

# Div Com visits Reasi, reviews progress of development projects

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Oct 11: To take stock of the ongoing developmental projects, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today conducted an exhaustive tour of district Reasi. He also took stock of implementation of schemes/programmes and other relevant issues pertaining to District Reasi at a meeting of officers of different departments.

He also directed JPDCI to repair the transformers so as to provide uninterrupted power supply to the general public. 100% saturation to be achieved under CSS. He also directed SE/Xens PHE Reasi and Dharmari for holding awareness camps to create awareness about the Jal Jeevan Mission including the constitution of Paani Samitis. He asked Animal Husbandry and Agriculture departments to formulate comprehensive plans for promoting Dairy development schemes and high density crops. The SDM Katra, CHO were asked to rope in PRIs to increase the presence of FPOs and work on branding of walnuts.

The DDC gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the ongoing developmental works being executed by different departments in the district. The DDC highlighted the achievements under different sectors and informed that the district has recorded 56% expenditure against the released funds.

The Div Com directed the concerned departments to mobilize their men and machinery for effective implementation and coverage of 100% eligible beneficiaries under all schemes. He directed the officers to work in coordination for better results at the grassroots level. Timely and effective redressal of public grievances was also stressed upon by the Div Com.

The PDD was asked to regulate the power supply in the city and peripheral areas, and avoid

PWD, RDD and other departments were directed to expedite the tendering and estimation process in their respective departments.

While reviewing the road and Division wise progress of PMGSY/PWD/NABARD projects, the Div Com directed the concerned authorities to expedite the progress of work and achieve the targets set by the Government as per the timeline. He also directed the AD Employment for conducting awareness camps/training programmes in collaboration with Tourism/Hotels Association.

The Div Com also directed SSP Reasi to conduct awareness camps/counselling sessions to rehabilitate drug addicts and take necessary preventive measures to stop all such activities.



Div Com Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting at Reasi.

# Secretary chairs Executive Committee meeting of State Health Society

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department, Bhupinder Kumar, today chaired Executive Committee meeting of State Health Society, National Health Mission regarding execution of approved activities under State Programme Implementation Plan for 2022-23 besides release of funds to District Health Societies and other implementing agencies.

Mission Director NHM, J&K, Ayushi Sudan, gave detailed power point presentation regarding approvals received from Government of India against State Programme Implementation Plan of NHM during the current financial year. The Executive Committee accorded approval for execution of SPIP 2022-23 and release of funds to District Health Societies and other implementing agencies.

Other agenda points discussed in the meeting inter alia included establishment of pre-fab units and Critical Care Blocks under ECRP-II, execution of infrastructure under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM), provision of incentives to staff posted in tough areas, social security benefits in favour of employees under

National Health Mission and related issues. Secretary, while reviewing functioning of National Health Mission in the UT, directed the officers to work hard towards achieving set goals besides implementation of new interventions. He further asked them to lay stress on field monitoring with focus on programmes especially related to Maternal and Child Health, Free Drugs and Diagnostics, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers, Quality Assurance, Tele Radiology, Biomedical Equipment Maintenance and Management Programme.

The meeting was attended by Principals of Govt. Medical Colleges; Director Finance H&ME; Zahoor Ahmad; Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Director Health Services Kashmir; Dr Mohan Singh, Director AYUSH, J&K; MD J&KMSCL, Director Planning, NHM, J&K; Ms Rajni Charak; Joint Director H&ME; Sh. Rajiv Bhushan; FA & CAO, SHS, NHM, J&K, Abhishek Talwaria; Representatives from Finance & Planning Department, Representative from Directorate of Health Services Jammu; Programme Managers and other officers from State Health Society, NHM, J&K in person and through video conference.

# DC discusses arrangements for Jhiri Mela

\* Reviews preventive measures against Dengue

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements to be put in place by different departments for 3-Day Jhiri Mela commencing from November 08.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding preparations which ought to be put in place for the annual fair. The arrangements discussed in the meeting mainly included sanitation, uninterrupted electricity, ensuring of regular and safe drinking water, security arrangements, adequate stocks of ration and fire wood, provision of health facilities, mobile toilets, accommodation for the devotees, deployment of fire tenders at the venue.

