

# CS for better synergy between depts, banks for streamlining access to credit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today emphasised on developing better synergy between the indenting departments and financial institutions for enhanced access to credit in favour of individual beneficiaries under different government schemes.

He made these remarks while speaking in a meeting to review the Pradhan Mantri formalization of micro-food processing enterprise scheme.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department; Secretary in APD; Special Secretary, APD; MD, JKRLM; MD, HP&M; Director Agriculture, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Horticulture, Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Animal Husbandry, Jammu/Kashmir and many other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to hold the DLC meetings regularly. He told them



to hold deliberations over all issues faced by them in such meetings to iron out the differences between them. He asked them to be on the same page about the smooth implementation of the scheme and meeting its objectives.

He enjoined upon them to lessen the rejection of applications and work out for improving the quality of applications. He advised them to make best out of such schemes as these offer opportunities for everyone including the financial institutions to do the business.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the department to take the formalization of the important sector of food processing a notch

higher by bringing in better practices for value addition and marketing of the products. He made out that this formalization should lead to the upscaling of both capital and employment generation in these units.

The ACS, APD, Atal Dulloo gave a detailed overview of this scheme and the impediments faced during its implementation. He gave out that the same would aid in accomplishing the dream of self-reliant India by promoting local food based enterprises.

The meeting further informed that the establishment of 3 Common Incubation Centres (CICs) at Narwal, Sopore and Anantnag have been completed in the UT under it for the products designated under ODP for these districts. In addition 2 more are under pipeline for districts Budgam and Ramban.

The components for CICs includes infrastructure, plant & machinery, food testing laboratories and providing other accessories and amenities for the stakeholders, as was divulged in the meeting. Pertinent to mention here that GoI has approved an outlay of Rs 25.96 Cr for the year 2022-23 for the UT.



Secretary Health chairing a meeting.

## Secretary Health reviews status of work on State Cancer Institute

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today reviewed status of work on State Cancer Institute, Jammu, besides devising a comprehensive strategy for early operationalization of services in this upcoming "State of Art Institute" at Civil Secretariat.

The team of Oncologists and experts in various fields from Homi Bhabha Research Centre Chandigarh led by Director, Dr. Ashish Gulia, participated in the meeting alongwith other concerned officers.

Pertinently, the team has visited GMC, Kathua and State Cancer Institute, Jammu to assess the status of progress on various ongoing works in these prestigious healthcare entities.

It was informed in the meet-

ing that the Department of Health and Medical Education has collaborated with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for providing technical guidance and support in making SCI Jammu as a "State of Art Cancer Institute". Now since the construction activities in the institute is in advance stage of its completion, the department is looking forward for a continued association with the Tata Memorial Centre for establishment and operationalization of the State Cancer Institute Jammu enabling a quality cancer patient care in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary gave a patient hearing to all the inputs put forth by the panel of experts and expressed gratitude to Dr Ashish Gulia and his team for providing valuable support.

He asked the concerned for rolling out OPDs in Oncology and the day care chemotherapy in the State Cancer Institute soon in the larger interest of patient care.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Government Medical College, Jammu, Director Finance, H&ME, Director Coordination New GMCs Jammu, Managing Director, JKMSCL, Joint Director Planning H&ME, HOD Radiology and faculty members of Oncology Department from GMC Jammu, Nodal Officer (Coordination), SCI Jammu among other officers of H&ME department.

Similarly, XEN PMGSY Kathua apprised the Deputy Commissioner that out of total 40 schemes under Phase I and II, 20 schemes will be completed before 31st March 2023.

The DC directed both the XENs to pace up the speed to complete all works in a time bound manner besides calling for removing bottlenecks to achieve maximum target works within stipulated time.

Regarding the pending works, the DC called upon the concerned officers to fix responsibility of the contractor to avoid unnecessary delays on their part.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Engineers of XEN, PMGSY Div Billawar, Kathua and other concerned.

## DC Kathua reviews progress of work on PMGSY

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Jan 31: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey, today reviewed the progress of work on PMGSY sector projects at a meeting of the department functionaries.

It was given out in the meeting that 66 schemes, including 20 for Kathua and 46 for Billawar PMGSY divisions have been proposed for providing road connectivity to uncovered habitations.

Taking appraisal of the progress achieved by twin PMGSY divisions, the DC was informed that 35 schemes of the total 46 schemes sanctioned for, Billawar, will be completed in the current fiscal.

## Address post snowfall exigencies: Soz to Admin

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 31: Former Union Minister, Prof Saifuddin Soz today asked the administration to come to the aid of people, whose lives continue to remain out of gear in wake of the heavy snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir.

