

Justice Nargal inspects courts in Doda, Bhandarwah

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 11: Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Administrative Judge for district Doda, today inspected the courts in Doda and Bhandarwah and interacted with Judicial Officers to review the working of the

uted hearing aids and wheelchairs among specially abled persons of vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. The aids were provided to the beneficiaries in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department Doda. He also planted saplings at court com-

plex Doda and Bhandarwah. Later, Justice Nargal also had a meeting with District Administration, which was attended by Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan; Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Abdul Qayoom, representatives of JKPC, JK Housing Board, PWD/R&B Doda and Bhandarwah, Superintendent of District Jail Bhandarwah and other officers.

The issues relating to infrastructure, security in court premises of the district, difficulties faced by under-trial prisoners etc were discussed in the meeting and necessary instructions were issued to the concerned for doing the needful at their respective end in a time bound manner.

Deputy Commissioner informed that work on lawyers chamber and Malkhana has been completed and will be handed



Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal planting a sapling at a Court Complex in Doda.

planning system in the district.

On the occasion, he laid emphasis on speedy disposal of old pending cases and stressed upon the Judicial Officers to avoid availing unnecessarily leaves so that litigant public don't suffer. He said that cooperation between the administration, police and judiciary is critical to ensure effective administration of justice.

"Each of us has a unique role to play. By working together, we can identify opportunities for improvement and ensure that justice is delivered fairly and efficiently", he said, adding "e-courts and use of virtual platforms have the potential to revolutionize the way we deliver justice as they can reduce costs, improve efficiency and provide citizens with greater access to justice".

Justice Nargal also distrib-

uted hearing aids and wheelchairs among specially abled persons of vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

The aids were provided to the beneficiaries in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department Doda. He also planted saplings at court complex Doda and Bhandarwah.

Later, Justice Nargal also had a meeting with District Administration, which was attended by Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan; Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Abdul Qayoom, representatives of JKPC, JK Housing Board, PWD/R&B Doda and Bhandarwah, Superintendent of District Jail Bhandarwah and other officers.

The issues relating to infrastructure, security in court premises of the district, difficulties faced by under-trial prisoners etc were discussed in the meeting and necessary instructions were issued to the concerned for doing the needful at their respective end in a time bound manner.

Deputy Commissioner informed that work on lawyers chamber and Malkhana has been completed and will be handed

H3N2 virus scare

Experts say no need to panic; just take precautions, maintain hygiene

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Amid a spurt in cases of the H3N2 virus, which has become a cause of concern in throughout the country, Health experts said that there is no need to panic and people just need to take precautions and maintain their hygiene.

As per Health experts, the H3N2 virus is not new. It is a common virus from Influenza family but this year, this Influenza virus has taken monstrous form, the reason being decreased immunity of people due to increased use of face masks and hand sanitizers during two years of Covid period.

However, experts said that there is no need to panic as there is negligible hospitalization due to this H3N2 virus infection and within 7-15 days, patients affected with it recover on their own and there is no need to take antibiotics. Regarding symptoms, they said a person infected with H3N2 virus shows symptoms like sore throat, running nose, mild fever, body aches,

and in some cases diarrhoea.

Dr Rakesh Dhar, Senior Consultant Physician, Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu, said, "For last two months, rise in patients with H3N2 symptoms have been witnessed in OPDs but in last 15 days, the inflow of such cases in OPDs have decreased and I think the peak of this H3N2 virus has already passed." He attributed increase in H3N2 cases to festival season and lowering of guard by the citizens.

Stating that many people are taking antibiotic pills on their own, Dr Rakesh Dhar said it is not right to take medicine without a doctor's advice and to take antibiotics unnecessarily. He said medicines need to be given based on symptoms. He said that spread of infection can be prevented through measures such as maintaining hygiene and avoiding crowded places.

"H3N2 virus is not deadly but elderly people with severe comorbidities are always at risk and therefore, they need to take utmost precautions and avoided

crowded places," said Dr Fayaz Ahmed Wani (Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, GMC Jammu). He said one can take Paracetamol for fever but antibiotics should be avoided without taking expert advice. Dr Wani said while there is no need to panic yet, it is advisable to take precautions similar to those taken during Covid times.

Dr Sandeep Dogra (Professor, Department of Microbiology, GMC Jammu) said, "H3N2 virus comes from a family of influenza viruses which mutates depending upon its various subtypes. The virus mutates or changes slightly every year, in what is known as antigenic drift." He said that lockdowns and extensive use of masks for extended periods of time helped control transmission of more virulent versions of the virus, but also prevented good exposure of regular seasonal respiratory viruses.

"There is a rise in cases because the virus mutated and people's immunity against it has become reduced due to at least two years of extensive use of masks," he maintained. Dr Dogra said the ways to prevent ourselves from this H3N2 virus is wearing masks in crowded places, wash our hands frequently and have physical distancing. He said high-risk groups and the elderly people can also go for Influenza vaccines.

