

CS takes first hand appraisal of JJM works virtually

***Reviews implementation of SBM(G)**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: In a first, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today virtually toured the sites of a number of works being carried out under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He took first hand appraisal of dozens of works being under progress in different districts of the UT under this national mission.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; CEO JJM; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Kashmir/Jammu and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary virtually toured different sites where work was in progress and enquired from the field staff like AEEs and JEs about the pace and progress of work. He also asked them about the technicalities involved in execution of their respective works.

Dr Mehta impressed upon all these officers and officials to ensure that quality machinery is installed at all these sites including in borewells, digwells, Filtration plants, Over Head Tanks (OHTs) and other infrastructure created under the mission. He observed that there should be no compromise on quality and each item used

should be as per the set specifications. The Chief Secretary stressed on enhancing the capacity of all the field staff to efficiently manage these assets. He observed that each of them should be well aware about the quality and proportion of chemicals used for filtration of drinking water besides the best techniques of managing these infrastructure for the overall benefit of the households drinking this potable water.

Meanwhile, in a meeting held to review the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in the UT the Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to create the reliable assets for making our villages healthy and clean.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, RDD; all the Deputy Commissioners and Directors of RDD and Rural Sanitation. Outstation based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

He underscored the need of reaching to all the deserving households so that no household is left behind without having the requisite infrastructure for disposal of domestic waste materials. He asked the officers to fully involve the local

PRIs in the effective implementation of this mission. Dr Mehta was informed by the CS, RDD that out of Rs 4915.86 lakhs released under this Swachh mission an expenditure of about Rs 2366.21 has been made during the ensuing financial year in the UT.

It was further revealed that a target of some 1600 Community Sanitary Complexes, 3017 Solid Waste and Liquid Waste Management units each, 19 Plastic Waste Management, 30 Gobarhdan Units and 6 Faecal Sludge Management units have to be constructed across the districts of J&K.

Similarly 3470 Community Compost Pits, 999 segregation bins, 8704 Community Soak pits, 5975 drainage facilities are being made available under the mission besides 19 vehicles for movement of waste for its proper disposal, as was learnt during the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the annual targets for each district besides the possible dates of completion of each component. The meeting was apprised that with the culmination of this mission each of the village is going to secure the ODF plus status as all the facilities are going to be provided to the rural households under this national mission.



BJP leader Kavinder Gupta interacting with people at BJP office on Tuesday.

Kavinder Gupta listens public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Listening to the public grievances at BJP headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy Chief Minister, talked to the department officials to provide solutions for the issues presented by the visiting masses. Kavinder Gupta said that there are many administrative and personal issues, which are faced by the masses in their daily routine. For those issues they need to approach various departments in which they often feel uneasy. To provide relief to the masses in this important matter, BJP with its commitment to serve the masses dedicatedly, has directed the senior party leaders to devote their dedicated time to meet the common masses at party headquarter, know their issues and take them to appropriate destination.

Gupta added that BJP is working on the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" in J&K. He said that the party and its leaders are continuously working for the welfare of

Bidhuri visits Tral, reviews revenue matters

Excelsior Correspondent

PULWAMA, Aug 23: In order to have a detailed review of Revenue matters pertaining to Pulwama District, Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today chaired a meeting of senior Revenue Officials of the district at town hall Tral.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary took a detailed assessment of recent initiatives of Government like Land Records Information System (Apni Zameen Apni Nigrani), Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) besides Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRM).

The Commissioner Secretary also took stock of progress on various vital issues regarding encroachment drives, demarcation of Government land, status of mutations, inspection of revenue records, status of grievance redressal mechanism, Migrant Properties, holding of camps and attestation of mutations, progress of digitization of



Commissioner Secretary Revenue Vijay Kumar Bidhuri chairing a meeting in Pulwama on Tuesday.

Jamabandis/ Girdawari, Missing Land Record, Status of Patwar Khana, status of RDA Enquiries, Vacancy position and conduct of DPCs.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary appreciated the Pulwama Administration for taking various public centric measures besides retrieving hundreds of Kanals of State land by launching massive anti-encroachment drives. He laid stress on effective implementation of IEC activities under various schemes in the district and efficient record keeping management of all revenue records.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary briefed the Commissioner Secretary about

functioning and achievements of the Revenue Department of the District. He informed that around 40% of the record (Jamabandis) has been digitized and the process is being accelerated by deploying more manpower and logistics at scanning centers. He added that 169229 khasras has been digitized out of 459255 khasras besides out of 88539 and 228518 khewats, 40935 and 82461 have been already digitized respectively.

