

SKUAST-J organizes Training Programme on Agripreneurship Development

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: The training programme on "Agripreneurship Development in Kandi Area of Jammu; A Pathway to Self Reliant Rural Women and Youth" was organized by the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu (sponsored by JKST&IC project) for the Rural Women & Youths of Nud Bloek of district Samba women & youth of the local areas under guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi.



Prof. Hema Tripathi, Assoc Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu being honoured at Samba.

The Chief Guest of the occasion Prof. Hema Tripathi, Assoc Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu inaugurated the session at KVK Samba. Prof. Jagmohan Singh, Head, Division of Post-Harvest Management, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Samba; Prof. Poonam Parihar, Division of

Agricultural Extension Education, PI and organizing secretary of the JKST&IC project, Dr. Neerja Sharma, Chief Scientist, Horticulture, KVK Samba and Dr. Shalini Khajuria, Programme Assistant, KVK, Samba attended the programme.

While giving the welcoming address, Prof. Poonam Parihar highlighted that in the Kandi areas, where low rainfall limits crop production, minor fruits thrive naturally despite the harsh conditions, therefore, developing Agripreneurship through the value addition of these minor fruits presents a significant opportunity for rural women and youth. She also highlighted that it enhances farmers' incomes by leveraging their unique qualities, nutritional benefits, and cultural significance, entrepreneurs can create innovative products, enhance agricultural incomes, and contribute to sustainable prac-

tion of minor fruits contribute to poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement as well as ensure household food and nutritional security adding women participation through employment and income generation. Prof. Jagmohan Singh, Head, Division of Post-Harvest Management briefed the participants about the importance of value addition, industrial growth, urbanization & globalization. He laid practical demonstration on Value addition of Karonda into many value added bi-products e.g., Karonda Squash & Karonda pickle etc. The programme was attended by Sarabjeet Singh, Senior Technical Assistant, DoAEE, Mukesh, Kumar, Artist cum photographer & UG, PG & Ph.D students of SKUAST-Jammu. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Neerja Sharma.

Prof. Hema informed the participants about the value addition of minor fruits which can substantially uplift rural livelihoods by creating a range of economic and social benefits. She said that this programme will help to preserve and promote regional identities by showcasing local fruits, contributing to cultural heritage and local pride. She further added that minor fruits with their diverse characteristics and untapped potential, offer significant opportunities for value addition and entrepreneurship. Dr. Sanjay Khajuria said that value addition is an important aspect of Agripreneurship, significantly enhancing the economic value of agricultural products through various processes and innovations. He said that that value addi-

VC BGSBU takes stock of new academic session highlights major milestones & new initiatives

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Vice Chancellor Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Prof. Akbar Masood in a high level meeting of the Associate Deans of the various schools of the study took stock of the various academic activities on the commencement of the new academic session in the University. On the occasion he was informed that the class work has been started in all the teaching departments of the University. The VC expressed satisfaction over the commencement of the new academic session in University and pressed upon the Associate Dean to ensure regular class work and in time examination of the students enrolled in various disciplines. Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor said that in the past one year the University has achieved significant milestones in academics and research and many path

breaking students centric initiatives have been taken for the holistic growth and development of the University. Prof. Akbar said that to strengthen the research aptitude among the undergraduate students the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University has decided to offer in-house internship opportunities to the students enrolled in various departments of the University offering UG programmes. Prof. Akbar said that in Sync with the academic and Administrative reforms undertaken by BGSBU University as per NEP-2020 the University has started a Four Year Undergraduate Program 'Design Your Degree' from the current academic session. The Vice Chancellor mentioned that DYD will open up new vistas of opportunities for students to learn a diverse set of skills along with the major specialization in the 4 year degree program.