BJP leaders during BJYM meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

BJYM has vital role to play in strengthening party: Ashok Koul

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Ashok Koul, BJP general secretary (Org) today chaired a meeting of Prabhari, Seh Prabhari and district presidents of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) at Party Headquarters here. The meeting was conducted with an aim to strengthening the base of the party.

In the meeting, State president BJYM Arun Prabhat, Munish Sharma, in charge All Morchas, Ajay Pargal Prabhari Yuva Morch and Ajay Vaid, Seh Prabhari BJYM, J&K were also present. Addressing party workers, Ashok Koul said that BJP is a party of principles, working for the upliftment of all the sections of the society, irrespective of their religion, caste and creed and their Karyakartas form its backbone. However, the BJYM Karyakartas are the greatest of the party as they are the ones who are in continuous contact of the people in general and youth in particular at the grass roots level.

While the BJP gives its workers full opportunity to move forward, the BJYM workers are expected to proactively carry forward the legacy of the party keeping public service devoid of any

discrimination at the core of their functioning policy. He asked the BJYM activists to further intensify the efforts to motivate more and more youth into the party fold before the elections are held for the J&K Assembly.

Emphasizing that BJYM cadre has a vital role to play in the strengthening of party, he said it is a testing time for them with elections on the threshold now. Arun Prabhat assured the senior party leader that the BJYM cadre will strengthen the party base at every nook and corner of the Union Territory. He said "Our young brigade will make all possible efforts in taking the policies and programmes of the Party at the people's door steps".

Arun Prabhat stressed upon party workers to maintain discipline in the party and exhorted them to work for strengthening of the base of the party in every nook and corner of the UT. He asked them to gear-up for upcoming elections and leave no stone unturned in the victory of BJP in ensuing polls.

Munish Sharma, Ajay Pargal and Ajay Vaid laid stress upon the youth brigade of the party to make people aware about Centre's flagship schemes for their immediate upliftment.

Dr Jitendra assesses progress on Mega Projects under execution in Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 11: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, today chaired a review meeting to assess the pace of development works on mega projects under



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing a meeting at DC Office complex, Doda.

execution of NHIDCL, NHPC and GREF in the conference hall of DC office complex here.

At the outset, District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan made a presentation on the achievements and progress recorded by BRO (GREF) and NHIDCL in creating and augmenting road infrastructure in the district Doda and district Kishtwar. NHPC authorities also gave detailed and project wise information to the Minister. It was informed that hydroelectric project

(HEP) Keru shall be ready for commissioning by 2024, while HEP Kwar and HEP Pakal Dal shall be ready by 2026 and 2027 respectively.

Under NHIDCL, Sudhmahadev Dranga Tunnel, Goha-Khalleni road, Khaleni-Khanbal road, Khaleni Tunnel, Sangpura-Vailo tunnel were discussed and informed that work is in progress and all the projects

trickle down the benefits of all the centrally sponsored schemes to the deserved lot and to the last person in the queue.

Dr Singh asked the executing agencies including administration to double their efforts, make use of the latest technology, and work in coordination to reach out to the expectations of the public and the government in bringing up the prestigious developmental projects for improving the quality of life in every part of the UT especially in the rural districts like Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairman Doda Dhanan Singh Kotwal, DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan, DC Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, ADDC Doda Pran Singh, ADC Doda Dr R K Bharti, Executive Director NHIDCL Sandeep Sudhara, GM NHIDCL NS Gill, OC GREF 118 Kishtwar Col YK Gautam, SM (HR) Dulhasti Power Station Ashok Kumar Bhanwal, SM (IT) Dulhasti Power Station Sachin Vishwakarma, Group General Manager M.K Kashyap HOP Dulhasti Power Station, SM (Env) Ratle HEP Shashi Paul Singh, DGM (HR) Ratle HEP Aswani Kumar Sahi, GM (Electrical) Ratle HEP Vinod Kumar Sharma, formal legislators, and other concerned officers.

Vikar, Bhalla lead 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' Yatra in Jammu South

***Ex-DyCM takes out Padyatra in Khour**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Congress Party activists took out "Hath Se Hath Jodo" Yatra from Indra Nagar to Simbal Morh in Jammu South while another one in Khour area of Akhnoor Sub



Cong leaders and workers taking out Padyatra in Jammu South on Saturday.

Division today. Vikar Rasooy Wani, president JKPC, working president Raman Bhalla accompanied by Ravinder Sharma- chief spokesperson, Balwan Singh Ex-MLA, Tarlok Singh Bajwa Ex-MP, Indu Pawar Ex-MLA, Shashi Sharma, Karan Bhagat and others, amidst raising slogans "Property Tax Vapis Lo, Mehngai Ko Kabu Karo...Kabu Karo, Berozgari Dur Karo, the protestors carried placards and party flags in hands and marched from Indra Nagar to Simbal Morh. The program was organized by Pawan Raina, secretary JKPC.

