



Chief Secretary chairing Bankers' Committee meeting.

J&K's UT Level Bankers' Committee meeting held

Public Sector Banks directed to increase footprints, improve lending

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta and Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, M. K. Jain today co-chaired the "Special Meeting of J&K UT Level Bankers' Committee" to review the measures taken by banks in enhancing the flow of credit in UT of J&K.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Chairman NABARD, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, MD & CEO J&K Bank, Director, DFS, MoF (GoI), and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD and banks joined the meeting which was held in virtual mode.

The Chief Secretary said that concerted efforts from all stakeholders should be aimed at developing Jammu and Kashmir as a model entity. He said that besides agriculture and horticulture sectors, there is huge potential in other sectors like Tourism, Hospitality, Food processing, Floriculture, IT Industry, Medical Tourism, Infrastructure & Real Estate, Hydropower, Film Sector, Handlooms and Handicrafts in the Union territory.

Dr. Mehta maintained that with the collective efforts of the Government and banks, the economy of J&K, which is presently at around Rs.1.80 lac crore, can be scaled up to Rs 3.60 lakh crore within next five years.

Informing that digitization of land records in J&K has been completed and access to land records has been made available online, the Chief Secretary impressed upon banks to expedite lending by hassle-free and expeditious verification of records.

Dr. Mehta stated that J&K Government is committed to lower the un-employment rate in J&K to below 5% mark, and as such, directed banks to provide banking facilities in identified uncovered villages by 31st March 2022.

The Chief Secretary urged upon the Public Sector Banks to increase the credit activity in UT of J&K and assured them of all necessary support from the Government.

The Deputy Governor, RBI appreciated the role of J&K Bank in providing ease of access to banking services in the UT and urged upon other

banks to increase their footprints with focus on augmenting banking correspondent network besides scaling up credit activities in J&K. He directed banks to initiate dialogue for bringing in more Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) to the Union territory for creating an environment of co-lending.

He directed banks to improve lending to priority sector and employment generation schemes meant for poverty alleviation and social upliftment. He urged upon the banks to make concerted efforts to achieve the targets set under the Annual Credit Plan. He stated that there is immense potential in agriculture and horticulture Sectors in J&K and banks need to initiate measures to tap the same.

While expressing satisfaction over the increase in CD Ratio of UT from 48.28% on March 2020 to 56.60% on November 2021, he stated expressed concern on the persistently low CD Ratio of Jammu region.

Deputy Governor, RBI impressed upon the banks and Industrial Associations to join hands for creating awareness on MSME schemes besides providing handholding to entrepreneurs to start their ventures.

While appreciating the efforts of NABARD for formulating five year development package of Rs.25,991 crore for UT of J&K in consultation with Government of J&K, he stated that NABARD should continue to assist the Government in development of rural infrastructure in UT of J&K.



Union MoS, Dr Jitendra Singh presenting award to DC Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmed in Hyderabad on Friday.

Dr Owais Ahmed receives

National Award for e-Governance

Excelsior Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Jan 7: DC Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed, on Friday received National Award for e-Governance during 24th National conference on e-Governance held in Hyderabad.

The first of its kind award has been conferred for the innovative digital product "Panchayat Development Index" launched by the District Administration.

The award was conferred to Dr Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad Joint Director Planning Bandipora and Mala Ram DIO Bandipora by Union MoS in PMO office, Dr Jitendra Singh, who was chief guest of the grandeur event.

The dashboard for PDI was launched in June 2020 aimed at monitoring the development at grass roots level. The monitoring is carried out by way of recording different indicators of development besides evaluating impact of centrally sponsored schemes in Panchayats.

The index captures movement in development at grass root level and also evaluates impact of centrally sponsored

schemes in Panchayats. There are 81 outcome indicators spread over six thematic areas of Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied, Skill & Self Employment, Financial inclusion and Basic infrastructure with suitable weightage.

PDI is inspired by HDI, SDGs and Aspirational Programme. Total 81 outcome indicators have been devised after elaborative discussions with District officers & PRI functionaries. The Project was completed into two phases viz. preparation & launch of index and making of online Dashboard for data entry & analytical reporting. A vibrant web portal www.realchangersbandipora.com is open and live to public. Policy planners, students, PRIs etc.

The Panchayat Development Index has been prepared by Imtiyaz Ahmad, Joint Director Planning Bandipore after elaborative discussions with line Departments, under the supervision of Dr Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora. The index is applicable to all Panchayats across the country & is believed to prove a vital tool for rapid transformation of Panchayats and.

