

'Carry out QC before declaring villages as Model category under SBM'

National Highway engine of economic growth in J&K: CS

*** Takes review of all PMDP road projects**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, while reviewing the progress of different highways taken up under Prime Minister Development Program (PMDP) today remarked that the traffic authorities should make preparations well ahead of the fruit season to ensure smooth flow of trucks on Jmu-Sgr National Highway, particularly those carrying perishable fruit consignments.

In addition to the Principal Secretary, PWD, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Forest; Principal Secretary, PDD; Divisional Commissioners; concerned Deputy Commissioners; representatives from NHAI, NHHDCL, BRO, and many other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed upon the executing agencies to complete all these road projects providing inter-connectivity to different regions in the stipulated timeframe. He enjoined upon them that the significance of these roads is very high as the UT, due to its hilly terrain, has hardly any alternative roads to link various parts.

He directed the concerned authorities to strictly stick to the timeline of completing these road projects. He made out that these projects make significant contribution towards the economic upliftment of various parts. All the officers including the Deputy Commissioners should take keen interest in seeing them completed on time.

Regarding the Jammu Ring Road project, he asked the concerned Divisional Administration to take early measures for dedicating to public the completed portion of the road from Raya Morh (Samba) to Nagrota (Jammu). He also asked them to renovate the significant Tamah Bridge at Kathua in shortest timeframe.

Regarding the Ring Road Srinagar, the Chief Secretary asked the authorities to ensure that the 20 kms stretch under phase-I is dedicated to public by November this year. He told the concerned Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam to look into the aspect of Ribbon development of this road in their areas for generating economic activities optimally.

As far as the Jammu-Akhnor Road is concerned, the Chief Secretary asked for completing it in all aspects and dedicating it for the use of general public. He made out that this road is going to play a vital role in bringing this circuit on the tourism map of J&K and increase the foothold to this location.

Dr Mehta while taking review of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway stressed on the executing agencies to work for completing all the tunnels especially T3, T5 and other viaducts on time.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the construction of four-laning of Ramban flyover



Chief Secretary chairing a meeting.

and completion of Banihal Bypass. He also took stock of the under-construction bridge at Qazigund, Railway Over-Bridge at Anantnag and Lasjan flyover. He fixed the timelines for completion of each of these Road projects and directed for not to extend these beyond the agreed timelines.

Regarding the Delhi-Katra Expressway, the Chief Secretary directed for continuing the momentum of work besides meeting timelines set for completing different sub-projects. He asked them that this Road project is of national importance as it leads to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi visited by millions of pilgrims every year. He said that the work on such a prestigious project should be given due priority for completing it at the earliest.

Dr Mehta also sensitized the executing agencies about the significance of Uri-Poonch Highway. He told them that the work on this project should be taken in hand at the earliest so that it is also completed on time bringing respite to people besides providing alternate route between the two divisions of the UT.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the work done on the Srinagar-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam Highway (NH-444). He stressed on completing the bypasses for the towns of Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama so that the road is complete before the onset of winter.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Divisional Administration Kashmir to ensure that there are no unnecessary halts on the highways in the valley during convoy movement.

Meanwhile, CS took review of the districts which were lagging behind in declaration of their villages as 'Model Category' under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen.

The Government is aspiring to declare the whole UT as the ODF+ by 15th of August as per the defined parameters of the scheme and has till date been successful in registering a progress of over 96% with remaining villages to be covered before Independence Day.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla/Kupwara/Kishtwar/Reasi besides the Director, Rural



DIG UR Range, Mohammad Suleman Choudhary chairing a meeting in Reasi on Friday.

DIG UR Range reviews security for I-Day, Kounsernag Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Aug 11: DIG Udhampur-Reasi (UR) Range, Mohammad Suleman Choudhary, today conducted a security review meeting at the District Police Office Reasi in preparation for the upcoming Independence Day 2023 celebrations and the Kounsernag Yatra.

Amit Gupta, SSP Reasi, YR Bunker, Commandant of CRPF 6th Bn, RC Kotwal of IRP-1st BN, Col Manjinder Singh from Military Station Reasi among other officers attended the meeting.

A statement said that the meeting began with detailed discussions on security arrangements for both the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and the yatras during the month. Each officer provided

Power shutdown

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 11: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Rajouri, Poonch, Siot and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 13 from 6 am to 11 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Baba Chambiyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 12, 14 and 16 from 5 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply from Channi to Rajbagh will remain affected on August 12 and 14 from 6 am to 9 am.

their insights and plans to ensure a peaceful and successful execution of these events.

SSP Reasi presented an overview of the security measures already in place, in close coordination with intelligence agencies and deployed security forces.

The DIG expressed concerns about preventing any potential revival of militancy in the district and emphasized the importance of a proactive approach and high alertness levels.

He reviewed the security preparations for vital installations, including the SMVD Shrine and the yatra route, to ensure the safety of pilgrims visiting the shrine daily.

