

Dar attends virtual event for release of 22nd instalment of PM-KISAN; SKUAST-J hosts UT level function

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 13:

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today attended the virtual event marking the release of the 22nd instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) from the Civil Secretariat here.

The installment was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who transferred Rs18,640 crore directly into the bank accounts of 9.32 crore farmers across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer with a single click.

In connection with the nationwide programme, the Union Territory level function was organised at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), where "PM-KISAN Utsav Diwas"



was celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, R.S. Pura Campus.

MLA, Suchetgarh, Gharu Ram Bhagat; SKUAST-J Vice Chancellor, Professor B N Tripathi; Secretary in APD, Nitu Gupta; Director Extension, Dr Amrishi Vaid; Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr Sanjay Gupta; Director Horticulture

Jammu, Gul Sayed and Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta besides scientists, officials of the Agriculture Production Department and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Javid Dar stated that the PM-KISAN scheme has emerged as a landmark initiative in providing assured

financial support to farmers and strengthening the rural economy. He said that the timely release of instalments plays an important role in helping the farmers meet agricultural input costs and undertake allied farming activities. The Minister reiterated that under the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana, eli-

gible farmers receive Rs6,000 per year, which is provided in three equal instalments of Rs2,000 each, directly credited to their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Meanwhile MLA, Gharu Ram Bhagat lauded the Government of India's continued commitment towards farmers' welfare and appreciated the role of SKUAST-Jammu in bridging the gap between agricultural research and farmers' fields. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern technologies and avail themselves of various government support schemes aimed at enhancing the farm productivity and income. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Jammu, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, officials, scientists and farmers for their participation.

RDD releases Rs196 crore to Strengthen Rural Infrastructure and Programme Implementation

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 13:

Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj Department has sanctioned a total outlay of Rs195.96 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to support rural infrastructure development and ensure timely honorarium payments to programme staff across the Union Territory.

According to Order No. 79-JK (RD&PR) of 2026 issued by Secretary, Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, sanction has been accorded for the release of Rs 174 crore under the material component for the financial year 2025-26.

In a separate order, Government Order No. 76-JK (RD&PR) of 2026, the department has also sanctioned Rs21.58 crore as honorarium for staff engaged in the implementation of MGNREGA from November 2025 to March 2026, besides Rs38.57 lakh as honorarium for court case staff handling legal matters related to the scheme during the same

period. Secretary said that the timely release of funds will significantly strengthen the implementation of rural development programmes and accelerate the execution of key projects across the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, expressed gratitude to the MoRD for the timely release of a major chunk of funds under the MGNREGA for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Live Streaming of 22nd installment of PM-KISAN held at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra, Jammu

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 13:

The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu today organised a live streaming of the release of the 22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the Jyoti-Bishnu International Cultural Centre, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam.

The programme, held at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo, was attended by MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta as the chief guest.

Among others present were Ashwani Kumar, Joint Director (Inputs); Amanjyoti Sharma, Joint Director (Farms/SLUB); Manohar Lal Sharma, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu; Rakesh Sharma, DSSO, Anil Angral, Mandal Pradhan, other sectoral heads and officers of the department, besides more than 150 farmers from various parts of

Jammu district. Veena Wazir, AEA conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Meanwhile, Neetu Gupta Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Anil Gupta, Director Agriculture Jammu and Sanjay Anand Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu attended the UT-level programme organised for the release of the 22nd installment of PM-KISAN at the Conference Hall, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & A.H., KVK R.S. Pura, Jammu.

During the national event, the Prime Minister released the 22nd installment of PM-KISAN amounting to ₹18,640 crore, which will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of more than 9.32 crore farmers across the country. The financial assistance aims to support farmers in meeting agricultural input costs and allied expenses, thereby enhancing their overall welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West, described the PM-KISAN scheme as a mark of

respect to the nation's "Annadata" and a significant step towards strengthening the financial security of farming families. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern and scientific agricultural practices to enhance productivity and profitability and also urged educated youth to explore agriculture as a viable and rewarding profession.

