



Secretary Agriculture Shabnam Kamili addressing the gathering.

Horticulture Deptt holds meeting on CA storage capacity

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: With a view to coordinate among all stakeholders and efficiently move forward in fast bridging the gap in the infrastructural requirements for CA Storage in the UT of J&K, a one-day meet on CA Storage Logistics was organized today by the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K under the guidance of Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner (Addl Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department.

The meet was participated by all stakeholders from the Government Departments/Agencies, Banks and Financial Institutions, Industry Representative Bodies, Fruit Associations and potential investors in this sector from within and outside the UT of J&K.

Vikas Sharma, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, in his welcome address, informed that J&K is the leading producer of apples in the country with large varietal spectrum and harvest ranging from July till November, besides having a unique position in the global market.

"To ensure the availability of quality apples throughout the year and provide best returns to the producers, we endeavour to augment our CA storage capacity in a big way," he maintained. He further shared that, currently, they have around Two Lakh MT of installed CA Storage capacity in J&K and to meet the requirements of CA Storage, they shall be hand-holding and facilitating

DC suspends 5 teachers for absenteeism

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, May 31: Going tough against absenteeism, DC Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav suspended five teachers from two different schools for remaining absent from their legitimate official duties. The action was initiated by DC Kishtwar after a complaint was received from DDC Member Nagseni via Hello Kishtwar portal that Govt Middle School Khalsan Sumna Bhata was closed for second consecutive day during working hours.

Accordingly, Tehsildar Nagseni submitted a report stating that no teaching staff was present and only a Safai Karamchari was there on spot in the School.

The DC ordered that as remaining absent from legitimate official duties warrants action under CSR and CCA rules, therefore, the teaching staff members Bharat Bhushan, Teacher and Sanjay Kumar, Teacher of Govt Middle School Khalsan Sumna Bhata were placed under suspension and they will remain attached at the same School.

Meanwhile, at random inspection DC Kishtwar yesterday found some teachers of Govt HS Gurinal absent from duty.

These teachers were Shoket Ali, Master, Ridwana Banoo Wani, Teacher and Jabeena Banoo Mir, Teacher.

All of these teachers were placed under suspension and attached at the same School.

ADDC Kishtwar has been appointed as enquiry officer to probe these cases and he shall conduct a discreet enquiry into the matter and submit report within 15 days.

Union Power Minister reviews construction progress of SLHEP

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 31: Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister, RK Singh, chaired a meeting today to assess the status of the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP) located in Arunachal Pradesh.

The project is being executed by NHPC Ltd. The progress of SLHEP in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on reviewing the construction progress, safety measures, and preparedness required for the upcoming monsoon season.

During the meeting, the Head of the Project provided an update on the progress achieved in various work packages and emphasized the adherence to safety standards to ensure preparedness for the approaching monsoon months.

Notably, the project has made significant advancements in dam concreting, with a remarkable feat of raising the dam height by 37 meters through the pouring of over 2.5 lakhs cubic meters of concrete in the last six months.

Furthermore, it was given out that the river-facing wall of the power house has been raised to a safe elevation of 116 meters, and the tail race channel has been completed for all units. The water conductor system is also nearly ready at this stage.

Following the review, the Union Minister expressed satisfaction with the progress made thus far and instructed NHPC to



Union Power Minister RK Singh reviewing the progress of SLHEP in New Delhi on Wednesday.

continue the project while maintaining all necessary safety precautions. The Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC assured the Minister that the company is striving to commission the first unit, with a capacity of 250 MW, by December or January of 2024.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary (Power) MOP, along with other senior officers from the Ministry, the Central Electricity Authority, and NHPC.

Funds released under central scheme from MoHFW Govt allocates Rs 11 cr to strengthen drug regulatory mechanism

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, May 31: In a significant move, the Government has announced the release of more than Rs 11 crores to bolster the drug regulatory mechanism in J&K during the current fiscal year.

Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Strengthening of States Drug Regulatory System," the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has allocated funds amounting to Rs 11 crores and two lakh as Grant-in-Aid.

As per the details, the funds will be placed under the authority of the State Drug Controller, Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K who will utilize them under the guidelines set forth by the concerned ministry.

The State Drug Controller has already obtained approval for the advance draw, allowing the funds to be credited into the Single Nodal Account (SNA) of the Scheme.

