

Govt announces Rs 129.05 cr initiative to reduce fodder deficit, boost livestock sector

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing the potential of livestock husbandry to improve the socio-economic conditions of farming communities and boost the overall economic growth of the region, has launched several measures under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledged for its tremendous agricultural potential and production, comprises of mostly small and fragmented landholdings owned by the farmers. Over 70 per cent of the population in the region depends on agriculture and related vocations for their livelihood, either directly or indirectly.

Over the years, livestock husbandry has emerged as a crucial growth engine for sustainable and equitable development, which is vital for uplifting the socio-economic status of farming communities in J&K.

As per Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, an Apex Committee has devised a comprehensive plan under HADP, which amounts to Rs. 129.05 crore, to mitigate the fodder shortfall in the UT by 80 per cent. The primary objective of this program is to augment the agricultural and livestock sectors and equip farmers with vital resources such as financial assistance, improved seeds and technical guidance to amplify productivity, profitability, and overall economic progress of the area.

The Government is committed to provide all necessary support to farmers to ensure the success of this initiative. It is working closely with various stakeholders, including agricultural universities, research institutes, and industry experts to achieve this goal.

Livestock rearing in Jammu and Kashmir incurs a significant cost, with 75 per cent of the input cost attributed to feed and fodder. The region is home to a diverse range of animals including 31.45 lakh bovines, 45 lakh sheep and goats, 73 lakh backyard poultry birds and 2 lakh other animal species. Additionally, around 5 crore commercial broiler birds are being reared in the region.

IDA's Srinagar Chapter holds dental education prog

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: The Indian Dental Association's (IDA) Srinagar Chapter organized the dental education program under the chairmanship of its president Dr Mudasir Khan.

Dr. Ashiq Ali, consultant postgraduate Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, Govt Dental College and Hospital, Srinagar, gave a talk on Understanding Odontogenic Space Infections and their Management, which is a frequent problem in J&K.

Dr Abdul Latif Mattoo, the course coordinator, extended a cordial welcome to all participants and GlaxoSmith Pharmaceutical guests. Dr Nusrat, President of IDA J&K, awarded the guest speaker with certificates of appreciation.

Importantly, scores of doctors from the field and teachers from the Dental College took part in the programme, as did other notable doctors such as Dr Hilal Ahmad Joo, president-elect, Dr Rouf Jeelani, and Dr Adil Rasool Malik, organising secretary of the 13th Dental Conference. Dr. Altaf Malik called the meeting to order. Dr Lateef Mattoo, Branch Secretary of IDA Srinagar, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

Man held with sharp-edged weapon

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Police in Jammu's Bishnah claimed today that they have arrested one person with a sharp-edged weapon.

A police spokesperson said that Pankaj Sharma son of Deepak Kumar of Morchapur, Jammu, was held at a surprise naka established by a team of Bishnah Police Station at Morchapur area.

"The accused has been booked in case FIR number 66/2023 under section 4/25 of the Arms Act registered at Police Station Bishnah and further investigations taken up," he said.

The arrest and seizure was made by a team of Bishnah Police Station led by SHO of the area Vikram Sharma under the overall supervision of SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli.

The annual requirement for green fodder in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 139 lakh metric tons, while the dry fodder requirement is around 58.53 lakh metric tons. Unfortunately, the availability of green and dry fodder is insufficient to meet the demand. In particular, there is a deficit of 40.93 per cent in fodder availability in the region, with a higher deficit of 48.63 per cent in the Kashmir division compared to 32.27 per cent in the Jammu division. Only 4 per cent of the total cultivable land is under fodder production at present.

Each year, Jammu and Kashmir imports a significant amount of animal feed with 9,000 metric tons of feed, 10,000 metric tons of green fodder and 5,000 metric tons of dry fodder being imported. This results in a substantial loss to the exchequer. However, with the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program, the region can potentially create better livelihood opportunities for farmers, improving the socio-economic conditions of the people.

