

Workers combating COVID-19 real heroes of nation: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Describing all those frontline workers engaged in combating COVID-19 as real heroes of the nation, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today saluted police and security force personnel, doctors, paramedics and lab technicians, media persons, employees manning essential utility services, people maintaining supply line of essentials and numerous others behind the screen but functioning on ground zero all the time, for their gigantic service to humanity at the alter of their own lives as also their families.

"We vehemently acknowledge their valour and fortitude, which is going to make all the difference in steering out the mankind out of these uncertain times", Rana said in a statement here this afternoon.

He exhorted the people to pull together and rise above politics to support the efforts of the Government in minimising human tragedy caused due to alarming spread of corona virus.

"This is not the time for politicking but to extend helping hand in every effort being made by the government through its frontline agencies in meeting the challenge", the Provincial President said while appreciating the tireless services of a

Cong asks Govt to decongest quarantine centres

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Mar 30: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, G A Mir said, though the administration was doing a good job, but the need is to intensify the efforts as a good number of people hailing from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir are pouring in from various parts of the country at Lakhampur.

"In view of the situation the higher authorities are required to monitor the number of people and ensure their food, shelter and Medicare while maintaining the social distancing at all places and quarantine Centres," the statement added.

It said, the people should be immediately shifted to the quarantine Centres and their locations as advised.

Meanwhile, the party has asked the Govt to expedite the distribution of ration etc to all the people including the outside labourers at various places.

All such people should be covered for the relief package at this juncture.

"He said the elected Corporators, Councillors and Sarpanchs/Panchs should be associated and consulted in the process," Mir added.

Pawan donates Rs 51000 for fight against COVID-19

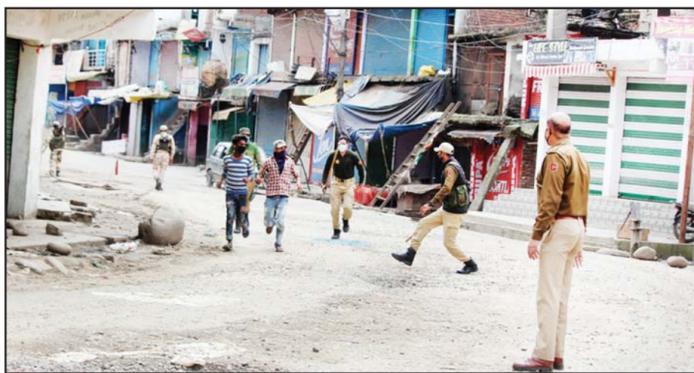
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Pawan Kumar Gupta, former Minister and MLA Udhampur donated Rs 51000 to District Relief Fund Udhampur for fighting against COVID-19.

While presenting a cheque of Rs 51000 to Dr Piyush Singla, District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Gupta applauded the efforts being made by the District administration to contain the pandemic in the District and appealed the public in general to come forward for making donations for this noble cause.



Strict curbs in place in Baramulla on Monday. -Excelsior/ Aabid Nabi



Violators of lockdown being chased by cops in Mendhar town of Poonch district on Monday. -Excelsior/ Rahi Kapoor

Div Com reviews flood management measures I&FC installs nine automatic WLRs on river Jhelum, major tributaries

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) has installed nine Automatic Water Level Recorders (WLRs) on River Jhelum at Sangam, Pampore, Ram Munshi Bagh & Asham and at its major tributaries including Sind, Lidder, Doodganga, Vaishaw & Rambiar.

The German based technology Automatic Water Level Recorders are fitted with SIM cards, which will records water level data of river Jhelum on hourly basis and send it to the control room of Irrigation and Flood Control Department. For better planning and preparedness to tackle flood like situation, department is further expanding network of Automatic WLRs across the valley to obtain instant data. The data as of now is being disseminated to various sections of media for real time information.

This was revealed in a meeting convened by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole, here today to review the flood preparedness of Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) in Kashmir.

The meeting was further informed that 12.6 lacs sand and 80,000 Geo bags have been kept at different locations of river Jhelum and other water bodies.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned for instant mapping of all automatic Rain Gauges which have been erected at IMD, Agriculture, SKAUST and Kashmir University. Besides, preparation of inundation maps at different

water levels of river Jhelum at different locations. He directed the concerned to submit the information to the Div Com office at earliest.

He further directed Executive Engineers (Exens) of I&FC to contact their respective Deputy Commissioners for selecting the abandoned Government buildings which will be used as stores at time of any eventuality. They have also been asked to prepare a list of machines procured by Mechanical Engineering wing which can be used during floods.