The utilization of these funds will be carried out in accordance with the approved components of the scheme, following the revised procedure of CSS funds notified by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, along with other standard operating procedures and guidelines circulated by the Finance Department.

The Health and Medical Education Department (H&ME) stated that the sanction for releasing the funds comes with certain conditions, including strict adherence to the authorized classification of expenditures by the Finance Department.

Treasury Officers have been instructed not to accept bills that lack complete classification, and the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) must fulfil all the codal formalities before presenting bills to the Treasury.

Furthermore, the Treasury Officer has been prohibited from allowing the parking of funds drawn in the Civil Deposit without prior concurrence from the Finance Department.

The State Drug Controller, Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K, has been directed to provide a status report on the scheme's physical and financial progress made during the current financial year.

Additionally, the concerned department has been asked to submit the Utilization Certificate (UC) for the funds as early as possible and no later than March 31, 2024, to the Government of India, with intimation to the relevant department.

The H&ME has emphasized that all necessary approvals and clearances must be obtained before withdrawing funds from the treasury.

Furthermore, it has been directed that the expenditure must strictly adhere to the guidelines and conditions outlined in the sanction letter issued by the concerned ministry of the Government of India for the scheme, noting that the funds are not available for re-appropriation or diversion at any level.

It is to be noted here that under the scheme, the Government aims to upgrade the existing drug regulatory mechanism in J&K, which includes providing additional equipment and manpower to existing drug testing labs, establishing new laboratories for drug testing, and making mobile drug testing laboratories available.

The up-gradation efforts also involve incorporating e-Governance and IT-enabled online services and the establishment of training academy for regulatory and drug testing officials at both the central and state levels, which, as per officials, is expected to enhance the efficacy, quality, and safety of drugs.



Apni Party general secretary and former Minister, Manjit Singh taking new entrants into party fold at Parmandal, Samba on Wednesday.

Only elected Govt can restore confidence of youth: Manjit Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, May 31: Apni Party provincial, president Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh today has demanded restoration of democratic system in J&K to address growing concerns of the youth with regard to the poor employment opportunities.

Addressing a joining programme cum meeting at Parmandal, Manjit Singh said that the youth have developed a feeling of disappointment under the LG administration which has failed to advertise the vacant posts for recruitment purposes to the respective agencies.

"The recruitments which were carried out in J&K have turned out to be scams, and they are under investigation after the Government cancelled the selection process. The cancellation of the recruitment process has affected the aspirants for various jobs in the Government sector," he said.

He further said that the aspirants who appeared in the cancelled recruitment process have become over aged and they have also lost chances to appear in other Government sector jobs.

"It is the responsibility of the Government to provide fair selection process, and punish the accused persons, but not all the aspirants who had no fault," he said. He took on the administration for playing with the future of the educated youth in J&K.

He said that J&K needs an elected Government which can work as per the aspiration of the educated and unemployed youth with regard to development, providing ample employment opportunities both in public, and private sectors, protecting their right to job, and education.

Expressing concern over the growing concerns of the unemployed youth, he said that the Assembly elections should be held as early as possible with the restoration of Statehood to J&K.

"The delay in restoring the democratically elected process will further widen the gap between the people and the Government. Therefore, the elected Government must restore lost confidence of the general masses, particularly youth and provide equal opportunity to be represented through their elected MLAs in the assembly," he said.

Meanwhile, over a dozen youth from Parmandal joined the Apni Party who endorsed the party's policy and agenda of development, peace and prosperity.

Pilgrims faced no difficulty during Kheer Bhawani yatra: MKBJYWS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: As the holy Mata Kheer Bhawani mela concluded smoothly at Tulumulla in Ganderbal district of Kashmir Valley on May 28, Shri Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society (MKBJYWS) has expressed its full confidence over the steps taken by LG Manoj Sinha and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah for making the annual pilgrimage a grand success.

"The yatra arrangements were excellent and pilgrims faced no difficulty of any kind at Mata Kheer Bhawani temple at Tulumulla," MKBJYWS president, Kiran Watal told reporters here today.

He said "Over 25,000 had darshan of the Holy Goddess and all expressed their satisfaction over the security and other requisite arrangements."

Watal said it would be a great and highly appreciable contribution of the J&K and the Central



Kiran Watal, president MKBJYWS along with other members of the organisation at a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, ADGP Mukesh Singh, Directorate Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai & his team, especially Deputy Director Abdul Jabbar, Tourism Secretary, Syed Abid Rashid, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, K K Sidha and Dharmarth Trust president, Brig (ret'd) Lungeh & secretary Ashok Sharma for their valuable contribution in making the yatra a grand success.