Soz said that several villages in the upper reaches of Kashmir division remain disconnected from the district headquarters for the third consecutive day after receiving the snowfall, adding that the electricity distribution system, surface connectivity, water supply has also been badly affected in some areas.

Former Minister said, "heavy snowfall has thrown life out of gear in the upper reaches of Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Anantnag, Shopian Pulwama and Kulgam districts and the people in these areas are facing tremendous hardships. The electricity, as well as potable water supply, is disrupted. In case there is any emergency on health grounds, locals are

unable to shift the patients to the hospital as authorities have failed to clear snow from roads," he said.

Soz said resumption of connectivity is the main issue that has to be tackled on priority basis. "The major arteries connecting Dawar, Kanthalwun, Keran, Karn, Gurez, Jungund and many far flung areas to their district headquarters haven't been cleared of snow yet. People living in those areas are going through immense difficulties. Srinagar city has become a cesspool of slush. SMC and other concerned agencies are not visible on ground," he said.

"The situation is no different in the snow bound region of Chenab region where the access to all upper hamlets is yet to be restored," he added.

"The Divisional Administrations in Jammu & Kashmir must ensure that flying squads are placed on the grounds to check price rise. The situation has become more precarious in wake of the absence of public representatives," he said.

## Immediately restore essential supplies in Kashmir to minimize hardships of people: AAP to Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 31: Jammu and Kashmir Government and its administration has been caught on wrong foot post snowfall in Kashmir valley and ill prepared administrative machinery has put people in hardships.

This was stated by incharge of Youth wing of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Kashmir, Muddasir Hasan in context with situation arising post recent snowfall. "This year snowfall on January 29 and 30 is being considered as the period of highest snowfall," he said, adding, it has badly affected both surface as well as air traffic.

Muddasir said that this heavy snowfall has created hardships for common masses and poorly prepared Government machinery has swelled these hardships and such poor approach of Government machinery post snowfall is hardly seen.

"It has been seen in past years that Government machinery remains prepared for snowfall situation and basic arrangements are put in place but things have gone reverse this year where only a couple of meetings for the sake of formality have been convened by Government machinery but there are no



PF Commissioner Rizwan Uddin handing over pension claim.



DDC Member Suchetgarh and senior AAP leader, Taranjit Singh Tony leading a protest at R S Pura on Tuesday.

## Tony leads protest against PDD over snapping power supply in Suchetgarh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and DDC Member, Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony on Tuesday expressed great disappointment against the Power Development Department (PDD) over its tyrannical decision to snap the power supply in seven villages of border town RS Pura.

Leading the procession of irate villagers, Tony challenged the concerned officials of PDD to take similar action in areas falling in Jammu city.

Addressing a massive gathering outside the SDM office in R S Pura, the DDC member said that snapping the power supply of the seven villages are in no way justified because the officials have no right to curtail the power of those consumers who have paid their electricity bills on time as this is sheer misuse of power and should be considered as disrupting essential supplies unnecessarily.

Tony demanded that the employees and the officers who have issued such unfair and illegal directions should be booked under relevant sections of law. "The PDD functionaries have the right to cut the power connections of the people who are defaulters but under no rule they have the authority to snap the power lines of the people who have cleared their bills and

have no outstanding amount in their accounts", he said and demanded stern action against the dictatorial staff of the Power Department.

He said, "It is unfortunate that the people who off and on face wrath of country's adversary in the form of mortar shelling and unprovoked firing by the Pakistani Rangers have been subjected to such step-motherly treatment by cutting their power lines despite full payment of bills and other dues". He also sought that the Department should give some time to such people who have not paid their power bills.

Later, the senior AAP functionary met SDM and put forth the genuine issue of the villagers besides having telephonic conversation with DC Jammu, Avny Lavasa to find immediate solution to the problem created by imprudent decision taken by the PDD officials.

Consequently, the SDM spoke to XEn PDD and assured Tony that the power would be restored soon and such things will not be repeated in future.

Sham Lal Bhagat, Sarpanch and district president Jammu Central AAP, Rajesh Khanna, Rashpal Singh Gill, Sarvan Choudhary, Sarpanch Shashi Bhagat, Sarpanch Sarfo Devian and youth leader Mandeep Choudhary were also present in the protest.

## EPFO settles 30 new pension claims

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Pension is most relevant form of "social security" for employees and their family members in times of need and eventualities. In

Rizwan Uddin, Regional P.F. Commissioner (J&K and Ladakh), Harinder Singh (RPFC -II) and Pritpal Singh (Assistant Section Officer) distributed the PPO to the Pensioners who visited Regional Office, Jammu.



PF Commissioner Rizwan Uddin handing over pension claim.

view of this, EPFO Regional Office, Jammu has initiated the process of settlement of Pension claims from the offices of Jammu and Kashmir itself.