"Around 4.20 lakh active beneficiaries of PM-KISAN across Jammu division have benefited from the current installment alone, with ₹84 crore disbursed today," Arvind Gupta added. He further stated that a total of ₹1839.27 crore has been disbursed to farmers of the Jammu region under the scheme so far. Highlighting the significance of the initiative, he said that PM-KISAN, one of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) programmes, reflects the Government of India's steadfast commitment to building a robust and inclusive agricultural economy.

Release of 22nd installment of PM KISAN- Live streaming held at Udhampur

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
UDHAMPUR, MAR 13:

Live Streaming of release of the 22nd installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi by Prime Minister was held today across Udhampur District.

The main function was organised at Sub Division Agriculture office Udhampur. More than 100 farmers watched the live streaming event. Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh informed that more than 10.95 crore rupees have been transferred to farmers under the scheme today. Assistance of Rs 6000 annually is provided to the farmers as financial assistance for purchase of Agri inputs under the scheme. Similar functions were organised across all blocks of the District where farmers in good numbers viewed the programme.

Jambu Zoo welcomes pair of Hippos

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 13:

The Jambu Zoo welcomes its new residents, a pair of hippopotamuses brought from Aringar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu in exchange of a pair of Himalayan Black Bear, approved by the Central Zoo Authority.

The move of add Hippopotamuses in the family of the Jambu Zoo was the brainchild of Sarvesh Rai, PCCF/Head of Forest Force, J&K (the then Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K Govt.). The hippopotamus often referred as hippo, is a large semi-aquatic mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa. Its name comes from the Ancient Greek word for "river horse".

After elephants and rhinoceroses, the hippopotamus is the next largest land mammal. Despite their physical resemblance to pigs and other terrestrial even-toed ungulates, the closest living relatives of the hippos are cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises, etc.), from which they evolved about 55 million years ago. The team of the officers deputed for transportation of the animals included Noor ul Amin (I/C Range Officer), Sudesh Kotwal (FPF Guard), Anwar and Mukhtiar (Animal keepers). The Team was assisted by Dr. Ranjit Katoch, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. The transportation of the animal from Chennai to Jammu through train was critical as the body temperature of the animal was to be maintained with the help of water sprinklers which were customized for the train journey. The animal arrived at Jambu Zoo on 13th of March 2026 and will be kept under quarantine period of 15 days, before it is open to public display.

Chaturbhujia Behera, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K Govt. has welcomed the pair of Hippos, which is going to be a great attraction for the people of J&K. He has urged the students, tourists and locals to visit the Jambu Zoo to see Lions, Tigers, Crocodiles, Gharials, Snakes, Bears etc and the new addition i.e. Hippopotamus. According to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Chaturbhujia Behera many other animal species will be added to the Jambu Zoo in the coming months and efforts are underway to enhance facilities for the visitors.

Kissan Goshti on commercial floriculture held at Kotli Monotrian- Reasi

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
REASI, MAR 13:

A one-day Kissan Goshti on Commercial Floriculture was organized at Kotli Monotrian by the Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ATMA at Panchayat Kotli Monotrian, Block Katra, District Reasi. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of farmers who evinced keen interest in adopting floriculture as a sustainable income-generating activity. The event was attended by Scientist, KVK Reasi Dr. Sanjay Kaushal; Landscape Officer Vikrant Kumar Sharma and Assistant Floriculture Officer, Udhampur/Reasi Pawan Kumar. The programme was conducted under the overall guidance of Director Floriculture, Vivek Modi and supervision of Landscape Officer Vikrant Kumar Sharma.

While addressing the gathering, Vikrant Kumar Sharma assured farmers of full support from the department, including technical guidance and financial assistance under various government schemes. He encouraged farmers to adopt high-yielding flower varieties and modern cultivation techniques to enhance production and improve their income.

Dr. Sanjay Kaushal delivered an informative lecture on organic farming practices, cropping patterns and modern technologies in commercial floriculture, besides highlighting post-harvest management and marketing strategies.

