

LG directs for identifying Aadarsh Panchayats & Aadarsh Blocks on set parameters

** Chairs preparatory meeting of “Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav”*

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today chaired a high level preparatory meeting of ‘Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’- India@75 for celebrating 75 years of Independence of India, at the Civil Secretariat here.

Birth places of freedom fighters and martyrs viz Brigadier Rajinder Singh (Village Bagoona, Samba), Maqbool Sherwani (Baramulla Town) were selected for mega curtain-raiser events on March 12.

Calling for grand celebrations with great enthusiasm and high zeal across J&K, the Lt Governor directed the Administrative Secretaries to organize various commemoration activities to mark the beginning of ‘Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’.

Instructions were also issued for holding Cultural Exhibitions and Programs, Khadi Exhibitions, Shikara rallies in Dal Lake, seminars, Cyclothon/Cycle rallies, Yoga Camps, bike rallies and variety of activities over 75 weeks prior to Independence Day 2022, to observe the 75th year of

Independence. The Lt Governor also called for identifying Aadarsh Panchayats and Aadarsh Blocks, 75 each, on set parameters. Involve elected public representatives, youth, school students, social and cultural organi-

es each and every citizen of the UT. All departments were directed to submit their respective action plan with detailed Calendar of commemoration activities for 75 weeks, covering all districts, with specific loca-



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha chairing meeting regarding 75 years celebrations of Independence at Jammu on Friday.

zations, NGOs, Civil society and all the sections of the society for ensuring maximum public participation in this National festival of the grand celebrations of 75 years of Independence, Lt Governor asked the officers.

Laying special emphasis on making large-scale publicity of the mega celebrations, Lt Governor asked the concerned officers to make optimum use of various online and offline media platforms so that the festival of 75 years of Independence reach-

tion of events to be prepared by the respective departments for the grand celebration of the festival.

Pertinently, the National level celebrations will be launched by the Prime Minister on March 12, 2021 that marks the anniversary of Dandi March.

Grand celebrations are being held across the country on themes like ‘Vishva Guru Bharat’; India’s rich Culture & Heritage; Unity in diversity; Progress of India - post Independence; India 2.0: Aatma Nirbhar Bharat; We, the people of India and Independence 2.0.

Baseer Ahmad Khan, Advisor to the Lt Governor; BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Administrative Secretaries; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners; HoDs, other senior officers attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

JMC.

Rajni Bala, another Congress Councillor said that apart from Property Tax the JMC is not working properly on all fronts.

"There are many works in almost every Ward which are pending for long," she said adding that there are works for the last two years in her Ward 60 have been pending and she has submitted applications many times in the concerned offices but none paid any heed.

Independent Councillor, Sham Lal Basson too expressed similar views of protesting against Property Tax if a resolution is brought in favour of the Tax.

Another independent Councillor, Sobat Ali said that they will oppose the Property Tax.

JMC Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta when contacted said they are not imposing Property Tax.

"There are no norms on it yet and even there is no such proposal. We can discuss it tomorrow in the General House Meeting and will work as per decision of the House on it," he said adding that the Property Tax proposal was passed in 2013 by the then State Government of J&K but it was not implemented then.

However, he said that now the government is making pressure for the implementation of the same.

The Mayor also said that if the Councillors staged a walkout then they will make a Committee on Property Tax.

On not allowing media to cover the proceedings of General House Meeting he quoted pandemic as the reason and said the premises where General House Meeting are conducted are not spacious and social distancing is also to be maintained.

"Next time print media will be allowed," he maintained.

Crime Branch gets property of absconder attached

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Crime Branch Jammu has attached property of an absconder, who is evading his arrest over a very long period of time despite the directives from the court for appearing before it for judicial determination of the case.

The Crime Branch initiated proceedings for attachment of property of accused Proclaimed Offender- Rakesh Kumar Gupta, son of Tara Chand, resident of H.NO. 43/04 Trikuta Nagar Jammu, in respect of his plot No. 78, Sector-7, Housing Colony, Channi Himmat, Jammu for his involvement in case FIR No. 261/2000 U/S 420, 467,468, 406,201,120-B RPC of PS Pacca Danga Jammu.

Earlier proceedings were initiated U/S 512 CrPC against the accused for declaring him absconder after the accused evaded his arrest and presence before the Court of Law. Since the accused kept on absconding over a very long period of time, proceedings under section 82/ 83 Cr PC were initiated against him through the Court of Law for declaring him as Proclaimed Offender. Despite this, the accused did not turn up before the court as stipulated in the court order. As such further stringent measures were required to be taken against the

accused as envisaged under the law of the land for attachment of his property.

