

CEOs in Kashmir told to ensure adherence to SOPs 13 cases of 'Tomato Flu' in Mallinson School; Nursery, KG closed

Irfan Tramboor

SRINAGAR, Sept 30: More than 13 cases of the highly contagious Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD), also known as 'Tomato Flu', have been reported at Mallinson School here in Srinagar's city centre following which the school has closed its nursery and KG classes.

Officials of the Health Department, who are tasked to carry out the necessary surveillance in this regard, told Excelsior that till Thursday, the total number of cases were 13 while today, they said, a few more cases have been reported from the school.

In this regard, the school has been told to ensure isolation and to prevent the further spread of the disease by taking the necessary measures. The officials said that the school has closed some of its classes till further notice.

However, on the contrary, the school authorities are denying the HFMD cases being reported at the school, stating that there have been cases where the children had symptoms, but there has been "no confirma-

tion" as yet in this regard. "We usually send the children with fever back home and as precautionary measures, we have closed the nursery and KG classes; but there has not been any confirmation about the cases of disease and there is no outbreak of the disease in the school," Aftab Hussain, PRO of the school said.

He said that a team of the health department that visited the school told them that there is an outbreak of the disease across Kashmir and there was a need for taking the necessary steps. "That's what prompted us to shut the classes while all other precautionary measures are in place," he said.

However, the officials underlined that as of now, the cases of HFMD are being reported only from Mallinson School and that they have directed the concerned authorities to ensure adherence to the protocols.

It is to be noted here that the Centre had alerted the States and UTs in August this year about the disease and had directed for stepping up the surveillance. The officials said that the

Health Department has also alerted the Chief Education Officers (CEO) across Kashmir about the disease, and a set of SOPs, which need to be followed, have been dispatched to them to keep a check on the spread of the disease, commonly found in children, across Kashmir schools.

As per health experts, HFMD is a highly contagious infection and is caused by viruses from the Enterovirus genus, most commonly the coxsackievirus. These viruses are said to spread from person to person through direct contact with unwashed hands and can also be transmitted through contact with a person's saliva, stool, or respiratory secretions.

The disease is characterized by blisters or sores in the mouth and a rash on the hands and feet. "The infection can affect people of all ages, but it usually occurs in children under age 5," the experts said.

Meanwhile, the District Surveillance Unit, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), Srinagar has also issued an advisory following the detection of cases of HFMD, underlining the need for maintenance of proper hygiene and sanitization of the surrounding necessities.

It advised preventing the infected child from sharing toys, clothes, food, or other items with other non-infected children apart from avoiding immediate contact with the infected person and stressed the need for educating the child about the signs and symptoms and the side effects of the disease.

"Don't scratch or rub the blister; try to keep your child hydrated by motivating them to drink plenty of water, milk, or juice, whatever they prefer," the advisory said, adding, "no antiviral drugs or vaccines are available for the treatment or prevention of tomato flu."



DC Samba Anuradha Gupta speaking to media persons during an awareness rally in Samba on Friday.

DC Samba flags off mega awareness rally on drug abuse

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Sept 30: In its endeavour to make J&K free from Drug Abuse, Drugs & Food Control Organization, Jammu organized a mega awareness rally to mark the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.

Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Mohd Iqbal Palla, Deputy Drugs Controller, Jammu; Officers of Drugs & Food Control Organization along with prominent citizens, NGOs, students of Nav Vidhya School Dhalote (Samba) and Trade Associations participated in the rally that was taken out from Maharaja Hari Singh Chowk (Samba) and after passing through various bazaars, culminated back at Sant Ravi Dass Sabha, Samba.

The rally was flagged off by chief guest Anuradha Gupta (DC Samba) and Mohd Iqbal Palla (Deputy Drugs Controller, Jammu) in presence of Rajesh Anguralla (ADC Kathua/Samba), Drug Control Officers of Jammu Province, Police Officers of JKP and presidents of Chemist Associations of Samba, Bari Brahmana, Bishnah, Ghagwal etc.

Participants were holding colourful banners and placards in their hands with messages against substance abuse and raised slogans against this social evil and pledged to join their hands to eradicate this menace from society.

DC Samba while addressing the participants appealed the general public to join hands in

fighting the menace of substance abuse and eliminate this social evil from the society to make India a Healthy nation.