HC stays order of hike in transportation fee of Pvt Schools

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: High Court today stayed the order of the Fee Fixation Committee (FFC) enhancing 12 per-cent of the transportation fee of the Private Schools which was charged from the students in October 2019.

"Until further orders, the effect and operation of the impugned order dated 09.03.2022 shall remain in abeyance", Division Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Kazmi directed.

Court also directed the listing of the instant petition with the petition filed by Green Valley Educational Institute and also directed the authorities to file counter affidavit within one month and two weeks thereafter are allowed to the petitioners to file rejoinder affidavit.

The challenge in the instant writ petition is to the order dated 09.03.2022 passed by the Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools in J&K. The Committee has permitted enhancement of 12 per-cent in the transportation fee vis-à-vis the transportation fee charged from the students in October, 2019 i.e., before the start of COVID-19.

The argument of the counsel appearing for the school is that the 12 per-cent increase is not sufficient and that the functions of the Fee Fixation Committee were not prescribed by the Government, as

there were no rules in place at the relevant time and as such it had no jurisdiction to fix the transportation fee.

The petitioner-Association questions the legal validity of the orders of the FFC and the order of DSEK on the ground that in October, 2019, the diesel charges per litre was Rs. 70.10. The cost of diesel per litre as in February, 2022 when the Schools opened was Rs. 84.75. There is, thus, an increase of Rs. 14.65 amount in the cost of diesel per litre. This apart, there has also been an increase in the wages of the Drivers/Cleaners and also an increase in the cost of spare parts etc. used in vehicles.

It has already been brought to the notice of the court that as per notification no. S.O 97 dated 19.03.2021, the Government has allowed an increase of 19% on the fare hike over and above rates notified vide notification SRO-341 dated 10.08.2018 and according to the said notification, in August, 2018, the fare hike was 8.70% and was increased by 19% in March, 2021.

As none of the schools were heard before meagre 12% hike was allowed on Transport Fee as is pleaded that sufficient material as per the schools would have been placed before the Committee so as to adequately increase the hike in the transport fee based on National Index, increase in fuel charges, increase in insurance, tax etc.

AAP expresses concern over plight of Vocational Trainers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took a dig at J&K Government for allegedly harassing Vocational Trainers.

In a press conference here today AAP leader, Reyaz Majid said, with an aim to promote vocational education in J&K and to help the youth realize benefits of vocational education, the scheme of employment of Vocational Trainers was started here and trainers were employed in the UT.

"At the time of their appointment, they were promised a proper employment policy," he claimed.

The AAP leader further said that now these trainers are on road since long and none from the government side is bothering to establish contact with these aggrieved trainers who are being intimidated, harassed and warned of dire consequences including



AAP leader, Reyaz Majid addressing a press conference at Srinagar on Tuesday.

termination for raising voice.

"We demand that J&K government should shun its adamant behaviour towards its employees and should listen to the issues of Vocational Trainers so that these trained professionals can get their due rights," Majid maintained adding that these Vocation Trainers under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Vocational Trainers Welfare Association have also written a letter to Arvind Kejriwal informing him about their plight.

Three drug peddlers nabbed with contraband

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Aug 23: Lakhapur Police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered contraband including banned syrup bottles, toxicant tablets and injections from their possession.

This was informed by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua RC Kotwal.

Divulging the details, SSP said that on specific information a team from Police Station Lakhapur led by SHO Inspector Vijay Kotwal under the supervision of DySP DAR Kathua Sukhdev Singh intercepted a bus bearing registration number UP81CT-3952.

During checking, police team recovered 400 bottles of banned syrup bottles and seized the bus vis arrested two drug peddlers identified as Nadeem, son of Mohd Shamim and Shakeel, son of Mohd Shabir, both residents of Quresh Nagar New Delhi, SSP said, adding that on questioning,

both the accused persons revealed that the drug consignment was being taken to J&K from other state.

SSP Kathua RC Kotwal added that in the second instance, a similar team from Police Station Lakhapur laid a naka and intercepted a person, who was moving under suspicious circumstances.

