

# Australia, Israel, and India to Jointly Boost Mango Quality

**■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR**  
LUCKNOW: At the upcoming symposium "National Dialogue on Mango Improvement and Strategies" to be held at the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) in Rehmankheda, experts from India, Australia, and Israel will collaborate on a roadmap to enhance mango productivity and quality.

This international meeting will be useful for mango growers of the entire country, especially North India, but will be most useful for Uttar Pradesh due to its highest production of mango.

There is a great demand for Dussehri of Malihabad in Lucknow and Chaunsa (late ripening variety) grown in the districts around Saharanpur in western Uttar Pradesh. There is also a



great possibility of their export after improvement in quality. The Yogi government is also building an export hub near Jewar International Airport. Cold storage and ripening chambers are also being constructed in the mandis to protect the produce of farmers cultivating fruits and vegetables.

Director of Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture T Damodaran said that the institute is also working in this direction with a cluster approach.

In this sequence, about 4000 gardeners have been linked to them by forming some clusters of the above two species. They are being told how they can rejuvenate their 15-year-old gardens through canopy management. This will increase their yield over time and the quality of fruits will also improve.

Secretary Ashish Yadav, organizer of the seminar, said that the fruit protection and water resistance technique of Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture has also received a good response from the gardeners. In this, the fruits are covered with paper bags.

This prevents them from getting infected by diseases and insects. There are no stains. Also, the color of the ripe fruits also improves. At a cost of

only two rupees per bag, these fruits are sold in the market at double the price.

Mango is anyway a source of employment for lakhs of people in UP. With the introduction of fruit protection and water resistance techniques, the possibility of employment at the local level will increase further.

Initially, such bags used to come from China, but even now most of the bags come from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Supply has also started from Meerut and some other cities in UP. As the demand increases, these will also be manufactured locally and this will also provide employment.

According to Ashish Yadav, Dr. Natalie Dillon, Senior Biotechnologist and Dr. Ian S.E. Balli, Senior Horticulture Specialist Queensland, (Australia), Dr. Yuval Cohen, Researcher of Volcani Institute, ARO, Israel, Dr. VB Patel will participate in the seminar.

This seminar will prove to be a guide for scientists and gardeners doing research on mango.

# Centre for Molecular Biology CUJ hosts Journal Club Seminar



M.Sc Biotechnology students Anushka and Ankita speaking at a seminar.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Centre for Molecular Biology at Central University of Jammu under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev jain, hosted a weekly journal club meeting.

In the meeting, 2nd-year M.Sc Biotechnology students Anushka and Ankita brought to light their innovative research on Helicobacter pylori resistance conducted during their

summer internship at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bengaluru under the guidance of Dr. Shivrani C. Moharir. Anushka and Ankita explained the concept of metagenomics, a method that allows researchers to analyze genetic material from environmental samples without culturing organisms. They then discussed antimicrobial resistance, detailing how H. pylori develops resistance to antibiotics.

The meeting was coordinated by Dr Swarak Sharma, Associate Professor, and Dr Sudhir Singh, Assistant Professor, CMB CUJ. The meeting was attended by students, scholars, and faculty of the Centre. In the meeting, the director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, Dr. Narendra K Bairwa encouraged students to advance their knowledge and raise awareness.

# Sadhotra urges people to support NC-Congress alliance to form govt



Former minister, Ajay Sadhotra speaking in public meeting.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ajay Sadhotra, former minister and Additional General Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), addressed an election gathering at Old Janipur, urging voters to support NC-Congress alliance to form govt.

He was the chief guest on the occasion whereas President, JKNC Central Zone (Jammu, Samba & Kathua) and former Minister, Babu Rampaul presided over.

The public meeting was organized by Dr. Vikas

Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District and Rajinder Kumar.

"If the NC-Congress coalition comes to power, we assure good governance," Sadhotra, the JKNC candidate from the Jammu North Assembly seat, promised, adding that the coalition would provide 200 units of free electricity, free water supply, and enhance pensions to Rs 3,000 per month for senior citizens, widows, and disabled individuals, and implement many more such welfare measures to bring succour to the poor and

deprived sections of the society.

Babu Rampaul also addressed the gathering, urging Congress supporters to rally behind Sadhotra as the common NC-Congress candidate. He emphasized the need for voters to make wise decisions for the future of Jammu & Kashmir.