Based on information provided by Sr Programmer (PIO) J&K, Housing Board, Jammu, Court of 2nd Additional Session Judge Jammu passed an order dated 30-01-2021 for attachment of Plot No. 78, Sector-7, Housing Colony, Channi Himmat Jammu, belonging to the accused. Thus, in pursuance of the said court order, a team led by Naib Tehsildar (Executive Magistrate) Rakh Bahu visited on spot at Channi Himmat Jammu and effected attachment of plot No. 78, Sector-7, Housing Colony, Channi Himmat, Jammu. The possession of the said property (Plot) with under construction building was handed over to Housing Board.

School Education Deptt orders posting of 2 Jt Directors

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Consequent upon Government order on placement of Chief Education Officers and equivalent as In-charge Joint Directors, School Education Department today ordered transfer and posting of Soni Sanam and Jai Kumar.

Soni Sanam, who was presently posted as CEO Pulwama, has been transferred and posted as In-charge Joint Director, Secondary, Directorate School Education, Kashmir.

Jail Kumar, Principal, DIET, Basohli, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as In-charge Joint Director (Elementary), Directorate of School Education, Jammu.



Lt Governor Ladakh, R K Mathur calling on Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

LG Ladakh meets Dr Jitendra, discusses

Civil Services related issues

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 5: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Incharge Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), and discussed Civil Services related issues pertaining to the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor thanked the Minister for having responded to the Union Territory Government's requirement for more officers and said that with his intervention, a headway has been sought to be made. He also requested for posting of more number of AGMUT Cadre officers in Ladakh in view of the new centrally sponsored projects and schemes having been initiated.

Mathur sought the help of DoPT in framing rules and regulations for the newly created Union Territory of Ladakh. He also informed the Minister that the number of aspirants for Civil Service Exam are progressively increasing in the Ladakh region.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed Mathur that in the latest batch of Civil Services Probationers, one female officer hailing from Ladakh has been allocated AGMUT Cadre and she would

most likely be able to serve her home territory. He also conveyed the Centre's decision to give relaxation by waiving off the mandatory period of minimum nine years of service to all those IAS officers who make a written offer for deputation to Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor Mathur thanked Dr Jitendra Singh for his intervention in launching a project for ‘Leh Berry’ food products. He said, after the Minister's intervention, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been regularly in touch with the Union Territory Government and he has had a series of interactions with Director General CSIR, Dr Shekhar Mande in this regard.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave high priority to the young Union Territory of Ladakh which has enabled the sanction of new University, professional colleges and other institutions. He said, the opening of Zojila Pass is a huge relief for the local population.

Lieutenant Governor also conveyed to the Minister his acknowledgement of the constant support that the Union Territory Government is receiving from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for every small or big issue.

DC reviews progress on Rail project at Banihal

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 5: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, today conducted an extensive tour of Sub-Division Banihal to take stock of the progress on the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line(USBRL) Project besides resolving issues hindering the pace of ongoing construction work.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal, who is also the Collector, Land Acquisition (Railways); Chief General Manager IRCON Railway, S. Moray; SDM, Banihal, Zaheer Abass Bhat; Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), Ramban and SDPO, Banihal besides other senior officers from Railway and Civil Administration were also present.

During the meeting held at Banihal, the DC assured Railway authorities of full support of the District Administration in facilitating the completion of the prestigious Project which will connect Kashmir valley with the rest of the country.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed location-wise issues and passed necessary directions to the concerned officers for expediting the pace of work. He directed the construction agencies to adhere to SOPs at work

place.

Earlier, Chief General Manager, Railways, gave a brief power-point presentation on the to-date status of the project, besides apprising the DC about the bottlenecks, for which he sought the intervention of the District Administration.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that the District Administration is holding weekly virtual meets in order to resolve the issues for hassle-free construction.

Later, the DC along with DDC Vice Chairperson, Rabia Beig and DDC Members, Imtiyaz Khanday and Bashir Naik, visited Forwogon, Bankoot, Chapnari, Gund Adeltote, Tatnihal and Chamalwas and listened to the grievances of the locals. They were assured that their issues will be looked into on priority for redressal.

Ensure all basic, effective amenities to KP community on Heraath: Sagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: National Conference general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar today termed the Heraath Festival as a hallmark of syncretic culture of Kashmir and impressed upon the administration to ensure all basic and effective amenities to the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community on the

festive occasion.

