

Sinha addresses seminar on 'Financing the Future of Agriculture' LG assures all assistance to farmers, adequate fund for revival of cooperative banks

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 19: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed a seminar on 'Financing the Future of Agriculture' in Jammu.

The seminar brought together the stakeholders in agriculture sectors and banking institutions to discuss agricultural growth and credit support.

The Lt Governor exhorted the banking sector to play a lead role in realising the dream of accelerated development of agriculture & allied sector. He also assured all the assistance to farmers and adequate fund for revival of cooperative banks.

"In the first budget of Amrit Kaal, Prime Minister & Finance Minister has shown the way for inclusive development & empowering every section of society with the vision of 'Vanchito ko Variyata' and giving priority to the Agriculture sector," said the Lt Governor.

Agriculture Accelerator Fund envisaged in this year's budget, will encourage agristartups in rural areas. It will provide entrepreneurial opportunities to local youth and affordable solutions to tackle challenges in agriculture sector. The agriculture credit target has been increased to Rs. 20 lakh crore with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, he added.

Highlighting the transformation in the agriculture sector, the Lt Governor said the progressive reforms introduced by the administration in the last three years are paying the dividends to the farmers.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing a seminar on 'Financing the Future of Agriculture' in Jammu.

Projects under holistic development of agriculture & allied sector being implemented in J&K UT is one amongst the few major long-term and ground-breaking interventions in the agricultural horizon of the country, the Lt Governor said.

The revolutionary projects worth Rs 5013 crore for holistic development of agriculture and allied sector will provide practical solutions to meet the future challenges, accelerate the growth momentum and usher in a new era of farmer prosperity and rural livelihood security in J&K UT, he added.

The Lt Governor impressed on all stakeholders for successful implementation of the projects under holistic development of agriculture & allied sector.

He said the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors will develop a strong ecosystem of agriculture entrepreneurs in Jammu Kashmir and create jobs in the sectors. It will cross the Rs 30,000 crore mark in the 4th year, he noted.

The Lt Governor further emphasized on streamlining the institutional credit flow to the farmers.

J&K has its share of challenges of geo-climatic conditions which are mostly affecting small & marginal farmers. The onus lies on all banks to connect these farmers with banking system, observed the Lt Governor.

Banking institutions are the most important support system to ensure maximum institutional credit reaches the farmers, especially in unbanked villages, noted the Lt Governor.

Promoting institutional credit in the agriculture sector will be a game changer in strengthening the agriculture economy and realizing the goal of inclusive and balanced development. Credit access for tenant, small and medium farmers must be ensured, he said.

The Lt Governor further underscored the significant role of the regional rural banks in credit flow and extension of credit facilities to every farmer.

In the last 8 years, credit by the commercial banks has been doubled. Still, we have to increase the credit flow and ensure equal disbursement of institutional credit and identify the areas which are facing inequality, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor asked the banks to work in a planned manner and ensure time bound saturation of KCC for all farmers associated with agriculture & allied activities. He further asked the J&K Bank to organize a programme to honour the women associated with agriculture & allied sector.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Dr Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner/Secretary Cooperatives Department; Kamal P Patnaik, Regional Director RBI; Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO J&K Bank; Dr Ajay Kumar Sood, CGM NABARD Jammu, and members of Kissan Advisory Board present on the occasion also shared their views on the role of financial institutions in Agriculture sector.

He called upon the party cadres to remain vigilant and educate and enlighten people about policies and programmes of Modi led Government.

During the meetings, targets were spelled out to the social media team as to how every party cadre can be motivated to download Saral App and constituting Polling Booth and Panna Committees.

The meetings were addressed by Mohan Lal Sharma (Mandal Pardhan), Capt Gopal Singh Mankotia (Mandal Pardhan), Bishan Dass District President Kisan Morcha, Makhan Lal Sharma District Vice President, Pritpal Singh, Naresh Bhagar, Rohit Sarmal (Parbharis), Kameshwar, Shiv Ram, Baldev Singh Mankotia, Anil Sharma, Ved Pal (Mandal General Secretaries), Kuldip Singh, Kirpal Singh, Prem Nath, Karpal Singh, Lochan Singh, Mohd Din, Hans Raj Sarpanch, Subash Chander, Saif Din, Ashok Kumar Bhagat, Suneet Singh, Tirath Ram, Suresh Kumar and a wide galaxy of local leadership.

The former MLA spelled out in detail the developmental

Conspiracies against Modi

Sarkar will not work: Pathania

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 19: While taking a dig at recent



RS Pathania addressing a meeting of BJP workers at Majlata on Sunday.

initiatives launches during his tenure. He was all praise for various Central schemes and programmes.