The party has also promised to review Kerosene and Sugar Allocation. The goal is to adopt a similar approach taken by other states in India, ensuring fairness and sufficiency in the distribution of these critical household commodities.

# Expert delegation from Mizoram visits GGM Science College

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An expert team from Mizoram, led by Madhup Vyas, Commissioner Secretary of Higher Education and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram, visited Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu. The team included prominent officials: K. Lalhmangaihuala (Joint Secretary), Laltnanpuia (Joint Secretary, IQAC), and Prof. Benjamin Lalrinsanga (State Nodal Officer; NEP 2020), all representing the Higher and Technical Education Department of the Government of Mizoram.

On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Raman Jandyal, Under Secretary to the Government's ARI and Training Department, served as the Liaison Officer for the visiting delegation whereas, Dr. Devinder Sharma, Associate Professor at GGM Science College, accompanied the team as Nodal Officer.

The delegation was warmly



Expert delegation from Mizoram posing with GGM Science College faculty.

received by Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, along with heads of various departments of the college. Mementoes were presented to each of the visiting officers as a gesture of welcome.

Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Head of the Department of English, delivered the welcome address, providing a comprehensive overview of the college's history and its academic infrastructure.

Later, the visiting team interacted individually with the

heads of different departments to gain insight into the functioning of each department, fostering an exchange of ideas and educational practices. Later Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta briefed the visiting team on the administrative structure of GGM Science College, a Constituent College of Cluster University of Jammu. He also discussed various academic processes and performance indicators that contribute to the college's success.

The interaction further continued regarding the opening

of colleges and universities in Mizoram, during which Dr. Gupta elaborated the three key parameters to the visiting delegation that need to be carefully considered before sanctioning and establishing any educational institution.

He appraised the visiting delegation, emphasizing the importance of these factors to ensure the successful and sustainable development of higher education in the region.

One of the highlights of the visit was a tour of the Dr. D.N. Wadia Museum of Geology, the second oldest geology museum

in India. The museum houses a rare collection of minerals, rocks, and fossils, including a remarkable fossilized tusk of Stegodon Ganesa, an ancient relative of modern elephants.

The team explored various sections of the museum, including the radioactive minerals section, precious and semi-precious minerals section, and sea life section, and was thoroughly impressed by the rich geological heritage on display. The visit concluded on a positive note, with the team from Mizoram expressing admiration for the college's facilities, academic initiatives, and its contribution to higher education.

This signals potential for future collaboration between GGM Science College and educational institutions in Mizoram. As a result, the visit is expected to strengthen educational ties and foster collaborations between the Government of Mizoram and academic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Randhawa connects with Bahu Constituency residents through door-to-door campaign

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Progress and promising governance are enigmas of the BJP's popularity across the region, as the party has made a superiority in the political arena by making the population realize the importance of good governance in the real sense. This was expressed by MLA Candidate for Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa during door-to-door campaign in Ward No. 20, Greenbelt, and its adjoining areas of Bahu Constituency in the presence of Pushpinder Singh, Rahul Kumar, Narinder Koki, Sandeep Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, Satbir Singh, Indu Bhushan, Vijay Verma, Ritika Trehan, and Kulbushan Attri, who were present on the occasion.

Randhawa asserted that



BJP's Bahu Constituency candidate, Vikram Randhawa carrying out door to door campaign.

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is confident of achieving its target of winning over 50 seats to form the next government with its chief minister for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "After Jammu now in Kashmir, we also have been a stronghold in the Valley, and I'm confident that the 'lotus' will bloom

across the Union Territory in the assembly polls.

During his interactions, Randhawa assured the public that he would fulfill the promises made to the residents of Bahu Constituency. He emphasized his dedication to ensuring the region's development, focusing on key areas such as infrastructure development, improving

roads, drainage, and public amenities, education and healthcare, enhancing access to quality education and healthcare services, employment opportunities, creating job avenues for youth, and promoting entrepreneurship. Randhawa's door-to-door campaign allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life, understanding

their daily struggles and challenges. He was warmly received by the residents, who expressed their optimism about his candidacy. Local residents of Bahu constituency were impressed by Vikram Randhawa's willingness to listen to their concerns. He has assured us that he will work tirelessly to address our issues. They added that Randhawa's door-to-door campaign has given us hope that our voices will be heard. We look forward to seeing positive changes in our constituency."

Randhawa assured the people of Bahu Constituency that "I will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the promises made to them. Their trust and support are my greatest strength, and I will work relentlessly to ensure their well-being."