The Government is encouraging farmers and other stakeholders to collaborate and work towards developing the agricultural and livestock sector, which would lead to a prosperous and thriving economy. With this goal in mind, a concrete framework has been proposed to maximize fodder production in the region. The framework adopts a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated approach, combining research and effective development processes to increase fodder production.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has significant potential for fodder cultivation. The region has a large rangeland area of 1.19 lakh hectares, which can support livestock-based livelihood systems. Additionally, there are 2.15 lakh hectares of orchards that hold potential for intercropping of fodder crops production, known as the Horti-pastoral system. Field crops, such as paddy, maize, and wheat, are grown over 5 lakh hectares, producing

41 bovines rescued, 5 smugglers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 17: Police today foiled attempts of bovine smuggling in Tikri area of Udhampur and rescued 41 animals besides arresting five smugglers.

Reports said that during patrolling near Salora, Police party of PP Tikri noticed movement of 38 bovines on foot and three more in a vehicle bearing registration number JK03BH-4621 without any valid permission.

After questioning, Police arrested the alleged smugglers and rescued all the animals. Four FIRs were registered in this connection and the vehicle involved in smuggling was also seized.

Arrested accused were identified as Mohd Hussain, son of Mohd Rafiq, resident of Achabal Anantnag; Manzor Ahmed, son of Saraj Din, resident of Ramban; Maqbool Ahmed, son of Gama, resident of Ramban; Sadiq Ahmed, son of Bashir Ahmed of Anantnag and Mohd Yunis, son of Battu, resident of Reasi.

Kalidas Theatre observes 'Jashn-e-Adab'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: Kalidas Theatre Srinagar in collaboration with the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today celebrated 'Jashn-e-Adab' to pay tribute to eminent Poet Rehman Rahi.

A short film, on the occasion, was presented by IPTV and directed by eminent Director Dr Ayash Arif. Chairman Kalidas Theatre Shabir Mujahid paid rich tributes to both literary legends, Rehman Rahi and Syed Yaqoob Dilkash.

The other feature of the program was the Curtain Raiser of Dr Sohan Lal Kaul's Kashmiri Novel 'Daie Chune Maran'. Dr Sohan Kaul's four Kashmiri Novels, 'Daie Chune Maran', 'Shah Paez', 'Loudspeaker', 'Pakistan' and the English version of 'Psychiatric Ward', translated by Mushtaq B Barq were also released.

Prof. Bashur Bashir and Prof. Shad Ramzan presented critical analyses of the literary works of Dr Sohan Kaul. Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurda, who presided over the function, highlighted the role of a writer and in particular described Dr Sohan Kaul as an ace Kashmiri Fiction writer.

large quantities of residues that serve as dry fodder for winter.

The top fodder/tree leaves, including Willow, Populus, Ailanthus, Mulberry, Apple, and Ulmus, are excellent sources of protein and minerals traditionally fed to livestock during scarcity. The foot hills in the region can be used for fodder production, utilizing promising cultivars of grasses and legumes. Furthermore, various technological options such as cultivable fodder, chaffing of fodder/straws, urea treatment, roughage block, and silage making can be promoted to enhance fodder production.

The proposed plan aims to address the problem of fodder unavailability in J&K through two approaches: short-term mitigation and medium-term solutions. For the short-term, the plan focuses on increasing the production of fodder and feed through large-scale cultivation, processing, and value addition, with the help of pilot scale demonstrations and technological interventions, supported by capital infusion and incentives. This approach also includes exploring innovative approaches for green fodder production and mass multiplication under hi-tech agriculture.

BJP activists dedicated to strengthen party: Baru

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Enthusiastic BJP activists are working day and night to further strengthen the party, said Sanjay Baru, corporator.

Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior BJP leader and Prabhari district Nowshera said that many regional pseudo leaders are giving big statements, despite being rejected by the common masses of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sanjay Kumar Baru was addressing organizational meetings at Nowshera, Seri, Sunderbani, Soukli and Taryath during his 2-day tour of district Nowshera.

Sanjay Baru also reviewed the ongoing party's "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" in these meetings, which were attended by BJP senior leaders, Mandal president, Shaktikendra Pramukhs and Alp-Vistarakhs.

District president, Neena

BLSKS stages Nukkad Natak 'Inder Dhanush'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: To celebrate 'National Immunization Day', Bhartiya Lok Sanget Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) here today staged Nukkad Natak 'Inder Dhanush' in coordination with Sangam Tru Art production and National College of Computer Education.