Deputy Drugs Controller, Jammu lamented the urgent attention of stakeholders towards Drug Abuse and informed that the Government has initiated pro active measures in this behalf by constituting Divisional Level Monitoring Committee to bring an end to this menace and rehabilitate the affected youth. He appealed the public in general and students in particular to come forward and propagate the awareness to fight out this social evil from our society.

The Pharma Trade fraternity was impressed upon to play their role while dispensing the medicines and to ensure that no medicines shall reach the hands of nefarious elements for misuse.

ADC (Kathua/Samba) emphasized the need for a coordinated effort in fighting this menace.

Secy Transport visits IDTR

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: Secretary, Transport Department, G. Prasanna Ramaswamy, today visited Institute of Driving, Training and Research (IDTR), Kot Bhalwal and took stock of progress on several development works being executed there.

Pertinently, Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), had sanctioned one IDTR for Jammu whose work is under progress at village Ghaink, Kot Bhalwal. This institute is one of the flagship initiatives of the government in the Transport sector, which when operationalised, will impart world class training besides providing driver's skill testing facility. This will be a big step towards not only improving the road safety but also reduce or even eradicate the conditions that create possibilities for bribe seeking or offering.

The Government of J&K has signed an MoU with Maruti Suzuki India Limited for setting up and managing operations of IDTR. The driving training program will comprise of behavioral aspects, defensive driving, traffic rules and regulations, emergency handling, fuel conservation and pollution.

Secretary, who was accompanied by Transport Commissioner and other senior officials of PWD, PHE, Revenue, JKPC besides other departments, emphasized that the project should be completed without any unnecessary delay.



DDC chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi inaugurating work under Jal Jeevan Mission at Nikkian on Friday.

DDC Chairman inaugurates WSS work at Nikkian

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: DDC Chairman, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi launched the work on Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Nikkian under the Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme (JJMS), here today.

The Chairman said that the old infrastructure including the equipment possessed by the staff will be replaced with new and modern edifice. He said prior to the aforesaid changes, the Jal Shakti Department will come up with another Sump Tank besides fresh demarcation of the boundary of aforesaid WSS.

He said that 100 out of 272 projects would be launched in the coming month as the concerned department- Jal Shakti Department has assured for the same.

Talking about the WSS

Nikkian falling in Akhnour division, he said that the project shall be completed at the estimated cost of Rs 226.63 lakh including WSS, Sump tank, boundary wall, stand-by machinery and distribution system.

He assured that after the completion of this WSS, every household in the vicinity will get tap water and the problem concerning the dearth of potable water will be fully eliminated from the entire belt.

It is pertinent to mention that Atul Gaur will be part of a third party monitoring module and will inspect things accordingly.

Among others who were present include Vice Chairman DDC Jammu Suraj Singh, BDC Chairman Balbir Singh, Chairman Municipal Committee, Executive Engineer Brahm Jyot and many others.



PCCF Dr Mohit Gera chairing SLC meeting at Jammu.

Several decisions taken in SLC meet on wood based industries

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: Several important decisions were taken in the 10th State Level Committee (SLC) meeting held at Van Bhawan here.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr Mohit Gera chaired the SLC meeting held here. During the meeting, after threadbare discussion by the members of the SLC, out of 36 proposals placed for approval, 32 wood based industries proposals were approved for issuance of licenses by the Licensing authority.

Amongst the 32 approved proposals, for establishment of wood based industries under the provisions of SO 321 of 2020, 14 proposals pertain to Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Jammu; whereas, 7 proposals approved from Rajouri, Reasi and Poonch while 11 proposals pertain to Doda and Ramban districts. The approval for issuance of Licenses for setting up of wood based industries will facilitate promotion of Industries and generate local employment in J&K.

The Chairman SLC appreciated the data compilation done with respect to total crushing capacity of wood based indus-

tries and availability of wood from all sources in the market. He stressed upon the need to create awareness among stakeholders regarding initiative taken by the government for promotion of farm forestry by providing good quality germplasm of short-duration maturity fast growing tree species, which have immense potential for income generation for local farmers.