The DIG instructed for a joint security drill with CAPF to prioritize the shrine's security. He also highlighted the need for verifying migrants, pony porters, and others in the Katra town vicinity to prevent the entry of suspicious individuals.

Additionally, thorough checks were directed for hotels and residential accommodations to verify the background of visitors. The directive emphasized social media monitoring and generating human intelligence.

DIG Suleman Choudhary urged full commitment from the security personnel to ensure the peaceful success of Independence Day 2023.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, highlighting the importance of coordination and cooperation among all security forces and sister agencies.

'Re-opening of cases historic move'

Targeted killings by JKLF led exodus of Pandits in 1989-90: R P Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 11: National spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), RP Singh while expressing his utter satisfaction over the Union Government's decision to reopen the cases of Kashmiri Hindu genocide from 1989-90 after 34 years, has appealed Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims to come forward and share information, stand as witness and not let this opportunity for justice to go.

Singh said Taploo fell victims to the JKLF terrorists. His killing set off a series of target killings of KPs and finally exodus.

Singh, while referring to a joint letter written by him and BJP spokesperson J&K, Brig (ret'd) Anil Gupta to Union Home Minister, Amit Shah earlier demanding appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits said that immediate action against the killers of Kashmir Pandits is needed since those who were an eye witness to this sordid and gory saga may not be available after few years and thereafter it may be too late to get a first hand eye witness account by any Commission.

The letter, while making a reference to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) observation which has admitted that the systematic/planned ethnic cleansing inflicted on Kashmiri Pandits by terrorists that forced them to exit their homeland were acts akin to genocide. Both BJP leaders in their letter to Home Minister had made it clear that in all fairness, the Government must order a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the domestic forces behind this genocide and let the nation know the true face of the so called secular mainstream political parties of Kashmir.

The BJP leaders in their letter to Union Home Minister have accused the then NC - Congress coalition for their failure in protecting the minorities in Valley. They said that Dr Farooq Abdullah returned to CM in November 1987 and was in chair till January 19, 1990 when he resigned and left for London leaving the Valley in turmoil in the hands of Jehadi terrorists on whom his Government failed to keep check.

The letter also mentioned that the list of targeted killings of KPs included retired District and Session Judge, Pt Neelkanth Ganjoo, Pt Sarwanand Koul Premi, a well known writer and poet, his son Virender Koul, a senior lawyer of Anantnag Bar and a KP leader, Pt Prem Nath Bhat, the then Director Door Darshan, Pt Lassa Koul, A K Raina, Deputy Director F&S, Satish Tickoo, Ms Sarla who was sawed on the blade, MS Ganjoo of Sopore, Chuni Lal Shalla, Inspector Jammu and Kashmir Police (CID).

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Terming the Government decision of reopening of cases of terrorism victims a historic move, R P Singh said the first in the series is the case of former District and Session judge, Pt Neelkanth Ganjoo who was killed in 1990 by Yasin Malik led JKLF militants.

In a statement issued here, today R P Singh said the brutal murders of Kashmiri Hindus started over 30 years ago on September 14, 1989 when the tallest KP and BJP leader and a prominent lawyer, Pt. Tika Lal Taploo was murdered.

CJM Reasi frames charges in forgery, cheating case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 11: Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Reasi Archana Charak today framed charges in challan produced by Crime Branch Jammu against accused Shub Dutt, son of Krishan Chand of Kundra in forgery and cheating case.

As per the prosecution case, complaint was lodged by one Sanjay Kumar alleging that accused Shub Dutt, who is working as Lineman in PHE Department under SRO 43 from last 16 year has produced fake Education Certificates at the time of joining as there is five years age difference between original documents and documents produced at the time of joining.

The academic record collected from Govt Middle School Kundra Reasi as well as Govt High School Bagdhar reflects that accused Shub Dutt is having two Date of Births---17-01-1965 and 05-07-1970. Moreover, the record of Govt High School of Bagdhar reveals that accused has never taken admission in that school and the school certificate produced by the accused at the time of his appointment is fake.

So accused in connivance with the others involved in the commission of the offence of cheating and forgery and used a fake and forged document as

genuine and obtained benefit thereof thereby causing wrongful gains to himself and corresponding loss to the Govt of J&K.

The counsel for the accused argued that to fall under the category of forged documents, it is not sufficient that the document has been made or executed dishonestly or fraudulently. He further contended that there is no material on record to affect that accused used fake/forged documents to get appointment in Jal Shakti Department.

Ashwani Kumar, Assistant Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of Crime Branch, Jammu effectively argued that there is sufficient material on record which connects the accused with the commission of offences as alleged to be committed by accused as such, accused be charged under offences and prosecution is allowed to produce the evidence.

After going through the initial complaint filed by the complainant, contents of FIR, challan, statements recorded by Investigating Officer under Section 161 CrPC, CJM Reasi found that prima facie accused has committed offence under Sections 420/465/467/471 IPC as such the accused cannot be discharged at this stage. The accused Shub Dutt is accordingly charged, the court said.



