

The Kashmir Talk

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Don't let peaceful atmosphere to be disturbed: DGP to officers

JAMMU: *The Director General Police J&K Shri Dilbag Singh today chaired back to back meetings at Srinagar.*

In the forenoon the DGP chaired a Police Establishment Board (PEB) meeting via video conferencing and in the afternoon he chaired joint security review meeting at PCR Kashmir, which was attended by senior officers of Police, Army and CAPF.

The Police Establishment Board meeting was attended by Spl. DGP CID, J&K, Shri R. R. Swain, Spl. DGP Crime, J&K, Shri A. K. Choudhary, ADGP Security, J&K, Dr S. D. Singh Jamwal, ADGP Headquarters, PHQ, Shri M. K. Sinha, ADGP Railways, J&K, Shri Sunil Kumar, ADGP Coordination, PHQ, Shri Danesh Rana, AIGsP of PHQ Shri Ramesh Angral, Shri J. S. Johar, Shri Manoj Pandita, and other concerned officers of PHQ.

The DGP flanked by ADGP Armed, J&K, Shri SJM Gillani and IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay

Kumar chaired the meeting via video conference from PCR Kashmir while other officers attended the meeting at Conference Hall, PHQ.

During the meeting various agenda points pertaining to



capacity building and welfare of the jawans were discussed. All the agenda points were taken one by one and discussed threadbare and appropriate decisions taken on each. The DGP said that various wings of police need to rationally review their deployments and see that persons posted at a particular location for very long are transferred out and replaced with

suitable persons.

This he said will enhance the capabilities of these units. He also said that unauthorised attachments and localised arrangements should be done away with and cases be

be taken as the touch stone for recommendations.

The DGP further stated that only those personnel should be rewarded who contributed to the professional work.

During the meeting different

were given to four ASIs, forty HCs, 160 SgCts, 475 Cts and four Followers for their outstanding contribution and 393 SPOs were also absorbed in the department as constables for their outstanding duties.

In the afternoon the DGP chaired a joint security meeting at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir to review the security scenario in Kashmir Zone.

The meeting was attended by ADGP Armed J&K Shri SJM Gillani, IG (KOS) CRPF Shri Deepak Rattan, IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar, IG (SOS) CRPF Ms Charu Sinha, DIG CKR Srinagar Shri Sujit Kumar, BGS Ops 15 Corps Shri P K Mishra, DIG CRPF North Srinagar Dr Randeep Kumar Rana, DIG CRPF South Srinagar Shri Mathew A John, DIG BSF Ops Srinagar Shri Arvinder Singh, SSP APCR Srinagar Shri Shahid Mehrar Rather, SSP Srinagar Shri Sandeep Choudhary, SSP PCR Kashmir Shri Zubair Ahmed Khan and SP PC Srinagar Shri Iftikar Talib.

reviewed and recommendations must be justified while giving emphasis on encouraging the deserving personnel.

He said that the recommendations must be performance based and due weightage must be given to the circumstances, topography, and difficulty faced besides the perseverance and operational acumen displayed by the personnel must

representation/petitions and directions from the various judicial authorities were also discussed.

AIG (Personnel) PHQ conducted the proceedings of the meeting and presented the backgrounds of each and every agenda item.

Pertinent to mention that during the year 2020 upto July 2021 out of turn promotions

Persons with disabilities are our real life heroes, society must play role to push them forward: Advisor Farooq Khan

International Day of PwDs celebrated with focus on rehabilitation, development, skill orientation of specially abled-persons in Srinagar

S R I N A G A R : *Termining the specially abled people as our real life heroes, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, today emphasized the society to play its role earnestly to push them forward towards a prosperous and successful life.*

Advisor said this, while speaking as a chief guest at "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" function held at SKICC Srinagar.

Termining these specially-abled persons as "real life heroes", Advisor said that many of them in Kashmir are insightful and talented. He said that despite facing all odds and hardships throughout their journey of life, they have excelled in different fields including

sports, education and civil services and have been contributing majorly towards the society. He said their contribution is larger than the contribution of a normal person with no physical disabilities.

He said that, "we both as a society and as a government must sensitize ourselves to know our responsibilities towards them." He urged upon the specially-abled persons that instead of seeking help, they must fight for their rights and thrive hard to achieve their goals like many others like them who have been leading life successfully and have turned into job providers instead of job seekers.

On the occasion, Advisor also felicitated winning students who participated in a painting competition.

The young specially-abled

enthrall the audience with their colourful performances they presented on the occasion



while various renowned artists also performed couple of skits to sensitize people about their role and responsibilities towards these specially-abled persons.

On the occasion, specially-abled role models, athletes, players including Insha Bashir and Ishrat twin wheelchair basketball players were felicitated for their courage and achievement in various fields.

The Sports Council also awarded a cheque

of Rs. 80,000 to Mohamad Sultan Rather, a young athlete without upper limbs,

who has been selected for ensuing International Wushu championship to be held in Istanbul Turkey.

After their felicitation, Mohammad Altaf Chopan, truck driver from Baramulla, Ashiq Ali from Ganderbal, Misra Banu Kangan, Showkat Ahmad Lone, Mudasir Ahmed from Budgam and others with major disabilities narrated their success stories. The programme was jointly organized by

the department of Social Welfare and Hope Disability Centre in collaboration with J&K Rehabilitation Council, Directorate of Youth Services and Department of Information and Public Relations, Department of Culture and Department of Sports Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul said that, "we must feel privileged to be among these specially-abled people who with their grit and passion have proved that they are able by their abilities to become superheroes."

She reiterated the resolve of the administration to help these athletes to overcome any difficulty to reach various podiums at national and international level.

Among others, DG Welfare, Bashir Ahmad

Dar, Executive Director Rehabilitation Council, Ishfaq Ahmad, Director Health Services Kashmir, Mushtaq Ahmad Rather and Director Hope Disability Centre, Sami Wani also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the dedication of these specially-abled persons to prove their mettle in different fields.

Director Disaster Management, Amir Ali, Special Secretary, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai and Officer on Special Duty to Advisor, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak were also present on the occasion.

The program was attended by specially-abled persons, District Program Officers, Doctors, CDPOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers, ANSHA workers and people from all walks of life.

MaharshikarveStreeShikshanSanstha's Role Important in the Independent New India: Indresh Kumar.

Prestigious BayaKarve Award conferred upon Pankajadidi from Jammu.

PUNE
This year's MaharshiKarveStreeShikshanSamstha's, 26th National Level BayaKarveAward was conferred upon Kilambi-PankajaValli of AditiPratishthan from Jammu by the National Executive Member of RashtriyaSwayamsevak-Sangh Indresh Kumar, and the President of the organization SmitaGhaisas.

The Chief Guest of the program, Mr. IndreshKumar stated a good human being is governed by good educational and cultural legacies which make him a human being fit to live in this world. According to him, it is these values which are being imparted by MaharshiKarveStreeShikshanSamstha to its students. He also expressed his desire towards the Samstha wherein he wished that a similar branch of the Samstha be started in Jammu and Kashmir towards the welfare of the students. He exclaimed that MaharshikarveStreeShikshanSanstha's Role is Important in the Independent New India.

The award comprises of Rs. 1,01,000/- and a memento.

The President of the MaharshiKarveStreeShikshanSamstha SmitaGhaisas, Chairman, RavindraDeo, Vice Chairman, VidyaKulkarni, Member of the Board of Directors, SeemaKamble, Members of the Selection Commit-

tee, Sanjay Tambat and VibhavariBidve and Secretary of the Samstha Dr. P. V.S. Shastri, were present.

MaharshiKarve set the precedent for women's empowerment through social work and education which has been continued by the

in Jammu and Kashmir, PankajaDidi migrated to Jammu and became an integral part of the region ever since. She has been working relentlessly towards the care and treatment of the people who are a victim of terrorist attacks and bomb blasts. She

tensively in the entire region, being a pillar of support to all the victims there. Her fearless attitude towards her cause has helped her work with absolute perseverance. In addition to the work of rehabilitation, PankajaDidi also takes responsibility of getting the

of which was also done by one of the girls whom she has rescued.

She has also received threat letters from terrorist groups like Hizbul Mujahidin, but the same have not been able to deter her. In fact, she even refused to accept the police protection provided by the department as she felt that this could discourage the girls from approaching her for help. Didi has also faced several court proceedings.

At the end of the program, PankajaDidi appealed to all Indians to not only go for pilgrimages to destinations like Vaishnodevi, but also contribute their bit towards extending support towards their noble cause. She also expressed her gratitude towards the Samstha for having recognized her work and motivated her to work even further.

The program was introduced and welcomed by the Member of the Management Committee SeemaKamble. The member of the selection committee Sanjay Tambat introduced the audience with Pankajadidi's life and work.

The members of the selection committee were introduced by the chairman of MaharshiKarveStreeShikshanSamstha, RavindraDeo. Pankajadidi was interviewed by VidyaKulkarni and Sanjay Tambat. The vote of thanks was proposed by the Secretary of the Samstha P.V.S. Shastri while the entire program was compered by KavitaBhopale.



Samstha for the past 125 years. The reputation of the organization is spread all over the country.

During the interview conducted by VidyaKulkarni and Sanjay Tambat, Pankajadidi claimed that the values instilled in her by the Sangh drove her towards becoming a part of this noble cause for the past 27 years. She was indeed glad to share her interesting experiences with the audience. During the period of unrest in the decade of 90s,

explicitly shared the experiences of how she became a mother to several girls who had been orphaned during such times. She also helped the victims of those who suffered brutally during the Kargil war.

Didi has also been an integral part of establishing a rehabilitation centre for orphaned girls, called AditiPratishthan which began with just three girls in her care.

She has been travelling ex-

girls married and helping them settle down in life. She also quoted one such incident where the girl absconded with one of the terrorists and thereafter, expressed the need to be rescued from him. With the help of the information given by the girl, the Indian Army was able to track and catch hold of some of the most dreaded terrorists. During such operations, PankajaDidi has been subjected to a lot of threats which she has faced bravely through the years, one

Delegation of PRI members from block Ghordi calls on Dr Jitendra

JAMMU: A delegation of PRI Members from block Ghordi met with MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh at his official residence in New Delhi and submitted him a charter of demands, highlighting various local issues.

On behalf of all the Sarpanches and Panches of block Ghordi, Chairperson BDC Ghordi, Arti Sharma discussed various issues which are of paramount importance for all the Panchayats of block Ghordi.



These issues and demands included work on double laning of Udhampur-Ghordi road, deficiency of teaching staff in distinct High and Higher Secondary Schools of the block etc. According to Arti Sharma, Dr Jitendra Singh assured

early redressal of all the feasible issues of all the Panchayats of block Ghordi. DDC Ghordi Rakesh Chander Sharma, Sarpanch Nalla Ghouran-A, Chander Kant Sharma and Sarpanch Satyalta Yash Paul were also present in the meeting.

SMVDU Students Participate in SVEEP Program & 2 Day Trekking Camp

JAMMU

A contingent from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, including students & staff, took part in SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) held at Pancheri on 29th November, 2021 and a two day trekking camp organized by Patnitop Development Authority, Kud, on 29th & 30th November, 2021.

The trekking team comprising of 26 students (13 girls and 13 boys) and three staff members participated in the Pancheri-Sankari-Ladadhar-Sanasar-Patnitop trek after attending the SVEEP program. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program, better

known as SVEEP, is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. The trekking expedition for students was a result of motivation from Vice Chancellor Padma Shri Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha who motivated the students to take part in such extracurricular activities.

The participation of students in the trekking camp was an initiative from Registrar, SMVDU Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, who also attended the SVEEP program and accompanied the students in trekking expedition.

J&K is on a mission to renovate, reinvent & ready to take a quantum leap to become the Country's fastest-growing region: LG

KOLKATA

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today held interactions with the Industry leaders at Kolkata and invited them to invest in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

The event organized by Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), Department of Industries and Commerce, J&K in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) included Industrialist/ Investors from Eastern India.