The I&FC authorities have been directed to update and list all its available tools and plants and upload it on IDR network besides prepare a list of Boats available with Tourism, LAWDA, SMC, CRPF, BSF, Police, Disaster Management and private Shikara owners along with their locations. He also directed the concerned to up-date the Disaster Management plans and rectify the deficiencies, if any.

The Div Com said that bulk SMS services should be availed for dissemination of warnings to the People on real time basis, at the time of exigency.

Pole exhorted to take the status of various works taken up by the ERA under Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project including consultancy studies on flood management and hazard risk assessment.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Chief Engineer I&FC, M M Shah Nawaz, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.



Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Tsering Sandup chairing a meeting at Leh.

Dy Chairman LAHDC Leh reviews COVID-19 measures

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Mar30: The Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Tsering Sandup today chaired a meeting of Executive Councillors and CMO to review COVID-19 pandemic situation at Council Secretariat, here.

While briefing the meeting about the ongoing lockdown to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Sandup said LAHDC is closely monitoring the situation in the district.

He appreciated all frontline health professionals, workers, police personnel and volunteers for their work to combat COVID-19 pandemic in the district.

He said that at present Health department have 17 ventilators and 50 more have been ordered. Isolation wards were setup at different blocks with all provisions of PPE and Ventilators. "30 ambulances would be made functional and would be stationed throughout the district at the earliest," he added.

CMO, Dr Motup Dorjey apprised the Dy Chairman about the arrangements being made by Health Department. He said that at present only eight positive cases were reported so far and 1076 persons were in quarantine in Leh district while 139 persons had completed their quarantine period.

"30 pilgrims who have returned from the Iran recently are well," informed CMO.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Phunchok Stanzin and Executive Councillor for Education, Konchok Stanzin.



Slum dwellers of Kartholi Bari Brahmana waiting for help. -Excelsior/ Badyal

Slum dwellers without food for last 2 days in Bari Brahmana

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 30: In the wake of outbreak of Corona epidemic, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi is continuously giving the assurance to the people that no one will go to bed without food, but on the other hand thousands of slum dwellers in J&K are facing starvation.

According to reports the slum dwellers in Kartholi area of Bari Brahmana are without food for days tighter. Likewise over two thousand slum dwellers in Channi and hundreds in Muthi area are having no food to eat while administration is in deep slumber.

This report today visited Kartholi area of Bari Brahmana and talked to slum dwellers there who said that they are craving to get one time food, although some social NGOs and RSS volunteers are providing the ration to the needy people. They said that, for last two days they are continuously facing lot of trouble due to non availability of ration in their slums and their children are craving for food.

They said some social organizations came outside their slums and gave the food, although no any officer of the district administration came there to know about their condition. Not only this the price of the ration and vegetables has become too expensive, and they are unable to purchase the same.

Romesh Verma a labourer who is living in Ward No 6 area of Kartholi Bari Brahmana said "Our children are without food and they are craving for same. When they went in Karyana shop to purchase food grains they could not afford as the price of flour has been hiked many fold. When they asked shopkeeper about the reason, he said that ration is not coming from market and the price of the vegetables has also been hiked". He appealed to the Prime Minister of India and Lieutenant Governor to listen the grievances of the poor people because there is nothing left to eat.

He also said that Prime Minister is speaking that the three months ration will be given to the poor people and no any poor will sleep without food but this statement is totally confined to announcement only.

He also requested to the

Court grants bail, remand through WhatsApp video-call

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Hearing cases through WhatsApp video-calls in order to avoid assembly of people, Jammu district court today granted bail and remand in two cases.

Special Judge NIA/POTA/TADA Court Subash C Gupta granted 15 days judicial remand of Shakir Bashir, Peer Tariq Ahmed, Insha Jan, Mohd Abass and Waiz ul Islam, who were arrested by the NIA in a case relating to martyrdom of 40 CRPF men.

The court also granted default bail of Mashood Ahmed, Mohd Jaffer, Liyaqat Ali and Kousar Hussain, who were allegedly involved in Kishwar militancy case as police failed to produce challan in time.

Dharmarth Trust cancels Shobha Yatra on Ram Navmi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: The Jammu & Kashmir Dharmarth Trust (JKDT) has announced that there will be no Shobha Yatra or public celebrations during Ram Navami on April 2.

This was stated by the president of Dharmarth Trust, Mubarak Singh in a statement issued here today. He said that during this national health emergency due to Coronavirus the Dharmarth Trust has cancelled the public celebrations of Ram Navami including the Shobha Yatra. He added that it is of utmost importance for the public to strictly follow social distancing practices and all preventive measures to break the chain of Coronavirus.

