

## Fix responsibility about missing revenue maps; start online Girdawari forthwith: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 14: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today reviewed the overall implementation of various schemes for development of Agriculture in J&K and exhorted upon the officers to fix the responsibility for misplacing 392 revenue maps (Musavisi) and initiate the process for recreating the same at an earliest.

The meeting was attended by Advisor & Chief Knowledge Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Gof; ACS, Agriculture Production Department; Commissioner, Survey & Land Records; Director, Remote Sensing besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on early implementation of J&K Digital Agriculture Mission (Agristack) and said that the premise of missing of such a significant record is unacceptable and needs to be looked into seriously. He asked for carrying out a thorough investigation into the matter for fixing the responsibility for misplacing these maps. He also directed that these records be recreated without loss of time.

Regarding the Geo-referencing of cadastral maps of revenue villages, Dr Mehta observed that it should actually make the process of demarcation easy and more accurate. He also advised devising the SOPs/guidelines for resolving any issues or gaps arising from migrating the record from traditional system to modern systems.

He also emphasised on carrying out seasonal Girdawari (crop survey) digitally, capturing the actual record on ground in a more accurate manner. He further noted that in order to create the farmer's registry, a mechanism should be devised to register actual cultivators so that the objective of Agristack is met successfully.

The ACS, APD, Atal Dulloo informed the meeting that the Agristack is a major initiative to digitally push Agriculture towards new paradigm. He said that it provides an ecosystem for facilitating delivery of various services to farmers.

He said that with its successful implementation a farmer would get access to the right advice at the right time regarding crop selection, crop health, selling of produce, access to inputs, loans and market besides benefits under different beneficiary oriented schemes for development of the sector.

The Commissioner, Survey & Land Records, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan apprised the meeting that the progress in digitization of land



CEO Shrine Board Anshul Garg flagging off vehicle of Prasad through courier service to various destinations from Spiritual Growth Centre Katra on Wednesday.

## SMVDSB partners with DTDC for robust Prasad delivery mechanism

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, June 14: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has entered into an agreement with the M/s DTDC Express Limited, New Delhi (Desk to Desk Courier & Cargo) an Indian courier service firm having stout network nationally as well as internationally, for providing logistics, packing and door to door speedy delivery of Prasad boxes to the devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi across the country.

This initiative of the Board undertaken as per the directions of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha shall facilitate and will greatly help devotees in speedy receipt of Prasad.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, today flagged off the vehicle of Prasad through this courier service to various destinations at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra in the presence of Manish Jain, Director Sales, M/s DTDC Express Limited.

In this regard, five categories Prasad of denominations of Rs.100/-, Rs 300/-, Rs 500/-, Rs 1100/- and Rs 2100/- have been incorporated for the delivery through M/s DTDC by the Board which can be booked either through the official website of the Shrine Board i.e. www.maavaishno-devi.org or through mobile app of SMVDSB. The firm shall also provide insurance of each and every consignment and facilitate devotees with the digital tracking. Besides, the firm shall ensure that Prasad reaches the doorstep of the devotees in North India within 48 hrs, once the booking is being confirmed. In addition, the firm shall also do packaging of Prasad Boxes for sale at five dedicated Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops and seven counters in existing establishments made operational in the last 10 months. A one such Modern Prasad cum Souvenir Counter was inaugurated on June 6 at Jammu Airport for the facilitation of the devotees by the Chairman,

## Commissioner Secy inaugurates Rs 1.20 cr Public Park at Jhajjar Kotli

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, today inaugurated a Public Park at Baba Sunara, Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu.

Director General, Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jatinder Singh was also present on the occasion.

The public park expanded over an area of 16 kanal has been developed by the depart-



Commissioner Secretary inaugurating Public Park at Jhajjar Kotli on Wednesday.

ment with an expenditure of Rs.1.20 crore. It has various features like chain link/grill fencing, viewpoint, mesmerizing landscaping, ornamental plants, flowering beds, turfing, tile path/walk way, illumination system, sprinklers, benches and other basic facilities.

While addressing the public, Commissioner Secretary informed that 11 new parks are being constructed during the current financial year 2023-24. The aim of the Government is to focus on providing all requisite

facilities to individuals at their door steps, especially to senior citizens and children.