Emphasising on maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in and around the vicinity during Jhiri Mela, the DC directed the concerned departments to promote social message on rural sanitation and also install blue and green dustbins to maintain cleanliness in and around the temple.

The R&B department was asked to complete the blacktopping and upgradation work of approach roads to Jhiri well before commencing of the Mela. She asked the PHE Department to ensure uninterrupted water supply with provision for additional water tanks, hand pumps and sprinklers for cleaning the venue.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Power Department to ensure proper lighting arrange-

ments in addition to uninterrupted power supply at the venue throughout the fair.

The DC directed the Traffic authorities to ensure proper management of traffic during the event and place proper signboards for the convenience of the devotees.

ADC Adm Satish Sharma, SP Rural Jammu Sanjay Sharma, Addl. SP Traffic R.P Singh, ACR Piyush Dhotra, ACP Meenakshi Vaid, ACD Preeti Sharma, ACG Rakesh Dubey, DD Information Vikas Sharma besides senior officers from concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Avny Lavasa convened a meeting to review the Dengue situation and the measures taken to prevent the spread.

Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav; CMO, Dr Harbaksh Singh; District Malaria Officer along with other senior officers of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to develop a mechanism to address the patients' details which will help to remove the discrepancies in data of dengue cases and other related information.

She asked to intensify preventive activities and ensure availability of designated beds for suspected dengue patients, blood products, including platelets and ensuring admission to the sick.

She directed the health officials to continue day to day monitoring and spreading mass awareness for the prevention and control of Dengue



Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal with office bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association posing for a group photograph.

# HC Bar felicitates Justice Pankaj Mithal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu today felicitated Justice Pankaj Mithal Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on his transfer as Chief Justice of High Court of Rajasthan.

The office bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu along with senior and

other members of the Bar Association headed by its President M.K. Bhardwaj presented memento as well as bouquet as a token of love and respect.

The office bearers and members of the Bar Association wished Chief Justice more successful and good health on next assignment as Chief Justice of High Court of Rajasthan.

# HC upholds acquittal in fake certificate case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: Observing that the investigating agency has not done its job in a fair and professional manner, High Court has upheld the judgment of a trial court acquitting the accused public servants as also the beneficiaries in issuing and obtaining backward certificates fraudulently 32 years ago.

The prosecution had challenged the acquittal judgment of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Anantnag, whereby the public servants and beneficiaries involved in the offences (FIR No. 17/1990 for offences under Section 5(2) of J&K P.C Act and Sections 467, 468, 471 read with Section 120-B RPC) were acquitted of the charges.

Court said that the main witness, Nazir Ahmed Clerk of the Revenue Department, has neither been questioned during investigation of the case nor has he been cited as a witness in the challan.

"Obviously, his statement has also not been recorded during the trial of the case. By leaving out important persons acquainted with the facts of this case, the investigating agency has not done its job in a fair and professional manner", Justice Sanjay Dhar said while upholding the acquittal of all accused involved in the fraud.

The Deputy Commissioner, court added, has not been made an accused and even the dealing assistants of his office have not been made the accused, then how come, the responsibility for issuing the certificate can be fastened upon accused-Tehsildar alone who, as per the evidence on record, was neither an issuing authority nor the SROs were available in his office.

Court from the evidence on record, said that the SRO which is subject matter of the instant case, was being acted upon by the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag even prior to the issuance of the certificate in favour of accused which means that the forged SRO was already available in the office of Deputy Commissioner,

Anantnag. Since a number of the persons belonging to the area in which accused-beneficiary was residing had already obtained RBA certificates in their favour on the basis of a SRO, as such, the accused had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the SRO in question. A perusal of the record seized reveals that the certificates in favour of as many as 35 persons have been issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag on the basis of the SRO in question.

"This has resulted in leaving a number of lacunae in the prosecution case, the benefit of which has to go to the accused. For all these reasons, the view taken by the Trial Court that the charges against the accused are not established beyond reasonable doubt is definitely a possible view which can be taken on the basis of the evidence led by the prosecution in the instant case", Justice Dhar concluded.

The court therefore has held that it would not be open for it to discard the view of the Trial Court and substitute any other view in its place as there is no good ground to interfere with the impugned judgment passed by the Trial Court.