"During checking, police team recovered 170 intoxicant injections and 800 psychotropic tablets from the possession of the person and arrested him", SSP said, adding that the accused was identified as Sumit Sharma, son of Omkar Sharma of Malani Tehsil Baderwah District Doda, at present Top Sherkhania District Jammu.

Cases under relevant sections have been registered at Police Station Lakhapur and investigation started to ascertain the source of the consignment and other persons involved in this illegal trade, SSP Kathua RC Kotwal asserted.

DC Jammu reviews implementation of self-employment schemes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa today convened a series of meetings to review the implementation of self employment schemes, measures taken to control Lumpy Skin disease in animals and National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in the district.



DC Jammu chairing a meeting.

Reviewing the achievements under the self employment schemes, the Deputy Commissioner asked the stakeholder departments to put in concerted efforts to motivate the youth towards entrepreneurship. She asked for holding awareness camps and skill orientation workshops to prepare youth for new Startups by availing the benefits of self-employment Schemes like PMEGP, JKREGP, Skill development schemes, Tejaswini, Mumkin, Avsar, Paarvaz etc.

Mahila Cong appeals women to join 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Former MLA and president of J&K Mahila Congress Indu Pawar today exhorted womenfolk to participate in the forthcoming "Bharat Jodo Yatra" to save the country from the onslaught of the BJP and its offshoots.

Addressing a meeting of party workers at Jammu today, Pawar said that the forthcoming Yatra is a historical initiative by the party leadership to strengthen national integration and unity across the country.

She said 3570 km journey will start on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and conclude in Jammu and Kashmir, covering different states and Union Territories.

Mahila Congress president said that party leader Rahul Gandhi has taken this historic initiative at a very crucial time when the nation is facing different challenges due to the policies and pro-

ensure disposal of dead animals in two days.

Reviewing the implementation of NCAP, the meeting discussed development of city forest at Bhagwati Nagar, installation of continuous ambient air monitoring system, installation of water fountains and provision of water sprinkler applications mounted on truck cabins with water tanks.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav; ADC ADM Satish Sharma; CPO Yoginder Katoch and ACG Rakesh Dubey.

grammes of the ruling BJP.

"After attaining power, BJP brazenly indulged into bulldozing democratic institutions of the country by taking unconstitutional and dictatorial step. Policies pursued by BJP are against the basic spirit of the Constitution of the country and such policies would be proved disastrous for a demo-



cratic country like India", she said. Calling upon women to participate in the upcoming Yatra, she said a website has been launched so that the people could register themselves online for the campaign. The website will also live stream all the events.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu led by SHO Inspector Sikander Singh and assisted by ASI Harmeeet Singh under the supervision of SDPO Eased Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari laid a naka and intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK02BT-6357.

During checking, police team rescued 17 bovine animals and seized the vehicle. A case under FIR Number 83/2022 under sections 188 IPC and 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu and investigation started.

Prominent persons who were present in the meeting include Lal Singh, Bishan Singh, Sagar Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Omkar Singh, Subash Singh, Madan Lal, Nek Ram, Bushan Singh, Parshotam Singh, Suraj Kumar, Darshan Lal and Karan Singh.



A view of Galgotias University.

Galgotias is 2nd University in India to receive 'NAAC A+' score

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Galgotias University was awarded a high score of 3.37 out of 4 by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) for its academic excellence recently.

Achievement of 'A+' accreditation score in the very first round of NAAC has been the proudest achievement of the university lately. With this, Galgotias University has become the only state private university in Uttar Pradesh and the second in the whole of India to receive such a high score.

These scores are awarded to universities on the basis of stringent parameters set by NAAC. These include quality of research, world class infrastructure, top placement, academic excellence etc. It should be noted that NAAC

is the most reputed and authentic autonomous rating institute of the Ministry of Education, Government of India and is managed by the UGC.

Expressing his happiness over the achievement of 'A+' score by NAAC to the University, Chancellor Suneel Galgotia said that much of the credit for this achievement goes to innovative faculty and the advanced research system available with the university. "They have helped our students to get attractive placement offers from world-renowned companies. We also reiterate our commitment to the dream of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi of making India a Vishwaguru and make the state of Uttar Pradesh a global superpower as envisioned by our Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath," he said.



Vice President BJP Yudhvir Sethi addressing a public meeting.