Farmers suffered loss due to non-completion of project: Ex-MLC

Excelsior Correspondent

SUNDERBANI, Jan 7: Thousands of Sunderbani farmers have suffered immense loss due to non-completion of Rs 52 or Beripattan mega filtration project in 8 years due to non-release of funds by the Centre and J&K Government.

Questioning the ruling party at the Centre and UT administration for failure to release the required funds for the mega project, sanctioned and initiated in the year 2014 by UPA Government, JKPCC chief spokesperson and former MLC Ravinder Sharma said that their slogans of doubling farmers income by 2022 proved another 'Jumla'.

He said that the mega irrigation project started in 2014 due to his initiatives was scheduled to be completed in Dec 2018 and would have benefited thousands of farmers by providing irrigation facilities to targeted 40, 000 kanals of land upto Sodra.

However the work was abandoned after spending crores of rupees on the completion of power station and digging of two kms of main canal, which has only added to the great suffering of the farmers, whose animals get trapped in the canal, told the farmers to the visiting Congress leader during his tour of the area.

Sharma regretted the attitude of the BJP Government and the UT administration for neglecting the farmers interests as the project of immense benefit of border area has been abandoned half way. On one hand crores of rupees have gone down the drain while farmers hopes have been belied.

The hollow slogans of BJP Government and ruling leaders towards farmers welfare are fake and hollow and claims of big development are exposed.

Senior Congress leader has demanded immediate release of funds and resumption of work on the project for its early completion.

Div Com reviews functioning of DRDO Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: In view of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases and to review the preparedness of dedicated COVID hospitals, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer today visited DRDO hospital Bhagwati Nagar and reviewed its functioning at a meeting with the concerned officers.

The Divisional Commissioner held a detailed

Department and hospital administration to ensure that both works get completed before January 31, 2022.

The hospital is fully equipped with ventilators, monitors, in-house pharmacy, diagnostic facility, X-Ray and a CT Scan machine has recently been commissioned.

It was further informed that the hospital has sufficient staff strength and 47 doctors have been deployed in the DRDO after a spike in cases.



Divisional Commissioner chairing a meeting on Friday.

review of the facilities, issues pertaining to medical oxygen, status of water, power supply, status of roads, staff strength etc.

The Medical Superintendent DRDO Hospital apprised the Divisional Commissioner that the hospital has all requisite staff, laboratories, wards and is fully prepared to fight any fresh covid wave.

The Div Com directed the District administration Jammu to establish isolation facilities for travellers. He directed ADC Jammu to visit Yatri Niwas and ensure that all requisite facilities are available for the attendants.

While reviewing water power supply to the hospital, it was informed that dedicated lines have been provided to the hospital for uninterrupted water and power supply.

Regarding the medical oxygen related issues, it was informed that the 500-bedded hospital has oxygen supported beds in both ICU and other wards. The Div Com directed for recheck of the oxygen flow of all the beds.

The chief Engineer MED informed that LMOs are fully functional and the work for suction line & AVR (Automatic Voltage Regulator) has been allotted. The Div Com directed the Mechanical Engineering

The Div Com instructed the hospital authorities to project requisitions, if anything is required and be fully prepared to deal with the emerging situation.

Officials of DRDO, Medical Superintendent and Executive Engineer MED were also directed to do a test run with full load ie all 125 ventilators functioning simultaneously to check for any pressure drop.

The meeting was attended by Director Health, Administrative officer GMC, Commandant SDRF, ADC Jammu, Chief Engineer, MED; SP North, Medical Superintendent DRDO, technical staff of DRDO besides senior officers of Jal Shakti, JPDCL, PWD and other concerned officers.

chemistry technique, Gas Chromatography coupled Mass Spectrometry (GS-MS), showed that these particles were indeed loaded with antimicrobial phytochemicals such as p-Cyanoaniline, Eucalyptol, Drimenol, and endo-Borneol. Patanjali scientists also verified the practical feasibility of Yagya and Hawan in environmental sterilization.

Dr Varshney interprets that these observations not only affirm the rich scientific rationale of Ayurveda but also open a whole new possibility of developing Yagya/Hawan in to a sustainable, eco-friendly and non-toxic option of environmental sterilization.

Acharya Jee believes that the uniqueness of this study by Patanjali Research Institute has come from the scientific prowess and inventiveness of the research team that was reflected in the designing and overall execution of the experiments. He emphasizes that this accomplishment also exemplifies the excellence that can be achieved if modern technologies and ancient knowledge are in the right symphony. Acharya Jee believes that more of such orchestrations are required for global recognition of traditional Ayurvedic knowledge base. He mentions that the scientific staff of Patanjali Research Institute is wholeheartedly up for this challenge and trusts that outcomes of those collective endeavours would be on its prime in times to come.