In a statement issued to mercury times, while discussing about the host of interventions made by the UT Government for creating a sustainable, balanced, progressive and competitive industrial ecosystem in the region, the Lt Governor made several important announcements on the occasion.

The Lt Governor has announced the enhancement of the Industrial Development scheme outlay to meet the exceeded expectation of Investments in Jammu Kashmir.

"The proposed investment has already reached Rs. 31,000 Cr and is expected to cross Rs.51,000 Cr by the end of the financial year. Given the response received, the government is enhancing the scheme outlay to meet the demand', the Lt Governor observed. With the quantum jump witnessed in the proposals received for setting up business enterprises, the demand for land has correspondingly increased, and to meet the growing demand, Land Bank is being developed across the UT. The Lt Governor announced that the UT government is coming up with the rules governing change of land use shortly to facilitate the setting up of business enterprises on private land. "This will ensure the seamless establishment of business enterprises on private lands. Business enterprises coming up on private land shall be entitled to all the incentives as per extant policy and procedure', the Lt Governor added.

Due to the second wave of Covid and subsequent lockdown, several new industrial units have not been able to come into production within

the specified timelines. To redress the issue, the Government is mulling to give a one-time extension to such units, upto March 31, 2022 for coming into production, announced the Lt Governor.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that J&K UT is on a mission to renovate, reinvent, and ready to take a quantum leap to become the fastest-growing region in the country, pushing the targets for economic growth and employment. Our aim is to deepen the trust with the business conglomerate, build the industrial base and strengthen the socio-economic stability, observed the Lt Governor. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Home Minister, we worked out a blueprint to unlock investment flows and are in the process of developing a business culture, an industrial ecosystem in J&K that has been missing since Independence, the Lt Governor noted.

Elaborating on the efforts being made by the UT Government to encourage new investment, and to nurture the existing industries, the Lt Governor said that J&K is one of the best destinations in the country for setting up new businesses as of now with the best incentives and improving infrastructure facilities.

"We are fulfilling all the crucial requirements of the industries including transparent policy of land allotment, private industrial estate development, ensuring ease of doing business, besides the administration has actively worked with solutions approach and introduced around 160 new initiatives and reforms in a short period of time", the Lt Governor observed.

Promotion of industrial units, providing capital Incentive, a liberal capital Interest subvention, GST Linked Incentive, Ease of Doing Business, development of sector-specific Industrial Estates and Parks, Single Window system, are some of the reforms brought in by the government to unleash the potential of the industrial sector, the Lt Governor added.

The Single Window Portal is being made live with 120

online services. For keeping in sync, the J&K Single Window Portal is being integrated with National Single Window System shortly. Further, J&K shall be the first UT to implement all the 301 business reform action



points under Ease of Doing Business initiative of DPIIT by 31st December, 2021, informed the Lt Governor.

Highlighting the immense possibilities presented by Jammu & Kashmir, the Lt Governor observed that the region offers abundant raw material for Agro & Food processing, manufacturing, land, labour, quick and competitive means of transportation. Besides, there is an 'amazingly easy interface with the government' through responsive governance & minimum government, in addition to being logistically the most attractive region with industrial land bank, sector-specific policy and international air cargo facility.

In addition, by December, 2022, the train will also reach Kashmir giving alternate all-weather connectivity to the valley, he added.

The Lt Governor further announced that the UT administration has a detailed "What you need" plan ready because we know that everybody wants a return on their investment sooner than later.

"This is the dawn of a new era for the growth, development, and overall well-being of the people of J&K. Barriers to trade and commerce have been removed. The people of J&K can now fully enjoy the rights and benefits enjoyed by all other citizens of India," the Lt Governor observed.

Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to J&K Government, Industries &

Commerce Department and Ms. Ankita Kar, Managing Director, JKTPO elaborated on investment opportunities that J&K is offering to the Industries.

Principal Secretary Industries invited industry mem-

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bers to visit J&K and witness the changes on the ground themselves and take benefit of the best industrial policy in the country. "We are confident that such steps coupled with the Central Government's and UT Administration's efforts in J&K will soon create an environment for attracting industry to the UT," said Sh Subhasendu Chatterjee, Vice Chairman CII West Bengal State Council and Wholtime Director of Haldia Petrochemicals.

The interactive session facilitated prospective investors to have a dialogue on the immense investment opportunities presented by the verdant region.

A video of J&K encapsulating different developments in the UT in the last two years was also showcased on the occasion.

The event was attended by over 40 delegates and some prominent industry groups included Tata Steels, Haldia Petrochemicals, Anmol Feeds, Eveready Industries, KCT Industries, Herbalife Industries, Green Ply Industries, Titagarh Wagons, Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited. the socio-economic stability, observed the Lt Governor.

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DFO hosts awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Yojana

JAMMU
Drugs and Food Organization, Jammu and Kashmir, in coordination with Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, on Tuesday organised an awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra here at Government Hospital Gandhi Na-

gar. State Drugs Controller J&K, Lotika Khajuria was the chief guest and Dr Renu Sharma, Director Health Services Jammu was the guest of honour.

Among others present were Dr, J.P Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Jammu; Poornima Kaboo, Deputy Drugs Controller (I&L) Dr Indra Bhatyal; Medical Superintendent of Government Hospital

Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; Dr Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent SMGS, Jammu; Dr Harbaskh Singh Government Hospital Sarwal, Jammu; Chest & Diseases Hospital, Dr Chalotra Super Speciality Hospital Jammu; Block Medical Officers of all the Hospitals of Jammu District, Drugs Control Officers, Representatives of Jan Aushadi Kendras attended the said programme. In a statement issued to mercury times, the programme was organised by the DFO Jammu as its endeavour to achieve the objective of ensuring availability of quality generic medicines at affordable price to all. The mega awareness program was conducted under the supervision of Mohammad Iqbal Palla, Assistant Drug Controller,

Jammu and Surinder Mohan, ADC; (HQ) J and K & State Project Coordinator for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyo-

this aim the Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been planned across J&KUT.

She emphasised that this flagship program



jana Dr Rifat Jan.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Drug Controller informed that the prime objective of the awareness program was to inform and provide access to the poor to affordable medicines so that they may not lose their lives because of lack of medicines". She said with

should reach the common man so that they may be able to reap the benefits of the scheme. She reiterated that the Jan Aushadhi medicines are of equitable quality, purity & strength in comparison to branded medicines shall be available at lower rates to the general public.

Earlier, Doctors & Drug Control Officers took a pledge to facilitate the percolation of the benefits of the scheme to masses to lessen their burden/expenditure on medicines.

Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened to provide generic medicines at affordable rates with quality and efficiency at par with branded medicine. It was impressed upon the Doctors to prescribe medicine available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras as it will benefit more marginalized and underprivileged families. Dr Rakesh Verma, Senior Physician; Dr Sanjeet Parihar, ENT Specialist of Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and Dr Soodan of Soodan Heart

Care Centre, Jammu also spoke on the occasion. They said that the medicine in Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra are available at affordable rates for general public and this schemes has benefited many people and there is a need to open more Jan Aushadhi Pharmacies in other areas of the Jammu. Among others, State Project Coordinator/Nodal Officer for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBI), Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers, Deputy Drugs Controller, Assistant Controller Drugs Jammu, Doctors, Drugs Control Officers, Students, Patients and Pharmacists attended the programme.

Sgr Admin holds Awareness/ Felicitation programmes at Harwan

SRINAGAR

Continuing Public campaign to aware and enroll the eligible unemployed Youth of Srinagar district through different self-employment schemes, the District Administration Srinagar on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today organized Awareness cum Felicitation programme under Be-Rozgar se Swa-Rozgar/Yogyata se Rozgar at Block Harwan.

In a statement issued to mercury times, during the programme, a number of local unemployed youth were registered under different self-employment schemes under the Be-rozgar Se Swa-Rozgar campaign.

On the occasion, the newly appointed meritorious Class 4th employees of Harwan Block were also felicitated under Yogyata se Rozgar Mahotsav to honour the merit in the District. While all 25 selected candidates who were recently recruited under Yogyata se Rozgar from 5 Panchayat Halqas of Theed A, Theed B, Dara A, Dara B and Gandtal were counseled and referred to the concerned Departments.

Addressing the gathering present in the programme, the Deputy Director Employment, Srinagar, Mohammad Rouf Rahman, who is also the Nodal Officer of the campaign emphasized upon the PRI Representatives and youth to ensure that the information about the initiatives taken by the Government like Tejaswini, Mumkin, PMEGP, JKREGP, IDDS & IPDP, KCC, MIDH, ISDS, National Livestock Mission, RKVY etc. reaches to all unemployed youth of the district so that they take benefits from such schemes for sustainable and dignified employment.

DDC Anantnag chairs meeting of officers of NHIDCL

38 grievances of objectors discussed, most resolved on spot

ANANTNAG
The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla today chaired

acquisition and alignment of the said road. Officials from the revenue department were also present on the occa-

under law. He further emphasized that the project is important from the development perspective

date the land records of the road, besides constituting a joint committee of R&B, NHIDCL, Revenue etc for social sup-



a meeting with various stakeholders in the ongoing work on two lane carriage-ways with paved shoulder, maintenance management and operation of NH 244 Vailoo-Singpora tunnel.

Present on the occasion, various objectors raised their demands and issues related to land

sion. In a statement issued to mercury times, giving due patient hearing to their grievances, Dr Singla and officials deliberated on the issues and most of the grievances were redressed on spot.

The DC assured the people that genuine grievances will be taken up for possible redressal

of the region and people must also take that benefit of the project into consideration and avoid creating unnecessary hindrances.

While listening to the demands of land owners', the DC stressed their cooperation and support for execution of the road.

He further directed the Revenue officials to up-

port, rehabilitation, technical support and streamlining any other challenges in the execution of the said road.

A total of 38 objections were filed.

The meeting was attended by ADC Gulzar Ahmad, SDM Kokernag, General Manager NHIDCL Revenue officials besides the objectors.

BBIA request to defer the eviction process with regard to cancellation of lease deed and eviction of the allottees in the Industrial Estates

JAMMU

An Urgent meeting of Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) was held under the President ship of Sh. Lalit Mahajan in the presence of Sh. Tarun Singla, Sr. Vice Presi-

dent, Sh. Ajay Langer Vice President, Sh. Viraaj Malhotra General Secretary, Sh. Rajesh Jain Secretary and Sh. Vivek Singhal Treasurer BBIA in respect of News Item published in today's newspaper in respect

DDC Kupwara reviews District Capex Budget Kupwara

Directs officers to chase fixed targets

KUPWARA

A joint meeting of District Development Council Kupwara and Officers of District Administration Kupwara was held here today under the Chairmanship of District Development Council (DDC) Chairman, Irfan Sultan Panditpori.

The Vice Chairman DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir and Chief Executive Officer/ Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Altaf Ahmad Khan; DDC Members, BDC Chairpersons were present in the meeting, besides ACD, ACP, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other concerned officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Chairman DDC

said that the objective of the meeting is to review the pace of progress under current financial year's District Capex Budget.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the Chairman stressed upon the officers to work with added dedication and ensure that all target works could be completed, keeping in view the winter season. He directed them to ensure that 75 percent expenditure should be made by 21 of December this year.

The Vice Chairman in his address asked for availability of buffer stock of Transformers so that people do not suffer any inconvenience in case of damage of Transformers.

Earlier, the officers and CEO briefed the

meeting about the achievements and was given out that as many as 2158 development works stands approved which include 155 ongoing works, 213 new works, 336 under DDC, 159 under BDC and 1295 works under PRIs area development fund. The meeting was informed that a total of 1633 works have been targeted to be completed during the current financial year.

It was also given out that Administrative Approval (AA) has been accorded to 1891 works, while 1517 works have been tendered and 970 works allotted.

Earlier, the DDC Members and BDC chairpersons projected issues of their respective areas and the officers gave their responses.

of "Govt. sets into motion process for retrieval of unutilized land in all Industrial Estates".

Members present in the meeting shown concern in respect of Govt. Order 233-Ind of 2021 dated 22-11-2021 issued by the Industries & Commerce Department for the Nomination of General Manager, JKSIDCO, Jammu and Kashmir Division as Member for Eviction Process with regard to cancellation of lease deed and eviction of allottees in Industrial Estates Managed by J&K SIDCO.