BJP Govt ensured progress in J&K: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: The BJP Government headed by PM Narendra Modi at the Centre has ensured progress in J&K as people were getting all the facilities and services without any hassle or hardships.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President J&K BJP while addressing a public meeting at Majhean area on the outskirts of Jammu today.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir said that the move of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A has not only extended all the Constitutional rights to people of Jammu and Kashmir but also chartered a new era of development in the Union Territory. He said that the major boost has been given to indus-

17 bovine animals rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Bagh-e-Bahu Police rescued 17 bovine animals and seized a vehicle.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu led by SHO Inspector Sikander Singh and assisted by ASI Harmeeet Singh under the supervision of SDPO Eased Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari laid a naka and intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK02BT-6357.

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Cycle rally flagging off ceremony at IIT Jammu as part of SPIC-Macay event.

SPIC Macay cycle rally at IIT Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: IIT Jammu in collaboration with SPIC Macay organized a two-day event of dialogic interaction as well as a cycle rally with Padamshree Dr Kiran Seth, who is founder of SPIC Macay and on Cycle Yatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

In line with the mission of his yatra - the interaction was an attempt to highlight the society's indispensable contribution to revitalizing, exploring and preserving the diverse and classic culture of India.

Under the mentorship of Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, the institute highlighted the importance of empowering artists to artisans from J&K and nationwide to immerse the faculty and student body in the learning and beauty of music, arts, and craft.

IIT Jammu has mobilized various SPIC Macay chapters in which artists and artisans have been invited to create an ambiance of cultural diversity, classical erudition and appreciation through courses, seminars, workshops, cultural events of SPIC Macay and the institute programs as in Artist-in-Residence.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr Quleen Kaur Bijral, faculty, HSS, IIT Jammu, who highlighted the phenomenal journey of Spic Macay and the

institute to foster an understanding of the cultural knowledge as a legacy, an heirloom, and a panacea for keeping our identity, our cultural richness, our talents alive and strong.

Dr Kiran Seth spearheaded the dialogic interaction while highlighting the significant role offered by Dr Sapna Sangra, Chairperson, SPIC Macay J&K in continuing the roles of the society in a full spirit. Dr Seth, then traced the trajectory of the society from its start to its far-reaching goals of combining academic knowledge with classic knowledge of music, arts and craft for a wholesome upbringing of the student body.

Dr Seth was felicitated with a memento of Basholi Painting prepared by Shilpkari artists of Jammu. It was commemorated by Prof Suresh, Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr Amitash, Dr Quleen and coordinators of Teaching Learning Unit. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Amitash Ojha, former HoD and faculty, HSS, IIT Jammu.

The 2-day event came to a hearty consummation with the cycle flagging off ceremony on the campus in which Director, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Prof Bipin Indurkha, Dr Sapna, Dr Quleen, Col Rathore, Lokesh (SLA) and student coordinators presented a warm farewell to Dr Seth for his journey from Jammu to Kanyakumari.

BDC Chairman urges Govt to redress issues of Kotli Galla Bana's residents

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: BDC Chairman RS Pura, Tarsem Lal Sharma today urged the Government and concerned authorities to take serious note of the issues being faced by residents of Panchayat Kotli Galla Bana and Kabir Nagar Basti due to non



BDC Chairman Tarsem Lal addressing media at Jammu on Tuesday.

availability of drainage of dirty water.

"I along with Sarpanch Suraj Parkash personally visited the Block Panchayat Kotli Galla Bana and Kabir Nagar Basti and found that the rain water had damaged daily needed articles of the locals on August 21," BDC Chairman R S Pura Tarsem Lal Sharma said reporters at Gandhi Nagar, here.

During the visit, he said, locals of the adjoining Bakshi Colony, Kabir Colony of Kotli Galla Bana urged them to repair and maintain the road and drainage system of the locality.

He added that Kabir Colony residents also approached them for the construction of a link road from Kabir Temple to Rameshwar Dham of Kotli Galla Bana.

"The demand for the construction of the link road was submitted to the Chief Engineer PWD through DDC Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat on January 31 but till date, the ground-work of the road is still awaited," he said.

The BDC Chairman assured the people of the area that their problem would be resolved soon.

Chaman Lal Flora, president Kabir Sabha Kotli Galla Bana, Surjeet Singh, Jeet Raj, Sunny Kumar, Balak Ram, Mandev Singh, president Munsif Bazar R S Pura and Darshan Kumar, general secretary CPMF J&K UT were present during the event.