

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

# Distribution of essential items for needy continues in J&K UT

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: Amid outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the distribution of essential items among the needy continued in different parts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

**BJP workers** distributed ration among 300 families of 5 inaccessible Panchayats namely Sartingal, Bheja, Butla, Katyara-Sharekhi and Sehri of Bhadarwah in District Doda in presence of working committee member Advocate Manjeet Razdan and District Vice President Sanjay Saraf. Bhadarwah Municipal Committee Vice President Rishi Kothwal, Mandal Pradhan Yudhvir Thakur and Sarpanch Parveen Jaryal were also present on the occasion.

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

**Global spiritual and humanitarian organization, The Art of Living** has sent relief in the form of essential items for about 50,000 daily-wage earners from Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha who were working in Jammu and live around the slum areas in Channi Himmat, Channi Rama, Narwal, Railway Station, Trikuta Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Namak Nagar areas. More relief material will be sent in the next round of dispatch next week. In all, the target is to distribute about 50 tonnes floor, 25 tonnes rice, 10 tonnes pulses,



Beneficiaries posing for photograph after receiving relief material from Art of Living Jammu Chapter.

present on the occasion. **Shiv Shakti Samiti Vijaypur** distributed ration among poor people. On the occasion, Chairman of the committee Rishav Thappa, General Secretary Ankit, Avinash, Sanjay Gupta and Shubham were also present.

Members of **MD Bandy Memorial Society Poonch** distributed packets of dry food items to the migrant labourers and other needy persons in Poonch town. General Secretary of the Society Er Saleem Bandy, Ajeet Singh, Kuljeet Singh, Tanveer Bandy, Imran Shah, Liaquat Bandy, Waseem Raja, Jagjir Singh, Mohammad Rafiq, Sohail Imtiaz, Waqar Hussain, Imtiaz Ganai and Sajid Imtiaz were also present on the occasion.

**Principal Government High School Nichala Thara Bhadarwah** Firdous Wani along

with Mohammad Alyas (Teacher) and School employee Mohammad Yaqoob Khan visited village Madsoo, Sarna, Udrana, Gatha and Lagsaroo and distributed food grain to at least 170 students of the school.

Youths from **Barnai** namely Balbir Singh, Nakul Gupta and Chattr Singh distributed relief material among the labourers who are living in Jhuggies in Barnai and adjoining areas.

**Uplona 52 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion** under the aegis of Hyderabad Sector Headquarters distributed cooked food to labourers who hail from other parts of the country and have got stranded in Baramulla due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 40 members including men, women and children of eight families, were provided with cooked food.

**Sabre Brigade of Rising Star Corps** organized multiple activities including provision of medical and humanitarian assistance in vicinity of Ratnuchak. The daily wage workers were distributed hot meals and food packages provided to a large number of migrant labourers and their families, camping in areas adjoining cantonment area in Poonch. Kathua, Reasi, Samba and Kathua. The work of sanitization has been started by the Swayam Sevak in the rural as well as town areas.

**Seva Bharti Sankat Mochan Dal** distributed biscuits and tea among the security forces men who are performing their duties during the ongoing lockdown in the city and outskirts.

**Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President** distributed ration and relief material among needy in Old City area of Jammu city. **BJP East Mandal President Parmeen Kerni** and **BJP leader Sudhir Anand** were also present on the occasion.

A **social worker Amardeep Singh** came forward for a noble cause and distributed the ration among the needy people and some slum dwellers. During the distribution of ration the councillor of **Ward No 8 Samba Rajni Sambhal** was also present.

Office bearers of **Youth Congress** distributed food items among needy children in Jammu.

**RSS Swayam Sevaks** distributed the relief material in the city among the Muslim community in the presence of **RSS Nagar Karyavah Ajay Bharti** and Muslim community's leader **Sohail Kazmi** and other Muslim senior citizens in the areas adjoining to the Residency Road, Tehsil Road and near the Masjid. **RSS Mahanagar Sangh Chalak Surender Mohan Gupta** was also present on the occasion.

