

# Shahid reviews progress on tribal livelihood initiatives

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary convened a meeting to review the progress in various livelihood initiatives and formulation of plan for financial year 2022-23 in convergence with Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments. Progress on establishment of mini Sheep Farms, Milk

Husbandry Kashmir, Purnimal Mittal, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Krishan Lal and Director Sheep husbandry, Kashmir Bashir Ahmed discussed about the progress made in various tribal welfare schemes and suggested various projects for Financial Year 2022-23.

Special Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Harun Malik and Secretary, Advisory Board,

Kishtwar, Udhampur, Ramban, Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipora and Jammu. An outlay of Rs 15.00 Cr has been earmarked for mini Sheep Farms. Milk Villages are being established at 17 locations under CSS and UT CaPEX, which will benefit more than 1500 families in gainful employment. The Milk Village scheme has been restructured by adoption of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme notified by the Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu and Kashmir Government. The milk villages are coming up with a budget of Rs 15.00 Cr.

Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu, discussed about achieving saturation in tribal areas for establishment of dairy units in tune with IDDS and also called for shelter scheme to augment efforts of tribal dairy farmers, which was agreed by the department.

Director, Animal Husbandry, Kashmir, discussed about plan to establish Poultry Farms in tribal areas, to be funded by the tribal affairs department. Special Secretary, Harun Malik elaborated on the plan for Bee-keeping enterprises plan formulated in collaboration with SKUAST-K for tribal farmers in the annual plan.

Director, Sheep Husbandry, Jammu also discussed about expansion of sheep farm scheme and also briefed about progress on procurement of tents for transhumant family and semi-nomadic sheep breeders. Mobile veterinary units are being provided under tribal plan.



Jammu district officers participating in virtual meet of Mentor Secretary.

# Raju reviews progress of works under various schemes in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Commissioner Secretary Jal Sakti Department M. Raju, who is also incharge Secretary for District Jammu, reviewed the progress of works proposed under, BADP, PMGSY, JJM, Languishing projects, B2V3 and District Capex Budget including DDC, BDC, PRI components.

The Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg apprised the Chair about the progress being made so far through a powerpoint presentation.

He informed that there are a total 486 works under Back to Village-III out of which 453 works are approved under RDD.

He further informed that out of 486 works, 168 have been completed and 280 are under execution which would be completed in current financial year.

Deputy Commissioner apprised that there are total 4489 works under the District Capex Budget 2021-22 in respect with Jammu district out of which 201 works are under UT component including NABARD, 207 under DDC plan, 201 works under BDC

plan and 3860 under PRI plan. He said that out of 4489 works, 1566 have been completed and 2366 are under execution which will be completed soon.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the DC apprised the Incharge Secretary that there are 266 works and DPR of these works is under process to get approval from Project Appraisal Committee.

Regarding PMGSY, the DC assured the Chair that out of approved 120 KM, 100 KM of roads would be completed till 31 March 2021.

He also said that under Languishing projects, 252 have been approved out of which 145 have been completed and 106 are under execution.

Speaking on the occasion, M. Raju stressed on the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of various ongoing works on different projects for their time-bound completion.

He also directed the concerned official to get the approval of DPR from PAC in three days so that the works can be completed in stipulated time.

The Commission Secretary asked the officers to focus on allotting the works following their execution and completion without any delay.

# Dr Jitendra addresses Indo-UK meet, calls for collaboration

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 : Addressing the joint India-UK meet on "Sustaining Food Production under Environmental Stress", in hybrid mode today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh called for collaboration between the two nations of India and United Kingdom on issues of mutual concern like achieving the goals of food security and zero hunger.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India and UK must invite global collaborations in various dimensions of science like agriculture, medicine, food, pharma, engineering or defense. The Workshop is being organized jointly by National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, an institute under Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, and supported by Newton Bhabha Fund and British Council.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the aim of the Indian Government has been to enable farmers to feed India and the world. He said, India's efforts to safeguard the Food Security needs of every citizen in the country have been unprecedented as Prime Minister Modi even ensured that no person goes hungry during pandemic time. Moreover, policies have been framed to protect interests of small and marginal farmers, and conserve local food cultures