Watal termed the participation of more than 25,000 people in the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani fair as a historic moment while appreciating the Ramban district administration for arranging a Bhandara for pilgrims during their halt in the town.

He also complimented MKBJYWS volunteers for working tirelessly for the success of the yatra and assisting the administrations of Ramban and Ganderbal districts in the proper implementation of requisite arrangements.

Though pilgrims faced accommodation problem after they reached Tulumulla, the issue was immediately sorted out with the timely intervention of the Ganderbal district administration,

the Divisional administration of Kashmir and ADGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar & ADGP (security) SDS Jamal, besides MKBJYWS volunteers, he said.

He paid his special thanks to home secretary R K Goal for personally visiting the shrine to supervise the arrangements.

MKBJYWS general secretary M K Yogi, VHP vice-president, Shakhty Dot Sharma, TFJ general secretary Raman Sure, MKBJYWS vice-president, Rajang Gupta, B Kotwal of TFJ, Amrik Singh of TFJ, VKS advisor Prem Sharma, M K Raina, Mohan Lal, Ashok Kumar Bhat, Daya Krishan Pandita, T K Koul, Raju Sehgal and Anil Bhan were also present in the press conference.

Others, who were part of the joint press conference, included Jawala Ji Samiti, Khrew, Temples & Shrines Prabandak Committee, Tral, Muthi Welfare Committee, Kashmiri Migrant

BJP leader, Zorawar Singh releases poster of Hindi Film 'MEHROOM-the deprived' at Jammu on Wednesday.

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal here today released poster of Hindi Film 'MEHROOM-the deprived' and said that the film will captivate audiences with the emotionally charged story.

The film has been produced by Pawan Kumar Bharti under the banner of Bharti Films and has been written and directed by son of the soil Pankaj S Khajuria.

The film is all set for release at KC PVR, Jammu on June 2, 2023.

Jamwal congratulated young artists including Isha Sharma who played lead role in the film and also congratulated two actors from Mumbai who made the film a remarkable success.

"The film delves deep into the complexities of human relationships, exploring themes of love, loss and redemption," he maintained.

Actors who performed in the film were Sonali Nikam, Amit Bhargava, Kusum Tikoo, Ishu Sharma, Diyanshu Raina, M.P Sharma, Irfan Choudhary, Urja Singh, Siya Sharma, Radhika Sharma, Sandeep Manhas, Rabia Khajuria, Ravinder Sharma and Ashok Kumar.

The production team, led by acclaimed director Pankaj S Khajuria and visionary Producer Pawan Kumar Bharti, has left no stone unturned in creating a visually stunning film with picturesque locations of Jammu.



BJP leader, Zorawar Singh releases poster of Hindi Film 'MEHROOM-the deprived' at Jammu on Wednesday.

Zorawar releases poster of Hindi Film 'MEHROOM-the deprived'

Excelsior Correspondent



BJP leaders launching poster on Menstrual Hygiene at Jammu on Wednesday.

Rekha Mahajan launches poster on menstrual hygiene

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: Mahavir International Jammu Center launched the poster on Menstrual Hygiene and Swachhata awareness and distributed free sanitary pads in slum areas during the launch of the programme.

During the event BJP district president, Jammu South Rekha Mahajan along with Mahila Morcha district president, Divya Jain, general secretary, Rajni Jain launched Calendar on Menstrual Hygiene and Swachhata Awareness campaign.

Vandana Jain, Tulika Jain, Sangeeta Jain and Anika Jain prominent persons were present on the occasion.

According to BJP district president, Rekha Mahajan, after the Ujjwala scheme, which provided free LPG connections to women across the country and became one of the potent reasons for the popularity of BJP, free distribution of sanitary pads could be another such move.

During her visit to slum areas Rekha along with the team distributed sanitary pads from door to door. She said menstruation was still taboo for many women, who forget about going to the market to buy sanitary pads. "A teenage daughter in a family may be willing to use sanitary pads, but whom should she talk to," that's where the BJP campaign would help them, Rekha added.

She also lauded the optimistic efforts of the Mahavir International Jammu Center to stimulate the awareness campaign among the general public in slums areas, Rekha said.