Patanjali scientists prove antimicrobial effects of yagya, hawan: Balkrishna

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: A team of scientists from Patanjali Research Institute through an ingenious study has proved the antimicrobial effects of yagya and hawan on various pathogenic bacteria and fungi, which are present in the environment.

Acharya Balkrishna has said that this is the first scientific proof for the ancient practice of Yagya and Hawan being a way of purifying the environment. He co-related these scientific findings to the ancient Indian daily practice of conducting Yagya/Hawan as a routine environmental decontamination protocol. Acharya Jee has emphasized that Yagya/Hawan is not only a spiritual way to attaining mental peace, but also, for holistic physical health.

According to the scientific details shared by Dr Anurag Varshney, the Vice-President of Patanjali Research Institute, the pathogenic microbes were exposed to the fumes arising from combustion of a Hawan samagri called Vishagh Dhoop, and its effect on their growth was monitored. The growth of these pathogens were found to be inhibited by Vishagh Dhoop fume treatment in a time dependent manner. On further investigation through an advanced technique, called Scanning Electron Microscopy, the Vishagh Dhoop fumes were actually found to be comprised of nanoscale particles. Another state-of-art analytical

chemistry technique, Gas Chromatography coupled Mass Spectrometry (GS-MS), showed that these particles were indeed loaded with antimicrobial phytochemicals such as p-Cyanoaniline, Eucalyptol, Drimenol, and endo-Borneol. Patanjali scientists also verified the practical feasibility of Yagya and Hawan in environmental sterilization.

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SKUAST-J VC awarded prestigious NAAS Fellowship

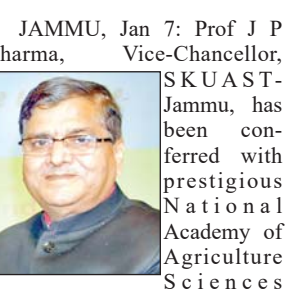
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Prof J P Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, has been conferred with prestigious National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (NAAS) Fellowship for his immense contribution in developing innovative extension models for speedy transfer of improved technologies and entrepreneurship development for livelihood security of farmers.

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Devise institutional mechanism to assess performance of teachers periodically: Advisor Bhatnagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today asked the officers of the School Education Department to work in the direction of systematically improving the different indices in teaching-learning process besides effective implementation of National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) across the schools of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Advisor made these remarks while reviewing the performance of the department in a meeting at Civil Secretariat here which was attended by Directors of both the provinces, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Chairperson JKBOSE

and other concerned officials of the department both in person and through video conferencing.

Speaking during the meet, the Advisor emphasised on the officers that there are set parameters devised by different national and international bodies to assess the teaching-learning outcomes. They should not restrict their activities to surveys only but work for improving the overall outcomes using the finding of these surveys.

Highlighting the need of holding training sessions for teachers, Advisor Bhatnagar said that teachers need retraining and upskilling. He asked the department to hold specific training sessions for each group of teachers as per their ability and requirements. He advised them to set a target of pushing each of them to a certain standard of quality for better learning outcomes among pupils they teach.

The Advisor also asked the officers to assess the fruitfulness of training sessions by assessing the capacity building of each

trainee. He asked them to devise institutional mechanism of assessing performance and abilities of teachers that is simultaneously reformative in nature.

While asking the department to figure out the infrastructural requirements at pre-primary level, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers to factor out the reasons for drop-outs at upper primary/middle level. He also stressed on them to close the gender gap in the student enrolment.

He also remarked that the department will be held responsible and accountable for learning outcomes and timely creation and maintenance of infrastructure.

The Advisor also encouraged the officers to include those vocational courses in curriculum which possess relevancy and recognition outside the UT. He asked them to provide certification from appropriate agencies to the candidates pursuing these courses so that they are able to secure jobs on these newly learnt skills.

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The Deputy Governor, RBI appreciated the role of J&K Bank in providing ease of access to banking services in the UT and urged upon other

Drone seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: A made in China drone was found in a plot in Bank Colony area of Pouni Chak on the outskirts of city this morning and was seized accordingly.