He also had a detailed overview of various dos, techniques and best practices as to how the party

cadres can establish a better, credible rapport with the people. They focussed on making Mandals, Booths, and Pannas more vibrant and effective.

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Tantray demands early Assembly elections in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Feb 19: Apni Party district president Poonch and ex-MLA Shah Mohammed Tantray has demanded holding of Assembly elections and restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a joining program at Salotri Panchayat in Poonch Block, the Ex-MLA said, "The Assembly elections are to be held to end the suffering of the people. The people in both the regions have suffered for the last four years because of no elected Government in place."

The program was presided over by Captain Balraj Datta (Shurya Chakra) and many people including women joined the Party in presence of Shah Mohammed Tantray, who welcomed them into the Party fold and hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party.

He said that Apni Party is committed to respect and regard women folk on all fronts. He appealed people to join the Apni Party and

Youth found dead at Katra

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Feb 19: A youth was found dead under mysterious circumstances near Railway Line at Kadmal, under the jurisdiction of Katra Police Station.

The deceased was identified as Akarshit Malhotra, age 22 years, son of Suraj Ram, resident of Aghar Jitto, tehsil Katra in district Reasi. He was found dead with frothing at the mouth and cause of death is yet to be ascertained, said SHO Katra, Inspector Nishant Gupta.

After post mortem in CHC Katra and other legal formalities, the dead body was handed over to his legal heirs for last rites. A case has registered in this connection and further investigation was going on.

Bashir Ahmed, Provincial secretary, JKNC, DDC Dansal Shamim Begum, Raghuvver Singh Manhas, Gumam Singh and Kuldeep Sharma, senior NC leader were present.

Rattan Lal said that claims made by the BJP leadership about colossal development in Nagrota constituency are contrary to the ground reality because people are confronting the dearth of infrastructure and facilities under the incumbent dispensation in the state, which is an offshoot of BJP Government at the Centre.

Temples destroyed by foreign invaders were rebuilt by Maratha rulers; Modi taking that work forward: Shah

PUNE, Feb 19:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday hailed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for rebuilding the temples destroyed during the rule of Mughals and other foreign invaders, and said the restoration work that continued after the Maratha warrior king is being taken forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also said that Chhatrapati Shivaji's life was all about revolting against the atrocities, and the fight for 'swaraj' (self-rule) started by him continues still today. Shah was speaking after inaugurating the first phase of 'Shivsrushti', a theme park based on the life of Shivaji Maharaj at Narhe-Ambegaon in Pune, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founder of the Maratha empire.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis were also present on the occasion. The project, which is spread over 21 acres of land, was conceptualised by Padma Vibhushan awardee Shivshahir Babasaheb Purandare, who formed the Maharaja Chhatrapati Pratishthan for its execution.

"Several temples were destroyed during the rule of Mughals and other foreign invaders. Last week, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant did the redevelopment of Saptakoteswar temple, which was reconstructed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Similarly, the temples in south India were also redeveloped by the Maratha warrior king. Shivaji Maharaj constructed grand gates in front of the temples and tried to restore these structures," Shah said.

"After Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, this tradition of restoration of temples was continued by Bajirao Peshwa, Nanasaheb Peshve, Madhavrao Peshve and lastly Punyashlok Ahilyadevi.

Today, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also taking that work ahead as Ram Mandir is being built, the Kashi Vishwanath corridor has also been constructed and Somnath temple is being decorated with gold.

The BJP Government and PM Modi are redeveloping several temples," he said. Shah said that Shivaji Maharaj has a big contribution in shaping the history of India.

He added that while researching on the great Maratha ruler, he came across a statement by Maharashtra's first chief minister Yashwantrao Chavan. "Had there been no Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the entire world knows what would have been the fate of India. There would not have been a need to go very far to find the Pakistan

colleges, high schools, Administrative units, hospitals, SDM office, Niabats, major projects of roads were completed in those times. He said that Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah had taken special pains in the development of Nagrota Constituency during the NC rule but today the people are facing a number of problems because of apathy of the Government.

Rattan Lal also castigated the government for not releasing the salaries of protesting Kashmiri Pandit and Reserve Category employees despite knowing the fact that Maha Shivratra was one of the biggest festivals which was mainly celebrated among the Kashmiri Pandit community in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that instead of forcing them to resume duties in Kashmir, the government must give priority to the security of these protesting employees. He mentioned that not only these employees are suffering but Rehbar-e-Khel, daily wagers, casual labourers, contractual employees are also on protest.

