



# PARDESH BHUMI

Vol. 10, Issue No. 19, RNI No. JKENG/2012/44943, Postal Regd No. JK/474/19-21, Pages - 16, ₹ 2.00

## Black fungus declared as an epidemic disease in J&K

**Govt prohibits spread of any information or material for management of Mucormycosis without permission of DHSK/DHSJ; Violation of regulations to invite action under section 188/IPC**

**JAMMU**  
"Mucormycosis" commonly known as Black Fungus has been declared as an epidemic disease in J&K under the Epidemic Diseases Act-1897 in the Union Territory.

The order by the J&K administration comes days after the Union Territory reported its first death due to black fungus on Friday, when a 40-year-old Covid-19 recovered patient died of mucormycosis at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu.

As per press statement issued to mercury times, the Jammu and Kashmir administration also extended the COVID curfew, which was supposed to end on Monday, by another week till May 31 in all 20 districts of the Union Territory amid no letup in the number of fresh coronavirus cases and deaths.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sector 2 of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 (Act no 3 of 1897), the Lt Governor of the Union Territory of J&K hereby notify Mucormycosis as an epidemic," read an order issued by Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department, Atal Dulloo.

The order further said that all the government and private health facilities, medical colleges will follow the guidelines for screening, diagnosis, management of Mucormycosis, issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, as amended from time to time and make it mandatory for all these facilities to report suspected and confirmed cases to Health Department through District Level Chief Medical Officers and Integrated Dis-

ease Surveillance Program (IDSP).

"No person, institution or organization will spread any information or material for manage-



ment of Mucormycosis without prior permission from Director Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir," it added.

It further said that no person, institution or organization will use any print, electronic or any other form of media for Mucormycosis without prior permission from Director Health Services Jammu/Kashmir.

"The Director Health services Jammu/Kash-

mir will constitute a District Committee headed by Chief Medical Officer of the concerned district to review any disobeying by the person, institute

"Mucormycosis is not a new disease and neither it is contagious. We just need to avoid self medication like steroids, identify high risk patients and keep blood sugar under control," Dr Naveed said.

He said as per Head of the Department (HoD) Oral and Maxillofacial surgery GDC Srinagar they have already successfully operated one case of Mucormycosis in November 2020 and another strong suspect case admitted with them. "Both post COVID and diabetics," he added.

The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday warned against the irrational use of steroids in Covid-19 patients as this could trigger deadly black fungal infection. "Indiscriminate use of steroids can trigger deadly black fungal infection, called mucormycosis which has reached to epidemic pro-

portions in several states of the country," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan said.

Dr Hassan said steroids are life-saving drugs in severe Covid patients who have respiratory distress or need oxygen or ventilation. However, he said they are not indicated for those patients who are not having respiratory distress and are not having any kind of need for oxygen.

He said Recovery trial in the UK showed that steroids reduce the mortality in severe Covid-19 patients. But they increase the mortality when given to patients with mild disease. "We are seeing steroids being prescribed to patients with mild COVID disease," Dr Hassan said, adding people are using steroids on their own when they do not need them. (PR/DI)

## 'Awaam Ki Awaaz'

Kashmir FMPHW thanks LG Manoj Sinha for mentioning her in Radio Talk show 'Awaam ki Awaaz'

Says it is inspiring that our work is being recognized by LG himself

**SRINAGAR**  
A Female Multipurpose Health Worker (FMPHW), working at PHC Srigufwara, Murtaza Mohi-u-din Jan has thanked the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha for mentioning her name in monthly Radio Talk show 'Awaam ki Awaaz' and recognizing her work during the ongoing pandemic COVID-19.

Last week, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha dedicated monthly Radio talk show to corona warriors who are at the forefront in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic across the Union Territory and recognized their work and efforts they are putting in while dealing with the hard task of COVID-19.

During the programme, LG Sinha, shared some of the inspiring stories of good Samaritans and saluted their spirit and dedication towards human service.

Like other frontline healthcare workers (Nurses and paramedics), Murtaza Jan is at the forefront of this COVID-19 health crisis and is constantly managing both office work as well as home related responsibilities.

Murtaza Jan, who has been dealing with the COVID related work since the day of her appointment, said that it was heartening to hear that LG Manoj Sinha mentioned my name in Awaam ki Awaaz talk show and recognized my work.

"It was an amazing

feeling that I was approached by Lt Governor's office and he himself mentioned my name in the radio talk show and recognized my work", an elated Jan said. She added that it is inspiring that our work is being recognized by Lieutenant Governor himself.

Jan further says that despite catching Covid, she recovered and continued her work of testing as well as treating COVID patients.