The meeting was attended by B M Sharma, CCF Jammu and Member Secretary State Level Committee; S K Sinha, Addl PCCF Central; Vasu Yadav, Managing Director JKFCDC, Samuel Changkija, CCF Settlement and Demarcation; Amit Vermani Joint Director Industries and Commerce. Dr Raja Ram from Regional office Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Gol Chandigarh; T Rabi Kumar, CCF Kashmir and Tauheed Deva, Conservator of Forests Working Plan also attended the meeting through online mode along with B Mohan Das, CF East Circle Jammu; Vivek Verma CF West Circle Rajouri and Dr Jatinder Kumar, CF Chenab Circle, Doda as special invitees.



BJP vice president and former Minister, Surjeet Singh Slathia inaugurating Trends Showroom at Bari Brahmana.

Slathia inaugurates Trends showroom at Bari-Brahmana

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Sept 30:- Former Minister and Pradesh BJP vice president, Surjeet Singh Slathia today lauded the deep yearning among Jammu and Kashmir youth to launch their own enterprises and to tie up with premier corporate houses for attaining self reliance, providing jobs and becoming part of the country's growth story.

"It is heartening to note that the rural youth too are showing their inclination towards entrepreneurship and this is laudable initiative in terms of job generation and growth in various sectors", Slathia said while inaugurating 'Trends' showroom of the Reliance at Bari-Brahmana this afternoon.

Slathia said he is overwhelmed to learn that the new facility will provide jobs to 50 youth, mostly locals. Such endeavours will certainly open up vistas of opportunities for the enterprising youngsters and help them earn their livelihood. He congratulated the owners for the success of their enterprise, hoping that they will become a big source of providing employment to the local youth.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Block Development Councillor, Jogeshwar Singh, Ex-Chairman Municipal Committee Raman Gupta, vice president, BJP Samba Mohan Lal Sharma, Vijay Singh and others.

immensely benefit the skilled and unskilled workforce besides educated professionals in a big way. Being part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat, such measures would go a long way in giving economic fillip in this part of the country that has lagged behind over the years. He said the youth will be the ultimate beneficiaries of progressive initiatives being taken by the Centre in recent years.

He referred to the various other programmes having been put in place to assist youth getting gainful employment.

Slathia said that empowerment of youth has been core of the BJP agenda and the present dispensation is pursuing it with a sense of commitment. He asked the youth to benefit from these programmes and play their useful role in enhancing productivity and providing much needed jobs to skilled and unskilled workforce. He said youth of Jammu and Kashmir were second to none but the foremost need was to create opportunities for them so that they can make best use of their talent.

into four sessions. The resource persons for the sessions were Prof Bijoy H Boruah, Senior Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Jammu; Manoj Aggarwal, Strategic Advisor, Mentor, Consultant, IIT Jammu; Dr Amitash Ojha, Faculty in charge, Centre for Essential Skills, IIT Jammu and Dr Lakhvinder Singh, Project Officer, IIT Jammu.

IIT Jammu organizes interactive session for faculty of GDC Sidhra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: Centre for Essential Skills (CES) IIT Jammu organised an interactive session for the faculty of GDC Sidhra as a part of their collaboration with GDC Sidhra.

The interaction was divided

issues of pedagogical innovation in college education. They further stressed upon multiple pathways to learning group work, learning by doing, mentoring interdisciplinary, innovation and under graduate research in their respective sessions. This interaction was carried



Faculty of GDC Sidhra during interaction session by IIT Jammu.

ried out under the guidance of Principal of the college, Dr B. B. Anand.

To enhance self-learning, innovation and introspection among faculty and students is the steering vision and mission of Principal Secretary to Govt, Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal and Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department, Dr Yasmeen Ashai, said a press release, issued here today.



People gathered to pay tributes to Choudhary Mohammad Hussain on 20th death anniversary.

Thousands remember Ch Mohammad Hussain on 20th death anniversary

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Sept 30: Thousands of people from different walks of life today paid rich tributes to the popular leader, Choudhary Mohammad Hussain on his 20th death anniversary at his ancestral village Darhal here.

The people from various areas attended the programme which was organized in memory of the people's leader to remember his work and contribution for the society as it shaped Rajouri and Poonch Districts with the opening of political, educational and economical opportunities for the people of these twin Districts.

Choudhary was remembered for his contribution towards maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood in the Pir Panjal and opportunity to the people for getting equal developmental opportunity.

As a visionary leader, Choudhary Mohammad Hussain sahab provided proper educational facilities to the people of Kotranka and its surrounding areas. It was due to his efforts that JNV Kotranka was established in Kotranka despite the fact that other MLAs were also trying hard for opening this school in their respective areas like Nowshera, Sunderbani or Rajouri headquarter.