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing joint India-UK meet on "Sustaining Food Production under Environmental Stress" on Tuesday, at New Delhi.

which in turn will significantly contribute to food security, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India-UK joint collaboration may include programmes like students exchange, basic research, technology development, product development as well as product/process demonstration and their implementation in joint collaboration. The Minister said, COVID demonstrated that Science is the only major key tool to find solutions and to give solutions for tough times to be faced by the mankind. He pointed out that Indian science has proved the capability to produce vaccines for such a high risk/ devastating disease in a very limited time and at the same time added that we should not restrict our ideas to Indian perspectives, rather there should have a global horizon.

Dwelling on the issue of Sustainable Food Production, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the South Asian region is facing the shrinking arable land, besides the problem of global climate

change that needs to be addressed. Quoting World Bank data, the Minister pointed out that the Arable land in South Asia was reported at 43.18 % in 2018 which has been stagnant since the early 1970s and recently declining. He said, growth in yields and more intensive use of land will account for all of the growth in crop production and will also compensate for losses in the arable land area.

Underlining that the global pattern of food production and distribution may need to shift significantly as climate change progresses, Dr Jitendra Singh called for joint funding to develop a coherent and stakeholder-relevant R&D program that will address this challenge. He said, the initiative by the British Council to support such interactive meet among the researchers with a common goal will seek attention from the stakeholders and nurture the young investigators to provide them with an excellent platform to share and rear the ideas.

# DC inspects ongoing civil works at District Hospital Kishtwar

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Jan 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Ashok Sharma today visited District Hospital Kishtwar to inspect civil work of ongoing developmental projects viz new additional 100 bedded IPD building and Ophthalmology Department building (eye block).

He was accompanied by Medical Superintendent District Hospital Dr. Parveez Iqbal Wani besides concerned officers of the executing agencies.

During the inspection, he was apprised that the tile work in the additional 100 bedded building is in full swing and will be completed in all respects by March 2022, while the work on the eye block is nearing completion.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the executing agencies to expedite the pace to complete the remaining work on the Eye block and 100 bedded extension of the Hospital in stipulated time.

He directed the Medical Superintendent to monitor the progress of the projects closely to facilitate early augmentation of the Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar also inspected the Oxygen Generation

Plant (500 LPM Oxygen generation plant made under Prime Minister's Care Fund and the other unit of 1500 LPM) which has been Commissioner recently and reviewed the functioning of both the units.

The Medical Superintendent apprised him that the functioning of these OGP has made the district Hospital and Covid care centres self sufficient in Oxygen supply.

The DC maintained that Oxygen Plant is the lifeline for Covid treatment protocol amid the 3rd surge.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the COVID mitigation measures in the district hospital.

During his visit, the DC inspected the COVID care centre established in the district Hospital and took stock of the arrangements put in place for the effective management of the COVID positive patients.

Furthermore, he stressed on the Medical Superintendent to strengthen the Covid mitigation measures in DH besides ensuring adherence to the Covid Appropriate Behaviour and SOPs in OPD and IPD for the safety of patients and attendants.

# NC seeks implementation of schemes for OBC, STs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU Jan 18: National Conference today urged the administration to focus on the implementation of various schemes aimed at ameliorating the lot of weaker sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There has been slow pace on the implementation of welfare schemes for OBC and ST segments of the society, which need priority attention of the Lt Governor's administration", Provincial president National Conference Rattan Lal Gupta said while interacting with the delegation of these communities from Udhampur led by Anayatullah district president OBC Cell and Mohd Gani district president ST Cell.

Gupta recalled the relentless efforts made by National Conference led Governments under Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister towards the welfare and empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes and said these received severe dent during the past few years. He stressed the need for achieving the targets for welfare of these communities in a time bound manner.

NC leader referred to various issues flagged by the delegation related to the empowerment of these communities and one time issuance of the OBC certificate on the analogy of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories, saying these merit immediate consideration by the Government.

He said political empowerment of these communities' has remained core of the National Conference agenda over the decades as the party believes that

their greater involvement in the decision making will go a long way in promoting harmonious growth of the society.