The programme was inaugurated by chief guest V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity.

Man held for selling fake Kent RO system

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: A person was arrested from Gandhi Nagar area here today for selling fake Kent RO system, police said.

They said a complaint was lodged at the Gandhi Nagar police station by one Deepak Kumar on behalf of M/s Kent RO Systems Limited, stating that some firms in Gandhi Nagar area were selling fake RO systems using the company's branding.

Accordingly, police said, a case (FIR No. 67/2023) was registered under sections 63 & 65 of the Copyright Act, 1957, and 420/483/486 of the Indian Penal Code.

"After investigation, the police raided the firm selling fake RO system in Gandhi Nagar and found that they were engaged in the illegal manufacture, sale, reproduction, and trading of identical and deceptively similar products of the complainant's company, along with substantial and identical reproduction of the artistic work of 'Kent' brand name and product packaging," said police.

"This amounts to infringement of the copyright vested in the complainant company's artistic work under the Copyright Act, 1957. The police seized 19 filters with the 'Kent' mark, and arrested the accused, who was charged with the offenses," they further said, adding that further investigation is on.

MHA announces 10 per cent reservation in CISF jobs for ex-Agniveers

NEW DELHI, Mar 17:

The Union home ministry has announced 10 per cent reservation for former Agniveers in vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a week after it notified a similar quota for them in the BSF.

Protest against delay in road construction

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 17: Locals of Bunjwah here today staged a protest demonstration to express their resentment against the attitude of district administration for delaying construction work on Chudak to Buddha roads in Tehsil Bunjwah.

The protesters mostly included residents of Buddha and adjoining areas and they assembled at Chudak in Tehsil Bunjwah and demanded immediate execution of the work of road between Chudak and Buddha which was pending for the past last about 12 years.

The protesters claimed that work on the road is delayed despite repeated requests to district administration.

They warned to intensify the protest if their demand of roads construction work is not redressed soon.

Operator feared drowned after excavator slips into Chenab

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 17: An excavator driver working on under-construction Batote-Kishtwar highway was feared drowned today when his machine fell from the road and slid into Chenab River.

"The operator has been identified as Rahul Sharma, 25, son of Sanjay Kumar, resident of Dharmthal, Chenani, Udhampur," SSP Doda, Abdul Qayoom said adding: "The worker was operating the excavator near Shiva-Dul Bridge some 15 km from Doda town on Batote-Kishtwar NH 244, at 3 am when the machine lost traction and slid 200 ft into the river."

Chenab is a fast flowing deep river and the operator was unable to escape from the machine he was operating and perhaps got drowned.

Meanwhile, police along with other teams have launched a rescue operation to trace the missing operator.

"Police along with SDRF and civil administration has launched a joint search operation. As of now only a part of the machine is visible and the operator who got reportedly drowned has not been located yet," SSP Doda said.

Drug peddler held in Kulgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: Police today arrested a drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered a psychotropic substance from his possession.

A police party led by SHO PS Behibagh at a checkpoint established at Parigam intercepted a suspicious person.

"During the search, 13 Codeine Phosphate bottles concealed in a bag were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Javid Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Akbar Bhat resident of Arwani. He has been arrested and shifted to the police station where he remains in custody," police said.

Accordingly, police said, a case vide FIR No. 22/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Behibagh and an investigation has been taken up.

Samba police recovers 2 missing girls from Anantnag, Amritsar

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 17: Under the guidance of SSP Samba Benam Tosh, police has achieved another success and recovered two girl students within 72 hours of their sensational missing reports.

Whereas one missing girl student of a Government Degree College has been recovered by Samba Police from Amritsar, another minor girl student of a Government School has been recovered from Anantnag district South Kashmir.

Both the girl students have been reunited with their families and further investigation going on.

The missing girl students have been recovered by the police teams comprising of

The ministry also notified relaxation in the upper age limit depending on whether they are part of the first batch or subsequent batches of Agniveers. (PTI)

Restore OPS in J&K: SSP to LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Sainik Samaj Party (SSP) has urged upon the J&K Lieutenant Governor and Union Government to restore Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees of the UT.