In a statement issued to mercury times, Lalit Mahajan, President BBIA draws the kind attention of Sh. Ranjan Prakash Thakur (IRTS) Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Jammu that Hundreds of Cases for the Renewal of Provisional Registration of Industrial Units, who has already taken effective steps in respect of construction of Factory Building, Installation of Machinery and in some cases, placed Orders for the Machinery, awaiting the approval of the Apex Committee pending since long and also invite the attention towards the Govt. Order No.214-IND of 2021 dated 02-11-2021 for the Constitution of Sub-Committee for examining the proposal for the Grant of Extension in the validity of Provisional Registration in respect of Units which were provisionally registered prior to the Notification of J & K Industrial Policy 2021-30 in accordance with the directions issued in the meeting of 47th Apex Project Clearance Committee held on 02-09-2021 with the directions to submit the report within a period of

seven days. It is pertinent to mention here that numbers of Industrial Units having Permanent Registration with Industries Department closed since last few years due to unforeseen circumstances like non availability of Supply Orders from Govt, Financial Constrains, Death of the Promoters etc. and it is unjustified to Cancel the Lease Deeds of such closed units which will be amount to unnecessary Litigation as no such Clause incorporated in the Lease Deeds duly executed in the Court of Law.

We also draw the kind attention of Principal Secretary towards the Point No. 18.2 of Govt. order No. 129-IND of 2017 dated 07-06-2017 which is reproduced as under:-

"Once all the steps have been exhausted for the revival and rehabilitation of Sick Industrial Unit, the Govt. shall provide an exit route to the sick unit by allowing transfer of its ownership/lease hold rights to another entrepreneur provided all the liabilities are cleared." We request Sh. Sh. Ranjan Prakash Thakur (IRTS) Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Jammu to kindly defer the decision taken to start the eviction process till the final decision taken in the next Apex Committee Meeting on the basis of report to be submitted by the Sub Committee as per Govt. Order No. 214-IND of 2021 and issue necessary directions to Managing Director J&K SIDCO in this regard with a request exempt the closed Units having Permanent Registration with the Industries Department from the preview of Eviction Process on the basis of Point No. 18.2 of Govt. Order NO. 129-IND of 2017 dated 07-06-2017.

Multipurpose Sports Indoor Hall Nilandrusu at Bijbehara thrown open to public

ANANTNAG

The opening ceremony of multipurpose indoor Sports hall Nilandrusu, Bijbehara Anantnag was held today. The SDM Bijbehara Muhammad Saleem Jahangir presided over the function as chief guest and Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council and Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Tehsildar Bijbehara were guest of honour on the occasion. In a statement issued to mercury times, sports enthusiasts in large numbers flocked to the venue. The function also marked the throwing open of facility to the players in the sports disciplines of Volleyball, Pencak silat, Wrestling and Badminton. Around 200 players, both boys and girls from these respective sports disciplines were also present on the occasion.

Terming this as a welcome step to promote the sports in its true sense, SDM Bijbehara hoped that the players will use the facilities to hone their skills and represent union territory of J&K at the highest level and bring laurels to both the J&K and country. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council informed the participants that the training classes in the disciplines of Pencak silat and Badminton shall start soon followed by training classes in other games. Secretary Sports Council who is the overall incharge of the activities and sports infrastructure development J&K Sports Council informed that the multipurpose indoor hall in Nilandrusu Bijbehara has been constructed under PMDP programme and it shall

cater to varied sports disciplines in future and as and when required, the facility shall be subsequently upgraded to bring it at par with the higher standards. Joint Secretary also informed the participants that the incharge multipurpose hall has been directed to start the process of registration and all the interested players can contact the concerned official on 9682128328 for further details. In addition to large number of participants various other officers including Sports Officer Central, J&K Sports Council Nusrat Gazala, Incharge Multipurpose Hall Pologround, Srinagar Muhammad Iqbal and Incharge Anantnag Stadium Muhammad Amin besides other officials from the district were also present on the occasion.

Jashan-e-Jammu & Kashmir held at Gulgam, Kupwara

KUPWARA

Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, All J&K Folk Artists Association, District Information Centre, Kupwara and Indian Army Kupwara Terries organized Jashan-e-Jammu & Kashmir under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Model Village Gulgam, here today. On the occasion artists presented a variety of cultural programmes.

The traditional Baand-e-paether, Ladishah, Rouf, Kashmiri Chakri, besides, Dambali Dance, Dogri Dance, Bachnagam and Solo performance were

the main attraction of the programme and enthralled the audience.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kupwara was the chief guest on the occasion, while as Officers from Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Chairman All J&K Folk Artists Association, District Information Centre, Kupwara and Indian Army Kupwara Terries and PRIs, senior citizens, and a large number of people participated in the programme.

Various speakers spoke on the occasion and it was given out that the J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages

is committed to safeguard the art and culture of UT and efforts are on to provide a platform to the talented youth of J&K.

Chairman of All JK Folk Artists Association, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat said that Jashn-e-Jammu Kashmir will be organised across the districts of UT with an aim to promote the local Art and Culture. Later, awards were given to the artists who have presented best performance in the cultural programme.

The programme was anchored by Rayees Wathori. Programme was concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Mushtaq Ahmad Khawaja.

Director Horticulture P&M J&K conducts extensive tour of Chenab Region Districts Emphasises on strengthening post-harvest activities

DODA
Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) J&K Vishesh Pal Mahajan conducted two day extensive tour of the districts of Doda and Kishtwar and reviewed the implementation of government schemes and interventions for empowerment of farmers, growers, entrepreneurs Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), societies and Self Help Groups and other stakeholders and strengthening Agriculture Marketing and optimum returns and creating needy marketing infrastructure.

He was accompanied by Dy. Director Jammu, Aijaz Ahmed Natnoo;

Assistant Director (Grading & Packing), Tehsin Iqbal Chib, Assistant Director (T), Sourabh Sarangal; Area Marketing Officer Doda-Kishtwar, Sunil Singh; AEE and JE of Engineering wing (J), and PA - S. Charan Kamal Singh. On day one, the Director inspected the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Batote and issued instructions to the Engineering wing regarding the infrastructural development issues and also distributed trade Licenses to the market functionaries of the Mandi. He also inspected the construction work going on at Farmer Market at Kanderi Nalla. The

Director asked the engineering wing and Thereafter he met with



AMO Doda to ensure the Saffron Growers and inauguration of the FPO members of

Pochaal Kishtwar District and took cognizance of the saffron marketing methodology. Giving a patient hearing to their issues, he redressed many grievances on the spot and directed the accompanying officers to take note of the rest and resolved the same in the stipulated time frame.

The Director also met with Dy. Commissioner Kishtwar Ashok Sharma and apprised him about the functioning of the department in the district.

Later, the Director accompanied by the DC visited the Atholi-Paddar area where he chaired a Farmer / PRIs Camp. He acquainted

the participants about the value addition, e-NAM/ and digital marketing and other farmer oriented schemes.

On his return, the Director held a meeting with farmers and PRIs of Galhar Block Nagsani and mitigated their marketing issues on the spot as well. Officers of allied departments were also present in the awareness camp. He interacted with President of The Director also held a meeting with the progressive growers of lavender and olive oil growers at Pranoo Doda and encouraged them to enhance their cultivation for optimum earnings.

PDP sought votes to keep BJP away, but joined hands with same party later: Ghulam Nabi Azad

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad Friday said that PDP sought votes from people of Jammu and Kashmir to keep BJP away but later the same party entered into an alliance with the BJP in 2018 and the results are well before the masses.

He said perhaps J&K is the only place that has been under Governor and Lieutenant Governor's rule most of the time in India. Addressing a gathering at Rajour, Azad said that almost all the political leaders have deceived people of J&K by raising hollow slogans and breaking the promises made to the people.

"Today, we have reached a stage where a common citizen of J&K is totally unhappy with the political leaders and is angry as well," he said. He said that it was



because majority of the political leaders while playing the politics of deceit to become Chief Minister, MP, MLAs mislead people.

"When we are witnessing LG rule, the political leaders who cheated people are silent," he said. He said that PDP sought votes from people to keep BJP away from political arena but later joined the hands with the same party to form the government in 2018. "Results are well

before people of J&K," Azad said.

He said that during Governor and LG rule, it is the bureaucracy that rules the people actually. "But in a democracy, there is no place for bureaucracy to rule people," Azad said.

He said there is inflation across J&K and the example was during Congress rule cooking gas cylinder would cost Rs 450 but today the same is sold at Rs 1100. "Petrol, diesel, vegeta-

bles, fruit, oil prices are touching new heights," Azad said, adding that unemployment is rising each day.

He said termination of government employees should stop, eviction of people from forest and state land should also stop. "Firing Rehabr-e-Zirat, Rehbar-e-Taleem and casual labourers should also stop forthwith," Azad said.

He said J&K is a place worst hit by bloodshed as there are hundreds of widows, and orphans. "We lost hundreds of civilians also. 60,000 civilians were killed in the militancy related incidents in J&K.

The figure includes some 6000 Hindus and Kashmiri Pandits but majority of those killed were Muslims," he said if militancy ends, that would help take J&K to new heights on developmental front.

Bribery case of Rs 1.5 lakh: CBI arrests 3 PWD officials in Udhampur

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday arrested Superintending Engineer; a Technical Officer and a Junior Engineer, all of PWD (R&B), Circle Udhampur-Reasi, Udhampur (J&K) on the allegations of demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh from the complainant.

A case was registered on complaint against the accused on the allegations of demanding for bribe. "It was alleged that complainant's firm was awarded tender for construction of Medical Sub-Centre in District Reasi during 2017-18 and complainant executed some part of project."

It was further alleged that Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B), Circle Udhampur - Reasi demanded bribe of Rs. 3 lakh from the complainant for processing the file related to technical sanction of the said project, the statement further reads.

"CBI laid a trap and caught the Junior Engineer while demanding & accepting part bribe of Rs. 1.5 lakh from the complainant allegedly on behalf of Superintending Engineer, on the instructions of Technical Officer.

Later, the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) and Technical Officer were also caught. Searches were conducted at the office & residential premises of the accused at Jammu, Udhampur and Srinagar."

All the arrested accused is being produced today before the Court of Special Judge, CBI cases, Jammu, it said.

KailashKund Sudhmahadev Beekeeping Cluster Doda under SFURTI shall boost the economy of Beekeepers: Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat

BHADERWAH: To inspect the ongoing work and overall progress viz. implementation of Kalishkund Sudhmahadev Beekeeping Cluster, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat Vice Chairperson J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB), today visited Common Facility Centre of the said cluster.

Besides associated beekeepers and stakeholders from the cluster area, Sh. Masroor Ahmed Shah OSD/Dy. CEO (Adm), Sh. Tilak Raj Dy. Chief Executive Officer Jammu Division, District Officer J&K KVIB Doda Representative from COO J&K ITCO (TA), Chairman Implementing Agency and local PRIs also accompanied Vice Chairperson

While addressing the public in an Awareness Programme Conducted under the Soft Intervention of aforesaid cluster Vice Chairperson said that KailashKund Sudhmahadev Beekeeping Cluster Doda under SFURTI shall boost the economy of Beekeepers.

Referring to the main objective of the said cluster, Vice Chairperson said that with the establishment of this cluster, the earnings of beekeepers of Doda District shall increase, besides raising the profit margin and productivity and production of honey in the District.

She added that the cluster is coming up with

project cost of Rs. 136.710 lakhs and its CFC shall house Honey Processing Plant and other relevant machines and equipments.

The facilities of honey extraction, processing, packing, labelling and marketing shall be provided to beekeepers of the area under one roof. She underscored the need for coordinated and synchronised efforts from stakeholders to ensure target oriented and objective implementation of the said cluster. Vice Chairperson J&K KVIB also advised the Implementing Agency to gear up and ensure that cluster is implemented in time-bound manner.