In some of the cases, pension is being disbursed to widow and family members of even such members in respect of whom Pension contribution equivalent to one month pension has been remitted by the Employer.

Towards this, the office has settled total 30 pension claims in Jammu with initial arrear amount Rs. 20,58,357/- in the month of January, 2023. Many Pension claims were settled.

## 435 SHRI Schools to showcase components of NEP-2020, offer mentorship to other schools

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 31: Nearly, 435 SHRI Schools ( Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) in Jammu and Kashmir will showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 besides offering mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.

"These schools will act as exemplar schools with upgraded infrastructure, innovative pedagogy and technology".

Pertinently, PM SHRI Schools is a new scheme envisaging development of more than 14500 schools across the country by strengthening selected existing schools being managed by Union, State and UT Governments besides local bodies. These schools will provide leadership to other schools in their respective regions by providing mentorship.

The PM SHRI schools will deliver quality teaching for cognitive development of students and will strive to create and nurture holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills.

This ambitious scheme of PM SHRI schools is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a total project cost of Rs. 27360 crore which included a central share of Rs. 18128 crore for the period of five years from year 2022-23 to 2026-27.

The PM SHRI Schools will be developed as green schools incorporating environment friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic free, water conservation and harvesting, study of traditions/practices related to protection of environment, climate change related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt sustainable lifestyle.

Also, pedagogy to be adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based (particularly, in the foundational years) inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable. Focus will be on learning outcomes of every child in every grade. Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge to real life situations and will be competency-based.

A School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) has been developed specifying the key performance indicators to measure outcomes. Quality evaluation of these schools at regular interval will be undertaken to ensure the desired standards.

The major interventions of the scheme are Quality and Innovation (Learning Enhancement Programme, Holistic Progress Card, Innovative Pedagogies, Bagless

days, Internships with local artisans, Capacity building etc.) besides Beneficiary oriented entitlements under RTE Act. Besides, 100 per cent of PM SHRI Schools will receive Science and Math Kits.

The scheme will also encourage flexibility in choice of subjects being offered to students and will encourage mother tongue/local languages as medium of instruction using technological interventions to help bridge language barriers. Likewise, 100 per cent of PM SHRI Schools will be covered under ICT, smart classrooms and digital initiatives.

Regarding strengthening of existing infrastructure, the scheme will help vocational interventions and enhance internship/entrepreneurship opportunities especially with local industry besides mapping of skills with developmental projects/nearby industry and develop courses/curriculum accordingly.



JKTF delegation meeting with Chief Secy Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday.

## JK Teachers Forum delegation meets Chief Secy, discusses issues & demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum, led by its Chairman Ganesh Khajuria & President Mohammad Shafi Rather, met Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta at Civil Secretariat Jammu and discussed with him the issues being faced by the employees of School Education Department.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary and undertook a threadbare discussion on each and every point raised in the memorandum. Several issues confronted by the employees were highlighted in the memorandum.

Issues, which came under discussion, included resumption of the promotion from Teacher to Master halted from 2014, infrastructure upgradation in Government Schools, framing a comprehensive transfer policy in favour of Grade II and Grade III teachers, adjustment of the promoted Headmasters & Lecturers, confirmation of incharge cadre, scrapping of new pension scheme and implementation of Old Pension scheme in favour of appointees appointed on or after 01/01/2010, regularization of CPWs and bringing CPWs, Land donors, Chowkidars etc under the minimum Wages Act,

framing of cadre based Job policy in favour of contractual employees engaged under the erstwhile scheme of SSA and RMSA, removal of pay disparity of Masters in the pre-revised pay grade of 6500-10500, Grant of 2 increments in favour of teachers of 2019 batch appointed under SRO-202, redressal of issues pertaining to PM Package and Jammu based employees, resolution of long pending demands of Rehbar-e-khel Teachers, filling of the vacancies of CEOs, ZEOs, DIET Principals, HoDs, Lecturers, Teachers, ministerial staff etc, starting job oriented courses like fisheries, Sanskrit, public administration etc from Secondary level, bringing the teachers at par with other Union Territories of India in terms of pay, grade and other emoluments.

Chief Secretary patiently listened to the delegation and assured that all these issues would be taken up on a fast track basis. He said that all the genuine grievances of the employees will be taken up with the concerned quarters.

The delegation comprised of Bashir Ahmad Thokar, Jamait Ali Agha, Javaid Ahmad Malik, Kuldeep Singh Bandalal, Ghulam Nabi Ganie, P D Singh, Naseer Ahmad Shah, Dr Abdullah, Reyaz Mehmood Kalgan, Muneer Ahmad and others.



SMVDU Vice-Chancellor & others during youth festival on 'Drug Abuse' Tuesday.