As per the prosecution case, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag had, in the year 1989, written to the General Administrative Department that some persons have produced a photo copy of SRO 412 of 1984 whereunder certain villages of Anantnag and Kupwara districts have been shown as backward areas when the fact of the matter is that in the original SRO 412 issued by the GAD, these villages have not been declared as backward areas.

"The obligation to ascertain whether a particular village has been declared as a backward area in terms of a legally promulgated order also lies upon the office of the Deputy Commissioner. The Field Agencies are only required to submit a report as to whether a particular applicant is a resident of an area of which he claims to be a resident", Justice Dhar recorded.



DGPC delegation submitting memorandum to AAP leaders.

# DGPC delegation meets AAP leaders, discusses issues of Sikh community

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: In order to highlight a number of issues pertaining to Sikh community and other sections, a delegation of District Gurudwara Prabhandh Committee (DGPC) met Organization Building Incharge of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Munish Kaushik, provincial incharge Gaurav Sharma and other party leaders.

The delegation comprised of vice president DGPC and RTI activist Balwinder Singh, secretary DGPC Surjit Singh, cashier DGPC Jagpal Singh and other members. The delegation members appraised AAP leaders about a number of issues especially concerning Sikh community in J&K and expressed their resentment towards inordinate delay in redressal of those issues.

The main demands raised by the delegation members were to include Punjab language in the list of official languages of J&K, granting minority status to Sikh community, installation of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur statue at Kunjwani Chowk Jammu, inclusion of Sikh members in JKPSCT (Jammu & Kashmir Public

Service Commission), inclusion of PoJK refugees of 1947 into Pahari reservation category, grant of pending relief package of 1947, 1965 and 1971 Sikh refugees families, compensation to Kashmiri Sikh migrants & non migrants, scholarship to Kashmiri Sikhs student at par with Kashmiri Pandits, compensation to victims of 1984 and 1989 Sikh riots and implementation of Anand Marriage Act.

After giving a patient hearing to the issues and demands raised by the members of the delegation, Aam Aadmi Party leaders said that the demands put forth are genuine in nature and need to be addressed immediately. Gaurav Sharma assured the delegation that the first thing that AAP Government will do after assuming office will be installation of the statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur at Kunjwani Chowk where as all other demands of genuine nature will also be put on priority.

AAP leaders Amrik Singh Sasan, Gurmeet Singh Baaghi, Amrik Singh and Harpreet Singh were also present on the occasion.

# DCs to frame PRCs for reviewing MGNREGA staff performance

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: Government today ordered that District Programme Coordinators (DCs) will constitute Performance Review Committees (PRCs) in their concerned districts for reviewing performance of MGNREGA staff and issue fresh retention orders annually for only such contractual staff under MGNREGA whose performance is good in at least three quarters of a Financial Year.

The Order further mentioned that the staff whose performance is below average in two or more quarters of a Financial Year shall be terminated and the DPC shall send a fresh requisition for fresh engagement of staff in place of

# DCs to frame PRCs for reviewing MGNREGA staff performance

terminated staff. The Order was issued by Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj on the recommendation of SEGC which came after its 6th meeting convened under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary on 02-09-2022.

In its meeting, the SEGC had observed that the staff engaged under MGNREGA is hired purely on contractual basis as per the requirements of the scheme and their engagement is co-terminus with the scheme but there is currently no procedure existing in the Department of issuing extension orders or otherwise for the engaged staff based on their performances or as per the conditions of their initial engagement orders.

# Govt fails to provide basic amenities: Luthra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU Oct 11: State vice president Women Wing, National Conference and former MLA Bimla Luthra addressing women workers meeting at Slad Kothe in R.S Pura said the present government has miserably failed to provide basic amenities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and only National Conference is capable of securing the future of its people.

She appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah as only NC can fulfill the aspirations of people of all sections of society.

Those who were present in the meeting included: Bharti, Jyoti, Rita, Shukla Devi and others.

# Cong set to defeat communal, divisive forces: JKPCCC chief

Excelsior Correspondent

GOOL (Ramban), Oct 11: JKPCCC president and former minister Vikar Rasool Wani has said that Congress cadre and grass root workers are firmly with the Congress party and its ideology and are ready to defeat the communal, divisive and opportunist forces and also the sponsored political forces emerging on the scene of Jammu and Kashmir in the run up of Assembly elections.

