

J&K's Oil Industry to witness significant transformation under HADP with outlay of Rs 1290 cr

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: Jammu and Kashmir's Oil Industry would be witnessing a significant transformation with implementation of multifarious initiatives under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) by the Agriculture Production Department.

The recent release of final report by the Apex Committee, headed by Dr. Mangla Rai, Former DG ICAR, has charted out the roadmap for implementation of 29 projects under HADP. Significantly, among the approved projects, promotion of oilseed cultivation has been given due consideration. The Oil seed project included several interventions aimed at increasing oilseed production and productivity, with an estimated annual output worth Rs 1290 crore.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's oil industry is about to receive a significant boost. The department will be implementing a multifaceted initiative aimed at promoting oilseed cultivation in the region with a project outlay of Rs 31.00 crore. This three year project is expected to create more job opportunities and contribute towards overall economic growth of the region.

Jammu and Kashmir is known for its diverse agro-climatic conditions that provide a suitable environment for cultivation of various crops, including oilseeds. To promote oilseed cultivation in the region, the J&K Government has taken several initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). The Government intends to bring 210 Th Ha under oilseed cultivation from the current 140 Th Ha over the next three years. About 202.50 Th Ha shall be covered under rapeseed and mustard cultivation and 7.50 Th Ha shall be covered under sesame seed cultivation.

Besides, 70,000 Ha of additional areas shall be covered in potential oilseed districts like Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Budgam, and Ganderbal and districts like Shopian, Bandipora, Ramban, and Doda, by utilizing fallow lands, culturable waste lands and leveraging increased cropping intensity apart from promoting intercropping systems.

More than 50% of the net sown area in Jammu division is rain-fed. Therefore, this project aims to promote crop diversification by cultivating sesame seed as a Kharif crop in Kandil and rain-fed areas of Jammu division. The total requirement of edible oils in the UT is Rs 14.20 lakh quintal, whereas the UT produces only 3.36 lakh quintal. Hence, this initiative is crucial for region's food security and economic growth.

The Union Territory (UT) is all set to witness a massive transformation in the agriculture sector with implementation of a ground-breaking project that promises to increase oil seed production and create employment opportunities. The interventions, which included providing subsidized seeds and fertilizers, increasing the seed replacement rate and adopting innovative technologies like INM/IPM and micro irrigation, are aimed at boosting oil seed production from 11.20 lakh quintal annually, and productivity from 8 quintal per Ha to 12 quintal per Ha. This will also result in a significant increase in production of edible oils from 3.36 lakh quintal to 9.07 lakh quintal. The project is expected to reduce the deficit in oil seed production by 35% and substantially decrease the outflow of foreign exchange due to oilseed imports.

As part of the project, farmers will receive 50% assistance with a subsidy ceiling of Rs 4000/- per quintal for purchasing high-yielding varieties of mustard and rapeseed.

Similarly, 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 8000 per quintal will be provided to beneficiaries for procuring hybrid rapeseed, mustard, and improved varieties of sesame seed.

Additionally, to improve the seed replacement rate of oil seeds, 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 2500/- per quintal will be provided for producing foundation and certified seeds to boost productivity and promote area expansion. To further increase cultivation, 11,200 Ha will be brought under cluster cultivation of oil seeds, with 50% incentives extended up to Rs 5000/- per Ha under cluster cultivation and up to Rs 7000/- per Ha under front-line demonstrations to meet all input costs for the cultivation of mustard, rapeseed, sesame, and linseed.

The project also included the provision of essential production inputs like gypsum, pyrite, lime, supply of azobacter, rhizobium, etc., PP chemicals, bio pesticides, insecticides and bio agents at 50% subsidy, up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 750/- per Ha. As a significant boost to automation, 300 power-operated spray pumps will be distributed at 50% subsidy with a maximum ceiling of Rs 10000/- per unit and 180 power weeder/seed drill/multi-crop planter/multi-crop thresher, etc., will be distributed at 50% subsidy with a maximum ceiling of Rs 75000/- per unit. The project also envisages establishment of 150 borewells and 150 sprinkler systems to upgrade the irrigation system.

Dr Nirmal, Rajeev Sharma listen public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. Chief Minister accompanied by Rajeev Sharma, former MLA listened to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, here, today.

Numerous people, individually as well in the form of deputations, visited the BJP office to discuss their respective issues with the senior party leaders. Various issues represented contained matters of individual concerns as well as development oriented related to their respective areas.