Speaking on the occasion Wani lashed out at the BJP Govt for crushing the poor and the

common man under huge taxes leading to record price rise, property tax, large scale unemployment and arbitrary downgrading of the historical state. All sections of the society are resenting against the dictatorial policies of the Modi Govt, be they common

cents especially minorities, has destabilized the economy of J&K. The Govt failed to restore staidhood which is most popular demand of all in J&K, he added. Ravinder Sharma and Balwan Singh also addressed the gathering. Prominent among others who accompanied included Amrit Bali, Jatin Raina, Gurdarshan Singh, Jatinder Bhagat, Gurmeet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Sham Mehra, Suresh Dogra, Sonu Dogra, Pawan Bhagat, Vandana Mankhotra, Sushma Choudhary, Vijay Sharma and Narendar Gupta.

Meanwhile, former DyCM and senior Congress leader, Tara Chand led Padyatra in connection with 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' campaign in Khour area of Akhnoor Sub Division today. A large number of Congress leaders and party functionaries from adjoining blocks participated. Yatra was taken out from Indri village and after passing through Manchanda, Dhonechak, Bakore, Taroti and Chak Malal villages, it finally culminated at Main Bazar, Jourian.

Tara Chand also addressed large gathering and asked party workers to carry the message of Congress Party of love, peace and brotherhood among the people of all the communities. He said that in coming 10 days, similar Padyatras will be taken out in Akhnoor and Khour area to educate people about BJP's anti-people, anti-poor and anti-youth policies.

He was accompanied by party functionaries Narinder Sharma, Jagattar Singh, Jagdish Sharma, Avtar Singh, Sham Lal, Santosh Manhas and others.

Multiple complaints in same offence not permissible: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 11: High Court has observed that multiple complaints by the same complainant against same accused or set of accused persons with respect to same offence, involving cognizable or private complaint offences, will lead to abuse of process of law and quashed the complaint as also the cognizance taken by the trial court to the complaint.

The petitioners challenged the complaint filed by the Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Inspector (Fertilizer)and cognizance order dated 04.09.2020 passed by the court of Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, (Munisif), Chadoora, Budgam on the ground that respondent had filed a similar complaint with respect to same batch of vermin-compost manufactured and distributed by same Company i.e, M/S Agro Care Organic Farm Private Limited, pending disposal in the court of Judge Small Causes, Srinagar and a person cannot be prosecuted twice for the same offence and two trials pertaining to same occurrence and offence is not permissible under law.

Their case set up by Advocate Areeb Javed is that they are employees of M/S Agro Care Organic Farm Private Limited Company involved in manufacturing of fertilizers, including Bio Fertilizers such as Vermi-com-

post (soil food). They sent an intimation to the respondents for taking samples of Vermi-compost from Batch No. AOF/105 received on 28.02.2016.

Their allegation is that the respondent did not take the sample for analysis in accordance with the procedure provided by Fertilizers Control Order, 1985 and seized the fertilizer from godowns of the Company located at Nowgam Bypass, Srinagar alleging that same was not according to the specifications of FCO of 1985.

Consequently, the complaint came to be filed by the respondents against the petitioners under Clause 19(a) of the FCO, 1985 read with Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and impugned cognizance was taken by trial court.

They have also assailed the impugned complaint and the impugned order of cognizance of trial court on the ground that in the absence of the company being an accused in the complaint, they cannot be prosecuted and held liable in their individual capacity in terms of Section 10 of EC Act.

According to them, they cannot be held responsible for the acts of the company as there is nothing in the complaint to show that they were in-charge and responsible for the conduct of the business of the company.

plaintant served a show cause notice to the said accused company and a bare perusal of the complaint would reveal that there is nothing to suggest the petitioners/accused persons, at any point of time, were responsible for the acts committed on behalf of the Company.

"There is nothing to indicate that petitioners are responsible for the business of the company. No doubt, the company being a corporate entity performs its functions through its officers including Chairman, Managing Director, Directors etc. However, it is trite position of criminal jurisprudence that no vicarious liability can be attached to said officers unless statute specifically provides so", Justice Rajesh Sekhri said.

"Multiple complaints by the same complainant against same accused or set of accused persons with respect to the same offence, involving cognizable or private complaint offences, will lead to abuse of process of law and takes away fundamental right to life and liberty of an individual guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Having regard to what has been observed and discussed hereinabove, the present petition is allowed and the impugned complaint as also impugned order dated 04.09.2020 passed by the trial court are quashed and consequently, the petitioners are discharged", court concluded.