Prof. Akbar Masood said that the University has established a Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies & Research (CMSR). He said that the Centre is envisioned as a proactive embodiment of excellence, leveraging quality research, innovation & entrepreneurship. The Vice Chancellor said that in order to strengthen the research at BGSBU and as a part of the implementation of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University has adopted NET as an entrance test for admission to the PhD program offered by the various departments and centres of the University. This decision has been taken in view of the UGC notification wherein the UGC has requested the HEIs to consider NET score for admission to PhD program instead of conducting their entrance tests from forthcoming academic session 2024-25.

Awareness programme on cyber bullying held at GDC Akhnoor

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual Harassment (ICCASH) of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor under the aegis of IQAC organized Poster-making/Slogan writing competition on 'Cyber Bullying' on Friday under the patronage of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla Bhat.



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

The program focused awareness on the issue of Cyber bullying which takes place in the digital platform with intent of harming and hurting people emotionally and mentally resulting in psychological distress among people who experience it. The aim was to spread awareness among students who live in digital space to refrain from such activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Convener ICCASH, Dr. Monika Malhotra addressed the students that Cyber bullying can take place on social media plat-

forms, messaging platforms and mobile phones. It is repeated behavior aimed at scaring, annoying or shaming those who are targeted. She further emphasized on remaining alert and preventing such acts. Dr. Deepali Mahajan member ICCASH shared some examples of Cyber bullying which are seriously damaging and can affect anyone easily and gravely. Highlighting on the causes and effects of Cyber bullying, Prof. Shreya Sharma reiterated that the effects of Cyber bullying include mental health issues,

increased stress, anxiety, depression and low self esteem. In all 20 students participated in the event. Thirty minutes time was allotted to the participants. The Poster making competition was adjudged by Prof. Savita Jamwal and Dr. Shammi Kumar and Slogan competition was adjudged by Prof. Deepika Gupta and Dr. Sanjay Kapoor. The winners of Poster making competition were Sapna (1st), Janvi Sharma (2nd) and Tammu Sharma (3rd) whereas in the category of Slogan writ-

ing competition winners were Uday Sharma (1st), Riya Verma (2nd) and Neha Sharma (3rd). The program was coordinated by committee members Dr. Monika Malhotra, Dr. Deepali Mahajan, Dr. Rajiv Katoch, Prof. Anjeela Qureshi, Prof. Suresh Kumar, Prof. Shreya Sharma. Other faculty members who attended the program included Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Sandhya Rani, Dr. Seema Bhat, Dr. Slony Gupta, Prof. Urnil Rani, Prof. Seema Kumari, Prof. Sonu and Dr. Neha Uttam.

Assembly elections 2024: Cultural event, Rangoli organised under SVEEP in Bhabderwah

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: With an aim to spread awareness about importance of voting, the District Election Authority, under the aegis of District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh organized a cultural event, Skitts and Rangoli competition at Atkhar Public Higher Secondary School Sartingal Bhabderwah as a part of the ongoing voter education campaign under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.



Students performing during the programme.

The students, through their Cultural items and Rangoli designs, showcased the SVEEP logo and various symbols of democracy, such as the Indian flag, EVM, and slogans emphasizing the importance of voting. These creative expressions not only beautified the event but also reinforced the core

messages of civic responsibility and democratic values. Aamir Rafiqi (Nodal Officer SVEEP, District Doda) highlighted the range of activities being organized in the area to reach out to voters, including painting competitions, rallies, and cultural programs. "These initiatives are geared towards ensuring that every eligible voter understands the importance of casting their vote and actively participating in the democratic process," Rafiqi said. Nodal Officer, who was the chief guest on the occasion, also commended the proactive efforts of the students and the school faculty. "The involvement of young citizens and educational institutions plays a key role in promoting informed voting, and it is heartening to see such enthusiastic participation," Rafiqi remarked.

The Chairman Sudesh Manhas, Principal, students and staff of the School expressed their enthusiasm, saying, "Participating in events like this makes the election feel like a true celebration of democracy. "There is a lot of excitement in the air, and it feels great to be part of this important process for the first time." Principal Shubhangi Manhas emphasized how such initiatives underscore the value of every vote and inspire confidence in the electoral process. The Cultural event followed by the Rangoli competition was one of many initiatives aimed at voter education ahead of the assembly elections in Doda district, which will be held on September 18th in the three constituencies of Bhabderwah, Doda and Doda-West.

