

CS for declaring all JK villages 'ODF Plus Model' by Aug 15

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today reiterated his direction to all the Deputy Commissioners to achieve 'ODF Plus Model' status for all their villages by the 15th of August this year.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while inaugurating the Divisional Level Capacity Building Programme on Management of all Components of SBM(G)-Phase-II for officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Secretary in RDD; Director, Rural Sanitation and many other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed upon all participants to put in dedicated efforts to ensure that the open defecation free behaviour is sustained in all the Gram Panchayats, besides safe solid and liquid waste management facilities in these villages.

Dr Mehta also called for proper disposal of legacy waste and improving visual cleanliness in the rural areas. He also maintained that happiness of common masses is connected with cleanliness so every one has to contribute in terms of sanitation and cleanliness of their surroundings.

The Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandep Kaur in her address revealed that the progress of UT from last few years is although good but much has to be achieved yet. She made out that around 4400 of our villages are in the aspiring category of becoming ODF+ villages.

She set out that the model is lying with us and the process is underway to make whole of the UT as ODF+ within the given timeframe. She made out that much of the work like door to door collection of waste and clearing of legacy waste has been started in all our villages.

The Director Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh made out that the mission is the outcome of the priority nation gives to sanitation of villages. He revealed that more than 140 villages have already been declared ODF+ in the UT. He said that this capacity building would enhance our ability to perform the task in an efficient manner.

Pertinent to mention here that all the Deputy Commissioners and concerned officers of the RDD present in the training program like ACDs and BDOs committed to put in their best efforts for achieving 'ODF Plus Model' villages by the deadline of 15th of August this year as directed by the Chief Secretary.

On conducting the cleanliness activities in a dedicated manner with clear objective to remove all the dirt around us. He remarked that this task is easy if everyone considers it as basic necessity, just as food, shelter, water, electricity and clothes.

Emphasising on active involvement of people and PRI members in such activities the Chief Secretary asked officers to motivate and convince the rural population by sensitizing them about the significance of the cleanliness. He emphasized that it is vital for sustenance of good health and prosperity of the people. He directed all to make it a mission and make a resolve that we have to make our rural areas clean and hygienic by this year's Independence Day without any fail.

clientele across its operational geographies. Around 3000 valuable customers attended 30 such meetings that were also conducted simultaneously at Cluster and Zonal levels of the Bank across the country.

Earlier, welcoming the participants at their respective places, the Bank's General Managers, Divisional Heads, Zonal Heads and Cluster Heads apprised the participants about the Bank's recent performance, consistent progress and highlighted the need for continuity in Bank-customer communication.

The Bank's leadership underscored the importance of feedback for achieving excellence in service delivery systems and emphasized upon the symbiotic nature of relationship between the Bank and its customers besides seeking cooperation of the participants for further strengthening of the bond.

On the occasion, the participant clients were also informed about the various customer-centric measures taken recently by the Bank. "Besides, out of 5,429 awareness camps conducted by 35 Banks under RBI's Nationwide Intensive Awareness Programme in November 2022 in the UT, J&K Bank - as the Principal Torch Bearer in J&K - conducted 2,746 camps, wherein public awareness was enhanced about financial customer rights, Internal Grievance Redress (IGR) as well as the Alternate Grievance Redress (AGR) mechanism of RBI. During the campaign people across segments and regions were also educated in detail about the rising incidents of cyber frauds being perpetrated on the customers and were urged to exercise caution to stay protected", speakers informed their audiences.

Therefore, in addition to embracing technology to serve the changing needs of our customers we are paying adequate attention to fundamental aspects of our service delivery mechanisms that primarily include respecting the dignity of customers we serve while we make banking simple, swift, accessible and flexible. Besides, the Bank has a robust customer redressal mechanism in place to swiftly address all the concerns and promptly resolve all the grievances of our valuable customers," he added.

"As custodians of public trust, the fundamental role of banks is to maximize value of its stakeholders through efficient delivery of its products and services. And that efficient delivery can only be ensured through a regular exchange of views and feedback between the bank and its customers", Baldev Prakash said.