Besides, various personal issues, other main issues presented related to PHE, PDD, roads, lanes, drains etc.

Dr. Nirmal Singh listened to all the individuals and the deputations patiently and immediately took up the matters with the concerned departmental officials telephonically as well as issued letters for the others. Talking to the concerned authorities, they pressed for the prompt redressal of the issues.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, speaking on the occasion said that BJP is a party of common masses and it is serving the masses with full endeavor, while trying to address every single concern of the people. He stressed that this public grievance camp is proving to be of great help to the masses in getting the solutions to their issues.

Rajeev Sharma laid stress on the commitment of the party workers to serve the society. He said that BJP workers have only single focus that how they can be of use to the nation and the society.

JKP, SDRF personnel getting special training to join MRTs ahead of Amarnath Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 13: Personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are getting special training to be part of the Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, to ensure the safety and convenience of devotees.

The officials said the specialized mountain rescue training of the JKP and SDRF personnel are



JKP and SDRF personnel climbing a mountain with the help of rope during a training programme at Nud in Samba district.

"Highly professional instructors are involved in the training of the selected batches," the officials said, adding, earlier NDRF personnel were also given training here at Nud. They said that the trained personnel will join MRTs of J&K Police and will be deployed at Amarnath Yatra Route for launching rescue operation in case of any natural calamity.

Officials further informed that the Jawans are also being trained in Basic Life Support Systems

undergoing at the Jammu and Kashmir Police's training centre at Nud in Samba district. They said the training of the Jawans started in November last year and presently, 7th batch of JKP and SDRF personnel are undergoing training, which is of 15-day period.

(BLS), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and other first-aid techniques. They said the present batch is in its 5th day of training and after 10 days, their training will culminate and the last batch of Jawans will undergo this specialized training in mountain rescue operations.

Delegation of Plus-2 Lecturers' Forum calls on Dr Jatinder Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 13: District unit of All J&K Plus-2 Lecturers' Forum called on Dr Jatinder Singh, MoS in PMO Office, MOS Earth Sciences, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Space, MoS (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Sciences and Science and Technology during his visit in the district, today.

The delegation led by District president Yassir Umar briefed Dr Singh regarding regularization of In-charge Lecturers in Science stream holding PG degrees through distance mode from UGC recognized and DEC approved universities.

The delegation also discussed the issue in detail and presented a number of enclosures including minutes of meeting held under the chairmanship of the then Education Minister wherein Principal Secretary Higher Education, Secretary SED and Secretary GAD, Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Additional Secretary J&K PSC, Dean Academics JU/KU, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir were present.

The delegation said that all

doubts were removed once for all by this meeting as the meeting was followed by issuance of Order No.940-Edu of 2017 and SRO-339. Regarding permissions, Dr Singh was told that power of granting permission to in-service teachers was delegated to Directors, CEOs and even ZEOs and DDOs. The delegation also raised the issue of grant of ACP in favour of officers of Plus-2 cadre officers.

Dr Jatinder Singh heard the delegation patiently in presence of Shakti Parihar, Ex MoS Education and MLA Doda and said that he has already passed the necessary directions to the Education Department regarding the regularization of all In-charge Lecturers.

Dr Jitender Singh said that he would send the file to Principal Secretary SED via the Union HRD Ministry with his positive recommendations so that unnecessary harassment to the elite class of the community is put to an end.

MS Parihar, Ajit Singh, Sudesh Kumar, Anchal Singh, Rajesh Parihar, Kiran Kumar, Rattan Singh Kotwal, Roshan Chandail and many others were part of the delegation.

Short Stories book by R.S Kanwal released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: A Hindi Short Stories translated book titled 'Dard Chinaaron Ka', authored by Rattan Singh Kanwal 'Pahalgami', a well known Punjabi writer of Kashmir was released by Hindi Sahitya Mandal (HSM), Jammu during a function organized by HSM-J here today.



Dignitaries release book 'Dard Chinaaron Ka' at Jammu on Monday.

Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary JKAA-CL, was chief guest whereas Dr. Nirmal Vinod, a renowned writer presided over the function.

Bhupinder Raina and Sanjiv Bhasin, vice presidents HSM-J shared the dais. A large number of intellectuals and writers attended the programme.

The programme started with the introduction and invitation to

the dignitaries on the dais by general secretary, Rakesh Abrol.

Welcome address was extended by Sanjiv Bhasin, vice-president HSM-J.