Mubarak Singh said that it is unfortunate that this year the people of Jammu will not be able to participate in public celebrations and festivities during the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami however. It is in greater interest to the public that people stay safe and stay home during this highly contagious corona virus outbreak, he added.

He further said that the Ram Navami rituals and Aarati will be

performed by priests inside the Temple as per traditions furthermore, this will also be broadcast live on social media from Sri Raghunath Ji Temple so that devotees can participate virtually online and pray from home. Mubarak Singh also said that he hoped other religious organisations across the UT and country refrain from public gatherings and celebrations as it is a hazard to public health and safety during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Every year the Dharmarth Trust along with other religious and social organisations carry out a Shobha Yatra from Sri Raghunath Ji Mandir, through Jammu Old City celebrating Ram Navami. It is pertinent to mention that following the Corona Virus outbreak and the National Health Emergency, since the 20th of March, the Dharmarth Trust had closed all temples and shrines under its management across Jammu and Kashmir divisions not allowing entry of any visitors or pilgrims. The Trust has announced that they will be fully cooperating and strictly following public safety and health guidelines including orders issued by Government authorities related to the Corona Virus outbreak.

25 labourers at Gurdan, over 80 poor families at Salani bridge await Govt's help

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Mar 30: At least 25 labourers hailing from Ramban, stuck at Gurdan village of Rajouri and nearly 80 poor and hapless families living in huts at the bank of Rajouri river near Salani bridge are rendered without food and any assistance from the District Administration.

Reports from Gurdan area in Rajouri said that some labourers from Ramban area were engaged at road construction work at the village for the last few months. They were living in the huts near the village. Due to lockdown, after Coronavirus threat, no movement is allowed in the area. The work has been abandoned and these poor labourers have also consumed their money. Some village Panchayat members arranged food for them but no help has been provided to these helpless members of the labour class so far by the District Administration.

Two labourers Abdul Rehman and Parvez Ahmed, hailing from Rajgarh area of Ramban told the Excelsior on phone that they want to go back to their home but no arrangement has been made for their return. They are facing starvation at Gurdan as they have already consumed their money. The local villagers rendered them some help but any assistance from the Administration is yet awaited.

Meanwhile, with the ongoing lockdown, about 80 families of labour class residing in the

huts near Salani bridge at Rajouri are also facing starvation. A few locals yet provided some food items to a few families today but the assistance from the Administration has not reached up to these families so far. Even the Food and Civil Supplies Department has not started home delivery to the CAPD consumers in Rajouri district so far despite all claims of the senior Government officials. This has also been confirmed by the Assistant Director FCS&CA, Rajouri Mukhtar Lone. He claimed that it will be commenced from 1st week of April.

Pak violates ceasefire

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Pakistani troops engaged in firing and mortar shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district today in violation of the ceasefire, officials said.

Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire along the LoC by firing from small arms and shelling with mortars in Mankote sector, a defence spokesman said.

Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said.

There were a total of 646 incidents of ceasefire violations along the International Border (IB) as well as the Line of Control (LoC) between January 1 and February 23 this year.

Over 3,200 ceasefire violations by Pakistan troops were recorded in 2019.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Government of India

In accordance with Govt. of India Gazette Notification no. 2854 dated 04.03.2014, the Central Government has levied fee for use of completed four lane section from Km. 16.350 to Km. 65.00 of NH-44 in the UT of J&K. Accordingly, Collection of User Fee at revised rates to be applicable from 01-04-2020 (0800 hours) at Toll Plaza at km 16.400 near village Lakhampur in Kathua district at the following rates for the year 2020-21 as under :

Type of Vehicle	Single Journey (In Rs.)	Return Journey within 24 hrs	Monthly pass 50 Journey	Commercial vehicles registered within the District (excluding vehicle plying under National permit) (In Rupees)
Car, Jeep, Van or LMV	85	130	2850	45
LCV, LGV or Mini bus	140	205	4605	70
Bus or Truck (2 axle)	290	435	9650	145
Three Axle Commercial Vehicle	315	475	10525	160
HCM or EME or MAV (Four to six axle)	455	680	15130	225
Oversized vehicles (Seven or more axles)	555	830	18420	275

- The rates for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicles residing within the distance of 20 Km from, above toll plaza for the year 2020-21 shall be Rs. 280/- subject to revision every year as per the provisions of the 2008 Amended Fee Rules.
- Mechanical vehicles loaded in excess of permissible limit shall be charged as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (Govt. of India)
- Other details may be obtained from the office of the toll plaza.

Project Director, PIU Jammu
Ph. 0191-2467491, 92
Email: jam@nhai.org

YOUR CORPORATION IN THIS REGARD IS HIGHLY SOLICITED.