Gupta urged the cadre to further strengthen National Conference at the grass roots level to meet the challenges faced to the society.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Brij Mohan Sharma, Deepinder Kour, Abdul Gani Teli, Pavitar Singh, Abdul Rashid, Ashraf Ali, Chena Ram Sethi and others.

# JMC continues anti-encroachment drive

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has continued its anti-encroachment drive here today.

As per official spokesman, on the instructions of Commissioner, JMC, Avny Lavasa, the Enforcement and Revenue staff led by Assistant Commissioner Revenue today conducted an anti-encroachment drive near Chest & Disease Hospital and Government Medical College Jammu and

demolished 10 illegal structures raised on foot path.

Jammu Municipal Corporation has appealed to all its citizens particularly not to encroach upon footpaths and pavement as the same cause inconvenience to the pedestrians and also create obstruction in the free movement of vehicular traffic.



Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

Villages, Milk Chilling Plants, Dairy Farms/ Units and tents for migratory population was reviewed.

Sectoral plan proposals for next financial year were also discussed for timely initiation of developmental works at the beginning of the year. Department has earmarked an outlay of Rs 40.00 Cr for dairy farms and sheep farms in tribal villages.

Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu, Sagar Diofode, Director Tribal Affairs Mushir Ahmed Mirza, Director Animal

Mukhtar Ahmed Choudhary discussed various contours of livelihood schemes. Jt Director Shama un Ahmed, OSD Dr Abdul Khabir and Asstt Director Sushil Kumar Gupta also briefed the meeting.

It was informed that 750 mini Sheep Farms have been established in Districts Reasi, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Srinagar and Shopian benefiting a population of 3000. Meanwhile, Phase-II of the scheme will cover Districts



Jammu DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi with delegation of Sarpanchs on Tuesday.

# Modi Govt committed to farmers' welfare: Bharat Bhushan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: District Development Council (DDC) Jammu Chairman, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi has reiterated the Modi Govt's commitment for farmers' welfare while assuring a delegation of Sarpanchs to get the issues relating to their Panchayats resolved at the earliest.

He was speaking to a delegation of Sarpanchs from Marh constituency today who called on him to apprise him of the problems being faced by the people of their respective areas.

The delegation brought to the notice of the DDC Chairman the liability of MGNREGA works since 2017 to 2020 as a result of which the payments of the said works continue to be pending.

The delegation also raised serious concern over the problems being faced by farmers due to non-availability of power lines in their fields thus causing great inconvenience to them in irrigating their fields.

The delegation further said that the canal flowing from Garkhal area has the capacity to cater to needs of farmers in 11 Panchayats including Garkhal Kool, Chinore Farm, Gajansoo Kool, Saharan Kool, Jaswan, Chatha, Galwadey, Gajansoo, Nai Basti, Sahagni and Rathowa; but

due to narrow head of canal, the water does not reach the tail end. Moreover, the canal is also in deplorable condition and requires to be repaired, they asserted.

After giving the Sarpanchs a patient hearing, the DDC Chairman assured to take up their issues with the concerned authorities and get the same resolved at the earliest. He appealed to the J&K Power Development Corporation Ltd to take serious note of the farmers' issues and provide special power line for bore well purposes in their fields so that they may not face any inconvenience.

The DDC also assured the visiting delegation that the issue of narrow head of canal will be resolved by taking up the matter with Irrigation Department shortly. Moreover, he added, steps will be taken to moderate the canal so that its water gets used in properly irrigation of the fields.

The DDC Chairman said that soon he would be taking up the issue of MGNREGA liability with the authorities concerned and will make every possible effort for clearance of pending liability.

The deputation comprised of Sarpanchs namely Narinder Singh, Tilak Raj, Sham Lal, Ashok Saini, Lal Singh and Laja Devi besides others.

# People protest against land-mafia, block road

Excelsior Correspondent

SUNDERBANI, Jan 18: A large number of villagers from Bhajwal area today blocked Sunderbani- Kangri road at Sodra village and held protest against local administration, Sarpanch and BDC chairman.

Protesters including Ram Saroop, Rajinder Sharma, Baggu Ram, Pishori Lal, Panch Kustari Lal, Shamsher Singh and members of District Development Council DDC Sunderbani Rajinder Sharma assembled on the road and launched protest.