Lt Governor with Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri.

President J&K Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad calls on Lt Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri, President, Jammu Kashmir Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here today.

Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri discussed with the Lt Governor various matters pertaining to preservation and promotion of the ancient vedic culture, teachings and traditions among the young generation. He apprised

the Lt Governor about the endeavours of his organisation in the fields of education and social welfare. He also put forth the demand of establishing a Shardaapeeth International University in J&K.

The Lt Governor while interacting with Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri said that the Government is committed to promote Indian knowledge tradition and access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive environment in the educational institutions.



AOC-in-C Western Command Air Marshal P M Sinha meeting Air personnel at Jammu on Saturday.

AOC-in-C visits Jammu, briefed on security

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Air Marshal P M Sinha, AOC-in-C Western Air Command, visited AF Station Jammu today. He was accompanied by Anita Sinha, President AFFWA (Regional). To promote the esprit de corps, a health run was organised with all air warriors of Station which was led by Air Marshal Sinha.

The AOC-in-C was briefed on the operational readiness of the Station and inspected all units. He appreciated the operational and security orientation of all Station personnel and exhorted all to maintain a high degree of readiness at all times. Mrs Sinha visited various ventures run by the station for welfare of the families of air-warriors. A meeting of all ladies of the station was also organised.

Plus 2 Lecturers' Forum highlights various issues, demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: All J&K Plus 2 Lecturers Forum held a meeting, here today under the presidium of R S Slathia and Pardeep Singh Rakwal wherein various burning issues of Plus 2 cadre were discussed at length.

While discussing the examination system, the meet decided to bring into the notice of J&K Board of School Education authorities to revise the remuneration charges of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and other supervisory staff engaged in various board examinations.

R S Slathia requested the board authorities to revisit rates of conduct of examination and paper evaluation so that justice is done with the lecturers. He expressed the hope that the new Chairman of JKBOSE, Prof Parikshat Singh Manhas, who is known for his dedication and passion, would address the issue of revising the age-old remuneration charges and paper evaluation rates.

Rakwal added that collection of question papers from Police stations, especially by the female lecturers should be done away.

The Forum expressed the

hope that issue of In-charge Lecturers including those who have acquired their PG degrees through Distance mode in Science from UGC/DEC recognised universities would be sorted out as the authority of granting permission was lying with DSEJ/DSEK at that point of time. The Forum sought the intervention of LG in the issue.

The Forum reiterated its demand of grant of ACP in favour of officers of Plus 2 cadre as this issue needs immediate attention and resolution in the larger interest of +2 family. It also demanded creation of the post of Vice Principal in all the Higher Secondary Schools of the Jammu and Kashmir. This step would help in promoting rich work culture in schools as Principals have multiple assignments including the one that they are cluster heads having scores of schools for inspection etc, it added.

The meeting was attended by Ghar Singh, Dr Ashok, Dr Sushma, Renu Langae, Parveen Akhtar, Sohan Singh, Gulam Nabi, Balkrishan Tickoo, Sudesh Kesar, R K Uppal, Rajeev Sharma, Yogeshwar, Susheel Kumar and others.

AJKPC reiterates demand for extension of existing PRIs' term

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 11: As announced earlier, the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference today kick started its block wise program from district Ramban wherein large number of local Panches, Sarpanches and senior functionaries of the organization under the leadership of AJKPC President Anil Sharma held an impressive program.

While addressing the gathering, Anil Sharma reiterated the demand of the AJKPC seeking extension of the existing term of the incumbent Panchayats stating that the elections of the Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir should be held only in the last quarter of year 2024 and the new Panchayats be commissioned in the first quarter of year 2025 as due to political turmoil in 2019 and then owing to COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021, lot of time of the existing Panchayats could not be utilized. Thus it is justifiable that the term of the existing Panchayat be extended till existence of the terms of the members of District Development Council, he added.

The AJKPC President alleged that there is a section in

bureaucracy which is hell bent to fail the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The local leaders of the AJKPC also raised the issue of non-payment of wages and honorarium to cooks of the School Education Department who prepare Mid Day Meal in the district Ramban and informed that they had not been given any money for months together. They also urged the AJKPC leadership to continue pressing the issue of sufferings of the Chowkidar cum Maali of the Rural Development Department.

The AJKPC president informed the gathering that the block wise awareness programs across Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory would continue for seven months and conclude on October 2, 2023 and from next week these program may continue in Kashmir division.

Prominent leaders of the AJKPC, who addressed the gathering, included Iqbal Katoch, Mohd Yousef Shan, Raj Singh Chib, Poonam Devi, Shabnam Lone, Manoj Kumar, Jia Lal, Shanviwaz Zargar, Shabir Ahamed, Dilawer Ali, Reyaz Ahamed and Zayed Ahmed Shaikh.