

### J&K seeks scientific action plan for dev, conservation of rare medicinal plants

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed the Medicinal Plant Board (MPB) to come up with a scientific action plan for development of the medicinal plant sector and conservation of rare, endangered plant species found in the Union Territory.

Around 1,100 plants found in Jammu and Kashmir are reportedly used in different systems of medicine, out of which 22 species have a high trade volume with more than 100 million tonnes production per year.

The 22 plant species are being chosen on a short and medium term basis for both conservation and cultivation, an official spokesman said on Saturday.

Chairing the maiden meeting here on Friday of the monitoring and evaluation committee constituted in Sep-



tember last year to monitor and evaluate the board's activities, Financial Commissioner (Health and Medical Education) Atal Dullo asked the board to invite related experts for inputs on specific matters.

Dullo underlined the need for evolving a framework for cultivation, processing and grading on scientific lines to get good returns on value added products, the spokesman said.

While applauding the efforts of the board, the commissioner pointed to the need for systematic research for developing a link between what is cultivated and what is required by the industry.

For providing livelihood opportunities to the local population, the meeting took a decision to have an integrated policy for the medicinal and aromatic plants sector with specific action for each relevant stakeholder, the spokesman said.

The policy would include sector specific action plans along with indicators to monitor the progress in its implementation, he said.



## CWC Demands Withdrawal Of CAA, Stopping Of NPR Process

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**NEW DELHI :** The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Saturday demanded that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act should be withdrawn and the process of NPR be stopped forthwith, as it accused the BJP government of using its brute majority to impose a "divisive and discriminatory" agenda.

The Congress top brass meeting, chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi, deliberated upon the social, economic and political challenges confronting the country after which it passed a resolution on "suppression of the voice of youth and the students of India".

"The Modi government has unleashed the entire might of the brute state power to suppress, subjugate and stifle the voice of the youth and students across the country. The prime minister and the BJP government have betrayed the trust of the youth," the resolution stated.

Almost every institution in the country Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University, Alahabad University, AMU, and many others have seen massive protests, it noted.

The CWC expresses its solidarity with the youth and the students in their fight for defending the Constitution, standing for independent and creative learning and aspiring

for employment-linked education at a minimal expense, the resolution said.

Apart from Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, top party leaders P Chidambaram, Anand Sharma, A K Antony, K C Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jyotiraditya Scindia were among those present. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was not present at the meeting.

The Congress also released a statement on the four main issues that were discussed -- the CAA, NRC, NPR and students protests; the state of the economy; the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir; and the US-Iran tensions.

"The CWC demands that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act should be withdrawn and the process of NPR be stopped forthwith," a party statement said.

The CWC calls upon the government to reveal its roadmap for reviving the economy, investors' confidence and job creation, it said.

The party's top decision-making body also called for lifting of curbs and restoration of civil liberties in Jammu and Kashmir.

It also expressed deep concerns over the recent developments in the Gulf region where tensions have spiralled between the US and Iran over the killing of top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani.

## UP open varsity includes CAA, Article 370 in syllabus

Agencies

**PRAYAGRAJ -** An open university in Uttar Pradesh has launched an awareness campaign on the Citizenship Amendment Act and Article 370 by including them in the college syllabus. The new syllabus came into force from January 2020.

Professor Kameshwar Nath Singh, the Vice Chancellor of Rajarshi Tandon Open University, told IANS, "Our university runs courses according to the need of the

time and society. There are some courses for which students do not have to appear for exams. Certificates are handed out on the basis of evaluation of assignments. Right now we have introduced CAA and Article 370 in this category."

The three-month awareness course on these topics commenced from January 2020, the VC said.

Admissions have begun for the course. Students will be given assignments and they will be given certificates after the

successful completion of the assignments, the VC added.

The CAA syllabus has been divided into five parts while the one on Article 370 and 35A has six parts.

This is an exercise to make people aware about the CAA and Article 370 and 35A, the VC said.

The course explains the complete process and importance of the abrogation of Article 370 and the logic behind bringing the Citizenship Amendment Act, he said.

### SHORT TAKES

#### 'Govt committed to encourage young entrepreneurs'

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration is committed to encourage young entrepreneurs to start their business units and provide all facilities for strengthening the existing industry in the Union Territory, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi has said.

"The administration is for sustainable development of all the sectors and we are hopeful that the industrial sector would attain new heights in coming years," Dwivedi said while interacting with representatives of the Federation of Indian Industries (FII) and Bari Bari Brahmana Industries Association here on Friday.

He also said the administration is cognisant of the issues faced by industrialists and the same would be resolved in due course of time.

The commissioner secretary advised the successful entrepreneurs to share their success stories with youngsters as it will motivate them to start their own business units.