Assistant Floriculture Officer Pawan Kumar also shared detailed insights on marigold cultivation, including nursery management, soil health, spacing, fertilization and disease management and informed farmers about various government schemes promoting floriculture. Farmers appreciated the initiative and requested the department to organize more such programmes in future.

JKAACL organizes colourful Punjabi & Dogri folk programme at Vijaypur



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 13:

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organized a colourful Punjabi and Dogri Folk Dance and Music Programme at Buzarga Da Behra, Salmeri, Vijaypur.

Former DDC Member, Avtar Singh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while noted artist and writer Jang S. Verman was the Guest of Honour. S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi, shared the date.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Avtar Singh appreciated the efforts of the Academy in organizing such cultural programmes. He said

that these initiatives provide valuable opportunities for the youth to connect with art, culture and languages, which is essential for preserving our heritage. He further added that such events help bring positive change in society and encourage emerging talent.

Guest of Honour, Jang S. Verman also expressed his views and appreciated the initiatives taken by the Academy to reach people in remote areas through its cultural and literary activities.

Earlier, S. Popinder Singh Paras delivered a welcome address. He said the Academy is committed to promote the rich art, culture and languages of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in far-flung areas

of the Jammu region. He added that the Academy is providing a vibrant platform to the young generation to showcase their talent and remain connected with their cultural heritage.

Punjabi and Dogri cultural items were presented by musical groups including Subash Chander & Party, Anita Choudhary & Party, Rajkumar & Party and singers Shyam Manyal and Sulekha Farid. The performances were highly appreciated by the audience.

A large number of senior citizens, villagers and youth attended the programme and enjoyed the vibrant cultural presentations. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sat Salarvi.

DDC Doda chairs Jal Arpan Diwas Programme, listens to public issues at Panchayat Trown

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
DODA, MAR 13:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Krishan Lal today chaired the Jal Arpan Diwas programme and a Public outreach camp at Panchayat Trown.

The programme was organised by the Department of Jal Shakti (PHE Division) and the District Administration as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission Pakhwada aimed to promote water conservation, community participation and sustainable management of water resources.

The event highlighted the theme "Har Ghar Jal - Healthy Village", emphasizing the importance of safe and adequate drinking water supply to every rural household through functional tap connections.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of Jal Arpan Diwas by the DDC, marking the formal launch of the awareness initiative in the area. A pledge ceremony was also conducted in which participants resolved to conserve water, protect natural water sources and promote responsible use of drinking water for the welfare of present and future generations.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC stressed the need for conserving water



resources and urged the public, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders to actively participate in protecting natural water sources.

During the Public outreach camp, local residents and public representatives raised several demands seeking augmentation of water supply, compensation for land used in water supply projects, road connectivity, blacktopping of roads, construction of a circular road in the area, connectivity from Paryote to Trown and filling of the vacant post of Principal at Government Higher Secondary School.

Responding to the demands, the DDC directed the concerned officers to address the genuine grievances of the public in a time-bound manner. He also encouraged people to avail benefits of the Government schemes, particularly under

the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other self-employment initiatives.

Later, the DDC inspected the condition of the local roads in the area. He directed the concerned departments to take necessary measures for improvement and maintenance of the roads to provide better connectivity to the local population.

Among others present included Superintending Engineer hydraulic circle Doda Jal Shakti Sunil Seth, Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, Executive Engineer PHE Division Doda, Assistant Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Doda, Chairman of the Pani Samiti, PRI members, officers of various departments, senior citizens and a large number of local residents, who actively participated in the programme.

Kathua Admin holds mega employment drive amid overwhelming youth participation

Over 500 candidates screened, 393 shortlisted and 116 selected on spot

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATHUA, MAR 13:

In a major initiative to connect local youth with employment opportunities, the District Administration Kathua in collaboration with the District Employment and Career Counselling Centre (DE&CC) organised a Mega Job Fair here on the Sports Stadium. The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, who interacted with participating employers and job seekers, while appreciating the initiative.





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