SSP president, Col. S.S. Pathania said that New Pension Scheme (NPS) introduced in 2003 by BJP led NDA government was implemented in 2004 to reduce the pension bill of Government and life expectancy increase factor was also taken into consideration.

"NPS has numerous complexities and problems like taxation at the time of withdrawal, no provision of DA and so on," he maintained adding: "Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Punjab have already reverted back to OPS and protests are taking place in remaining States demanding OPS."

Col. Pathania said that notwithstanding financial burden on the Government, welfare of its employees and pensioners remains the prime responsibility of the Government.

Rahul has become permanent part of 'toolkit' working against India: Nadda

NEW DELHI, Mar 17:

BJP president JP Nadda led his party's attack on Rahul Gandhi on Friday over the Congress leader's recent comments made in the UK on the state of Indian democracy, charging him with becoming a "permanent part of the toolkit" working against India that seeks a Government here so as to exploit it for its benefits.

In a statement, Nadda accused Gandhi of speaking the language of "anti-India" George Soros, a billionaire financier, and alleged that the Congress and the "so-called Left liberals" have become a part of the "deep state" conspiracy

involving foreign forces against the country. "Anti-national" Congress leaders have been speaking the language of Pakistan, he added.

Gandhi will have to apologise to the people of India for his "sin" of seeking the "interference" of foreign powers in the country's internal affairs, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president said.

He accused the former Congress chief of joining hands with foreign conspirators against India to encircle the country economically and strategically. Never before in independent India any leader has done what Gandhi has done on foreign soil, he said.

"This is a most serious matter,"

Nadda said, adding that what the Congress leader has done has hurt every patriotic MP as well as the people of the country.

Those working against India want a weak Government working under the compulsions of an alliance for their benefits, he said.

The BJP president said anti-India forces have always had problems with a strong India, its robust democracy and decisive Government. By criticising the state of democracy in India and seeking the intervention of the United States and Europe on foreign soil, Gandhi has attacked the country's sovereignty, he added. (PTI)

Week-long FDP on Outcome-Based Pedagogy concludes at The Business School

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: A week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Outcome-Based Pedagogy, organized by The Business School (TBS) in collaboration with Human Resource Development Centre, University of Jammu (JU) and Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, concluded today.

The FDP, which was inaugurated on March 13 by Professor Vinay Chauhan, Director of The Business School (JU) and Professor Alka Sharma (convener of the University Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Centre), was attended by more than 40 faculty members from different departments of JU and its affiliated colleges.

While addressing the participants, Professor Vinay Chauhan emphasized that the programme would equip faculty members with the necessary skills and knowledge to design and implement effective outcome-based learning strategies. He further addressed that this programme would not only enhance the teaching skills of the faculty members but also improve the overall quality of education in the region.

Resources persons for the FDP were from Prof Tejinder Paul Singh (HoD Mechanical Engineering), Prof Manmohan Chhibber (School of Chemistry & Biochemistry), Prof Rajesh Khanna (Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering),

Thief held with stolen cash

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Police in Jammu's Akhnoor area claimed today that they have arrested a thief and recovered a stolen amount of Rs 20180 from his possession.

A police spokesperson said that a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Akhnoor regarding theft at a temple in Village Chani Ambaran falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Akhnoor.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR number 45/2023 under sections 457/380 of IPC was registered at Police Station Akhnoor and further investigations taken up.

The police spokesperson further said that followed by this, special police teams of Police Station Akhnoor led by SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Lal assisted by SHO Akhnoor Inspector Harjeet Singh rounded up an accused identified as Swami Dass of Gasano Tehsil Mairan Mandrian.

"During questioning, the accused confessed his involvement in the theft case and one his disclosure, stolen amount of Rs 20180 was recovered," he said, adding that further investigations are on.



Faculty members of The Business School and resource persons posing together during valedictory function of an FDP.

Dr Anoop Verma (School of Energy and Environment), Dr Parag Nijhawan (Department of Electrical and Instrumentation Engineering) and Dr Karminder Ghuman (Chief Coordinator, Science and Technology Entrepreneur's Park), all from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology.