Director Tourism Vivekanand Rai, flanked by Ji Director Information Atul Gupta and Ji Director Tourism Sunaina Sharma, addressing a press conference at Jammu on Friday.

Mega cultural event tomorrow to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 11: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Directorate of Tourism Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages, are going to host a scintillating cultural event on August 13 as part of nation-wide Meri Maati Mere Desh Campaign launched towards the end of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsav.

Addressing a press conference here today, Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, flanked by Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta and Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma, rolled out the plan for the upcoming grand spectacle.

The 'Mega Cultural Event' promises to be a captivating celebration of the spirit of patriotism and nationalism, aligning perfectly with the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign launched by the Government.

"The event is more than just an entertainment extravaganza; it's a heartfelt tribute to the nation's sovereignty and heritage. With pride and celebratory glory, we wish this Independence Day instills patriotic devotion in all citizens," remarked Vivekanand Rai.

As the nation celebrates its

77th year of independence, the 'Mega Cultural Event' will serve as a platform for citizens to come together and bask in the richness of their cultural diversity.

Attendees can expect a range of performances, artistic displays, and interactive exhibits that showcase the essence of the region's cultural tapestry.

Extending a warm invitation to all citizens to join in this momentous occasion, Mr Rai said that the 'Mega Cultural Event' at Central Park Bahu Plaza on August 13, 2023, promises to be an inspiring and unforgettable experience. In a world where division can sometimes overshadow unity, events like these stand as a beacon of harmony and shared identity, he added.

Joint Director Information Jammu informed the media about the major highlights of the program viz patriotic song presentations, solo and group songs, dances on patriotic themes, instrumental performances and many more. He urged the media to give wide publicity of the event to showcase rich culture and heritage of Jammu and for maximum participation of the public.

Deputy Director Information (PR) Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma; Field Publicity Officer, Mukesh Kumar and other officers were present on the occasion.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meeting family members of Madan Das Devi.

LG meets family members of Madan Das Devi

Excelsior Correspondent

MAHARASHTRA, Aug 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today met the family members of Late Madan Das Devi Ji at their residence in Solapur. He paid tribute to Madan Das Devi Ji and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

NBEMS refuses to set up NEET-SS exam centre in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 11: In an unexpected development, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) stated today that it will not be able to establish an additional examination centre in Srinagar for the upcoming NEET-SS examination. The decision is based on the need to maintain rigorous security standards for the examination.

In response to a request from the J&K Chapter of the National Medicos Organization (NMO) for an additional examination centre in Srinagar, Prof Minu Bajpai, Honorary Executive Director & Vice President of NBEMS, has explained in a letter that the selection of a test city for an examination depends on several factors, including the availability of secure test centres.

"The audit of available test centres in the city of Srinagar has revealed that the required standards of security are not met at the centres available to hold the examination as on date. Accordingly, Srinagar has not been considered as a test city for conduct of the said examination," the letter stated.

Prof Bajpai said that the NEET-SS 2023 shall be conducted in the city of Jammu where the candidates of J&K can appear, noting: "It is not feasible to conduct the examination compromising any standards of security applicable."

The letter also noted that Srinagar did not have a designated test centre for the last NEET-SS examination held on the 1st and 2nd of September 2022. "I have got the matter examined with the concerned department...NEET Super Specialty Entrance Examination is a high-stake examination conducted by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences..."

This response has garnered dis-

lences to the bereaved family. "Paid tribute to Pujya Shri Madan Das Devi Ji at his paternal house in Karmala, Solapur. He tirelessly worked for the social change and showed us a new path. His ideas and ideals will continue to guide future generations," the Lt Governor tweeted.

satisfaction from doctors who are scheduled to take the examination next month. With the Jammu examination centre nearly at full capacity, these doctors now face the necessity of travelling to Delhi to participate in the exam.

Dr Rubeena Bhat, President of the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) at SKIMS, expressed concern: "NBE has stated that they have not designated a centre in Srinagar for security reasons. However, they established a centre for NEET PG here. If the standard for the UPSC centre in Srinagar is considered acceptable, why is the same not applied to NEET SS?"

Another senior resident at SKIMS, Dr Aatif Sanaie, who is also set to appear in the examination, questioned the NBE's rationale for citing security as the primary reason for not setting up an exam centre for NEET-SS in Srinagar.

"NEET-SS is also a high-profile exam. How is it conducted here by the same examination body? NEET-PG and NEET-SS are both computer-based exams. In fact, NEET PG has more candidates than NEET SS. If Srinagar can conduct NEET PG exams without any issues, what's the problem with NEET SS?" he asked.

It should be noted that earlier, the Resident Commissioner of J&K, as well as the H&ME Department, also raised this issue with NBEMS. While there is no update from the government on the matter, the Secretary of H&ME told Excelsior a few days back that they are awaiting a response.

Meanwhile, the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has also written to NBEMS, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, as well as LG Manoj Sinha, seeking the establishment of an additional examination centre in Srinagar. Dr Rubeena hoped for the best in response to the FAIMA request.

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