He also took a detailed review of maintenance and development of existing parks and gardens of the said area. He directed the officers to maintain quality of works and emphasized the need for overall beautification of all parks.

Meanwhile, he also interacted with the PRIs and listened to their grievances and demands.

Commissioner Secretary assured the local representatives

## Billawaria for revival of pension schemes, BPL ration cards

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: In a bid to address the concerns of the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society, Deputy Mayor,



Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

Baldev Singh Billawaria has strongly advocated for the revival of pension schemes and BPL (BPL) ration cards. Talking to reporters here, today he said these essential social welfare programmes have unfortunately been discontinued by the Government, causing significant distress among the genuine beneficiaries. Billawaria was flanked by Chairmen of JMC, Arun Khanna, Subash Sharma and Gopal Gupta.

Billawaria emphasized the significance of BPL ration cards in ensuring food security for the impoverished households. With the halt in the issuance of these cards, families struggling to make ends meet are left without the means to obtain subsidized food grains and essential commodities. The Deputy Mayor stressed that the discontinuation of these social welfare programmes has caused immense hardships for those who genuinely deserve and rely on them.

He called upon the Government to recognize the importance of these schemes

and take immediate action to reinstate them. Billawaria said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has implemented various initiatives aimed at addressing

poverty and uplifting the lives of marginalized communities in India and said that we should preserve such types of schemes to uplift the lives of poor and needy people. He said taking action against those who illegally obtain BPL cards is important to ensure that the benefits and resources allocated for the truly deserving individuals reach them. It is crucial to maintain the integrity of social welfare programmes and target assistance to those who genuinely require it. However, it is important to strike a balance and ensure that the legitimate beneficiaries who hold valid BPL cards are not negatively affected by such actions, he added.

Billawaria said this might involve thorough verification processes, audits, and investigations to identify and address any discrepancies in the distribution of BPL cards.

## State Taxes Deptt holds GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 14: As part of 'Kartavya, Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh, today held a GST interactive session for Chartered Accountants of Jammu and Kashmir here at Excise and Taxation complex, Solina.



State Taxes Department officers during interactive session with Chartered Accountants.

During the session, She responded to various issues raised by the participants and assured that all genuine issues and queries will be taken care of. Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Shaheel Maqbool, gave a detailed presentation sensitising the participants about malpractices that lead to tax evasion and loss of revenue to the Government. He particularly flagged the issues of utilisation of ineligible input tax credit for setting off tax liability and declaration of IGT liabilities by the hotels and travel agents in violation of place of supply rules which



Senior BJP leaders in a meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

## Raina chairs preparatory meeting for Shah's rally

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, along with vice presidents of the party Sham Lal Sharma and Surjit Singh Salathia and former Minister, Chander Prakash Ganga, chaired a meeting of senior leaders at party Headquarters to discuss the preparation for the successful conduct of the scheduled June 23 rally of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah to be held at Jammu.

Ravinder Raina, in the meeting, said that the party leaders have to mobilize the public for the rally by holding meetings in small groups with different sections of society in Jammu to seek their support for ensuring maximum participation of the people from all the sections of society, including those associated with different professions and working in different fields.

"The people of J&K are well convinced that it is the BJP and Narendra Modi Government that have been concerned for the peace, development and prosperity of J&K and there is no doubt that people will come to listen to the Union Home



MD JKRLM and other dignitaries inaugurating 'Duggardhani'.

## JKRLM, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust jointly opens "Duggardhani" dhaba in Bhalwal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: Mission Director, Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib, today inaugurated "Duggardhani- Dogra Dhaba", an outlet of women Self Help Group, here at Bhalwal, Jammu.

Additional Mission Director JKRLM Jammu, Mridul Salathia, Founder Chairperson, Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust, Dr. Ritu Singh were present on the occasion.

Pertinently, Duggardhani is a joint initiative of JKRLM and Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust which will be run and managed by around 35 women members of Self Help Group (SHG) of JKRLM. The people can enjoy dogra food recipes such as Maki ki Roti and sarson da Sag among other dogra delicacies.