Divya Jain stressed there are many girls, who enter the age of adolescence and yet are not aware of menstruation. Out of fear, they even do not tell about this to their families. "When we will distribute napkins, the girls will use them.. It will become a source of education on menstrual health too," and this is part of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's Swachha Bharat (Clean India) campaign" Rekha said.

Rajni Jain gives the slogan "Jhijhak Chodo, Chupi Todo, Khul kar Bolo" by the NGO. She said we are living in the 21st century, and in today's world women are leading the world with their brave minds and intellectual living standards.

SSP inaugurates Record Room, Guard Room

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, May 31: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ramban, Mohita Sharma here today inaugurated one Record Room and one Guard Room.

After inauguration, the SSP briefed all section in-charges of DPO about proper maintenance of police records and passed on spot instructions to the concerned to shift old records in the newly inaugurated record room.

Also, the DPO Guard was instructed to shift in the new Guard Room and was briefed to remain vigilant while performing duty.

SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma inaugurated Record Room and Guard Room at DPO forming duty.

Ramban reiterated her vision of providing best facilities to every official working under her command so that they always remain motivated to perform their duties with utmost devotion and dedication.



SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma inaugurates Record Room and Guard Room at DPO forming duty.



Former Dy CM and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta inaugurating Chand Eye Clinic at Gandhi Nagar on Wednesday.

Kavinder inaugurates Chand Eye Clinic at Gandhi Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: Chand Eye Clinic, A center for Complete Eye Care was inaugurated by Ex Deputy CM, Kavinder Gupta, Ex Education Minister, Priya Sethi, Journalist Sohail Kazmi, senior BJP leader, Yudhvir Sethi, councillor, Rahul Kumar today at 74 A/D Gandhi Nagar, near Rotary Club, here with the motto of Quality Care for Priceless Vision.

This new Eye Care Center is equipped with the latest state of the art, automatic and computerised machines.

To serve the people of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and nearby areas, all types of eye treatment and surgery with the latest technology will be done here.

Dr. Pranav Gupta (MS Ophthalmology) and Dr. Etti Goyal (MS Ophthalmology) will be available here to provide all services as eye surgeons.

This eye care center is the branch of Dr. Dinesh Gupta's Eye Clinic at Gurha Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. Dr (Prof) Dinesh Gupta, Retd HOD, Government Medical College Jammu, who is an experienced eye surgeon has envisioned this health facility with an aim to serve the people of modern treatment on the patients pocket, Chand Eye Clinic, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu has been empanelled with Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY-SEHAT) Scheme so that even poor and common people can avail the services on cashless basis.

SMVDU conducts workshop on 'Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies'

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, May 31: One-week workshop on "Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies" was conducted by the School of Electronics & Communication Engineering, SMVDU University, Katra. The key objective of the workshop was to provide an exposure to the faculty/staff/scholar/student in the field of "Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies" to enhance their knowledge in the domain.

The workshop started with the welcome note by the workshop coordinator, Dr Sachin Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU Katra. Dr Manish Sabraj, Head of School, introduced the key outcomes of the School in front of the participants from the different States of India.

The workshop coordinator, Dr Vijay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU, highlighted the importance of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies in scenario of future development.

Participants attended this workshop were from various States of India. The resource persons of the workshop were the top most researchers in the relevant domain like Dr Anand Nayyar from Due Tan University, Vietnam; Dr Manoj Kumar from Wollongong University Dubai; Dr Adarsh Kumar from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun; Dr Amrendra Singh Yadav from ABV-IIITM Gwalior; Dr Mohit Kumar from Dr B R Ambedkar NIT, Jalandhar; Dr Subhasish Dhal from IIT Guwahati and Dr Sudeep Tanwar from Nirma University, Ahmedabad.

The resource persons provided the thorough understanding and hand-on practice in the field of "Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies".

Parkash Divas of Kabir on June 4

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: All J&K Megh Sabha will celebrate 625th Parkash Divas of Sadgur Kabir Ji Maharaj on June 4, 2023.

In a press conference here today, Narinder Datt, Sabha president informed that Sabha will perform idol installation ceremony on this occasion in the presence of Mahant Ajay Dass of Gaddi Tata Nagar, Jharkhand and devotees from Haryana and many other States will attend the function.

Those who were present in the press conference were Ram Lal; Sham Lal, senior vice president; Amar Nath, cashier; Chaman Lal, ex-cashier; Anil Kumar and Chancel Dogra.



Leaders of All J&K Megh Sabha addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.