They alleged that that some land mafia people in connivance with Sarpanch want to encroach the land of Government Middle School Sodra of Zone Sunderbani. They said during midnight they wanted to dump soil with dumpers in front of Government School Sodra. Observing this some local people rushed on the spot then Sarpanch and other people ran away leaving behind JCB and a loaded dumper.

Today hundreds of people men, women came out on the

road and blocked it for two hours, holding strong protest against land mafia and administration. They also raised slogans against Sunderbani Administration and Revenue department.

Then Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Sunderbani Vinod Kumar Benhal, Tehsildar Sunderbani Ravi Shankar rushed to the spot and directed removal of encroachment. ADM assured that land grabbing will not be allowed on school land. He also directed authorities to fence that land. The people then suspended protest.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Block Development Council (BDC) Sunderbani Anun Kumar Sharma said this land is measuring 12 kanal under khasra number 1779 both side of road is the ownership of Amar Nath. He said Revenue authorities must go for measurement and actual status of this land. On 11 kanal land there is Giridwari of Government Middle school Sodra and presently only 04 or 05 Kanal has been left with the School, rest of the land has been either grabbed or being grabbed by some people.

# J&K CAMPA formulates rehabilitation plan to restore 17,715 ha degraded forest area

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Executive Committee of J&K CAMPA today met under the chairmanship of Dr Mohit Gera, PCCF (HOFF). At the outset, Dr Gera gave an overview of the major initiatives of the Government including Green J&K Drive Har Gaon Haryali, Creation of livelihood from forests as well as on Ecotourism. He also spoke on major achievements of the department during the current year.

Sarvesh Rai, CEO CAMPA apprised the Committee about progress in execution of the current year's plan and the proposals for the next year. The Committee was apprised that in the current financial year, 5,443 ha forest area has been rehabilitated by planting about 27 lakh plants in monsoon and autumn seasons, while winter planting is in progress. Tendering for remaining fencing, planting, soil conservation, nursery and infrastructure works approved for the current financial year has also been completed.

For the next financial year, a detailed site-specific plan along with their location maps for rehabilitation of a total 17,715 ha of degraded forest area has been prepared using CAMPA portal.

The rehabilitation plan includes protective fencing and planting of about 120 lakh plants. The plan includes broadcast of 25.18 lakh seed balls and sowing in 40.59 lakh patches and 10.21 lakh dibbles as low-cost afforestation measures. Soil conservation measures like Dry Rubble Stone Masonary, Crates

and water harvesting structures/ponds have been proposed to give a fillip to eco-restoration efforts.

For protection of forest lands from encroachment, 23,500 new boundary pillars are proposed to be erected during 2022-23. The plan includes measures for protection of forests from fire and strengthening of infrastructure by construction of official and residential buildings for frontline staff, check posts, watch towers and other forest protection infrastructures.

The Social Forestry Department has constituted 4289 Village Panchayat Plantation Committees for planning and implementation of works outside forests for creation of village woodlots, avenue plantation and farm forestry.

The Wildlife Protection Department has proposed measures which include improvement of wildlife habitats, soil and water conservation works, maintenance of animal rescue centres, eco-development activities and development of wildlife related infrastructure. The Department has prepared a special project 'Mitigation Plan for Kishtwar High Altitude National Park', which is being implemented.

Proposal for modernization of the Department includes use of remote sensing and GIS tools for preparation of digital maps, equipment like, CCTV, Drones, Camera traps, GPS for more efficient functioning.

Non-official members, Nazir Be Nazir, Dr. S. Gurmeet Singh, and Ch. Asif Iqbal (Advocate) also participated in the meeting.

The concerned to make adequate arrangements to protect the fertilizer lot in case of sudden hostile weather. He also emphasized for hassle free and equitable supply of fertilizers to the doorsteps of the farmers in time in all the regions and districts of the state.

It was given out that during Rabi 2021-22, 18053 MTs Urea, 17420 MTs DAP and 4355 MTs MOP have been received and distributed in J&K UT till date.