Forest Range Verinag held plantation drive under 'One Beat Guard, One Village' programme in Dooru

ANANTNAG: Forest Department Ranger Verinag started tree planting campaign in Collaboration with Municipal committee Dooru Verinag under the banner of "One Beat Guard One Village" Programme in Dooru on Friday. The tree planting campaign was started by President Municipal Committee Dooru Verinag Muhammad Iqbal Ahangar.

Many plants were planted during the tree planting campaign on the occasion Range officer Verinag Sheikh imtiyaz Ahmad Apart from the employees of



the department, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Dooru Ghulam Muhammad Dar and Councilor as well as senior journalists of South Kashmir Shah Hilal, Arif wani and Shah Ashfaq also took

part in the campaign. "One Beat Guard One Village" program was conducted by Beat guard Mir Mujtaba salam of Verinag Forest Range. Kairo, Medicinal Fodder and Deodar plants were also distributed among the partici-

pants.

The People overwhelmingly welcomed this innovative step of the forest department. They said, it is the first time the forest department came to provide the planting material at their door steps.

They will care for the plants as well as forests of adjoining areas. This step will create a bond between villagers and the forest department.

On this occasion president municipal committee Dooru verinag Mohd Iqbal Ahanger suggested that the forest department should start similar plantation drives along with distribution of plants to locals in other forest fringe villages of this hilly region also for

maintaining green cover of the area. Iqbal Ahangar said, Ecological balance can be maintained. He also appealed to the people of Dooru Shahabad to plant as many plants as possible to keep their environment clean and tidy.

On this occasion Range Officer Sheikh Imtiaz said that the purpose of such programs is not only to increase the forest area. The aim is to create awareness among the people.

Meanwhile the drives were conducted on the directions of PCCF Sh. Mohit Gira (IFS) while plantation drive conducted in the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Feroz Ahmad Chakat.

Corporator Pritam Singh kicks starts blacktopping work in Ward-55 Navin Choudhary launches Milk Village at Pouni

JAMMU: (JMC) Corporator Pritam Singh today kick started blacktopping work at ward no 55 Greater Jammu colony.

The blacktopping work was inaugurated by Pritam Singh and other prominent citizens of Ward-55 Greater Jammu colony and to fulfill the 15 year long pending demands and The total cost of Project is Rs.54, lakhs covering all the major Blacktopping work of Ward No.55

The work being executed by the JMC in presence of AEE, JE, super vizer ashok, rohit contractor and Corporator Pritam Singh Later, pritam Singh along with AEE and JE also visited Ward-55 and its surrounding localities, met with the locals, who put forth various issues of public importance such as construction/renovation of pending lanes and



drains, blacktopping of the main roads as well as interior lanes, etc.

Pritam Singh gave them a patient hearing and assured them that all their genuine demands be redressed in a time-bound manner.

He further added that development work going on at add joining area ward no 55 is already being completed at a fast pace with the cooperation of AEE & JE and also due to the support of the people

from area.

"Black topping and renovation of road is in progress so as to prevent any inconvenience to the people of the ward", said.

The people thanked Pritam Singh, AEE khalid And JE for listening to the issues regarding developmental works whether it was lanes, drains or roads and for ensuring them that all the pending developmental work of the ward will be completed soon.

Exhorts farmers to form FPOs to fetch optimum benefits

REASI: Principal Secretary Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Navin K Choudhary, today e-launched Milk Village at Jerri Panchayat of Pouni block.

Block Development Council Chairman, Pouni, Pawan Sharma, District Development Council Member, Pouni, Reeta Sharma besides officers and locals were present on the occasion.

Principal Secretary lauded launch of the milk village terming it as a major economic reform by the locals. "The milk village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with total 370 cows, would give financial security to local farmers", he added. Navin

Choudhary said that establishment of the milk village and its eventual success would attract many others to launch similar units in their larger interest.

"Timely support and subsidies by government agencies has immensely helped farmers in establishing such self employment ventures to earn their livelihood with dignity" he maintained.

Principal Secretary called for increasing the average size of a dairy unit besides asking dairy farmers to form their Farmer Producer Organizations which can transform their lives towards a bright future. He also asked the Animal Husbandry department to provide a refrigerated van to these farmers on 50 percent subsidy.

Principal Secretary exhorted upon the farmers to set up a milk chilling plant and brand their milk and milk products for better marketing. He also asked them to work hard towards further increasing their milk production besides incorporating milk processing and value addition to increase profitability. He highlighted the scope and potential in mushroom growing, horticulture, sericulture and other lucrative village industries and called upon women farmers to participate in such businesses.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr Sagar D Doifode among district officers, PRI members and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

JKPCC observes National Pollution Prevention Day

Chairperson inaugurates demo cattle dung log making machine

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee observed National Pollution Prevention Day by organizing an awareness workshop for dairy farmers and Gaushala operators to ensure scientific disposal of cattle dung and other dairy waste and adopt best available technologies to minimize pollution and utilize the valuable dairy farm resource to maximum possible extent.

The awareness workshop was organized in line with the theme of National Pollution Prevention Day to raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and educate stakeholders on how to prevent pollution.

Dr. Neelu Gera, Chairperson KPCCC was the Chief Guest at the programme in presence of B.M Sharma, Member Secretary J&K PCC; Yash Pal Sharma, Chairman SBM Standing Committee of JMC; Sat Paul, Regional Director, J&K PCC, Jammu; Sanna Khan, Deputy Director, ULB, Jammu; Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma,

Municipal Veterinary Officer JMC; Niraj Upadhyay, Team Leader SBM, JMC; Kulbhushan Khajuria, Member of advisory board for Kissan development, all Divisional Officers and technical officers, Pollution Control Committee, Jammu were also present.

The workshop started with the inauguration of cattle dung log making machine. The cattle dung log making unit having a capacity of processing approx. 200 kg of cow dung and producing 50-60 logs per hour has been procured with the efforts of the Pollution Control Committee through M/s Indian Oil Gas Corporation, Jammu.

Responsibility of the smooth operation of the machine has been handed over to volunteers of Disha organization.

Inaugural ceremony was followed by detailed deliberations regarding compliance of guidelines for environmental management of dairy farms and gaushalas, standard methods to be adopted

and followed by interaction with stakeholders to address the issues being confronted by them.

Satpaul, Regional Director, J&K PCC, formally welcomed all the dignitaries and participants in the workshop. He thanked the Management Committee of Gaushala for providing the space and other logistics for running the machine and taking this initiative towards on-site waste management that will help in production of eco-friendly logs that may be used for cremation, as fuel / briquettes in hotel tandoors etc.

B.M Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K PCC emphasized the importance of processing of cattle dung / urine at source by converting garbage to compost called as black gold and by installation of biogas plant or by converting cattle dung to logs / briquettes.

He added that dairy farm waste, if disposed of untreated in drains or open plots may lead to clogging of drains, thereby causing

odour pollution, health risk due to surrounding air and water pollution, and further impressed on the compliance to the directions of NGT.

The Chairman, SBM, Standing Committee, JMC talked about the steps being taken by Jammu Municipal Corporation to speed up process of registration of dairy farms and Gaushalas in Jammu city. He also informed that JMC has registered few dairies with all dung processing technologies in place and is all set to take stern action against defaulters after permissible time period granted for compliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director, ULB, Jammu also assured that department of ULB, Jammu is also planning to start registration process for dairy farms and Gaushalas very soon while ensuring compliance of environmental norms. She also informed that there are very few (approx. 10) dairy farms/ Gaushalas in their jurisdiction with 15 and above number of cattle

heads.

Kulbhushan Khajuria, member of advisory board for Kissan development discussed about the vermin-composting technique to treat cattle dung in an efficient manner, which is a very remunerative business.

Dr. Neelu Gera, Chairperson, Pollution Control Committee appreciated the efforts of Pollution Control Committee officials for working in coordination with implementing authorities and concerned stakeholders to ensure compliance of relevant Rules and guidelines in consonance with Swachh Bharat Mission guidelines and directions of the Hon'ble NGT.

She also stressed upon the need to adopt environmental friendly innovative products to deal with heaps of otherwise unmanageable disposable waste that remains littered in drains, sewers or ends up in landfills which is a cause of concern from environmental and health point of view.

Govt committed to ameliorate the differently abled persons: Sham Sharma

Asks people to come forward and display philanthropy to help needy

JAMMU: Former minister and Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma has asserted that the BJP Govt led by PM Narendra Modi stands fully committed to provide succour to all the sections of the society with special focus on ameliorating the poor, needy and disabled persons.

The BJP leader was speaking at a function organized as part of 'World Disabled Day', organized by All Jammu and Kashmir Disabled Welfare Trust, Akhnoor under the chairmanship of Trust Chairman Sushil Sharma here today. Former minister and Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma was the chief guest in the programme in which

the chairman of the trust, Sushil Sharma, highlighted before the chief guest the problems being faced by the differently-abled people.

After keenly and patiently listening to



the highlighted issues and problems Sham Lal Sharma appreciated all those present to celebrate the 'Divyang Diwas' in honour of this significant section of the society. He specially lauded the Trust management for organizing the programme on the day specially dedicated to the disabled persons besides providing basic facilities to the differently abled peo-

ple.

He said that the Trust is doing a commendable job by providing various facilities to this lot especially by presenting to them the specially designed scooties, tri-

cycles, etc that enhance the mobility of such people. He appealed to the people at large to come forward and get involved in multiple philanthropic activities especially focussing on the differently abled persons.

He assured that he would leave no stone unturned in resolving all their issues so that there is no hurdle at all in ameliorating the

differently abled persons. He said that he would soon take all their problems with the concerned the higher authorities and get the same addressed at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Trust had organized free medical check-up camps and provided free medicines to the disabled people in collaboration with the J&K Health Department. On this occasion, District Development Council member Bhalwal Brahmana Sh Bushan Bral, Dr Ashok Kumar, Chairman trust Sham Lal, Chairman Disable care foundation Umesh Sharma, Seema Mehra, Ritika Sharma, Tarsem Lal, Shamsher Singh, Sham Singh who was also present on the occasion appreciated the members of the Trust for coming forward displaying philanthropy in facilitating the lives of the differently abled people.

SED observes "World Disability Day" across J&K under Samagra Shiksha

JAMMU: The School Education Department today observed World Disability Day by organizing a series of events across Jammu and Kashmir under Samagra Shiksha.

Pertinently, inclusive education is one of the components of flagship programme 'Samagra Shiksha' under which educational as well as financial support is being provided to Children with Special Needs.

During the event, variety of cultural programmes were organized in all the districts through respective Chief Education Offices wherein large number of Children with Special Needs participated and displayed their talent.

A programme was organized at Jammu district wherein Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj, chaired the event with Chief Education Officer Jammu, Coordinator-Inclusive Education (Samagra Shiksha), Dr. Ravinder Jangral, Zonal Education Officers of Jammu, teachers, students and other officers of School Education Department also present on the occasion.

Project Director interacted with Children with Special Needs as well as Special Educators during the event.

Later, a UT level webinar was organized on the theme "Creating an Inclusive Environment for Sustainable Society" in which Professor Vishwa Raksha, Head Department of Sociology and Director, Centre for Women Studies (JU) and Diksha Nargotra, Faculty Centre for Women Studies were the key Resource Persons.

Professor Raksha spoke on the theme "Challenges faced by special need people especially during Covid: the path ahead" while Diksha Nargotra conducted session on "Career Opportunities for CWSN".

Project Director also briefed the audience about significance of the day and stressed upon all the stakeholders to take appropriate steps for uplift of Children with Special Needs in a strategic way. More than 1500 participants joined the programme through live stream.

Director Sainik Welfare Department calls on Lt Governor



JAMMU: Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan, Director Sainik Welfare Department (J&K) today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan.

The Director briefed the Lt Governor on the preparations for the upcoming celebration of Armed Forces Flag Day on 07 December and about various activities of the department related to the welfare of the Ex-servicemen and Veer Naris.

He expressed gratitude towards the Lt Governor for landmark approvals to set up 100 bedded children hostels, one each at

Srinagar and Jammu, and promulgation of the policy to provide relaxation in age and physical endurance tests to ex-servicemen for recruitment in government jobs in J&K.

Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan also apprised the Lt Governor of the efforts made to reach out to veterans in the border areas and far-flung regions, which include adhoc offices been set up in Bandipora and Akhnoor, proposal to set up new offices in other remote areas, use of digital technology, digital life certificate generation at all 13 ZSWOs, adoption of e-office, the launch of depart-

ment's website, besides various other initiatives and steps for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen.

He also apprised about the campaign being undertaken to sensitise citizens about the importance of contributing towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, which is used for welfare activities. The Lt Governor appreciated the remarkable work done by the Sanik Welfare Department for Veterans and Veer Naris. He impressed upon the Director to continue his endeavors for the welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their family members.

Dy Director YS&S visits Doda, Kishtwar Inspects sports infrastructure projects; Inaugurates district level Athletic competition

DODA: Deputy Director, Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Jatinder Kumar Mishra inspected sports infrastructure projects during an extensive tour to Chenab region districts of Doda and Kishtwar.

At Doda, he inspected ongoing developmental works, under UT Capex Budget at Sports Stadium which include Protection wall/ Retaining wall, Rifle shooting hall, Fencing & Main Gate & Mini Sports Stadium Beer Bagh.

The ongoing projects are being executed by R&B and RDD Departments. He was accompanied by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Doda, Jaffar Haider Sheikh along with other Staff members.

He also chaired a meeting with the Executive Engineer (RDD Doda) along other staff and issued instructions regarding speeding up of execution works for the financial year 2021-22.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director inaugurated the Inter Zonal District Level



Athletic meet for U/14,U/17, U/19 boys & girls open at Chowgan Kishtwar.

The Competition was organised by DYSSO Kishtwar Kharati Lal Sharma. He apprised the chief guest about the achievements of the Sports Department Kishtwar.

He said in past months the department engaged 28,000 students in different events organised by the Department and a huge participation of students from all zones is being witnessed in this athletic meet amid due adherence to Covid-19 SOPs. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest lauded the sports fraterni-

ty of Kishtwar for their hard work and gave further instructions for involving more and more students for upcoming events.

The Chief guest declared the event open by clicking the Clapper for 100 mts sprint, while at the same time other athletic events were also performed under the supervision of Susheel Kumar Sharma, a renowned Physical teacher of the department. Later, the Chief Guest gave away medals to the winners.

Later, Dy. Director also inspected construction works of playfields coming up in different areas under the state capex budget.

Kabra reviews preparations for forthcoming Armed Forces Flag day

Assesses collections of fund, other welfare measures of Armed Forces

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Home, Shaleen Kabra today chaired a high level meeting to review the preparations for forthcoming Armed Forces Flag day celebrations and also other measures being taken for the welfare of forces, ex-servicemen and their dependents.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Raghav Langer; Director, J&K Sanik Welfare Board, Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan; Joint Director, Information, Jammu, Namrita Dogra, representatives from GAD, School Education, I&C, Finance, Police, Urban Local Bodies were present in the meeting.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, PK Pole,

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Mathora Masoom and other officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing from Srinagar.

Speaking during the meeting, the Principal Secretary insisted on the officers to come forward for this virtuous cause and show exemplary dedication in realizing the fresh targets of the fund. He impressed upon the officers of J&K Sainik Welfare Board to run a sustained campaign in collaboration with the Information department to create awareness among masses about the working and contribution of Board towards welfare of Ex-Servicemen, war widows and their dependents.

The Principal Secretary observed that targets are driving force for enhancing the per-

formance of the departments and aspirational targets should be fixed for each of the department for collection of this fund. Kabra maintained that this contribution towards the fund is acknowledgement of the services rendered by the armed forces towards the nation. He highlighted that the soldiers ensure peace and tranquillity on our land which is pivotal for progress, development and economic well-being of our nation, adding that it must be our endeavour to reciprocate the same by contributing dedicatedly. The Principal Secretary emphasised on all the departments especially the police and other civil departments to contribute whole heartedly for this good cause and asked them to encourage others to do so.

The Principal

Secretary urged upon the Divisional Commissioners and Heads of other departments to refix targets for collection of Armed Forces Flag Day fund for the year 2021-22.

He asked the officers that at least an amount of Rs 3.5 crore should be collected this year by the government departments including Police forces, Deputy Commissioners, Industries, Education, Municipalities, Chief Engineers of different departments and others.

Kabra also directed the Welfare Board to participate in various socio-cultural events organised by the departments for inculcating a sense of nationalism among people especially the school children besides funds for welfare of forces should be collected in such congregations. He asked the School

Education department to organise such kind of events in association with the board.

Both the Divisional Commissioners assured that they would distribute the target among the offices under their control and jurisdiction. They further conceded that the set targets would be met under every circumstances.

Speaking during the meeting, Joint Director, Information, informed the meeting that several steps have already been taken by the department to create awareness about the upcoming Armed Forces Flag Day. She reiterated that the department is going to start a vigorous campaign on both social and mainstream media about the significance and organization of this day.

Namrita Dogra also suggested for airing

messages by soldiers, government officers and other dignitaries of the UT through various modes of media to motivate the audience. She also said that IEC campaign on every media platform would be launched in the coming days ahead of the Flag day so that there is enough awareness among people about this event. Director Sainik Welfare informed the meeting about the role and responsibilities of the board and its working towards the betterment of Ex-Servicemen and their dependents. He also gave an overview of previous collections made by the board.

He further informed that IEC material regarding the event has already been distributed among the DCs and heads of departments for mass awareness of the general public.

6 ways you are not using lemons

IN addition to enhancing the tangy taste to various delicacies, there are various other ways lemons can be used.

Cleanse and boost your system: A cup of warm lemon water first thing in the morning acts as the perfect body cleanser. Specifically because lemon is a diuretic and flushes out toxins from the body. Not only that, lemons are also believed to boost your immune system.

Digestive aid: Lemon with water pushes the liver to produce bile acid, which is required for digestion. Moreover, they aid in moving toxins from the digestive tract.

Mosquito repellent: Using it as a mosquito repellent, strange isn't it, but is an extremely simple process. You just need half a lemon, stuff it with sufficient

amount of cloves and there you go. Now you are all set to drive away the nagging mosquitoes.

Home freshener: Lemons, if mixed with rosemary and vanilla makes for a great way to freshen up your home.

Keep apples fresh: Lemons when added to cut apples and avocados will keep it fresh, such that it doesn't get brown.

Sanitize your cooking boards: Use lemon to clean your chopping board to reduce the microbial count and make it ready and hygienic for the next batch of vegetables to be chopped.

Make them last long: When you get your next batch of lemons, don't forget to store them in a glass container filled with water. It will stay fresh for a longer period of time.



Fruits, veggies help in weight loss, study finds

EATING fruits and vegetables such as apples, pears, blueberries, strawberries, radishes and red peppers high in a compound called flavonoids can help prevent weight gain, a first of its kind research study by Harvard University and the University of East Anglia, published in British Medical Journal (BMJ), has found.

Flavonoids are naturally occurring bioactive compounds that represent a constituent of fruits and vegetables, beyond calorie and macronutrient content, that could potentially

influence body weight. Flavonoids are also present in various other foods and drinks, like tea, chocolate, and wine.

The findings of the study showed that high levels of flavonoids could help people maintain healthy weight.

The research, which covered 1,24,086 women and men in the US who were monitored for up to 24 years, is the first to look at links between intake of various flavonoid subclasses and weight gain. Past studies have suggested that flavonoids may play a role in weight loss.



Here's when you can (and can't) have a drink

DECEMBER is all about binge drinking, so here's an essential's guide to prepping you up for the slosh party that awaits you at the end of the month. And this one's not about what you should be drinking, and how much. But with what.

Most drinkers don't stop a moment to evaluate what's going into their system with alcohol, and what effect a combination of the two can have on their system. We have come up with seven scenes that you are typically likely to encounter, and how you should act.

1 You've overdone the tan at the beach and are craving a cold beer or cocktail.

Bad idea.

When you experience sunburn, the blood vessels in your skin expand, and this can lead to dehydration. Booze adds to the effect, slowing down the skin's natural healing process. Don't drink until your skin is back to normal.

2 You have a spa appointment and they are offering you a flute of champagne.

Go for it.

Champagne can actually add to a massage's effects.

But there's a catch. You should down two to three glasses of water before sipping on the bubbly since massages are known to be dehydrating.

And stick to one glass, otherwise you are going to erase the effect of happy hormones, serotonin and dopamine that your body

usually releases during a calming massage.

3 You are at the fag end of an antibiotics course, feeling upbeat, and have an invitation to a party.

Go for it.

This is a sim-

ply in the mood for a romp.

Depends.

A light, happy buzz can do wonders to prod you into loosening up by numbing the area of your brain that gets



ple test.

If you are feeling good, it's fine to sip on one drink. But it's important to listen to your body because alcohol impacts the white blood cells' capacity to fight infections. If you are going to binge drink before you have recovered fully, your immune system will be muzzled. Better still, call your physician to check.

4 You are happy high, and sud-

denly all strung up with inhibition. But if you've had one too many, reserve sex for another time. You are not only likely to make bad judgments, the dehydrating effect of booze also affects the lubrication of a woman's privates.

5 You had a few drinks with your colleagues at the bar, but can't sleep once back home. Should you pop an over-the-counter sleep med?

Bad idea.

When alcohol and sleep medication come together, they affect the mind's capacity to think straight. This means, the following day, anything from your ability to drive your car judiciously to basic cognitive functions can be affected.

Experts suggest picking up a magazine and reading till you doze off. You will.

6 After a long flight, you are jet-lagged. You are wondering if you should order a tippie through room service.

Bad idea.

Sometimes, alcohol feels like the quickest, most effective trick to relax, but booze only worsens the effects of jet lag. Here's why.

Your body is still working according to the time it is on the land you left, and a drink will make you feel three times worse. Besides, booze isn't a good friend of sleep hormones, which means sleeping after ODing on drinks will be tough any way.

7 You are just back from a work trip, and drowsy, but it's your best buddy's birthday bash. You want to chug an energy drink before hitting the bar.

Bad idea. If you've had an energy drink, sip on mock tails for the night.

Energy drinks are stocked with caffeine and other stimulating ingredients that negate the sedative effect of alcohol.

What this means is that you'll end up drinking way more, leaving you vulnerable to passing out.

Know your knee before you run

RUNNING without proper training and guidance can be harmful. Here are tips you need to keep in mind...

Are you ready for the run? You might be enthusiastic about the marathon but running without proper training and guidance can be extremely harmful. Orthopedic surgeon Dr Tejas Upasani, joint replacement and orthopedic surgeon Dr Suraj Gurav and podiatrist Chaitanya Shah share tips on precautions you should take while practicing for the marathon.

Warm-up is essential: Stretching your leg muscles properly are a must. The front and outsides of the thigh and leg muscles must be active and well warmed up. This is crucial.

Strengthen your muscles: Take up exercises that help to strengthen the thigh, calf and hip muscles. They should be able to battle the fatigue of running for so long. Strengthening of the buttocks muscle (gluteal) will help prevent knee pain.

Take a break from running: Improve your stamina by indulging in activities like swimming to give your knee that much needed break.

Know your knee better: Called runners' knee, this is the spot where maximum injury takes place for marathoners, especially because of running on hard ground.

Stretch after the run: Recover your sore muscles by stretching well, after you are done running.

Ice your knee: Apply ice frequently to reduce pain and soreness.

Use the correct gear: Make sure that you purchase the right shoes and sock (from a reputed brand) that do not put a strain on your knees. Your footwear should help, not hinder your progress. Ensure that your socks fit snugly. Ideally, change your shoes every 500 kilometers. Protect your knees by wearing guards.

Home remedies to treat high blood pressure

HIGH blood pressure or Hypertension is a common condition in which the force of the blood against your artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems such as heart disease.

Blood pressure is determined by the amount of blood your heart pumps and the amount of resistance to blood flow in your arteries. The more blood your heart pumps and the narrower your arteries, the higher your blood pressure.