# Economics Deptt CUJ hosts Induction cum Orientation Programme



Students posing for a photograph with CUJ faculty.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Economics at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized an Induction cum Orientation Programme to welcome the students of the new academic batch (2024-2025). Induction cum orientation programme is an initiative of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ where the concerned faculty sensitizes and supports the newly arriving students in the Department towards an enabling eco system. Prof. Aswini Kumar Nanda, Head, Department of Economics, extended a warm welcome to the new students, introducing them to the Department's vision and academic environment. He motivated them

to strive for excellence and immerse themselves in the dynamic field of economics. Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Associate Professor, provided an informative overview of the University's officials, facilities, and resources available to the students. She also detailed the academic framework and support system within the Department, ensuring that the newcomers were well-prepared to begin their journey.

Faculty members Dr. Susanta Nag, Preeti Gupta, and Anil Kumar Bharti shared their insights with the students, encouraging them to work diligently and stay focused on their academic pursuits. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks, delivered by. Arundhati.

# NC-Congress deprived marginalized sections for decades in J&K: Arvind



Guru Ravi Dass Sabha members with BJP candidate for Jammu West constituency, Arvind Gupta.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and candidate for the Jammu West constituency, Arvind Gupta, on Friday accused the NC-Congress alliance of depriving marginalized sections of society for decades in Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering at Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Krishna Nagar, Jammu, as part of the ongoing campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections.

He also paid obeisance to Guru Ravi Dass and sought blessings for his victory in the upcoming elections.

Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta emphasized how Article 370, before its abrogation, was used as a tool by successive governments to deliver step-motherly treatment to various communities in the region. He pointed out that this controversial Article not only isolated Jammu and Kashmir from the mainstream but also hin-

dered the region's development by denying equitable opportunities to marginalized groups.

The senior BJP leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the historic decision to abrogate Article 370, which he said has brought equal opportunities for all, especially the weaker sections of society. "The policies implemented by the Modi government have empowered the marginalized, providing them with the means to uplift their socio-economic sta-

tus," he added.

Arvind appealed to the people to support him and the BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls, assuring them that the party's policies are dedicated to their development and prosperity.

Prominent members present during the event included President of Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Shri Piran Datta, General Secretary Shri Raja Kumar Rasa, Romesh Hans, Raj Dalia, Om Prakash, Bhawnes Gupta, Ajay Jandial, Suraj Sharma, Anil Chopra, Sunil Chopra, Raju Baba, Ashwani Gupta, Sonu Gupta, and Ashok Gandhi among others.

Later, Arvind Gupta conducted a series of meetings with the residents of Shanker Vihar, Interrogation Lane, Jain Nagar, and Ajeet Colony, followed by a door-to-door campaign in Jain Nagar, Rehari.

# SKUAST-J wins 'Chal Baijayanti Puruskar' of ICAR for Best Directorate of Extension



Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu and other receiving award.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a momentous achievement, the Directorate of Extension of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST-J), has been honoured with the 'Chal Baijayanti Puruskar' 2024 for being the Best Directorate of Zone-I.

The prestigious award was conferred during the Annual Zonal Workshop of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), organized by ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana at

GADVASU on 18-20 September, 2024.

This accolade marks the first time that ICAR has instituted this award, which is based on the ground-level impact of extension activities conducted by the universities. The award was received by Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, and the Directorate's success is attributed to the visionary leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. Zone-I of ICAR-ATARI encompasses

the states of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

SKUAST-Jammu has made a significant mark by promoting e-extension initiatives. The university has developed and uploaded over 1014 videos and 10,000 pages of extension literature in Hindi and Dogri, covering 61 courses on the Daksh Kisan Portal, an online learning management system for J&K. This includes 164 practical demonstration videos, pro-

viding farmers with high-quality training and educational resources.

In addition, SKUAST-Jammu has demonstrated agri-drone technology across more than 300 hectares, including in red zone border areas, in collaboration with the BSF in the Jammu region. Furthermore, the Directorate has trained 312 Pashu Sakhis under the NDDB programme and 2183 extension functionaries under SAMETI-Jammu, significantly contributing to capacity building in the region.

During the same workshop, KVK Reasi was awarded the Best KVK of Jammu & Kashmir, with the award received by Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Reasi. Additionally, Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Jammu, received the Best Presentation Award for his exemplary contributions.