressed the gathered locals and extended his congratulations.

The project named Dabbar Potha B Water Supply Scheme, involves an estimated cost of Rs 6.24 cr. It aims to provide functional household tap connections (FHTC) to a total of 435 households. Currently, 196 households have been connected, with 239 more to be linked to the water supply system. The scheme utilizes a combination of storage facilities, including 5000 gallons RSFP (Reverse Osmosis Filtration Plant), 3 No. 10000 gallons GSR (Ground-Level Storage Reservoirs), 2 No. 20000 gallons GSR, and 1 No. 5000 gallons GSR. The



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal inaugurating water schemes.

other project- Gagrote Water Supply Scheme has an estimated cost of Rs 9.45 crore. It aims to provide FHTC to 584 households, with 234 households already connected and 350 more awaiting connection. This scheme relies on 2 Borewells, 1 5000 gallons RSFP, two

20,000 gallons GSR, and eight 10,000 gallons GSR for water supply and storage.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the local residents for their continued support and emphasized the importance of these projects in enhancing the quality of life of the entire community. He reiterated the government's commitment to provide clean and accessible drinking water to all residents, in line with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The initiation of these projects is a significant milestone in the development journey of the region, promising a brighter and healthier future for the people of Rajouri.

DDC Member Seri, Sangeeta Raina; BDC Seri, Neena Sharma; ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh and EXEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar were present on the occasion.

GDC Kishtwar, JKAACL organise Mehfil-e-Ghazal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: The Department of Urdu, Government Degree College Kishtwar in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages on Wednesday organized Mehfil-e-Ghazal in the college auditorium.

The event showcased the talent of four prominent Ghazal singers from Chenab region including Farooq Khokhar, Zulaikha Farid, Suhaib Kandoo and Falak Bilal.

The Mehfil-e-Ghazal brought together distinguished individuals from various fields, including



A resource person expressing views during the event.

Khalil Poswal, SSP Kishtwar, SDPO Sajad Khan, Dr. Jyoti Parihar (Principal), Khursheed Ahmad Butt (Prominent Citizen), Cultural Officer Gulab Saify, college staff and other esteemed

ing of students, artists, and dignitaries served as a platform to promote and preserve the Urdu language and its artistic expressions.

As a token of respect and gratitude, the artists were felicitated with shawls during the event. Dr. Tariq Tamkeen, Head of the Department of Urdu and Convener of the Cultural Committee, was also felicitated to acknowledge his dedication and devotion towards the Urdu language. The entire event was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of GDC Kishtwar.