High blood pressure, a silent killer can cause heart attacks, strokes, heart disease, organ failure, and death if not treated on time. Your doctor will give you medical prescriptions if you have high blood pressure, but did you know that there are several things in your kitchen cabinets that can be used to lower the same problem?

Red Vs white
Fish and chicken are helpful in lowering blood pressure. But red meat will spike your blood pressure and even make matters worse. Try clubbing chicken or fish with vegetables and you are sorted!

Garlic
Garlic is a key ingredient of the Indian diet and many cuisines around the world.

Remember your grandma asking you to eat a piece of garlic every day? Well she was right! This natural medicine helps in lowering cholesterol and also keeps your blood pressure in check.

Onion and honey
A quick tip to lower your blood pressure is to take a tbsp of onion juice in a cup and add two tbsp of honey. Have this concoction every day.



Curry leaves

This is one remedy that our south Indian friends mostly opt for. Curry leaves are a natural source that battles various illnesses. In a vessel add drinking water and 4-5 curry leaves, cool it and use it for daily drinking.

Carrots
Blend a carrot and spinach to get a tall glass of juice. Drink this twice a day to lower your blood pressure.

Beet root
This beautiful vegetable juice is a great way to lower your blood pressure. Drink it twice a day.

Decrease the salt in your diet: 1,500 milligrams (mg) a day

Note: These home remedies for lowering blood pressure should be taken along with your doctor's prescriptions. They will help you lower your blood pressure and live a healthy life.

Ab workout mistakes you must avoid

IF your abs are not yet showing after a strenuous workouts, something is not right. Fitness instructor from Kolkata and our fitness expert, Arnav Sarkar gives you four good reasons for no abs.

Ab workout: What you ought to know about abs

The simple science behind six pack abs is that they exist in everybody. It's just when you start putting on more body fat that these abs disappear. A combination of two major muscles transversus abdominis and rectus abdominis muscles make up what we consider to be our 'abs' zone.

These muscles are buried under the front and side of torso muscles and exist around your midsection like a girdle. Now, if you ate a healthy diet comprising of lean proteins, balanced carbs and less, yet good, fats, you would enter a zone with minimal superficial body fat, and your muscles would become visible, resulting in six pack abs.

Doing only high reps:

"High reps are great for muscular endurance, but not necessarily for abdominal development," explains Arnav. "If you want rock hard abs,



then include some work in the low to moderate rep range. Try hanging leg raises, dragon flags, windmills, etc for sets of 5-12 reps and feel your abs getting tighter." The abs will appear gradually with a mix of high reps and low reps too.

Not including a rotational move-

ment:

Arnav makes a crucial point about rotational exercises, "Your abs don't just work when you perform a sit up, they also work when you rotate sideways, so why not include a rotational or bending movement to hit the obliques bet-

ter. Good choices in this case include Russian twists, side bends, windmills, twisting crunches, etc."

Ignoring heavy compound movements:

"While you train your abs directly with the crunches and the sit ups, your abs also work hard when you perform a heavy military press or a heavy squat. Go heavy with these moves to work your core harder, and get better results," suggests Arnav. It is important to strength the core to avoid workout or sports injury.

Using fancy ab gadgets:

We tend to go over board to get wash board abs, but Arnav says not to fall for long claims. "Be honest, did you ever buy one of those fancy ab gadgets that they advertised on those TV shopping infomercials? Atleast I fell for one of those silly gadgets once. Only once!

The fact is that any product that claims that you can get great looking abs with only three 10 minutes workouts a week, and no diet control, is wasting your time. Great abs require a lot of hard work, and take a lot of diet control to be unveiled."

High Court, JA, LSA organize workshop on 'Gender Sensitization; Breaking Barriers, Addressing Issues'

JAMMU
High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (Sexual Harassment Probe Committee) in association with J&K Judicial Academy (J&K JA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA) today organized one day workshop on 'Gender Sensitization - Breaking Barriers & Addressing Issues' at Judicial Academy Complex, Jammu.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the workshop was held under the supervision of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), guidance of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chairman, other Judges of Governing Committee of Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy and the directions of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Chairperson,

Sexual Harassment Probe Committee for the members of Gender Sensitization Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) and Gender Sensitization Local Complaints Committee (GSLCC) of districts of Jammu province and Leh district.

Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Sindhu Sharma, inaugurated the workshop.

The programme, which was attended by the participants in person as well as through virtual mode, was aimed at to generate awareness on gender related issues and raising sensitization on provisions of Sexual Harassment of Woman at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2018.

Sanjay Parihar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, M K Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Dr. Arti Bakshi, Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, Jammu University were the resource persons in the workshop.

In her inaugural address, Justice Sindhu Sharma highlighted the

importance of sensitization on gender related issues for both men and women. She emphasized the need for existence and maintenance of a conducive work environment bereft of any sexually explicit behaviour against women within the society, which is a right intrinsic to them.



importance of sensitization on gender related issues for both men and women. She emphasized the need for existence and maintenance of a conducive work environment bereft of any sexually explicit behaviour against women within the society, which is a right intrinsic to them.

In the technical sessions, resource person educated the partici-

pants on various aspects of gender sensitization including social con-

struction of gender and gender roles. She apprised the participants on issues related to gender including gender discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and gender equality. She emphasized the need for a positive and equality oriented approach while engaging in interactions within the society.

plained the provisions of Sexual Harassment of Woman at Workplace

(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2018 with special reference to constitution of various committees, the process of inquiries into complaints of sexual harassment within the institutions and the penalty provided under the Act. He explained that the legislative provisions of the Act aim to provide protection against sexual harassment of women at work-

place and to ensure that the right to work with dignity of women is ensured in letter and spirit.

M K Sharma deliberated during the technical session that the sexual harassment of women at workplace is violation of fundamental rights of women enshrined in the constitution. He discussed the provisions of the Act, the rules and the regulations their under specifically those dealing with constitution of Complaints Committees, complaints of Sexual Harassment, enquires and duties of employer. He also highlighted the importance of awareness along with capacity building exercises and skill building programmes for raising sensitization on the subject.

Later, an interactive session was held during which the participants deliberated and discussed the various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily settled by the resource person.

Awareness programme on schemes of Mission Youth held at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL

The District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Ganderbal today organized a daylong awareness programme on schemes of Mission Youth operated by various departments for the unemployed youth of the district at Conference Hall of Mini-Secretariat, here.

In a statement issued to mercury times, at the outset, unemployed youth were sensitized about different self-employment schemes including schemes of Mission Youth meant for the empowerment of the youth, so that they are able to generate livelihood for themselves and others. During the program, the AD Employment, sensitized the participants through a power point presentation about various schemes of Mission youth which includes, Mumkin, Tejaswani, Rise Together, Tourist Village network, SAYTHA-Youth in Distress, AVSAR, Skill Development Initiatives, Youth Clubs, Psycho-Social Support, Young Innovators Programs for holistic and pragmatic youth engagement and empowerment on sustainable lines. Briefing the participants, the OSD for Mission Youth informed that these schemes are launched with an objective to positively engage youth of J&K through multi-pronged strategy involving all necessary systematic interventions for their inclusive development which includes provision of Livelihood Generation, Skill Development, Education, Counseling and Rehabilitation, Sports and Recreation. He also apprised the participants about eligibility criteria, selection process, funding pattern etc under each scheme. On the occasion, the Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Peer Muzafar Ahmad stressed the concerned departments to educate the unemployed youth about the self-employment generation schemes and exhorted them to motivate maximum number of youth as there is huge untapped potential in these schemes. All the participants were further appealed to disseminate the awareness about the schemes of Mission Youth among the masses so that benefits of these schemes percolate down to all the eligible ones.

Officer on Special duty for Mission Youth, Murtaza Rashid, CPO, Irfan Giri, ACD, AD Employment, CEO, GM, DIC Ganderbal, ZEOs and other district and sectoral officers attended the said program.

CMD launches J&K Bank mPay Delight

"I believe it will delight our customers and make their transactions safer and easier"

SRINAGAR

To make daily transactions of its customers more secure and easier, J&K Bank today launched its revised and refurbished Mobile Banking App - mPay Delight - for the Public.

In a statement issued to mercury times, CMD, R K Chhibber unveiled the app in presence of Executive President Sunil Gupta, Presidents, and Vice Presidents besides other senior Bank officials here at the Bank's corporate headquarters. All the Zonal Heads along with other officials also joined the launching ceremony through video-conferencing mode.

Speaking on the occasion, the CMD said, "Through its timely and efficient application in banking, technology has not only revolutionized the customer-experience by making it truly personalized but has democratized the entire financial landscape by empowering people irrespective of their status and location. And success in today's business

largely revolves around the effective use of technology platforms"

"Today I feel really delighted to launch 'J&K Bank mPay Delight' officially - markedly an improved version of 'J&K Bank mPay'. I believe it will delight our customers and make their daily banking transactions safer and easier while providing them a range of services like payment of utility bills & donations, service requests and other important accounts related information", he added.

While appreciating the entire IT team along with other verticals involved in the successful development and launch of Bank's mPay Delight, CMD urged upon the participants to keep excelling in every sphere to sustain the competitive edge of the Bank across all domains especially in core operational geographies.

"Mobile banking is one of the important competitive planks which adds immense value to the highly personalized products and services of the banks, therefore, we must keep

improving our products and services", the CMD said.

On the occasion, Executive President Sunil Gupta informed the participants that J&K Bank has been adjudged as runner-up in 'Process Innovation' category of Infosys Finacle Innovation Awards 2021 held recently, adding that the Bank was making big strides digitally and had already scaled up its operations in terms of transactions.

Earlier, after introductory remarks by the President IT Narjay Gupta a detailed presentation on the features and future enhancements of mPay Delight was made on the occasion by the IT department.

Notably, available on Google Play Store & Apple store, J&K Bank mPay Delight app has been made more user friendly, vibrant and easier to use with biometric fingerprint authentication for faster and more secure Logins.

Pertinently, since the App's soft launch in July this year, 8.2 Lac Customers have been on-

boarded and currently 10 to 15 thousand new customers are registering daily on the new platform. Extensively tested in Real and Live environment for real world scenarios, around 1.76 Crore Financial and 12 Crore Non-Financial transactions have been successfully processed till date on the New platform.

The Bank's digital transactions have seen steep rise of late and around 3 Lac Financial and 20 Lac Non-Financial transactions are successfully processed on daily basis. In place to mention, various features available on mPay Delight include Account Details (Deposit and Advances), Fund Transfer, Bill Payments & Donations, Deposit Details, Credit Card Module, App Settings, Service Requests, Positive Pay System and Bharat Bill Pay that gives our customers the power to make payments for wider range of utilities like LPG, electricity, insurance, tax, FasTag, hospitals, clubs and associations and much more across the country.

Encroachment of forest land: ACB file chargesheet against ex-patwaris, others

JAMMU
Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said that it produced a charge sheet against former revenue officials, a forest guard and others for their alleged involvement in encroachment of the forest land.

In a statement issued to mercury times, "Anti-Corruption Bureau produced a charge sheet in a case under FIR number 05/2013 u/s: 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K P.C. Act Svt. 2006 BK, Sections 420, 467, 468 and 120-B RPC of P/S VOJ (now ACB) in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu against (1) Bashir Ahmad; (2) Altaf Hussain Malik; both the then Patwaris Halqa Bain Bajalta, Jammu; (3) Malook Ali, the then Forest Guard; (4) Ch. Aslam Din, the then Tehsildar (now expired) and beneficiaries namely (5) Javid Ahmed S/o Abdul Gani Gujjar R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (6) Wali Mohd

S/o Nek Mohd Gujjar R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (7) Jamat Ali S/o Sardar Ali Gujjar R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (8) Arfakat Hussain S/o Haji Mian Yaqoob R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (9) Mohd Idrees S/o Mohi ud Din R/o Village Dwara Jammu (now expired); (10) Hassan Mohd S/o Kheja Gujjar R/o Dwara (now expired); (11) Mohd Rafiq S/o Gazi Moulvi Gujjar R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (12) Mohd Aslam S/o Wazir Mohd R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (13) Rashid Ali S/o Sahib Din R/o Village Dwara Jammu; (14) Habbu D/o Fateh Mohd R/o Village Dwara Jammu." According to a statement issued to mercury times, the instant case was registered on the outcome of a verification conducted into the allegations of encroachment over the forest land in Khasra no 59/41 situated at village Dwara tehsil & district Jammu.