Poonch police conducts flag march ahead of assembly elections



Police carrying out flag march in Poonch.

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In a proactive measure to ensure peace and security during the upcoming Assembly Elections, the Poonch Police today conducted a Flag March in Poonch Town. The march aimed at boosting public confidence and deterring any potential law and order disruptions during the election period. The Flag March was led by

senior police officers, accompanied by personnel from the SOG Poonch, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CISF, BSF etc. The march covered key areas, including markets, residential neighborhoods, and sensitive polling stations, ensuring visibility and preparedness ahead of the elections. Speaking on the occasion, DySP Hq Poonch, empha-

sized the commitment of the police and security forces to maintain peace and uphold the democratic process. "We are fully prepared to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections in the district. This Flag March is a show of strength and a message to those who may attempt to disturb the peace," said the officer. The police also urged citizens to cooperate with the authorities, report any suspicious activities, and exercise their right to vote without fear. The Poonch Police will continue to conduct such operations in the days leading up to the elections to maintain a secure environment. The march concluded without any untoward incidents, with citizens expressing their appreciation for the proactive measures being taken to ensure their safety.

Balwant Thakur felicitated by VC SMVDU

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Director Natrang Padamshiri Balwant Thakur felicitated here today at the Matrika Auditorium by the Shri Mata Vaishno University, Katra. The honours were done by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar the Vice-Chancellor of the SMVD University. Balwant Thakur is currently travelling with his new remarkable play 'Naye Yug Ki Naari' to almost all the major educational institutions of Jammu region. In this series 'Naye Yug Ki Naari' mesmerised many prestigious institutions including IIM Jammu, AIIMS, Jammu, University of Jammu, GCW Gandhi Nagar, GCW Parade, Government SPMR College of Commerce and Government MAM College. As an experiment Balwant Thakur selected fresh aspirants of theatre from two prominent women colleges



Director Natrang Padamshiri Balwant Thakur being felicitated by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar VC, SMVDU.

of the city under an internship programme and trained them to the level that today they are surprising everyone with their mind-blowing performance. The idea behind taking this play to all important institutions is to inspire young students to try out theatre during their student life. Theatre is the most effective medium of personality development and has the immense capacity to magically transform an individual. As a mission Bakwant Thakur and his

theatre organisation Natrang is working tirelessly since last 42 years in Jammu to propagate and popularise the art of theatre in the city of Jammu. After witnessing the vibrant performance by young girl artists in the play 'Naye Yug Ki Naari', the Vice-Chancellor of SMVD University Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar appreciated this unique initiative of Balwant Thakur and desired that such a kind of unique theatre training aimed at

the holistic development of the students will also be introduced in the SMVD University. He lauded the concept, theme and the new presentation style of the play which he termed quite simple but very effective in communication and intellectual engagement. Known as a magic-man of Indian theatre Balwant Thakur has over 6500 major cultural events to his credit. Largely travelled world over, Balwant Thakur made a record by featuring his innovative presentations in over 100 international cities. Conferred with the highest Indian honour in performing arts, Balwant Thakur has also been conferred Padamshree. After his return from abroad where he served as cultural diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius, he is now regriously local talent at the national and international level.

Second randomization of Polling Staff held at Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: The second randomization of polling staff for the upcoming Assembly elections was held today in the Video Conferencing Room of the District Election Officer (DEO) Kathua. The process was overseen by DEO Dr. Rakesh Minhas (DC), along with the General Observers Dorje Chhering Negi and Aisha Masrat Khanam, besides Returning Officers from all six Assembly Constituencies. Key officials, including Nodal Officer for the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) Ranjit Singh (ADC), Nodal Officer for Training Ranjit Thakur (CPO), and Nodal Officer for IT & Use of Technology, Yevak Sharma (DIO NIC), Dy. DEO Nagesh Singh, were also present to ensure smooth and transparent proceedings. The randomization process, carried out in line with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, utilized the dedicated software provided by the ECI.