The Provincial president gave a patient hearing to the issues raised in the meeting and assured to redress the same by taking with the authorities concerned.

Provincial secretary, Bashir Ahmed and DDC Dansal Shamim Begum also spoke on the occasion and asked the party workers to make the people aware about the secular credentials of the party and its leaders.

Works started during NC regime abandoned: Rattan

Excelsior Correspondent

NAGROTA, Feb 19: The development works initiated during the National Conference regime were halted by the present regime in Jammu and Kashmir in general and Nagrota constituency in particular.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial president, Jammu, JKNC, while addressing a party workers meeting at village Janakha, Block Dansal of Nagrota Constituency. The meeting was organised by Panch, Master Majit in which Sheikh

fact that Maha Shivratra was one of the biggest festivals which was mainly celebrated among the Kashmiri Pandit community in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that instead of forcing them to resume duties in Kashmir, the government must give priority to the security of these protesting employees. He mentioned that not only these employees are suffering but Rehbar-e-Khel, daily wagers, casual labourers, contractual employees are also on protest.

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Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah addressing at the first phase of 'Shiv Srushti' theme park based on the life of Shivaji Maharaj at Pune, in Maharashtra on Sunday. (UNI)

border. Perhaps, the border could have been found outside your and my house," Shah said quoting Chavan.

"I would like to say that Shivaji Maharaj's life was not about acquiring power. His life was all about revolting against the atrocities done for more than 100 years. His life was about fighting for 'swadharma' and eulogising the 'swabhasha'.

His life was all about establishing 'swaraj,' he said. He added that by establishing swaraj, he had sent a message to the world that no one can

unleash atrocities on India. This thought of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was relevant till 1857.

After him, this ideology was later taken forward by Chhatrapati Sambhaji, Chhatrapati Rajaram, Chhatrapati Shahu and later Peshvas from 1713 to 1818, he said. "The journey of this swaraj spread from Attock to Cuttack, from Gujarat to Bengal and gave a new spark to the entire country. The fight for swaraj started by Shivaji Maharaj is still going on today. (PTI)

Intl Theatre Festival by National School of Drama at JU from today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 19: National School of Drama's prestigious International Theatre Festival 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' is being organized here in collaboration with the University of Jammu from tomorrow.

Being organized after a gap of almost three years because of COVID pandemic, the three-day mega Festival from February 20

to 22, will be inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at 6 pm tomorrow at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

This was informed during a press conference by the Department of Students Welfare, JU, addressed by Mushtaq Kak (Festival Incharge), Dr Garima Gupta (Assistant Dean Students Welfare) and Preetpal Rupana (Technical Director of the Festival).

The festival is being monitored by Prof Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Director National School of Drama, Dr Suman Vaidya (Festival Director) and Dr Santanu Bose (Centre Incharge, J&K).

National School of Drama is one of the best Theatre institutes in the world and the only one of its kind in India and Asia, which has played a major role in Theatre training as well as in the

being featured in this festival are, 'Wath' (Kashmiri) written and directed by Reshi Rashid from Azad Dramatic Culture Club, Gandelab Kashmir on 20th Feb. 'Silence' (Non-Verbal) written and directed by Soma Giri from Baguati Nriyamandir, Kolkata, West Bengal on 21st Feb and 'Satyabhan Savitri' (Nautanki-Hindi) directed by Umesh Chandra Sharma from Shri Shri Narhari Sewa Sansthan, Mathura (UP) on 22nd Feb.

Mushtaq Kak informed that along with the theatrical performances, the parallel exhibitions, director-audience dialogues, discussion and seminar activities on various Theatre related topics, make the festival a special event of Theatre.

Dr Garima Gupta extended an open invitation to all the students, scholars, university fraternity and the civil society of Jammu to witness the spectacular theatre performances.

VKS delegation meets Union Minister, submits memorandum

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 19: A delegation of Vishva Kashmiri Samaj (VKS) met Union Minister for Food Processing and Industries in Jammu under the leadership of Kiran Watal (convener, VKS) and submitted a detailed memorandum of demands.

Through the memorandum, the Delegation members demanded establishment of a

framed picture of holy 'Shivlingam' to Union Minister Pashupati Paras at Jammu.

Members of VKS delegation presenting a framed picture of holy 'Shivlingam' to Union Minister Pashupati Paras at Jammu.

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Removing discrimination, awakening feeling of nationalism will make country powerful: Bhagwat

BAREILLY (UP), Feb 19:

Hailing the Indian family system, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the country will become powerful when the feeling of nationalism is awakened in every family and urged Sangh members to work towards ending "casteism, inequality and untouchability" in society.