Giving Details, Mission Director said that Duggardhani has been established to give a platform to the local Dogra cuisines prepared by women SHG of Umeed JK. Duggardhani of these SHG members offers an attractive menu with more than 20 varieties of comfort Dogra Recipe food. Some of the popular dogra food cuisines including Makkhi ki Roti, Saag, special dogra recipe dal, Rajmah Ambal and mixed rice would be available in their kitchen which sets them apart from commercial restaurants, MD stated.

Underlining the role of SHGs in eradicating poverty, she said these can play an important role in raising the economy. She added the SHGs are being strengthened by providing them with necessary platforms and they can showcase their calibre and contribute towards the society. While interacting with the aspiring members of self help groups, MD encouraged them to make full use of this platform to empower their livelihoods. She also discussed strategies to boost sales such as food takeaway and home delivery system.

The SHG members were also made to understand promotional strategies for modern market to run this outlet single-handedly, while keeping adequate quantity and affordable pricing as the core mantra of the business. She asked the concerned Block Development Officer to convene a meeting with the SHG members and various stakeholders so that more benefit comes to these members thus helping them in boosting their sales.

Speaking on the occasion, founder Chairperson of Ashok Kapoor Foundation Trust, Dr. Ritu Singh said that Duggardhani is more a women empowerment movement than a business and seeing the SHG women from all age groups as change dwellers is inspiring and motivating as well.

JKRLM plays a key role in empowering rural women who are now confident of their skills and have become financially independent, she added.

Among others present at the inaugural ceremony included District Programme Managers JKRLM Jammu, Abha Kotwal, Munisha Verma, Block Programme Manager Bhalwal Shruti Uppal, Block Development Chairman Bhalwal, Kuldeep Raj, Block Development Officer Bhalwal, Rajesh Kumar besides SHG members of Umeed JKRLM.

## No decline in ranking for IIT Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu has not experienced a decline in its NIRF ranking. In fact, the institute has achieved a significant milestone by securing the 67th position in the Engineering Category for the first time in 2023. This accomplishment solidifies IIT Jammu's position as one of the top two 3G IITs.

In the NIRF-2023 rankings, a total of 1314 engineering institutions applied, and IIT Jammu has emerged as one of the top 5% of engineering institutions in India, as well as one of the top two 3G IITs. The factual errors in a previous article published in this newspaper on June 9, which erroneously stated that the ranking of the prestigious institution had declined, is deeply regretted.

Commissioner State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement) Jammu, Namrita Dogra, attended the session online and spoke on the importance of CA's role in GST taxation system. Deputy Commissioner (Audit and Recovery), Farooq Ahmad Baba and Assistant Commissioner (Technical) Sarib Sehnan were also present in the session. The session witnessed active participation from Chartered Accountants with more than 45 CAs from Kashmir were present in the session while a good number of CAs from Jammu participated through VC.

## Commissioner Secy I&C approves 13 CII claims, 117 applications under New Central Sector Scheme

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 14: Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today chaired two separate meetings of

division. The Secretary Level committee approved total 117 applications (90 applications of Jammu division and 27 of Kashmir) for registration under New Central Sector Scheme. The total finan-



Commissioner Secretary I&C chairing a meeting.

cial outlay of the approved units for registration involved is Rs 2967.27 crore (approximately). Commissioner Secretary stressed upon grounding of new investments and directed all the concerned officers and General Managers to expedite the process of registration and incentive claims under NCSS.

Director General, Industries & Commerce, Jammu and Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmed Shah deliberated upon incentive claims and registration cases. During the meeting, the Committee sanctioned 13 cases of CII claims amounting Rs 2242.44 lakh, of which, 09 CII claims amounting Rs 2188 lakh pertained to Jammu division and 04 CII claims amounting Rs. 54.44 lakh pertained to Kashmir

Director General, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra and Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmed Shah deliberated upon incentive claims and registration cases. During the meeting, the Committee sanctioned 13 cases of CII claims amounting Rs 2242.44 lakh, of which, 09 CII claims amounting Rs 2188 lakh pertained to Jammu division and 04 CII claims amounting Rs. 54.44 lakh pertained to Kashmir

## DIG Traffic, JCCI discuss challenges faced by transporters, traders, industrialists

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: DIG Traffic, Shridhar Patil, accompanied by other senior police officials, today visited the Chamber House here and discussed with the Chamber team the challenges faced by the transporters, traders and industrialists.