CEO conducts extensive tour of Udhampur district, reviews election preparedness

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole today undertook an extensive tour of Udhampur district to assess the preparations for upcoming Assembly Elections 2024. During the tour, the CEO also chaired a review meeting at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex in which District Election Officer Udhampur, Saloni Rai; Nodal Officers and other key officials

involved in the election process participated. During the meeting, the CEO took detailed constituency wise review with regard to enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, Expenditure Monitoring, Security plan, Transport and Communication plan besides functioning of VST and flying squads, training of poll staff, AMF at polling stations, SVEEP activities and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming general Assembly elections. He emphasized on the strict enforcement of Election Commission of India's guidelines and urged nodal officers to ensure a fair, transparent and peaceful election process. The CEO also called for immediate sharing and uploading of any seizure-related information in compliance with ECI norms. During the meeting, the CEO launched two key SVEEP initiatives; SVEEP

Song and Coffee Table Book, both aimed at promoting greater voter awareness and participation. He stressed on the importance of stringent actions against attempts to influence voters through money or other means, urging Nodal Officers to remain vigilant. The Chief Electoral Officer commended the district administration's efforts and urged continued vigilance to ensure the integrity of the Assembly Election 2024. He highlighted the need for ongoing commitment and adherence to ECI guidelines throughout the election process. During the meeting, the DEO presented a detailed, constituency-wise PowerPoint presentation outlining the measures taken to ensure a smooth conduct of upcoming general Assembly elections. Later, the CEO visited Media Centre and District Control Room which have been established to monitor paid

news and address complaints related to MCC violations, particularly those received through the Cvigil app. He directed officials to closely monitor these activities and to ensure that all complaints are redressed promptly. Meanwhile, the CEO, accompanied by DEO, inspected designated counting centers and strong rooms at Government College for Women where Electronic Voting Machines will be securely stored. As part of the Green SVEEP initiative, the CEO planted a sapling at GCW, symbolizing the commitment to environmental sustainability alongside electoral awareness. The visit concluded with a vibrant cultural program at the Government Degree College Boys, Udhampur, organized by the District SVEEP Team. The performances were designed to inspire active citizen participation in the democratic process.

BJP never discriminates between communities, ensures due share for all: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
INDERWAL: Campaigning in remote areas of Chhatru and other places in Inderwal Assembly Constituency of district Kishtwar, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that BJP never discriminates between communities and ensures due share for all. BJP is the only party which can ensure for all, both Hindus and Muslims, a dignified life with safety and without fear, he said. Addressing public meetings in Muslim dominated areas of the constituency, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that BJP is the only truly secular party because its ethos teach the practice of justice and fair-play for one and all without discrimination or distinction. Those who raise the slogans of secularism are in fact trying to befool people by instigating them in the name of religion while they themselves are not committed to any religion or faith, he added. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that he always advises a Muslim to be a true Muslim and a Hindu to be a true Hindu, because if each one of them follows his respective religion faithfully,



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP election public meeting in remote Chhatru area of Inderwal Assembly constituency on Friday.

we will automatically have nothing but feeling of love and brotherhood for each other. Those who indulge in rhetoric of "secularism" are, in fact, not loyal to any religion and are therefore, neither true Hindu nor true Muslim, he added. Referring to the continuing backwasting of Inderwal Assembly Constituency, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, time has come for common people of this area to ask Congress and National Conference as to why all the

resources and Central assistance were diverted to other areas even while their MLAs got elected from here and became ministers in the State cabinet. Appealing for a vote for BJP, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that this is a historic opportunity for the Inderwal Constituency to prove to the entire world that the voice of the common people from this area for the first time found its echo in the hall of Jammu & Kashmir State Assembly through the voice of a BJP MLA.

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