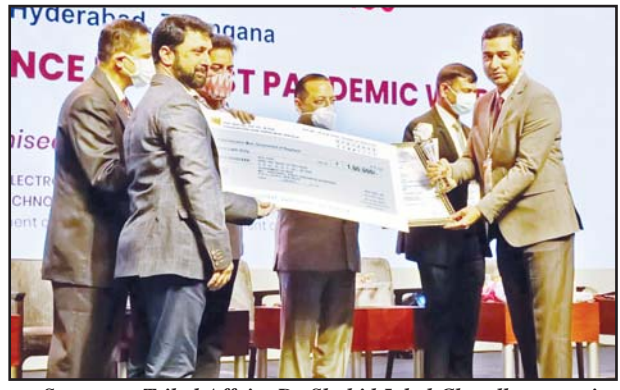
As per police sources, some passerby spotted a drone in a plot in Bank Colony area and informed the police.

On getting information, a team from Police Post Pouni Chak rushed to the spot and seized the Made in China drone.

Searches were also conducted in the surrounding areas where the drone was found, but nothing suspicious was found.

However, cognizance in this regard has been taken by Pouni Chak Police in this regard.

The drone belonged to a private person who has been identified, police said ruling out any cross-border connection.



Secretary, Tribal Affairs Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary receiving National Award from Union MoS, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday.

Dr Shahid Iqbal receives National Award for outstanding efforts in COVID mgmt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and CEO Mission Youth J&K Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today received the National Award 2020-21 conferred by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Government of India, for outstanding efforts in Covid-19 management as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar.

He won Gold registering 1st position among 231 finalist districts and organisations in the category of COVID-19 management with effective use of technology.

The National Award carries a Gold Medal, Citation and Rs 2.00 lakh cash. The award recognises use of Information and Communication Technology in efforts aimed at COVID-19 management and containment.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar undertook a number of innovative and effective initiatives with inter-sectoral coordination and community participation. These included COVID Call Centre and Management System, Mobile and Web Apps for contact tracing and symptom tracking, Real-Time Integrated COVID-19 Management System, Quarantine management, House to House survey, Public outreach through social media communication and Audio-Visual messaging, Home delivery of ration, essentials and medicines, Helpline for women and children, special arrangements for pregnant women, diabetics, cancer patients and other

non-covid emergencies, and various other efforts. NGOs, Volunteers and Civil Society organisations roped in for COVID-19 response system played a key role.

The award was presented by Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO and Ministry of Personnel in presence of K T Rama Rao, Minister for Urban Development, Industries & IT, Ajay Prakash, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt of India, Somesh Prakash, Chief Secretary, Telangana and V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, Govt of India, at the 24th National Conference on e-Governance inaugurated at Hyderabad today.

Pertinently, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary is also recipient of country's highest civil services award, the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2014, National Award 2014 by ECI, National Award for e-Governance 2015 by Ministry of Personnel, Govt of India, National Award for Women Empowerment in 2017-18, National Award for Girl Child Education in 2019, Excellence in Governance Award 2019, Election Award 2016, Red Cross Awards 2015, 2017, Governance Award 2015 and several other accolades for his outstanding contribution as Deputy Commissioner of various districts including Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua, Rajouri, Bandipora and Srinagar. He was also deputed to Singapore, Kingdom of Lesotho, South Africa and Republic of Georgia by the Govt of India and Election Commission of India.



YRS president Rajan Singh addressing a press conference at Jammu on Friday.

YRS demands gazetted holiday on B'day of Maharaja Hari Singh, warns of agitation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) today warned the Government of agitation for its dilly-dallying tactics over decision of declaring a gazetted holiday on the Birthday (September 23) of erstwhile Ruler of J&K state Maharaja Hari Singh.

Addressing a press conference today, Rajan Singh, president YRS, said that the present regime in the Jammu and Kashmir is showing no respect for sentiments of jammuites and constantly delaying decision over declaration of a holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

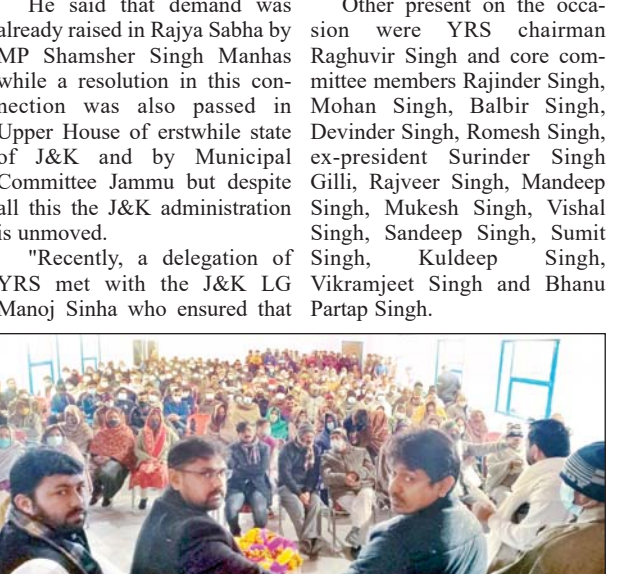
He said that demand was already raised in Rajya Sabha by MP Shamsar Singh Manhas while a resolution in this connection was also passed in Upper House of erstwhile state of J&K and by Municipal Committee Jammu but despite all this the J&K administration is unmoved.