Two papers on the content and critical evaluation of the released book were presented by Prof. Raj Kumar and Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina.

It may be mentioned here that Pahalgami has authored ten Punjabi short stories. His literary journey started during 1980 when his poem was published in a magazine. He is continuously writing in Punjabi, English and Urdu.

Hindi translation of the original Punjabi short stories, has been done by Manjeet Singh Kaamra, a local Punjabi poet & writer.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Uma Sharma, Literary Secretary, HSM-J. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Vijay Sharma.

Woman found hanging

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 13: A 25-year-old woman was found hanging here in Sundla area of Majalta Tehsil in Udhampur District today, police said.

They said family members of Sushma Devi (25) wife of Shiv Dev Singh of Sundla, Majalta, spotted her hanging in her cattle shed and informed the police, who accordingly took the body into custody.

"After completing the medico-legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to her family members," said a police spokesperson.

He said that inquest proceedings have been launched to ascertain the reason as to why the deceased woman took such an extreme step to end her life.

AJKPC seeks enhanced honorarium for unskilled MGNREGA workers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) has demanded an increase in the honorarium for the unskilled MGNREGA workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, the AJKPC State President Anil Sharma said that the unskilled MGNREGA labourers in Jammu and Kashmir are being paid per day honorarium of Rs 227 while in other States the labourers are being paid between Rs 300 to 425.

Sharma said that the MGNREGA workers in Jammu and Kashmir rather deserve more than what is paid in other states since J&K is a by-and-large hilly UT and hence the quality of work demands more labour and efforts here.

He said that he has already raised the issue of MGNREGA honorarium with both Central and UT Government and is hopeful that a decision regarding the increase in the wages of the

unskilled workers would be taken up soon.

"But in case it doesn't happen, AJKPC wouldn't hesitate to take to the roads and streets to press the Governments to do justice with the MGNREGA workers," he said.

Meanwhile, Sharma, who's putting up in Bandipora District as part of his block-wise tour of Kashmir Division, congratulated the elected Panchayat members of Kashmir Division for their sincere and selfless efforts in strengthening democracy at the grassroots level while serving the people with the limited resources provided by the Government.

The issue of conducting biometric attendance of MGNREGA labourers twice-a-day was also discussed in his Bandipora meeting with the Panchayat representatives. He urged the Government to defer the decision until proper internet services are provided throughout J&K, including border and hilly areas.

Workers of Cadila Factory protest

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 13: Workers terminated from the Cadila Factory in the first phase of the Industrial Growth Centre Samba staged a strong protest demonstration outside the factory this morning against the management.



Workers of Cadila factory protesting at Samba on Monday.

spokesperson, Sandeep Sharma was leading the demonstration which was joined by workers who terminated from the job without any prior notice.

The protesters alleged that for the past several days they are being removed from the company one by one and today suddenly they have shown the way out to many workers at once. A local employee said "I have been working in the company for the

last 15 years and today I was suddenly told that you need not to come to the job from tomorrow which is completely wrong". He urged the district administration that a thorough investigation should be done in this matter and justice should be done to workers.

Youth Congress spokesperson, Sandeep Sharma said that the Central Government and the UT administration have shown their inability to provide employment to the local youth, but along with this, the local youth are being removed from private companies.

"This is absolutely wrong, we are raising our voice for justice to them. If this situation continues, then lakhs of people are working in private factories in Samba and along with this, many lakhs of people are running their livelihood from their employment. He said that on the one hand, the Government is inviting big industrialists to set up factories in Jammu and Kashmir and financial assistance is also being provided to them, yet the local people are being treated in such a manner, which can't be tolerated.

Rape accused among 6 nabbed by Samba police

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 13: Under the guidance of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, Police has nabbed six persons including one who was absconding since July, 28 last year in a rape case registered and proved against him by Investigating Officers of Police Post, Rakh-Amb-Talli and Police Station (PS), Samba.

The apprehended persons have been identified as Manish Sharma, son of Raj Kumar of Bain Samba, Abhishek Atri son of Late Dayal Parshad, Vishal Billowria, son of Surjeet Singh, Anshu Prabal, son of Ashok Kumar, Neeraj Nagyal, son of Janak Raj and Pankaj Padwal, son of Ashok Kumar all residents

of Samba. Whereas Manish Sharma is rape accused, the other apprehended persons have been found wandering about and roaming under suspicious circumstances in the Heroin ('Chitta') infested-hotspots and have been nabbed for vagrancy under relevant law.