Prof Tejinder Paul Singh, Prof Manmohan Chhibber and Prof Rajesh Khanna enlightened participants regarding the various techniques for designing CLOs using Bloom's Taxonomy, calculating OBE, PEOS, PO, CLOs, and designing rubrics on the first three days of training. For the remaining two days of the programme, Dr Anoop Verma, Dr Parag Nijhawan, and Dr Karminder Ghuman were the resource persons. They familiarized the participants with Project-based Learning, Research-Integrated Teaching, Designing Blow-up Syllabi & Course plans for OBE, Green Audit Reports and Student-Centric Learning.

The valedictory function held today was graced by Prof

Naresh Padha, Dean Academic Affairs (DAA), Jammu University, as chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the significance of technology and how faculty can contribute to the technical evolution of the education sector.

Prof Neelu Rohmetra (Director, Directorate of Distance and Online Education and Professor of The Business School) delivered the keynote address and highlighted the significance of outcome-based learning pedagogy while Prof Sundeep Pandita (Director, HRDC) assured that such programmes would be a regular feature.

At the valedictory session, the participants were awarded certificates of participation. Professor Versha Mehta, Dean of Business Studies, emphasized the need for training the teachers by conducting such kind of 'Train the Trainer'.

The FDP was convened by Dr Rachna Mahajan (Professor, The Business School) whereas Prof Sameer Gupta (Professor, The Business School) delivered a vote of thanks.

Two drug peddlers held with heroin

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Police in Jammu District claimed today that they have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 247 grams of heroin from their possession.

A police spokesperson said that a team of Nagrota Police Station led by SDPO Nagrota Sultan Mirza, assisted by SHO Nagrota Inspector Vishav Part Singh and PSI Amreek Singh, arrested one suspect during a surprise naka duty at TCP Nagrota.

He said upon searching the suspect, identified as Vishal Kumar alias Chotu of Swankha, Samba, the police recovered 244 grams of heroin.

"A case FIR No. 99/2023 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Nagrota and the accused was

arrested," he said. Similarly, in the jurisdiction of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, police teams led by SDPO South Sachit Sharma, assisted by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspector Pankaj Sharma, established a surprise naka at Sabzi Mandi, Nai Basti, Gandhi Nagar, where they apprehended a suspect coming from Shastri Nagar towards Nai Basti side.

The suspect was identified as Ajay Kumar of Last Morh, Jammu, and upon searching him, the police recovered 3 grams of heroin.

A case FIR No. 66/2023 under sections 8/21/22/NDPS Act was registered at PS Gandhi Nagar, and the accused was arrested.

The police have continued their investigation into both cases.

E-Junction launched

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 17: E-Junction, a flagship project of Kawa Group has been launched here today at Ramnagar Chowk.



M.S. Katoch, chairman Kawa Group inaugurating E-Junction at Udhampur.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by M.S. Katoch, chairman Kawa Group.

Giving details in his power point presentation about E-Junction, Abhimanyu Katoch, the key resource person said that E-Junction is going to facilitate not only the youth but will also be beneficial for persons of all age groups.

He said, to provide employment opportunities, E-Junction would be a platform and it will also be catering to the needs of the student community, employees and others in need of Assessment, Training, IT & Professional Services like accountancy, medical, legal, architecture etc.

M.S. Katoch, chairman, Kawa Group said that Kawa Group is going to establish digital service center in every nook and corner of J&K and shall create an employment to the tune of approximately 10,000 people.

He also said that in first phase 100 digital service centres will be opened in Jammu Province out of which 25 locations have already been identified and few of them have been

made functional. Surinder Singh Katoch, Centre Director, Kawa Institute, Udhampur; Renu Katoch, Centre Incharge, Kawa Institute Udhampur; Sumit Sharma, Project Manager E-Junction, Samarika Katoch, Kuldeep Singh, Ajay Sharma, Nindiya Bandral, Ankita, Shefali, Isha and others were also present on the occasion.

House gutted in fire

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 17: Major fire broke out in a house at village Sarar of Chenani block, here today.

Even as there was no loss of life or injuries to anyone, the house along with belongings of the family was completely gutted in fire.

Reports said that the fire broke out at the house of Sarpanch of Sarar. Before the fire could be control, the flames soon engulfed the entire house. Cause of fire could not be ascertained while Police has registered a case in this connection.