"Recently, a delegation of YRS met with the J&K LG Manoj Sinha who ensured that

the holiday will be announced on birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh within few days but no decision came yet," Rajan said and announced that to press for their demand, they have decided to start agitation from January 4.

He appealed people of J&K, all NGOs, Bar Association, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Transport unions, Shopkeepers' Associations and other organizations to support their agitation. "Time has come to show our strength to the Administration for our just demand to which people of entire Jammu region are emotionally attached," he added.

Other present on the occasion were YRS chairman Raghuvir Singh and core committee members Rajinder Singh, Mohan Singh, Balbir Singh, Devinder Singh, Romesh Singh, ex-president Surinder Singh Gilli, Rajveer Singh, Mandep Singh, Mukesh Singh, Vishal Singh, Sandeep Singh, Sumit Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Vikramjeet Singh and Bhanu Partap Singh.



JKPYC chief Uday Chib & Cong leader Satish Sharma at a meeting in Khour on Friday.

Madan Lal Trust provides assistance to needy people

Excelsior Correspondent

AKHNOOR, Jan 7: Madan Lal Sharma Charitable Trust members today provided financial assistance to some needy families during a meeting held at village Pangali in Khour.

The meeting was chaired by chairperson of the Trust Satish Sharma. The meeting was in continuation of the monthly meetings through which trust focuses on providing financial assistance to widow women and to provide sports material to the youth.

Speaking on the occasion various speakers shared their views about the social welfare works undertaken by the trust and also recalled the works that Ex-MP Madan Lal Sharma used to do. Prem Singh and Vikram Singh referred to the works initiated by Ex-MP and this Trust in the area.

Speaking on the occasion President J&K Youth Congress Uday Bhanu Chib said that he was amazed to see so much people here

during rain today. He said Satish Sharma is one of the most hard-working leader of Congress and is always ready to help the people. He urged people to shower their blessings on Satish Sharma so that doors of development which have been shut down could be opened again.

Satish Sharma while speaking during the program pledged to serve the people and sought their cooperation. He said that the Trust will continue helping the people and it is our collective responsibility to stand with the needy people of our area.

During the program financial assistance was given to some people. Rs 10, 000 were given to Gopal Dass whose son is suffering from kidney ailment, Rs 2000 each were given to Shashi Devi, Sagna Devi, Kamla Devi, Pooja Devi, Gharo Devi, Bimla Devi and Parshotam Singh. Sports kits were also distributed amongst the youth and children of the area.

Several local leaders also spoke on the occasion.

Govt fails to keep Sonamarg open: Altaf

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Senior National conference leader and former MLA Kangan Mian Altaf today expressed his dissent about the closure of the Sonamarg health resort and said that the Government despite its tall claims and assurances has failed to keep Sonamarg open during winters.

In a statement issued today, Altaf said that the Government, Tourism and other departments had assured that the Sonamarg will be kept open during winter months so that the visitors coming from different parts of the country can visit the place. He said that after the snowfall on Wednesday the Sonamarg was cut off with no road access and any basic facilities like electricity and water.

Many tourists who had come to visit Sonamarg had to return back disappointed, adding that it has also affected the livelihood of hundreds of locals who are dependent on the tourism sector here and work as labourers, sledge riders, ponywalas besides shopkeepers and hoteliers.

NC leader said that the Government had also announced that the escape tunnel of Z Morh at Shitkari

Sonamarg will be used during winter months to keep Sonamarg open during winter's and heavy snowfall however that too hasn't been done. He urged the Government to gear up and ensure the connectivity to Sonamarg and make arrangements for providing all the required facilities for people here.

Six JKAS officers placed in Info Dept

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Government today placed services of six Junior Scale officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) at the disposal of Information Department for a period of two months.

The officers are Taweed Ahmad (presently posted as BDO Tangdhar, Kupwara), Sushil Singh (BDO Bani), Akshay Sharma (BDO Lalpora, Baramulla), Vivek Rattan (BDO Bijhama, Baramulla), Mohit Sharma (BDO Gund, Ganderbal) and Manish Sudan (BDO Pakharpora, Budgam).

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