Heerath, Sagar said, is a part and parcel of Kashmiri's pluralistic culture. He said the day has been celebrated since time immemorial with utmost fervor and devotion. He said despite the conflict taking a toll on peace and normalcy has not been able to override the festival which has been the symbol of our longstanding brotherhood.

Being the most important festival of our Kashmiri Pandit brethren, Sagar said it was imperative on the Government to ensure that the community is able to celebrate it with traditional gaiety."Walnuts, Fish, and Nadru are central to the festival. Therefore, divisional administration of Jammu and Kashmir should establish fair price shops for the purchase of fish and walnuts across J&K," he said.

"Mobile fish vans and stalls should be installed at various places to ensure that the basic chuck of the festival is available to the community and at much cheaper rates," he said, adding, the administration should also ensure adequate supply of water and electricity at all major Astapans across J&K so that the visiting devotees don't face any problems.

Meanwhile, party provincial presidents Nasir Aslam Wani and Devender Singh Rana, additional general secretary and district presidents have also urged the administration to provide all essentials to the Pandit community following the Heerath celebration. They also urged the administration to provide adequate basic civic amenities to devotees at all Asthapans and temples across J&K.

Nitishwar chairs review meets Directs for using innovative measures to saturate coverage of PMJAY-Sehat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar today chaired a series of meeting to assess the progress being made on the implementation of directions of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Principal Secretary also summoned daily status report on working and non working/faulty equipments in health centres and hospitals across the UT. He was also informed that around 4000 mediclaims have already been paid for by the Government.

He was briefed about the

Social Welfare Department, the Principal Secretary was informed that the department plans to organize camps for the physically challenged persons in several districts of the UT. The decision was appreciated by the Principal Secretary and he called for wide publicity of such activities so that



Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Nitishwar Kumar reviews progress on works in various departments.

The meetings were held at Civil Secretariat and the Raj Bhavan here in which Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were present in person and through virtual mode.

Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Sheetal Nanda informed the Principal Secretary that the target of 3500 trainings under Himayat Scheme has almost been achieved. She also informed that houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana are being constructed as per targets and 500 such houses were completed in the last week.

Regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, PMJAY-SEHAT scheme, it was informed that 45 lakh individuals have been registered out of which 37 lakh Golden cards have been issued to the beneficiaries.

launch of ANM Online, ANMOL application and the distribution of 4445 Android tablets, pre-loaded with the application. He was informed that the move would enable Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) to update data regarding pregnant women, lactating mothers and similar data in real time.

The Principal Secretary also reiterated the Government's stand on penalising contractors who cause unnecessary delays in public projects.

Speaking to the representative from Transport Department, the Principal Secretary directed that the process of launching new fleet of 140 buses of the JKRTC be expedited and launched for the public soon.

It was informed by the Skill Development Department that the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation , and Training (CIIFT) Jammu is ready to be inaugurated by mid-March. The centre has been created at a cost of more than Rs 180 crores.

The Principal Secretary took stock of projects of the Power Development Department, MoUs of which were signed earlier this year. The projects include Ratle, Kirthai-II, Uri-I, and Dulhasti hydropower projects and are at different stages of administrative approval and clearances, he was informed.

Discussing affairs of the

maximum numbers of people are benefited.

Initiatives like construction of toilets along highways by the Public Works Department, distribution of threshers among farmers, imparting civil defence training by the Home Department, construction of houses for fishermen by the Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department among numerous others were also reviewed by the Principal Secretary.

Departments including Revenue, Jal Shakti, Hospitality & Protocol, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Labour among various others also presented the status of their departmental activities before the Principal Secretary.

In a separate meeting held at the Raj Bhavan, the Principal Secretary reviewed the conduct of Block Diwas which was held at each district of the UT yesterday. The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of J&K.

Directions were issued by the Principal Secretary for using innovative measures to saturate coverage under PMJAY-Sehat and asked the DCs to use the format devised to include the people left out in SECC data for Golden Cards by approving them on the spot.

Lone granted bail

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: National Conference leader and son of Member Parliament Mohammad Akbar Lone, Hilal Akbar Lone, who was booked under UAPA, was released on bail last night.

He was granted bail by Additional Session Judge Baramulla in a "hate speech" case that was registered against him by Hajin Police a month ago.

Earlier, Hilal was booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for delivering a 'hate speech' while addressing a public rally during DDC election campaign in Hajin last year.

Hilal was granted subject to the condition that he would furnish a surety bond of Rs 2 lakh and remain present during the trial.

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