Chief Agriculture Officer Udhampur, Sanjay Verma; Manager (F&A) KRIBHCO, Vijay Kumar Chawala; Assistant Director Law Enforcement, Tilak Raj Sharma; Technical officer Fertilizer, Santosh Bhat, and other officers of district Udhampur also accompanied the Director during the visit.

Later, the Director Agriculture chaired a review meeting at Agriculture office complex, Udhampur and took stock of the various farmers' welfare activities being carried out in the district. He directed the officers to motivate the farmers to adopt latest farming inputs in the fields for higher returns. He also impressed upon the officers to put it all out efforts to implement the departmental schemes in letter and spirit.

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# Anti-encroachment operation launched to retrieve 350 kanals of Govt land

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 18:- The District Administration Srinagar on Tuesday launched a massive anti-encroachment operation at Chhaterhama area in Tehsil North of Srinagar District to retrieve the State/Kahecharie land illegally occupied by the land grabbers.

The anti-encroachment operation was supervised by the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz who remained present on the spot in order to retrieve the huge chunk of 353 kanals of land under survey number 1096 encroached by the land mafia.

During demolition drive today large portion of the grabbed land under the survey was retrieved by the team of senior Revenue and Police Officers and shall continue over next few days

# Install full body scanners to check narco-terrorism in J&K: Zorawar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Jammu Kashmir Unity Foundation and Team Jammu have raised the pitch for installation of Full Body scanners at vital points on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and Jammu-Poonch Highway to put a strong check on the narco-terrorism activities aided and abetted by Pakistan.

The startling data of 6,00,000 (six lakh) drug abuse victims in Jammu and Kashmir and seizure of drugs substance worth hundreds of crores of rupees in the recent past necessitated the demand for stringent measures against narco-terrorism promoted from across the measures.

In a webinar, organized here today by JK Unity Foundation (Association SEED) on the topic 'Drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir; Role and Responsibility of Civil Society', Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that narco-terrorism is a major cause of concern not only for the Government but the common citizens of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Residents express concern over scarcity of drinking water

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: The residents of Bahu Fort expressed concern over scarcity of drinking water and supply of polluted water.

Addressing a joint press conference, the residents of Bahu Fort including political leaders, Corporator, Presidents of different organizations and mohallas said that they are facing acute water scarcity and polluted water is being supplied in their areas.

While speaking, Sham Lal Basson, Corporator said that they submitted memorandums to the senior officers in the UT J&K and also to Lieutenant Governor of JK UT regarding supply of

to retrieve entire 353 kanals of the identified encroached land.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire State and Kahecharai lands encroached by the land grabbers. He said involvement in land encroachment will be dealt with sternly as per the law.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Revenue Officers to initiate the demarcation process of the retrieved land and install signages(boards) immediately to inform all that the land is government property. He said any encroachment on Government land in the district will be viewed strictly and stern action as warranted under law shall be taken against the violators.

He said that six lakh drug abuse victims comprise almost 4 per cent of the population and the more disturbing is that almost all the victims are in the age group of 20 to 35 years.

Zorawar Jamwal said that Team Jammu has been raising the awareness about drug abuse since last seven years effectively and through various rallies, seminars and involving local administration, stake holders and civil society has brought positive results but still lot needs to be done. He informed that Govt has set up Anti-Narcotics Task Force but rehabilitation centres at district level are the need of the hour.

Ajaat Jamwal, President JK Unity Foundation, said that Pakistan has been pumping in drugs and weapons in Jammu and Kashmir to fuel terrorism and unrest and target youth of JKUT to involve them in anti-national activities. He said that children as young as 10 years old are victims of drug abuse. He said that Govt should immediately formulate a policy to fight the spread of drug abuse in J&K.

drinking water on daily basis, but nothing has been done till today.

He informed that several times the officers assured of improving the water supply but nothing has been done so far.

He said that 16.5 kanals of land which was meant for School sports ground, PHC and community hall was provided to Jal Shakti Department for construction of Filtration Plant with the hope that water will be supplied to our areas on daily basis, but now the people feel dejected by doing all that.

The residents appealed to the Lieutenant Governor to personally intervene for replacement of old pipes and supply of water on daily basis.

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