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

nel, causing congestion. To address the situation partially, it was suggested that only empty trucks of specific categories be permitted to take a detour from Shopian via the Mughal Road to Jammu. This arrangement was allowed in the past but is no longer permitted.

Arun Gupta, President, JCCI, requested the Transport Department not to penalize and



JCCI President Arun Gupta presenting a souvenir to DIG Traffic in Jammu on Wednesday.

(JCCI) team expressed gratitude to DIG Traffic for his time and requested measures to streamline the unloading and transportation process.

A press statement said that currently, trucks unloading in Srinagar face delays due to the condition of the highway and bottlenecks along the way. After unloading, the trucks halt at Mir Bazar for a day and then at Bonigaum, resulting in a delay of 8 to 10 days to cover a distance of 20-25 km from Mir Bazar to Zakindul. Landslides and inclement weather further contribute to the timeline, adding another 2-3 days of delay. Additionally, the piling up of trucks at certain barriers is due to local trucks with specific registration digits and drivers bypassing the queues and proceeding from the wrong side and lateral/feeder roads to the new tunnel. This leads to longer queues at the barriers while these local trucks gain preferential access to the tun-

disturb pilgrims and tourists during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, and to avoid penalizing those who provide facilities such as eating facilities to the pilgrims.

Regarding the flyover construction from Canal Road to Muthi, the businessmen in the Canal Road area expressed concerns about customers' vehicles being penalized for parking outside their shops. In response, Shridhar Patil assured that the issues regarding the movement of commercial vehicles between Jammu and Srinagar will be resolved within 2-3 days. He also committed to addressing the issues related to the Amarnath Yatra and Canal Road parking after discussing them with the relevant officers.

Meanwhile, Arun Gupta praised the remarkable work of KK Gandhi, a member and renowned artist, who received a bronze dove as a symbol of peace during his artist residency in Hallein, Austria.

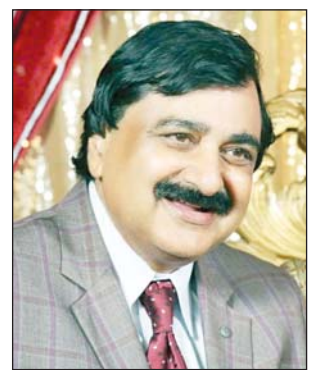
## Dr Raj Kumar bags Platinum Award in Int'l Online Art Exhibition

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 14: The painting of Dr Raj Kumar Sharma, renowned diabetologist, who happens to be a prominent painter of Jammu, has been given the Gold Award by Kalaratnam Foundation of Art Society for International Online Art Exhibition/Competition.

Dr Raj Kumar has been actively contributing and participating in the field of art for more than 20 years. His paintings are displayed regularly in annual state art exhibition conducted by J&K Art Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. His works has been selected for display in National and International Art Exhibitions in the past. He has held 5 solo exhibitions on various themes, prominently being his first solo exhibition "Ganesha-The Inspiration" held at Abhinav Art Gallery, Jammu in April 2003 which was inaugurated by Padam Vibhushan Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma (Santoor Maestro). His last exhibition was held at Ganesh Art Gallery at his residence, Gandhi Nagar (Jammu), which is the only personal art gallery in J&K.

Dr Raj Kumar has been part of several group shows and art camps. He has mainly used acrylic medium for his paintings



but has also used dry crayons and charcoal conte for two different exhibitions which is a rare medium used for drawings. Though paintings are his forte he has been also creating sculptures in different mediums such as stone and wood. His major works are depicting Ganesha in different forms and moods in abstract forms which are non-conventional. To promote young talents, Dr Raj Kumar has been conducting annual painting competition for school going children on the theme of Diabetes and its complications for last 20 years on World Diabetes Day. His paintings on Diabetes are on prominent display at the Head Quarters of American Diabetes Association Georgia. His paintings are also in the private collection of Biocon Pharma and other art collectors in India and abroad.