Notably, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over one such customer-meet in Srinagar. Meanwhile, it is for the second time in last six months the Bank organized country-wide customer-meets to listen, understand and resolve the issues faced by its

Unani emerging as alternative to all other medicines: Azad

Excelsior Correspondent

KOLKATA, Feb 11: World Unani Day is a global event taking place every year on February 11th, which is the birthday of great physician & Unani scholar, freedom fighter, social reformer and symbol of communal harmony "Hakim Ajmal Khan".

Former Union Health Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad paid glowing tributes to Hakim Ajmal Khan for his outstanding contribution to Unani medicines in India.

While addressing a function on World Unani Day, organised by K.F. Memorial Trust-West Bengal, held at Science City Auditorium in Kolkata, Azad said that though the Unani Medicines is an ancient medical science and has been evolving over the centuries, Hakim Ajmal Khan's efforts during the 19th century in India were unforgettable.

"When we talk of the Unani medicine in India, we can't ignore Hakim Ajmal Khan who evolved the Unani medicine in India with his tireless efforts and passion," Azad said.

He said Khan was called as 'Messiah-e-Hind' among the people for his great healing practices and people would pay him Rs 1000 for consultation charges, if they wanted him to travel outside the city.

"The amount is itself huge during those days and it reflects his competence and intelligence as Hakim," Azad said. He said for the native system of Unani medicines, he contributed three prestigious institutions to the country including Hindustani Dawakhana, Central College in Delhi and Tibbia Unani College.

Azad said that it was all due to

his untiring efforts that the Unani system of medicine is thriving in our country which otherwise was decaying under British rule. Azad, however, said that Hakim Ajmal Khan was not only a great Unani medicine practitioner but his social and political engagements were so impressive that he was elevated as president to Muslim League - an offshoot of the Indian National Congress followed by All India Khilafat Committee.

"Even Mahatma Gandhi in Young India wrote that Hakim Ajmal Khan was a great Muslim and equally a great patriot," Azad said adding that his contribution to

communal harmony and rising above religion and race rewarded him with great respect from across the communities.

Azad also said that with the changing medical realities and ongoing research in the Unani medicines, the future is of the Unani system of medicines. He said people are gradually switching over to Unani medicines since it has a huge success rate with no side effects.

"People know other medicines are loaded with side-effects but not Unani. So it is yet again dominating the medicines market as an alternative. I am sure, it has a great future ahead," Azad added.

Total capacity reaches 315 from 165 seats

H&ME approves increase of 150 seats in GNM course for 4 colleges

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department has approved the enhancement of 150 seats for various paramedical colleges in Kashmir for the General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course while several courses have also been cancelled.

As per details available, there has been a total enhancement of 150 seats, taking the total intake capacity to 315 seats in four paramedical colleges in Kashmir which includes Guru Institute of Paramedical Sciences, Sopore, Green Land Paramedical and Nursing Institute, Hawal, Tahira Khanam's Paramedical Institute, Lawaypora and Al-Noor Paramedical Institute Budshah Nagar.

For Guru Institute of Paramedical Sciences, Sopore, seats have been enhanced in the GNM Course while the seats of Medical Assistant and X-Ray Assistant have been merged into GNM, which had

a capacity of 50 seats earlier. The same has now reached 85 by merging 15 seats of X-Ray and 20 seats of Medical Assistant.

For Green Land Paramedical and Nursing Institute, Hawal, the H&ME has approved the enhancement of 50 seats in GNM, taking the final seat capacity to 75 from 25 while two new courses which include Operation Theatre Assistant and Anaesthesia Assistant, with a total capacity of 30 seats each, have been also approved.

About Tahira Khanam's Paramedical Institute, Lawaypora, after the inspection for enhancement of seats in GNM and starting of an additional course of Anaesthesia Assistant, as per details, the seating capacity has been increased to 50, taking the total capacity to 140 from 90.

The H&ME has also approved the increase of 25 seats in Operation Theatre Technology, taking the total capacity to 75 from 50. At the same time, the start of a new course, Anaesthesia Assistant,

Dr Farooq questions nomination of Numberdars, Chowkidars

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) President and Member of the Parliament, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today said the recent move of J&K administration to nominate Numberdars/Chowkidars for villages and towns across J&K runs contrary to the Government claims of strengthening democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Echoing the concerns of a delegation of Numberdars that had called on him, Dr. Farooq said that the Government is trying to bring in their own people for this

important position through backdoor.