Ration distributed by **District Youth Congress Vice President Jammu Urban Nisha Sharma** among the needy persons in Digiana area of District Jammu.

Convener of **Human Right and Social Justice Commission Rekha Rajput** distributed ration to around 100 daily wagers who are facing hardship in the ongoing lockdown in Chinore, Roop Nagar, Shakti Nagar and Rajpura areas.



BJP workers distributing ration among needy persons in Bhadarwah.

**Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation (NGO)** team led by Chairman Akash Parihar, Ajay Singh Katoch, Karamveer Singh, Jugnu Aryan and Shiv Pandit provided daily need items to the needy persons.



Army serving cooked food among children and labourers.

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## Advisor Khan among several contribute towards J&K Relief Fund

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: **Farooq Khan, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor** today contributed his one month's salary towards Jammu and Kashmir Relief Fund.

**Radha Soami Satsang Beas** has made a contribution of Rs 1 crore while **Ritu Singh, Founding Member Trustee, Maharaja Hari Singh Social and Education Foundation (MHSSEF)/DPS** and **Ranjvijay Singh, member-MHSSEF** donated Rs 75 lakh. Besides, the staff of **Jammu and Kashmir Law Department** also donated Rs 5 lakh towards J&K Relief Fund.

**Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation**, Jammu also decided today that Health & Family Welfare employees will make a humble contribution of one day salary to Jammu Kashmir Relief Fund.

**All J&K Revenue officers' Association (AJKROA)** also decided today that officers of the Association will contribute one their one day salary towards J&K Relief Fund.

**Mount Litera Zee School, Tarore** under the aegis of A P Educational Trust Jammu donated

**Green Model Higher Secondary School, Doda** has contributed Rs 1 lakh to PM Cares Fund through Deputy Commissioner Doda, Dr Sagar D Doifode. The cheque was handed over to DC by Principal of the school, OP Chandail.

**Shiv Mandir Welfare Committee**, Saraswati Vihar, Barnai, contributed Rs 20,000 to PM Cares Fund under the supervision of its president Mohan Lal Koul while a sum of Rs 5000 has also been contributed to PM Cares Fund by **Kanaya Lal Pandita**, a resident of House No 128 E Anand Nagar, Bohri.

Meanwhile, **Jammu Wine Traders Association** president **Charanjeet Singh**, has appealed Excise Commissioner, J&K to transfer their monthly contribution i.e. Rs 2500 per month, deposited with the Excise Department under Social-Corpus Fund amounting to more than Rs 3 crore, as their share, to J&K Relief Fund.

The Association said that their members are also willing to part away their demand of enhanced amount at Rs 8000 per month deposited in the fund by them in Financial Year 2018-19.

## Cultural Academy releases song to generate awareness on Coronavirus

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: **Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAA-CL)** today released a song to generate awareness among masses on the deadly virus.

The song is written by poet, **Muzafar Hussain Dilber** and sung by noted **Sikara** fame singer, **Munir Ahmad Mir**.

The first song, "Traw Nerun Te Pherun Watan Baya" on deadly virus covers the wide-range aspects of genesis of deadly coronavirus and the havoc created by it across the globe.

On releasing the song, the **Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAA-CL)**, **Muneer-Ul-Islam** said that artists across the globe have been encouraging people to combat coronavirus through various mediums of art. He said society as a whole have to play their roles in their respective areas and see how one must respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

He said that as the coronavirus disease continues to evolve, in Jammu and Kashmir is taking a proactive approach to help ensure the safety of the people. He said that there is a greater need to generate awareness among people, locally in their own language and melody-which will help us achieve the goal of fighting this deadly virus. He said besides this government was closely monitoring the situation and provide updates as they become available.

The Secretary said that JKAA-CL was also aiming to get the 'songs in plague' written and

composed in other languages too. "We will be soon releasing a song on coronavirus awareness in dogri language," he said.