The arrests were made by the teams headed by in charge Police Post, Rakh-Amb-Talli, SI Ravinder Singh, ASI, Janginder Saini, SI Zakir Hussain, SHO PS, Vijaypur Tribhawan Khajuria and SHO PS, Samba Rajeshwar Singh under the supervision of SDPO, Vijaypur, Priyanka Kumari.

The raids were carried out in border areas of Samba and in the jurisdiction of Police Station (PS) Vijaypur.

Govt seeks suggestion regarding amendments in JK Industrial Policies

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: The Jammu and Kashmir government has sought suggestions on JK Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, JK Private Industrial Estate Development Policy 2021 and introduction of JK Logistics policy.

Pertinently, the government has recently (March 8) initiated the process of amending and upgrading these policies by putting the same on public domain for review and feedback and seeking suggestions from the public and the stakeholders by March 28, 2023.

The UT government is in process of making amendments to these policies to attract investment in the UT and making Jammu and Kashmir the most investor-friendly Union Territory.

The policy drafts are available on official website of Jammu and Kashmir Industries department,

www.jkindustriescommerce.nic.in, for a period of 21 days. The decision by the department is believed to be another step to onboard its stakeholders.

These policy amendments aim at creating a progressive, innovative and competitive industrial ecosystem generating employment in the UT while mobilizing investments from across the world.

The policies have been made public to allow the business community, industrialists, investors, trade organizations and other stakeholders to provide feedback.

The Department of Industries and Commerce has already started receiving suggestions from the relevant stakeholders and is looking forward to receive more comments in coming days.

"All the relevant stakeholders can email their comments and suggestions at principalscretaryindustryjk@gmail.com."

LPGEF for hike in Medical Allowance, regularization of daily wagers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: A meeting of Provincial Committee of All J&K Low Paid Government Employees Federation (LPGEF) was held here, today under the leadership of Shakeel Ahmed Dev a Trade Union leader.

Several Trade Union leaders from Kashmir including Nazir Ahmed Magrey, Javed Ahmed Shah, Manzoor Ahmed Rather, Mushtaq Ahmed Mir, Gowhar Hafeez Fani, Ghulam Mohammed Dar and Abdul Rashid Bhat among others took part in the meeting which discussed various demands of employees and pensioners of J&K Government.

The meeting demanded enhancement of Medical Allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 10,00 per month for both employees and pensioners as is being paid to the Central Government employees and pensioners.

Highlighting the issue of daily wagers, besides their regularization it demanded hike in their wages to Rs 600 per day. The meeting also urged the Government to release the pend-

ing wages of the daily wagers who are hard pressed for the same.

The meeting demanded hike in the wages of village guards and Chowkidars as per the minimum daily wage in vogue and settlement of their service issues which is their right.

The Federation also supported the genuine demands of the Anganwadi workers including enhancement of their monthly honorarium and grant of other service benefits to them.

The meeting demanded restoration of old pension scheme in favour of Government employees appointed since January 2010.

Besides, the pending demands of NYC, NYK, RETs and helpers were also raised and Government was urged to settle them at an earliest. The Union Government was urged to restore the leave encashment in favour of teaching personnel of the Education Department and reorganization of clerical cadre and removal of pay anomalies and regularization of adhoc, contractual and employees appointed on consolidate basis immediately after completion of their seven years service.

Second edition of Mahu Valley winter carnival starts

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 13: The second edition of the Mahu Valley winter carnival began on Sunday with a remarkable response from locals and trekkers who arrived in the picturesque region of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban District.

The event was a joint collaboration of the Department of Tourism, J&K, District Administration Ramban, Indian Army, JKTDC, and local stakeholders.

The three-day carnival was inaugurated on March 12, 2023, by Commander of 11th sector RR, Brigadier Joe Sabby, in the presence of Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, and local stakeholders.

The grand event was conceptualized after the success of the Winter Carnival in Mahu last year, with the aim of promoting offbeat tourist destinations in Jammu division.

The festival featured local musical performances, adventure activities such as skiing and trekking, experiences of staying in homestays, ethnic cuisine, and more.

Primarily, Mori, close to Mahu, was offered as an adventure destination with homestays, night camping, and trekking expeditions through snow and the natural environs of coniferous

forests. The prime attraction of the festival was the beautifully decorated Dhoks, which signify the cultural heritage of the region, blessed with breathtaking views, lush green meadows, and mighty mountains surrounding it.