He asked the cadre to be ready for the electoral exercise as and when it takes place in near future but strongly advocated for restoration of statehood at the earliest and demanded the assembly elections should be under the State and not UT. He reiterated that Congress party shall intensify its struggle for the restoration of full statehood before the Assembly elections and for the protection of right to land and jobs for the J&K residents.

Addressing a workers rally at Gool-Sangaldan in Ramban district today, PCC chief said that the Congress party is steadfast on its principles of secularism and equitable participation of all sections in the democratic system and to fight against the politics of opportunism, hate and communal division and it

stands guarantee to safe guard the democratic institutions for the protection of hard earned freedom and democracy in the Country and to maintain unity in diversity, since the present Government led by BJP is hell bent to weaken the democratic institutions and the Constitution and to destroy the democratic,

dig at some senior politicians for indulging in politics of opportunism at this crucial juncture when the democratic culture and political atmosphere has been vitiated and the democratic institutions are being trampled upon by the vindictive politics of BJP Govt led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home



JKPCCC president Vikar Rasool Wani at a public meeting in Gool area of Ramban on Tuesday.

political and social atmosphere in the Country.

Minister Amit Shah. Wani has questioned BJP for the new liquor policy and strongly criticized the LG Administration's decision to allow sale of beer and other such drinks on the departmental stores whereby the young generation would be pushed towards addiction apart from tarnishing the image of the historic pilgrimage destination of City of Temples.

# Mahila Cong protests against allowing departmental stores to sell beer

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: Activists of Mahila Cong under the leadership of former MLA and president of J&K Mahila Congress Indu Pawar held a demonstration against the deci-

wine shop has been opened during the last one and half years", she said and pointed out that after the formulation of new excise policy of the J&K government has already allowed the opening of the wine shops in populated areas.



Mahila Cong activists staging protest against LG Administration.

sion of the Union Territory administration to allow the selling of beer and other ready-made drinks in departmental stores.

Amid hostile weather, activists of the Mahila Congress shouted slogans against this decision of the J&K Government and alleged that this move of the authorities would encourage the consumption of alcohol.

Speaking on the occasion, Indu Pawar regretted that Government is deliberately indulging the youth in drugs addiction by allowing the selling of alcohol in departmental stores.

"Already the City of Temples has been turned into town wine shops because, in every street of Jammu city,

" It is already very difficult for women, young girls and school students to pass in front of the wine shops as people in drunken condition pass indecent comments on them now allowing departmental stores to sell beer would further deteriorate the situation", she said.

Government is violating rules and regulations by allowing departmental stores to sell beer and other ready-made drinks. She said that already wine shops have been opened in populated areas and near religious places. Those who spoke on the occasion included Vandana Maknotra, Reeta Kanojia, Arti Gupta and Anna Kalyan.



Officials during bills distribution.

# Thousands of people avail benefits of Power Amnesty Scheme in first 2 days

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 11: The Power Amnesty Scheme which was approved by the Administrative Council headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha few days back is invoking huge response among consumers. The decision was taken by the Administrative Council in view of domestic consumers not being able to avail the benefits of last scheme due to spread of COVID-19 pandemic during the scheme period.

MD JPDCI Shiv Anant Tayal disclosed that as soon as the bill distribution process for Amnesty Scheme -22 started, people realized that the Government has extended huge benefit by waiving off the interest and surcharge portion of the billed amount upto March-2022. Rano Devi a resident of Preet Nagar told that her billing ID is 0102021009519 and she has got a benefit of Rs 1,12,430 because of the Amnesty

Scheme. Her total outstanding has now reduced to Rs 33400. There are various examples where 75 per cent of the total outstanding amount has been waived off as part of Amnesty Benefit extended by the Government. A total of Rs 2.85 lakh has been received by the Government on the very first day of the bill distribution which shows that people have shown overwhelming interest towards the Amnesty Scheme which has been extended by the Government.

All the Sub-divisions across Jammu Province have started the billing and distribution process. The Sub-Divisional staff of Gangyal in the presence of AEE Nitin Mahajan, AE Rajesh Sharma and AE Keshav Khajuria today distributed bills to consumers who are major beneficiaries of Amnesty Scheme and are very enthusiastic about the scheme.