The two delegations, meanwhile, demanded reimbursement of 100 per cent CGST/SGST to existing units, units under substantial expansion as well as new units.

They further demanded reimbursement of 2 per cent on total intra-state turnover in case of existing and new investments, an official spokesman said, adding Dwivedi assured them that their genuine demands would be looked into.

#### IPPI: DC Bandipora reviews arrangements

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements put in place for conduct of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) programme in the district.

It was given out that 60753 children of the district in the age group of 0-5 years will be administered polio vaccines on January 19 for which adequate arrangements have been put in place.

The meeting was informed that 393 vaccinators have been deployed while 332 booths established in the district for this purpose, while 412 Asha workers, 434 Anganwari workers and 393 Health workers are being deployed.

To supervise the whole process in the district, 70 supervisors have been nominated and five transit points and 13 cold chain points have also been identified for the smooth conduct of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion DC Bandipora asked the concerned authorities to ensure wide publicity of the program through mass media so that no child is left out to make the district polio-free. He also called for utilizing services of NYK volunteers if the need arises.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Chief Medical Officer Tajamul Hussain, Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora and other concerned.

## CJI mulls AI-system to avoid undue delay in justice delivery

Press Trust Of India

**BENGALURU:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A Bobde on Saturday said there is the possibility of developing a system of Artificial Intelligence for the courts with the purpose of ensuring that undue delay is prevented in delivery of justice.

Justice Bobde also pitched for pre-litigation mediation against the backdrop of large number of pending cases in courts, observing that it is the need of the hour.

It was important for courts to ensure that there is no undue delay in delivery of justice, the CJI said, addressing the 19th biennial state level conference of judicial officers, after inaugurating it here.

"We must employ every talent we have, every skill we possess to ensure that the justice is received within reasonable time. Delay in justice cannot be a rea-

son for anybody to take law into their own hands.

We have the possibility of developing Artificial Intelligence for the court system, only for the purpose of ensuring that



undue delay is prevented in the delivery of justice," he said.

However, the CJI made it clear that AI would never replace the

judges.

"I must make it clear at the outset, as there are times when even judges have asked this question. The AI is not going to replace human judges. It is not going to replace human discretion. It is only the repetitive, mathematical and mechanical parts of the judgments for which help can be taken from the system...we are exploring the possibility of implementing it." The conference on 'Judicial Process Re-engineering and Judicial Skill Building' was attended by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Supreme Court judges Mohan M Shantanagoudar, S Abdul Nazeer and Ajjikutira Somaiah Bopanna, and Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka, among others. Pointing out that Karnataka has produced many fine legal minds, the CJI said some of the best judgments in civil law have come from Karnataka, not

only from the High Court but also district courts.

"If you keep aside territorial jurisdictions of various courts at various levels, there is to my mind absolutely no difference in the task which is performed by civil judges in the district court, judges in the High Court and Supreme Court. The task is one and the task is to decide cases to deliver justice," he said.

The CJI asserted that the foundation of civilization rests on law and pursuit of justice is the dharma of all judges and must at all times be guided by what the constitution dictates.

He pointed out that judicial officers have to deal with a variety of problems.

"One of the striking things about judges is that they do not have an easy job, they repeatedly do what the rest of us seem to avoid, and that is to make decision."

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## Amazon lays off several staffers for leaking customers' info

Agencies

**SEATTLE:** Amazon has laid off several employees for sharing customers' data with third-party vendors, saying their action "violated its policies".

In an email to those affected, the tech giant said that their email address and phone number were "disclosed by an Amazon employee to a third party in violation of our policies."

"As a result, the employee has been terminated, and we are supporting law enforcement in their prosecution. No

other information related to your account was shared," Amazons said in a statement obtained by TechCrunch.

"No other information



related to your account was shared. This is not a result of anything you have done, and there is no need for you to take

any action," the email further read. Amazon last year acknowledged a similar incident, warning users that it exposed an unknown number of


know that our website inadvertently disclosed your email address due to a technical error. This issue has been fixed. This is not a result of anything you have done, and there is no need for you to change your password or take any other action," Amazon had said in the email sent to the users.

In a separate incident, Amazon has fired four employees at its security camera subsidiary Ring "for improperly viewing video footage from customer cameras".

Ring came in news for all the wrong reasons where customers'

in-house cameras were broke into and the hackers tried to intimidate the residents, including children.

In a bone-chilling incident, parents of an eight-year-old girl in the US were left stunned when a hacker accessed a camera installed in their daughter's room and taunted her. The incident happened with a Tennessee family who had installed Amazon-owned Ring video camera in the room of their three daughters to keep an eye on them and stay close as the mother worked night shifts as a nurse, reports FOX17.



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