A trekking expedition was also flagged off from Mahu to Mori by senior officers of the Indian Army and Civil Administration, and trekkers enjoyed adventure activities like



An artist performing during the second edition of Mahu valley winter carnival in Ramban Adventure, district on Monday.

skiing and night camping.

Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Adventure, Jammu, while launching the tourism youth portal Mahu valley developed by Tanvir Ahmad, a local youth, said that the government is committed to developing offbeat tourist destinations, and the department has already prepared a calendar of events to be hosted at such places.

He also said that such events, besides promoting tourism and local culture, bring self-pride to the village and its inhabitants.

BWWA organises 'Breast Cancer Awareness' lecture

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: BSF Wives Welfare Association (BWWA) Jammu organized a lecture on "Breast Cancer Awareness" at BWWA community hall of Jammu frontier to impart the knowledge to BSF families.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Surbhi Kudyar, Associate Consultant, Breast Oncologist and she gave a clinical presentation on Breast Cancer symptoms, investigation and management. Dr Taruna Sharma, CMO, BSF and Priyanka, Vice President, BWWA Jammu were also present in lecture.

The objective of this lecture was to create awareness among

the families of BSF personnel about the disease. Around 100 BSF families attended the lecture. The attendees were educated on regular check-up for early detection of the disease so that management can be done properly.

On the occasion, Sunita Boora, President, BWWA Jammu said that their association has been committed to keep the BSF families aware about the various ailments and their precautions so that they keep themselves disease free.

BWWA Jammu has always been in forefront for the welfare of the BSF family through different activities which include medical camps, awareness lecture and other medically informative programmes.

Chalyari witnesses first ever cultural programme

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 13: With the aim to promote the art and culture of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Sub-Office Kathua of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized a music and dance programme here today at Government Middle School (GMS) located at Chalyari which is the last village of district Samba close to the Indo-Pak border.

This is the very first time that village Chalyari has witnessed a cultural programme. The villagers

said that every artist made her spell bound with their power packed performances.

The programme was started with the Sufi singing by Chaman Mattoo and party who made everyone spellbound with their soulful voice. Krishan Kumar and party performed Hern which received applause from everyone.

This was followed by the performances by Arjun Manhas and party (Dogri folk), Om Basotra and Party (Dogri song), Joginder and party (Dogri folk), Anjana and party (Dogri dance), Shaantan Singh and party (Kud), Darshna Devi and party (S u h a g a), Angrez Singh and Party (Dogri song) and Rozina Begum and party (Gojri dance). The major highlight of the event was Geetru by Om Prakash and



Artists performing Dogri dance during a cultural programme at Chalyari in Samba district.

where cherished to see such a high class programme organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. Asha Rani (DDC Nadala) was the chief guest on the occasion whereas Veena Devi (Sarpanch Nadala) was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Asha Rani lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art/Culture and Languages for bringing cultural event to the border area for the very first time. She

Adbi Kunj J&K elects office bearers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 13: The election of the multilingual literary organization 'Adbi Kunj J&K' held today under the supervision of the election commissioner BS Jamwal (Retired District Magistrate) in its weekly meeting at Vishwakarma Complex, Gurah Morh, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.



Newly elected office bearers of Adbi Kunj J&K posing together.

Sham Talib was elected as a president, MS Kaamra elected as a general secretary and Shashi Verma (journalist) was elected as finance secretary with a disciplinary unanimous consent of the majority members.

In the second step, Sarwar Chohan 'Habeb' was elected as vice chairman, Santosh Shah

'Nadaan' as vice president Jammu wing, Bashir-U-Haq 'Bashir' as vice president Kashmir wing and Mohd Baqar 'Saba' was elected as vice president of Leh-Kargil wing of Adbi Kunj J&K.

Further, Pyassa Anjum was elected as literary secretary and Jetinder Jolly as chief organizing secretary with proposal of the chairman, president and the general secretary under bye-laws.

After the completion of election process, a multi-lingual poetry meet also held on the occasion. The poets which participated in the poetry meet

include BS Jamwal, 'Aarsh' Dalmotra, Sham Talib, Sarwar Chohan 'Habeb', Santosh Shah 'Nadaan', Bashir Ul-Haq 'Bashir', Mohd baqar 'Saba', MS 'Kaamra', Pyassa 'Anjum', Shashi Verma, Jatinder Jolly and Uttam Singh 'Rahi'. This poetry meet was concluded by the chairman 'Aarsh' Dalmotra with the vote of thanks.