## SMVDU organizes youth festival on 'Drug Abuse'

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Jan 31: In collaboration with the Excise and Taxation Deptt J&K, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra today organized a one day youth festival on the theme of 'Drug Abuse: Awareness Amongst the Youths'.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof R K Sinha said that such events go a long way to aware the common masses about the drug abuse which has emerged as a menace to the young generation. He hailed the initiative of Excise Deptt in collaborating with University on drug abuse. He stressed the need for a healthy lifestyle and promotion of cultural values.

RC Kotwal, Comdt 1st Battalion IRP, Reasi, gave a detailed presentation on various aspects of drug abuse. He called for greater youth engagement through sports and adventurous activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Sukriti Sharma, Dy Excise Commissioner Accounts, said that drug abuse was corroding the foundations of society. Further, she stated that drug abuse has become a major social issue in UT of J&K. "The incidence of drug abuse among adolescents and youth are increasing at a higher rate. Adding to it the increasing eco-

nomie stress and changing cultural values are some other reasons leading to initiation into drug abuse." She added.

Nagendra Singh Jwalwal, Registrar SMVDU, said that drug abuse has societal, security and geo strategic aspects. "We need to inculcate a sense of discipline and healthy lifestyle among youth "he said.

On the occasion video clips, reels created by students were displayed. Students performed dance items, skits, music, folk songs and dances reflecting the culture & traditions of the UT.

ETO, Rupali Vaid, Udhampur- Reasi Excise Range, spoke on the occasion and said that menace of drug abuse is the challenge where Government alone cannot succeed unless there is community help, parental assistance and proactive role shown by all sections of society.

Finance Officer Neeraj Gupta, Deans, faculty, staff members and large numbers of students were present during the programme. A cultural troupe provided by Jammu and Kashmir Academy for Art Culture and Languages JKAA-CL also enthralled the audience. Dr Kamni Pathania, vice-president, Board of Cultural Activities presented formal vote of thanks. Students participated in the awareness rally, which was taken out on the campus.

## Tribute paid to Major Somnath on his 100th birth anniversary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: On his 100th birth anniversary, rich tribute were paid to first Param Vir Chakra awardee, Major Som Nath Sharma who laid down his life while defending the Srinagar Airport from the attack of tribals and Pak Army on November 3, 1947.

Dogra Brahman Pratididhi Sabha (DBPS) President, Ved Parkash Sharma and others paid floral tributes to Shaheed Major Som Nath at a function held in the Sabha premises where speakers recalled supreme sacrifice of this great soldier. They particularly mentioned that after the martyrdom of Major Sharma, almost all his entire family joined Indian Army, thereby setting an example that sacrificing life by one member from the family couldn't demoralize others.

Ved Parkash informed that main function to remember the martyr will be held at Maj Som Nath Chowk, 4th Tawi Bridge, Jammu on February 4 at 3:00 PM wherein Union Minister Dr Jitender Singh will be the chief guest while MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and JMC Mayor Rajinder Sharma, will be the guests of honours.

Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust also organised a program at Karwanda, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu for paying tributes to Major Somnath Sharma on his 100th birthday anniversary.

ADGP Hqrs. M K Sinha during inaugural ceremony of 'English Language Lab' at Police Public School Jammu on Tuesday.

## ADGP inaugurates 'English Language Lab' at JKPPS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: MK Sinha, ADGP Headquarter inaugurated 'English Language Lab' in the presence of Arun Tandon, Consultant, GD Pharmaceuticals at J&K Police Public School, here today.

The 20-seated Lab with sophisticated equipment has been established in the School under Corporate Social Responsibility by GD Pharmaceuticals.

Dr Rubinder Kaur, Chairperson, Management Committee, J&K PWVA/PPS, who could not preside the function due to her pressing commitment thanked Arun Tandon for coming forward to augment the existing infrastructure of the School by establishing a 10-Meter Indoor Shooting Range and a full-fledged English Language Lab.

The ADGP said English is a truly global lingua franca and the newly established English

Language Lab will definitely prove to be a very helpful tool for the students of the School. The students will listen to model pronunciation recorded by experts, can record their own performances, compare it with the model pronunciation, and do self-assessments for improving their soft skills.

Arun Tandon appreciated the untiring efforts of DGP Dilbag Singh, Dr Rubinder Kaur, Chairperson, J&K PWVA/PPS and members of the management committee of J&K PWVA/PPS for meticulously running the Schools at various districts for providing quality education to the wards of martyred, deceased, serving, retired police personnel, SPOs and the local populace.

The inauguration function was attended by Manjit Kour, SO to IGP Armed/IRP Jammu Zone, Balwant Raj, Dy. Commandant JKAP 8th Bn, Surinder Singh, SDPO RS Pura and others.