Dr Farooq said the association members who called on him resented the manner in which the incumbent Numberdars were being shown the door and the new ones nominated by the incumbent administration ditching all established norms and procedures. "The incumbent Numberdars who command public confidence as persons are being shown the doors. It seems the administration, by nominating candidates of their choice, is trying to set a political discourse in the villages and towns that suits their cause," he said.

"The positions of Numberdars and Chowkidars are very significant in terms of better coordination at the grassroot levels and for that reason the Government should have acted more sensibly rather than in this arbitrary way," Dr Farooq said adding, "The process of selection cannot evade accountability and public scrutiny. The manner in which the process is being carried out raises a number of questions and it's the Government which has to come clean."

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J&K Bank MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash speaking during Banks' nation wide customers outreach program on Saturday.

J&K Bank organises country wide customer-meets

* Success of a bank depends on goodwill of its customers: MD & CEO

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: Sustainable success of a bank depends upon the goodwill of its customers. And after more than a year at the helm I see J&K Bank enjoying a huge reservoir of that client-goodwill among its valuable customers across operational geographies in the country.

MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash made these remarks while chairing the main function of Bank's second nationwide customer-outreach program under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Zonal Office Mumbai in presence of Zonal Head and other officers.

Therefore, in addition to embracing technology to serve the changing needs of our customers we are paying adequate attention to fundamental aspects of our service delivery mechanisms that primarily include respecting the dignity of customers we serve while we make banking simple, swift, accessible and flexible. Besides, the Bank has a robust customer redressal mechanism in place to swiftly address all the concerns and promptly resolve all the grievances of our valuable customers," he added.

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Stakeholders meet for investors organised in Samba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 11: District Administration Samba today hosted a first of its kind stakeholders meet of top entrepreneurs, industrialists, hoteliers and experts from Revenue, JDA, RDD department to facilitate creation of an environment for investment in the district.

During the meet leading industrialists from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other neighbouring states were present. Prominent among others were Lalit Mahajan, President Bari Brahmana Industrial Association, Hoteliers Subash Goyal Ludhiana, KG Exports Ludhiana, Jatinder Gandhok, Kanav Gupta, Ramit Khurana M/S Kailash Amrit, Ajay Ahuja, Jaspreet Singh besides others.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Anuradha Gupta said that the district administration has organised the meet on the directions of Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K Manoj Sinha to act as a facilitator to expedite industrial growth. She said "Encouraging understanding of changing land laws, building laws, change of land use laws, registration of property, Master Plan of JDA etc as well as resolution of issues on development of private industrial estates and housing colonies in the District Samba

are being given utmost priority besides giving wings to unprecedented sustainable economic industrial growth in industrially viable district samba has been our prime focus."

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that a common platform and a dedicated help desk would be established in the District to address issues of revenue land laws and others.

Expert speakers on the occasion included Surinder Sharma, Joint Director Industries and Commerce; Jagdish Raj Chief town planner from JDA; Sidharth Dhiman; ACD, Ramkesh; SDM Ghagwal, SDM Vijaypur, Tehsildar HQ, and Tehsildar Ramgarh.

Topic discussed included setting up of Industrial estate, setting up of private Housing colonies and buildings in the area under Jammu Master Plan, change of land use, building laws in rural areas, outset Jammu Master Plan, purchase of agriculture land by non agriculturist, purchasing land for residential/commercial/industrial purposes, property registration process and other minor land related issues.

Among others, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh, ACR, SE PWD, SE PDD, Jal Shakti, besides other department heads were also present.

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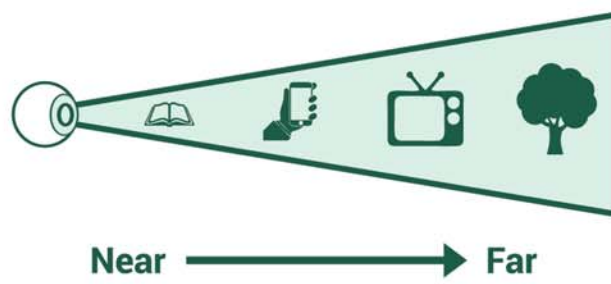


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