**Music composer** and noted singer, **Munir Ahmad Mir**, who also works at in the Cultural Wing of Department of Information and Public Relations said that due to the lockdown, every activity is shut and people back home need some entertainment and infotainment.

"We as artists wanted raise coronavirus awareness through songs and JKAACL is always there to handhold us," he said. "In these times of crisis too, JKAACL honored the artists and made us to do our bit to make some difference on the ground," he added.

Another music composer, **Prof Muzafar Bhat** said that he along with his friends is running an online platform, namely, **Kashur Studio**. He said that ever since the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, they have been working on the tracks in their respective homes and sharing them with artists. "We have released awareness songs. We will be soon releasing more songs to general public," he said.

**Prof Bhat** said that music is often called the universal language. Artists have to finding that, when trying to spread life-saving information about the coronavirus pandemic, it helps to have a catchy beat.

"Musicians will be recording songs about social distancing, spotting symptoms and, of course, washing hands. It's all part of an effort to get vital information about disease prevention to people who might not get it otherwise," Bhat said.

## Malik seeks return of labourers stranded in neighbouring states

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: **Former minister and senior National Conference leader Abdul Gani Malik** today urged the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir Administration to help out all the labourers of District Reasi, who are stranded in various neighbouring states due to prevailing lock down.

"They are reportedly undergoing a very difficult phase and need immediate succour in terms of boarding, lodging and medical facilities till the time their safe return back homes is ensured", Malik said in a statement.

He said the labourers of Tehsil Chassana, Mahore, Panassa and

other parts of the District Reasi are currently stranded in Dehradun, Masoori, Reshikesh, Haridwar, Muradabad, Garhwal, Nainital, Kashi and other parts of Uttrakhand and in Kangra, Mandi, Kullu Manali, Hamirpur, Nena Devi, Bilsapur, Patorgarh, and other parts of Himachal Pradesh.

He urged the Centre to take up the issue with respective State Governments to ensure wellbeing of these hapless labourers. He also hoped that J&K Administration will coordinate with the respective State administrations as also concerned district authorities to take effective steps for their return. Till the time this is done, it must be ensured that the stranded labourers get all possible help, he added.

## Plus 2 PSC Lecturers Association extends all support to online classes

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: **Central Working Committee (CWC) Jammu of All J&K Plus Two PSC Lecturer Association** has appealed the teaching community to come forward and extend all possible support to the online classes for compensating academic loss of students.

"Plus two lecturers are requested to come forward, register themselves with the link provided, ensure active participation in the WhatsApp groups created, respond the queries of the students, try to minimize their anxiety, convince them for social distancing and also join the venture of imparting education through DSEJ's online classes," said **Manjeet Chib**, the convener of CWC Jammu.

Maintaining that PSC recruited Lecturers are committed to do their best for the welfare of student community and are available



Councilors protesting at Samba on Monday.

## Councilors protest against Samba administration

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SAMBA, Mar 30: Councilors of Samba today staged a demonstration in front of Municipal Committee Office at Samba.

According to the report, the councilors of different ward of Samba town gathered at Municipal Committee Office here under the leadership of **Pawan Kohli**, Chairman Municipal Committee. They raised slogans against the officers of the district administration Samba, alleging that the officers are not picking up the phone of the public representatives.

They said as the lockdown is going on due to the Coronavirus and when they try to take up the problems of the people with district administration it does not pay attention to the same nor pick up

the phones of public representatives.

**Pawan Kohli**, Chairman Municipal Committee Samba said that, the local shopkeepers delegation met him saying that they are running short of stock due to lockdown but when he tried to take up the issue with the administration, they did not pick up his phone and also refused to meet him. This has generated a lot of anger among the councilors, including the people of Samba, he added.

He said that the administration should issue passes to the local shopkeepers to visit Jammu to buy goods but they are issuing them the passes up to **Bari Brahmna** while the shopkeepers purchase goods from Jammu. The protesting councilors said that they will not let the administration to be dictatorial.

## Bhalla calls for joint efforts to fight COVID-19

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: **Former Minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla** has called on people of J&K to take all preventive measures to fight COVID-19 outbreak.