"Verification has re-

vealed that Muhammad Bashir Patwari Halqa Dwara, Malook Ali Forest Guard of the area and some unknown officials and private persons of the area entered into a criminal conspiracy among themselves and in pursuance thereof the accused public servants dishonestly, fraudulently and by abusing their respective official positions manipulated the revenue records and facilitated illegal encroachment of State Forest land in favour of various private beneficiaries thereby causing wrongful loss to the Govt and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons."

"During the course of investigation, it has been established and proved that accused Bashir Ahmed and Altaf Hussain Malik remained posted as Patwari Patwar Halqa Bain Bajalta during the period 2008-2012 and in that capacity they in furtherance of criminal conspiracy with benefi-

ciaries, dishonestly and illegally manipulated revenue record."

The accused public servants in connivance with the beneficiaries, have altered the revenue record i.e. the Girdawaries by overwriting or inserting the names/figures to give undue benefits to the beneficiaries and which resulted in loss to the state property thereby committing the offences under section 5 (1) (d) read with section 5 (2) J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006 and Section 467, 468, 420 and 120-B RPC, the statement said.

"After receiving sanction from Government in respect of in-service accused persons, a charge sheet of the instant case FIR was produced against the above mentioned persons in the Special Anti-Corruption Court, Jammu for judicial determination," it said, adding that next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for 30-12-2021.

DC Kulgam visits far-off areas of Noorabad

KULGAM

Under the public outreach programme and to take first hand appraisal of issues and grievances of people for redressal, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited rural and far-off areas of Noorabad area of the district.

During the public outreach programme, the DC held interaction with the delegations of youth and a huge number of tribals. He listened to the issues and grievances raised by them for timely redressal.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the DC also interacted with the youth of the area who flagged-off several demands. While interacting with youth and players, DC urged them to take up sports along with academics and channelize their potential by adopting constructive approaches. He added that sports activities have a significant impact on the social and mental development of youth adding that games inculcate sportsmanship qualities, teamwork and discipline. Dr Bilal added that through coordinated and concerted efforts sports infrastructure is being developed across the district and playfields have been developed in 160 panchayats in the district so far.

He also announced additional Rs. 20 lacs for development of Sanyadi playfield. The playfield is under execution of Rural Development Department and is expanded over 67 kanals of land and today the first match was played in an already developed stretch of the field.

The DC also urged youth to avail benefits of various self-employment schemes of the Government. SDM-Noorabad, ACR, ACD, BDO, Tehsildar and other officers were also accompanying the Deputy Commissioner.

DC Kupwara reviews traffic management system

KUPWARA

In order to discuss and evolve a policy for effective traffic management in district Kupwara, a meeting of concerned officers was held here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat was also present, besides, civil/police officers and president of Sumo and Mini Bus stands.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the Deputy Commissioner directed all stakeholders to play proactive role in streamlining the traffic management system in Kupwara and Handwara towns. Deputy Commissioner stressed for launching a joint IEC campaign comprising of the officers of Revenue, Municipal Committees, Police, Traffic Police, ARTO and transport associations which should be followed by stern action. Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officers to use the magisterial powers for exemplary punishment of habitual offenders to streamline the traffic system in Kupwara town.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Kupwara Municipality to provide registration number and location spot to each registered vendor.

He also directed the officers to eradicate encroachment of footpaths alongside the roads. He also stressed the holding of daily based checks of traffic management to record the violations which should be followed by weekly checks by a constituent team to identify the chronic defaulters. It was also given out in the meeting that if the defaulters fail to comply with the orders of administration in streamlining the traffic management, strict action under traffic law will be taken against them. Tehsildar Kupwara was nominated to monitor the full process for one month. ARTO was directed to randomly check the licenses of the drivers.

The Executive Officer Kupwara Municipality through an official order was directed to ensure removal of unauthorized street vendors from the market by utilizing the services of enforcement teams.

LG Sinha's Awaam ki Awaaz is big hit among people of J&K, witnesses massive public response

JAMMU

The monthly radio talk show of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is being well received by people and in particular youth of J&K thus proving a big hit among the audience as their suggestions and opinions find a major platform for audience.

In a statement issued to mercury times, many people especially youth of J&K have voiced their suggestions through the programme and those ultimately have found their mention in LG Sinha's monthly radio talk: 'Awaam Ki Awaaz'.

Faisal Yousuf Gilkar, who is from southern Anantnag district of Kashmir, is among hundreds of youth, whose suggestions were acknowledged by LG Sinha himself. Gilkar believes that such platforms give

confidence to youth of J&K and boost 'our morale to work for the betterment and development of the region.'

"It is matter of great honour for me to get mentioned in monthly radio talk Awaam Ki Awaaz; and getting featured in such platforms gives confidence and boosts our morale to work for the betterment and development of UT of J&K," says Gilkar.

On November 21, Lt Governor Sinha, in this month's episode of "Awaam ki Awaaz" radio programme had voiced valuable insights and suggestions received from the general public. During the program, the Lt Governor had connected with the people and dedicated this month's episode to all those citizens who are working for the betterment of the society, and emerged as role models for others. While refer-

ring to the suggestion received from Gilkar regarding creating an environment of self-employment and inviting the young and promising entrepreneurs to schools for guest lectures, the Lt Governor had said that such interactions with the students will ignite and propel the spirit of entrepreneurship in the young minds.

For mentioning his insights, Gilkar thanked

Dist Admin Kulgam sanctions Rs. 7 lakh relief for kin of Covid victims

KULGAM

To provide relief to the kin of 14 Covid-19 victims of the district, the District Administration Kulgam today sanctioned relief to the tune of Rs. 7 lakhs among them.

In a statement issued to mercury times, it was informed by the authorities that the relief will be disbursed in favour of the families of COVID-19 victims through a transparent verification process via Aadhar linked Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The Disaster Management Department was asked to obtain utilization certificates for the same and conduct an audit of the concerned accounts.

The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat also informed that The Next of Kin (NoK) of all those, 86 persons who died of COVID -19 in Kulgam will get Rs 50,000 as an ex-gratia assistance and amount will be disbursed through Aadhaar linked Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) procedure.

DG IMPARD chairs inaugural function of online training course on “CPIOs under RTI”

SRINAGAR
Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JK IMPARD), Saurabh Bhaghat, today chaired the inaugural function of one day online training course on “CPIOs under Right to Information (RTI)” here at IMPARD main campus, Srinagar.

In a statement issued to mercury times, officers designated in various departments of J&K

government as First Appellate Authorities (FAAs), Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Assistant Public Information Officers (APIOs) under the RTI Act, 2005, participated in the training course.

Speaking on the occasion, Saurabh Bhaghat said that transparency is the bedrock of good governance and providing timely information to citizens is the most important indicator of such dispensation. He said that RTI is a wonderful platform that can act as a

feedback mechanism for all the government de-



partments, therefore, the public authorities (APIOs, PIOs, and FAAs) should learn to treat RTI

as a yardstick of good governance. Director

He said that the Institute will keep on organizing such programmes which will act as an effective tool for improving governance and administrative machinery in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He informed the participants that the General Administration Department, J&K Government, has prepared a list of 4000 officers including FAAs, PIOs, and APIOs, who

from denying information un-necessarily.

He said that a handbook on RTI prepared by J&K IMPARD for use by APIOs, PIOs, and FAAs under the “Scheme of Improving Transparency and Accountability in Government through Effective Implementation of RTI Act” has also been formulated. Joint Director, Deputy Directors from GAD and senior faculty members from J & K IMPARD were present on the occasion.

JKNPP held meetings to save the State from political instability

JAMMU
Under the direction of JKNPP's resolution the leadership of the party has been holding weekly meetings in Union Territories of Ladakh and J&K which are passing through the miserable political and economic situation under the President Rule with no status of State. In a statement issued to mercury times, the State of J&K has no rules like delimitation, Assembly election since 1995. Prof. Bhim Singh who was elected as President of JKNPP on March 23, 2021 sured his concern about the undemocratic situation in the border State of J&K.

Prof. Bhim Singh has declared that he shall make the Panthers Party start the movement against the present undemocratic situation in J&K and Ladakh. The latest declaration made by the Panthers Party in its annual session in 2021 was that the Panthers Party shall be starting a movement in all the 20 Districts of J&K and Ladakh with a clear agenda as follows;

a). JKNPP shall force the Union Govt. to hold fresh Assembly elections before the middle

of August, 2022.

b). JKNPP through its Committees at all levels will carry the message to the electorates in J&K to hold Assembly elections so that people can have a government elected by them.

c). Prof. Bhim Singh has urged the President of India, Shri Ramnath Kovind to restore the Statehood status immediately which was demolished and converted into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019 by the Parliament of India.

d). JKNPP President declared that all District and Block Committees shall intensify the effort to join the movement in support of the party's agenda for the restoration of Statehood. JKNPP has described the Act of the Central Govt. as anti-people taking away the status of the State.

e). JKNPP shall launch a movement after August 2022 if the Statehood is not restored and the Assembly election is not held.

f). JKNPP President, Prof. Bhim Singh declared that the Panthers Party shall intensify the movement for the unity of the State and its return to Statehood so that the restoration of dignity, honour and the birth right of the residents of J&K and

Ladakh and their right to live and survive with dignity, honour and all Fundamental Rights which are preserved by the Constitution of India.

Prof. Bhim Singh urged the President of India to use his constitutional power to provide all Fundamental Rights mentioned in Chapter-III of Indian Constitution at par with all citi-

Social Welfare Deptt & Big FM organises 'Chhod Na Yaar' - an initiative against Drug Abuse

SAMBA
 Department of Social Welfare, J&K and 92.7 Big FM organised a programme 'Chhod Na Yaar' at Government Degree College, Samba here today. The main motive of the programme is to sensitize the students regarding the drug menace. In a statement issued to mercury times, Sheetal Nanda, IAS Secretary Social Welfare Department was the chief guest on the occasion. While addressing, she asked every student of the college to become the brand ambassador of the society to fight with the drug menace in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. She further added that malicious attempts are being made to push J&K's Youth into the menace of drugs, keeping them away from the mainstream. She urged everyone to reaffirm our resolve and take a firm stance against drug abuse to give a befitting reply to Narco-Terrorism and bring back the misguided youth into mainstream. The programme was started with the presentation of Padmashree Balwant Thakur's play 'Aag' under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The play exposes how drugs are ruining generations and crippling developing nations. Singing sensation Sonali Dogra added some power to the event with her mesmerising singing which was also on the sensitisation of masses for drug abuse. She sang a song on drugs 'Chhod Na Yaar' which was prepared specially for the youth which received repeated applause from the students. The programme was culminated with the story of Rakshit Singh Jamwal (Peer Counsellor, JKSPYM) who dwelt his journey towards drugs and shared that with the help of counsellors he is living a healthy life now. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion includes Mrs. Anuradha Gupta, JKAS (Deputy Commissioner, Samba), Mrs. Vivek Sharma, JKAS (Director Social Welfare Department, Jammu), Mr. Rajesh Sharma, JKPS (Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba), Dr. Naveen Anand (Principal, Govt. Degree College, Samba), Ms. Afsan Masood, JKAS (Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Jammu), and others.

zens of India.

He also demanded that all anti-people and anti-fundamental rights' rules and laws need to be removed and all citizens of J&K and Ladakh enjoy equal fundamental rights.

The anti-people laws like PSA need to be removed from the Constitution of J&K which is no more valid in J&K and Ladakh.