Besides, a large number of primary, middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools were established in the whole constituency during the period Choudhary Mohammad Hussain was MLA of Darhal Budhal. It was because of his family that with the sincere efforts of his youngest son namely

Chowdhary Zulfar Ali Kotranka got the status of Additional District and post of Additional Dy Commissioner was also sanctioned for Kotranka vide Govt Order NO :192 -GAD of 2018 dated 30-01-2018 when Choudhary Zulfar Ali was Minister of Food Supplies and Civil Aviation, the speakers at the gathering remembered.

Similarly, it was said that an indoor stadium was constructed at Kotranka for the players of this far-flung area which was otherwise to be established at District Headquarter Rajouri. Two parks and one degree college has also been established at Kotranka with the sincere efforts of the youngest son of Choudhary Mohammad Hussain and this degree college will pave the way for increasing literacy rate in the area especially among females of the area who were otherwise unable to continue their studies after passing 10+2 examination.

While speaking on the occasion, Apni Party Vice President and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfar Ali thanked the people who participated in the programme to remember his father Choudhary Mohammad Hussain sahab on his 20th death anniversary.

He said, "We are working on to fulfill the vision of Choudhary sahab to provide justice and development. We cannot forget his mission for the welfare of all the people and we will continue to follow his footsteps."

He said that he would ensure development in every nook and corner of Rajouri District.



Officials of P Mark Mustard Oil handing over keys of E-Garbage Van to Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa.

P Mark Mustard Oil sponsors E-Garbage Vans

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: As an environment-conscious corporate citizen, Puri Oil Mills Limited (the manufacturers of P Mark Mustard Oil) believes in adopting green energy technologies, hygienic processes and eco-friendly manufacturing methodologies as part of its business philosophy.

In alignment with this outlook, the company has sponsored two E-Garbage Vans in collaboration with the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, for the collection of solid waste from rural areas on the outskirts of Jammu. In particular, these vans

will cater to the villages of Nagrota and Pellanwala.

Puri Oil Mills Limited is gratified to be a part of the Swachhata Hi Seva initiative under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The battery-powered E-Garbage Vans will offer an environment-friendly way to collect solid waste from garbage dumps and take them to waste collection and segregation centres.

This initiative has been organized along the lines of a Jan Andolan based on community participation, with rural population volunteering through Shramdaan, based on Mahatma Gandhi's ideal of "being the change".

MPFL reconstt successfully performed on 18-year-old at ASCOMS Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 30: Acharya Shri Chandar College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS) & Hospital, Sidhra, has achieved yet another milestone by successfully conducting minimally invasive reconstruction of medial knee ligament (MPFL).

Orthopaedic Department of ASCOMS & Hospital led by HoD Prof Rajesh Gupta successfully reconstructed the ligament in an 18-year-old female patient with history of multiple episodes of dislocation of Patella (Knee Cap) Bone.

The Department has been performing Arthroscopic surgeries of Knee, shoulder (Jammu) and ankle joint from

Dr Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, ASCOMS & Hospital said that the Orthopaedic Department has been regularly conducting ligament surgeries around knee and shoulder with

excellent out come. This step towards helping people of Jammu in such a way that going out of J&K will be minimized as highly specialized orthopaedic treatment is now available at the door step in Jammu only.

The surgery was performed by a team headed by Prof Rajesh Gupta, orthopaedic and sports injury specialist and Dr Shafiq Hackla, Assistant Professor assisted by Dr Nitish Sharma and Dr Sunny Sharma. Prof Gupta who is an expert in the field of orthopaedic sports injury and joint replacement said that the Department is well equipped and regularly conducting these wide spectrum of surgeries.



Doctors operating a patient in ASCOMS Hospital, Sidhra (Jammu).

many years. The surgery has been performed with use of minimal orthopaedic implant.

Prof Gupta informed that a young female had dislocated her Patella about 6 years back and had multiple episodes of dislocation, since then the patient was unable to perform her activities due to apprehension and instability.

"We did reconstruction by using semitendinosus graft of same knee. Two holes were drilled in the Patella and graft passed through Patella. Finally, graft was fixed in femur bone using special screws. The patient was able to walk with support on next day," Prof Gupta informed.