While expressing his concern over the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, he said that people need to be smart and proactive in their approach to tackle coronavirus, which has so far claimed thousands lives worldwide.

Bhalla also appreciated the efforts of the medical professionals who has been putting their lives at risk while treating those infected with novel coronavirus. "Let's stay strong and fight the COVID-19 outbreak by taking all precautionary measures. Stay safe, be vigilant and most importantly remember, prevention is better than cure", he advised to people.

He appealed the J&K Government to provide free ration and financial packages to the PHH (BPL) and daily wage people in view of lockdown. He said due to the lockdown daily wagers and

other poor people could suffer the most because their living depends upon their daily income.

Bhalla said it was premature to say how long this lockdown would continue and what would be the impact of COVID-19. "We must follow the best practices of other states like Delhi where the government has enhanced the ration 50% and free of cost besides doubling the old age widow and disable pension," he said.

Bhalla also appealed the general public to self quarantine by staying home and staying safe.

"It is distance ration for the people of the J&K to get the two months advance ration on their respective ration depot as most of the ration depots are going dry ahead of the 21 days lockdown in J&K. Though the J&K government assured that all kind of essential commodities shall be allowed to operate but the Government ration depots are empty," he alleged.

Bhalla urged the Government to start doorstep ration distribution amid situation arising due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Time to apply Chinese model to defeat COVID-19: DAK

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: **Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK)** today said that COVID-19 is new disease and every day doctors learn how to tackle the impending crisis posed by virus stating that it is time to apply Chinese model to defeat the deadly disease.

**President, DAK, Dr Suhail Naik** said that doctors in Kashmir must have "experiences of failure" of many countries that have been drapped by the novel coronavirus. "We have now completed tenth days of lockdown which covers the incubation period of COVID -19 for majority of cases to surface, but we are not in crisis," he said.

Dr Naik said this vividly indicates that "we are following right path to combat the COVID -19."

"But this doesn't mean that we will show complacency and it is right time to prepare ourselves for tackling all the expected crisis due to COVID -19," he said.

Dr Naik said from the various scientific studies, it is now clear that around 85% COVID -19 pos-

itive patients have mild or asymptomatic disease and can be easily managed at home.

"Further 10% of patients have severe disease and need hospitalisation for oxygen and supportive care. While about 5 % of patients have critical disease , who invariably need ventilator support and admission in critical care units," he said.

Dr Naik said keeping in view the strength of local health system it is very imperative that "we must follow the Chinese model of COVID-19."

"The Chinese model was released by Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University for the novel coronavirus Management and Research Team," he said.

DAK said that China has also released home care guidelines and recommend that those with mild symptoms and positive test should stay in a well-ventilated, single-occupancy room at home and household articles should be cleaned and disinfected with a chlorine-containing solution (500 mg/L) frequently every day.

## Dr Shazad approaches NHRC for restoration of 4G services in J&K

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: Demanding restoration of high speed mobile internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, former Vice Chancellor of **Sai Nath University** and native of Poonch, **Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik** has filed a petition with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India.

In his 6 page-long petition, the former VC has arrayed Union Home Secretary, Principal Secretary Home, J&K Union Territory and Chief General Manager, BSNL J&K Circle as party respondents to the plea.

In his submission before the NHRC, he has sought direction for the 1st two respondents for restoration of high speed mobile internet facility in the J&K UT and also urged the NHRC to further direct the Government owned telecom company, BSNL for publicize its policy in giving new landline internet facility to the people, alleging that there is lack of transparency in BSNL in installing connections.

While giving further details about his plea, Dr Shazad informed that due to 21-day lockdown in the wake of Coronavirus

pandemic, the people of whole India including J&K are following all instructions and guidelines issued by the Government of India but the situation in other parts of the country and here in J&K is different because in other states of India, the students, teachers, medical professional, the religious preachers taking benefit of high speed internet have started e-classes and formed social groups online and spreading useful information with each other.