SAATH prog will unleash the export potential of women entrepreneurs of J&K: Dr Sehrish

SRINAGAR

A day-long interaction chaired by India SME Forum with the selected women entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir under programme “SAATH” was held here at the state office of Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM). In a statement issued to mercury times, the interaction programme included over 30 women entrepreneurs from the handmade and handicraft sector who have export ready products. Speaking on the occasion, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar said that the main objective of conducting today's workshop was not only to orient the already identified Self Help Group members but to offer them necessary product and design intervention to meet the design demand of International markets. Saath members were made aware of colour schemes, raw material sourcing, value addition on handicraft products, quality marks and cataloguing of these products, she said

Dr Sehrish further stated that SAATH programme will unleash the export potential of women entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir by offering them insight & exposure to requirements of international market. The workshop also offered insights on ensuring quality assurance & standard marks to make these products competitive in international markets.

MD JKRLM while interacting with the participants highlighted the journey of SAATH programme and its important role in Development of effective entrepreneurial & marketing skills.

Dr Sehrish added that the initiative aims to teach women such skills and convert their business into high order enterprise, it will be unique experience for the rural women entrepreneurs where in the buyers will have direct interface with the International buyers / dealers which will in turn boost the moral and open the marketing avenues for the women entrepreneurs of J&K.

On 1st of Sept, 2021, Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha launched this initiative with an aim to provide support to selected Women entrepreneurs to overcome financial, social and marketing challenges in their business ventures, she said.

Commissioner Secretary Forests visits Kandi areas of Kathua

KATHUA

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment Department, Sanjeev Verma, conducted an extensive tour of Kandi areas of Kathua district the other day. During his whirlwind tour to the district, Sanjeev Verma inspected various development works being executed by different wings of Forest Department towards mitigating water scarcity in Kandi landscape of the district.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Dr. Mohit Gera, Chief Wildlife Warden, Suresh Kumar Gupta, Director Soil and Water Conservation Department, Dr. T S Ashok Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, K Ramesh Kumar, ACR, Kathua and senior officers of Forest and allied departments accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during his visit to Dhamiyal, Satoora, Saida, Sowl, Bajoka Chack, Chandwan, Haria Chack, Lachipur and Jasrota

Wildlife Sanctuary. In a statement issued to mercury times, Commissioner Secretary appreciated the efforts of the Forest, Social Forestry, Soil and Water Conserva-



tion Department for carrying out extensive plantations besides construction and maintenance of Water Harvesting Structures in water-scarce Kandi areas of Kathua. He stressed on the need for scaling up and synergizing efforts of various wings of Forest Department with the water conservation works being carried out by Rural Development Department. He directed the stake holder departments to formulate plans for development of fringe lands by planting multi-purpose and fast growing species and construction

of water harvesting structures to cater to the local needs for fodder, firewood and water, thereby reducing pressure on inviolate pristine forest areas and to increase the

tree cover outside forest land. Sanjeev Verma was apprised by the concerned officers that the Forest Department intends to rehabilitate 1365 hectares of severely degraded forest areas in kandi belt by planting 3.35 lakh saplings of local species alongwith construction of 47 ponds and bowlies in the next financial year. Commissioner Secretary issued directions for preparation of Management Plans for the major ponds constructed by Soil and Water Conservation Department and to involve local youth clubs in their pro-

tection and management. Stressing upon the role of forestry interventions in water conservation in Kandi areas, Sanjeev Verma directed the Forest and Social Forestry Department to create buffer plantations in the periphery of the existing protected forest areas to take the biotic pressure off these inviolate forest landscapes by way of planting grasses, bamboos and fodder species. While taking stock of Haria Chack forest Nursery, he directed the officers of Forest and Social Forestry Departments to raise local species like Peepal, Bargad, Palash and Bilpatri in Forest nurseries. He was apprised that the department plans to raise 4.00 lakh saplings of these local species in the forest nurseries of Kandi region in the current financial year. Commissioner Secretary, during his visit to Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, reviewed the ongoing works being executed there by Wildlife Department and inspected the rescue centre, historical monuments and ponds situated in the sanctuary.

DDC Budgam conducts public outreach programme at Sukhnag

BUDGAM

Continuing the public outreach initiative programme, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza today held a Public Darbar at village Rakhwahoo, Block Sukhnag.

The daylong darbar apart from locals was also attended by many individuals and deputations of adjacent villages.

During the programme, the DDC patiently took note of the issues and demands put forth by the locals individually as well through deputations.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the demands were mostly based on routine requirements consisting improvement in water supply, merger of panchayat halqa Rakhwahoo with Tehsil Beerwah, construction of road from Rakhwahoo to Tosamaidan, widening and macadamisation of roads from Zabigola to Arizal besides others.

Responding to the issues, the DC said special focus will be envisaged to develop the area. Regarding the issues raised in the public outreach program, the DDC assured audiences that a fast track redressal process will be initiated to redress the genuine grievances at an earliest.

While emphasizing cleanliness, the DDC instructed PRI and RDD workers to launch sanitation drives on a regular basis to keep the area clean. He also said that there should be scientific disposal of waste with non usage of polythene bags.

The DDC also stressed upon a massive awareness campaign by all concerned line departments in Sukhnag Block about the schemes and benefits available for public welfare, in this regard the Horticulture Department in the district shall hold an awareness camp within the next 3 days in the area.

Taking strong note of dereliction of duties and non availability of medical staff in some hospitals and PHCs, the DDC instructed for setting up a Committee comprising of ADDC and all SDMs to visit and audit Manpower of all Medical institutions in the district.

The DDC also instructed ARTO Budgam to look into the matter of overcharging of fares by some Sumo Transporters in the area.

Mirza stressed upon exploration of self employment initiatives and urged unemployed youth to avail benefits being provided by line departments in the district. In this connection, the DDC instructed BDO Sukhnag to handhold youth for their socio-economic upliftment.

Responding to demand of potable water supply, the DDC assured the gathering that the filtration plant in the area shall be made functional within 04 days.

The officers who accompanied DDC included SDM Khanshab, CMO, CAO, ARTO, Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti, BDO Sukhnag and other concerned officers.

Er.Rishi Kilam along with NYFO Senior leaders wished happy birthday to Veteran Journalist Sohail Kazmi

JAMMU

While congratulating Jb.Sohail Kazmi eminent Journalist and Patron NYFO on his birthday the National President Youth of NYFO Er.Rishi Kaul Kilam said that Jb.Sohail Kazmi is a veteran personality and people friendly matured Person and is known for his simplicity, polished attitude with low profile.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the other activists of the NYFO wished all the best to Jb.Sohail Kazmi and prayed long life,prosperity to him with the hope that his Mission and Vision will lead the JKUT with his matured wisdom.

Er.Rishi said that Jb.Sohail Kazmi is not

only a Journalist but also a well known Social activist of JKUT. Sohail Kazmi is a Visionary statesman with

various Capacities has made him eminently renowned statesman.

Er.Rishi said that People will judge So-

has always Shown Keen interest and Concern in the development of Roads, education, and eradication of Poverty.



multifarious personality.

Er.Rishi said that the service of Sohail Kazmi for the humanity, spanning over 30 years in

hail Kazmi as a real legend, not to the large status he inherited but the path on which he trampled on. Er.Rishi said that Sohail Kazmi

Er.Rishi along with other NYFO NCP activist prayed for his long life and wished Jb.Sohail Kazmi a happy birthday.

Covid Appropriate Behaviour absolutely essential and critical, especially with reports of new mutation: Lt Guv

NEW DELHI
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today reviewed the COVID-19 situation in J&K and discussed preventive measures to be implemented against the emerging scenario.

While chairing the meetings of Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs, the Lt Governor observed that since WHO has declared Omicron as a 'Variant of Concern', the health officials and people must be more proactive.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the Lt Governor said that intensive testing, containment, and enhanced surveillance are required in areas reporting higher

cases. He directed the Health officials to ensure utilization of full capacity of RT-PCR testing and vaccination.

Exhorting the Divisional commissioners for strict implementation of the testing and quarantine of travelers from foreign countries, the Lt Governor asked them to deploy Nodal officers for monitoring all international arrivals and proper testing of travelers. The DCs were directed to intensify awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of Covid protocol, masking, and social distancing. The Lt Governor said that proper awareness at panchayat level should be organized with the help of members

of PRIs. He termed the Covid Appropriate Behaviour as absolutely essential and critical, espe-



cially with the reports of new mutation.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners to bring the number of due second doses to zero.

Instructions were also issued to the Superintendents of Police for ensuring strict following of

CAB, and imposing fines for violation of covid protocols.

Sh Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing

on the analysis of Covid-19 situation, District-wise threat level, testing, contact tracing and vac-

cination across the UT, besides vaccination stock position and proportion of RAT/RTPCR testing and Covid Appropriate Behavior enforcements.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Gover-

nor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, Home department; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Sh Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Sh Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

DC chairs DLTFC meeting to review implementation of Mission Youth initiatives in Kathua

KATHUA
District Development Commissioner Kathua Rahul Yadav today chaired the maiden meeting of District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) to review the implementation of umbrella of schemes under Mission Youth in the district here at DC office complex.

In a statement issued to mercury times, at the outset, the DDC called upon the members to create adequate awareness about the scheme so that eligible candidates are encouraged to take the benefit of the schemes.

While reviewing the progress made under various schemes of Mission Youth, the DC Rahul Yadav gave directions for

fast-tracking the process of grant of benefit under the schemes of the Mission Youth.

He directed stakeholder departments to make sincere efforts to remove hindrances faced by the youth in availing benefits under the Mission Youth by coordinating and guiding them wherever required and extend personal intervention for their proper hand holding.

The DC issued strict directions and set deadlines for the Rural Development Department and Employment Department for identification of youth for self-employment schemes and to ensure that the cases are approved at district level in the time bound manner.

Pertinently, Lieutenant Governor JKUT has is-

sued directions regarding self-employment of 5 youth in every panchayat and 10 youth from panchayats falling under Border belt.

Earlier, OSD to Mission Youth, Gourav Gupta gave a detailed presentation about the objectives envisioned under Mission Youth and relevance with respect to socio-economic development of the district.

He sensitized all the officers present about the wide range of initiatives under the Mission Youth including promotion of self employment through schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswani, Tourist Village Network, Skill Development, SAHAYTA, AVSAR, PARVAZ, promotion of Youth Clubs, Holding Talent Hunts, Mega Sports events for

giving positive direction to youth energy besides special initiatives for de-addiction, self employment of specially abled youth, Scholarship schemes like LG Super-75 (Boys and Girls), Sustainable Initiatives like Green Youth Alliance.

He also spoke in detail about the procedure for availing the various benefits under the schemes as well as how Mission Youth aims to be a one-stop solution for fulfillment of aspiration of youth in J&K.

The meeting was attended by ASP Kathua, Suresh Kumar Chib, CPO Uttam Singh, DSEO Ranjeet Singh, CEO LSDA DC Bhatti, CHO, AD Employment bank official and officials of Employment were also present.

DC Ramban visits DH, Emergency Hospital Batote

RAMBAN
Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarat Islam today conducted surprise inspection of District Hospital Ramban and Emergency Hospital Batote and took stock of healthcare facilities besides preparedness of the Health department to deal with the threat of Omicron a new variant of Covid-19.

In a statement issued to mercury times, the DC was accompanied by the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Dr. Hameed Zargar, Tehsildar Batote Mehboob Khan, BMO Batote Rajnesh Kumar and several other officers.

The DC directed the Health officers to strictly implement the Covid protocols to prevent spread of Covid infection.

He went around the wards and interacted with the patients and attendants to enquire about the health facilities being provided to them by the Hospital Administrations. He also advised them to wear masks and maintain physical distance in order to prevent spread of deadly Covid-19 infection.

The Deputy Commissioner also checked the roster of the doctors and other paramedical and other staff deputed on call duty. He passed directions to the Medical Superintendent, DH, Ramban and BMO, Batote to ensure that all medical facilities are extended to OPD & IPD patients in a hassle-free manner in their respective institutions. The DC also reviewed progress on installation work of 300 LPM Medical Oxygen Gas Plant at Emergency Hospital Batote.

The DC directed the Health department to sensitize the patients and their attendants about the PM-JAY-SEHAT scheme besides ensuring that all the patients shall avail the benefit from this universal health insurance scheme.