He said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will take up the cause of environmental protection and called for encouraging people to join the campaign of planting "One tree in the name of the nation".

"Till now, the Sangh has been mainly doing the task of nation-building through individual development. The effect of Sangh's efforts is now visible in various fields," he said.

Addressing RSS members and their families, Bhagwat said it is the responsibility of the 'Sangh Pracharak' to remove discrimination and create a social environment free from all evils.

"Casteism, inequality and untouchability have to be removed from society. Social arrogance and inferiority complex both should end. We have to do the work of connecting the society," he said.

Bhagwat also stressed the need for adopting native languages, attires, music and food to stay connected to the country's traditions and culture.

He said that the Sangh has expanded a lot in the last one hundred years and people of the country were looking towards the organisation with hope.

"People want to progress by staying connected to their native traditions and culture," the RSS chief. Bhagwat was addressing



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addressing a function in Bareilly on Sunday.

"Karyakarta Parivar Milan" programme attended by RSS volunteers and their families at the Atal Auditorium of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohaikhand University.

"The family is the economic, social and cultural unit of the society. The Sangh has been trying to strengthen society and the country by trying to establish better coordination, mutual cooperation and harmony among families through 'Kutumbh Prabodhan' programmes," Bhagwat said, adding the Indian family system was the best in the world.

"The nation will become powerful when the feeling of unity and nationalism is awakened in families," he said.

"That's why it is the effort of the Sangh to empower society by connecting the families of volunteers with the basic concepts of Indian culture. People have to adopt their 'mool bhasha, veshbhoosha, Bhajan, bhavan, Brahma and bhajan' (native language, attire, music, architecture, travel destinations and food) to stay connected with their traditions and culture," he said.

The Sangh's image in society is built only by the conduct of the volunteers, he said.

"The volunteers must sit at least one day a week with their friends and families and have food and discuss topics related to the nation and cultural heritage," he said.

"People want to progress by staying connected to their native traditions and culture," the RSS chief. Bhagwat was addressing



Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Deptt Sheetal Nanda during a blanket distribution programme in Jammu on Sunday.

IRCS, SWD, Mahajan Sabha distribute blankets among needy

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 19: Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) District Jammu, Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Mahajan Sabha distributed blankets among the needy people here at Mehhar Chand Mahajan Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

As per a statement, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda and DC Jammu, Avny Lavasa besides others attended the blankets distribution programme.

It said the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department sensitized the needy persons about different welfare schemes launched by the Government.

Jugal Mahajan, the Chief Patron of Gandhi Nagar Mahajan

Sabha greeted the guests with great exuberance and highlighted the charitable activities undertaken by the Sabha for the welfare of the needy people. He said the service of the poor and needy has always been the main objective of the Sabha.

He thanked the IRCS and Social Welfare Department for their collaboration. KB Jandial (IAS retired), former Mayor, JMC, Chander Mohan Gupta; Corporator Bhanu Mahajan and noted columnist Ravi Rohmetra appreciated the activities of the Sabha.

Jagdish Vaid, President Gandhi Nagar Mahajan Sabha; Prem Gupta (IGP retired), Bansilal Gupta, PC Gupta, NK Gupta, Dr RK Gupta, Ramesh Mahajan, Raj Pal Gupta, Romesh Rohmetra, Dr Ankur Gupta among others participated in the programme.

ABRSM celebrates

'Kartavya Bodh Divas'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 19: To inculcate the spirit of dutifulness among the teachers and within society, Akhil

Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh J&K today celebrated "Kartavya Bodh Divas".

The program in this connection was organized at Baba Kailakh Nath Tapovan in Jammu wherein

Prof Geeta Bhatt (National Secretary Higher Education Department ABRSM) was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Geeta Bhatt said that until and unless we will not realize the importance of dutifulness, we cannot change the society. She explained that how in the past colonial powers destroyed rich Indian cultural heritage and education system.

"To make Indian education system defunct, Macaulay drafted new education policy to destroy our education system," she said and reiterated that motive is to make India world power again and it is only possible when each one of us will work with full dedication.

Devraj Thakur, National Auditor/State President ABRSM, also addressed on the occasion. He hoped that efforts of ABRSM J&K will definitely bring positive results

in near future. "To achieve our target of integration, sincere efforts are needed from all section of the society. Kartavya Bodh Divas program is one such initiative which will

Memento being presented to chief guest during 'Kartavya Bodh Divas' celebration by ABRSM at Jammu on Sunday.

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