Moreover in absence of high speed internet facility in the J&K UT, the medical professionals are worst sufferers as they are not even able to have access to the website and applications (apps) of World Health Organization, Ministry of Health, Government of India and other local websites related to UT Government or districts' administration.

Due to lockdown people are not able to move out and unfortunately they are not even able to use banking apps due to poor internet speed. Thus, he has made an appeal to the NHRC to further direct the respondents to restore the high speed mobile internet as telecom services are covered under essential services.

## Ban on people's movement necessary requirement: BJP

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 30: The spirit behind 21-day lockdown announced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi was to break the chain of spread of Covid-19 as it is known to spread exponentially. That is why the PM during his speech had repeatedly emphasised "Aap Jahan Par Bhi Hain Usi Sihan Par Baithe Rahiye," (stay wherever you are) but somehow a state of panic was created among the migratory labour and they were seen on the roads in huge numbers defying the norm of "social distancing" in a rush to reach their respective homes mainly in rural UP, MP and Bihar, rued **Brig Gupta**.

**Brig Gupta** said undoubtedly, it was a lapse on the part of local administration in the affected areas since they failed to communicate the Government's orders to the affected people and simultaneously make arrangements for their stay and food. Rather than depending totally on electronic media like TV, the local administration should have resorted to traditional methods of communication like announcements on PA systems in the localities inhabited by the migrant labour, he added.

Had the MHA not intervened in time, this mass exodus leading to Inter-State and inter-district

movement would have led to unimaginable catastrophe because our rural areas which were hitherto considered as "safe zones" would have become the "red zones" with known feeble and inadequate health infrastructure making it difficult to control its exponential spread rued **Brig Gupta**. The decision of the MHA to stop any Inter-State/inter-district movement totally and provide shelter to affected people in situ is the best option under the given circumstances. It has also directed that anybody seen on the road violating these instructions should be put under 14-day quarantine.

He said states have also been allowed to utilise State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) for creating shelters and accommodation for the migrant labourers and ensure their sustenance. "It is very unfortunate that certain political parties and their leaders are putting undue pressure on the administration to arrange safe return to the State and their homes in different districts including movement of Kashmiris stuck in Jammu." "I appeal to them to stop playing cheap politics in this hour of crisis and concentrate their resources to ensure unequivocal success of the 21-day lockdown." The rise in the number of patients in Kashmir is already alarming," Brig Gupta added.

## Labour Dept provides financial assistance to construction workers through DBT

**Excelsior Correspondent**

REASI, Mar 30: **Deputy Commissioner , Reasi, Indu Kanwal Chib** today disbursed financial assistance under Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Scheme of Labour Department here today.

An amount of Rs 9.47 lakh was disbursed under the scheme through direct benefit transfer to the beneficiaries.

In addition to it, an amount of Rs 5.8 lakh for purchase of ration was also disbursed to active construction workers. The sum was disbursed through DBT. Both the

amounts have benefitted 730 construction workers.

The Deputy Commissioner hailed the Labour Department in Reasi, headed by Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pradyot Gupta for its pro-active efforts in giving financial assistance to poor labourers at this crucial juncture in the midst of COVID-19 threat.

The measure has led to a little bit relief for construction workers as many of them have left for their home town and villages fearing a prolonged economic slump. Many others are stranded in cities and are deprived of their livelihood due to the ongoing lockdown.

## Yamaha Motor extends after sales benefits

**Excelsior Correspondent**

CHANDIGARH, Mar 30: **India Yamaha Motor (IYM)** has extended its after sales benefits for an additional period of 60-day till June.

"As a responsible company, IYM has always believed in prioritizing its customers and protecting their rights." Thus under the current circumstances, the company feels that few of its customers may struggle to get their vehicles serviced on time

or avail warranty benefits which may expire during country's lockdown situation," a handout of the company stated.

The extended benefits included free services normal warranty, extended warranty and annual maintenance contracts which are expiring between March 15 to April 15.

The company has also informed its dealerships to ensure that these benefits are passed on to the customers smoothly.