Jan adds that CORONA is a very dreadful disease and appeals to the general public to follow covid appropriate behavior, follow proper SOPs and guidelines so that the chain of virus breaks and the spread of virus is contained. (PR/DI)

## Action against militants, their associates should continue: DGP to officers

**SRINAGAR**  
Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday chaired a high level security review meeting at Police headquarters in which he took stock of the security situation and also reviewed J&K police's response to 2nd wave of COVID-19.

The meeting was attended by Special DG CID, R.R. Swain, ADGP Headquarters, PHQ, Garib Dass, DIG Central Kashmir Amit Kumar, DIG SKR, Abdul Jabbar, DIG NKR, Sujit Kumar, AIG (P&T) Rajinder Gupta and SSP Srinagar Sandeep Choudhary.

According to a statement issued to mercury times, DGP while speaking on the occasion directed the officers to augment the security grids to further improve the safe and secure environment for the citizens.

He stressed that the action against the militants

and their associates should continue and all the suspicious elements should be kept under check so as to foil their ill designs aimed at disrupting normal lives of the people.

Underscoring the need for the proactive role of the law enforcing agencies, DGP has directed police officers to put in place effective measures for maintaining peace and order in coordination with other security forces.

Singh said that JKP along with other security forces has ensured rule of law after facing tough challenges and have succeeded in maintaining a sense of security among the people. He said that our efforts will continue to strengthen the peace in J&K.

DGP stressed the need of using all the technology and related tools to keep a check on the people who are misusing social media.

He directed that a mechanism must be put in place to identify and bring to book all the mischief mongers, who are found using the social media for anti-

national and anti-social activities.

He directed the field officers to take effective steps against the drug peddlers so that the menace of drug abuse is eradicated. DGP directed the officers to maintain close surveillance of such elements trying to disrupt the fast returning peaceful atmosphere and take all measures to neutralise such attempts. While reviewing the J&K Police response to 2nd wave of COVID-19, DGP stressed for implementing the government directives, advisories, besides assisting the administration to contain the spread of COVID-19.

He said that "we are in the critical phase and every possible effort is required to come out of it."

The senior officers briefed the DGP about the measures put in place for maintaining peace and order and ensuring security of the people.

DGP was also apprised regarding J&K Police's different measure in response to the COVID-19. (PR/DI)

## Avoid too much use of internet & digital devices

**C**ORONA Virus pandemic has brought a lot of changes in our daily way of life that we never thought of. In the second wave again school colleges and universities are closed. Lockdowns have been imposed. Children cannot go out and play and the dependence to entertain is all through digital devices, TV or internet. With this comes the concern of securing kids across all age groups on internet

If your child asks to watch videos and cartoons, try to engage kids with toys or blocks rather than shifting to screen. Plan daily activities with them to and make them learn about the basic of learning by showing real things at home like A- Apple, B - ball etc.

Create a separate profile/account on devices and platforms for your children. This will help keep a track of their online activities, and also keep them safe from inappropriate content. Instead of browsing videos on YouTube, use YouTube Kids, which shows only curated age appropriate content. You can use the app or even the desktop version.

To keep a check on screen time, one can use in-built features on your devices as well as apps. You can also create a family agreement, and chart out terms like no devices at the dinner table, or no games for more than one hours, as agreeable to all.

Learn about a new app or website together that will benefit all members of the family. This will help reinforce the idea of using technology productively, and not just for entertainment.

Engage in conversations with your child to understand what they do online. Building confidence and trust will help foster an environment, where they feel comfortable sharing their experiences, both good and bad.

All apps and platforms have set their own age limits. Make sure your child uses only those that are appropriate for their age. You can use parental controls to make sure they do not access inappropriate apps and content. If your child uses any social media platform, sit together with them and go through the community standards/guidelines of the platform. This will help them understand what content and behaviour is allowed on a platform and what is not. Encourage them to report anything that they may find inappropriate.

Remind your child about not accepting friend requests from people they may not know but have friends in common with. Also discuss that sometimes people are not always who they say they are online.

Talk about risks that they may face online, like grooming, bullying, stalking, etc. Children are often unaware of behaviour that may be wrong, let alone illegal. Sensitization will help the child understand when to say no and what they should report.

Watch movies, sports, news, web-series or gaming together as a family as a stress buster and an enjoyable bonding experience. But it may also be a good time for parents to recall and share almost lost traditions of storytelling, songs, word games or indoor games with children, who may be able to help them build their technological skills.

## How to draw a Corona Virus

**SURAVI SHARMA**

*It was in January last year that we all were introduced to the term social distancing. Back then the virus had seemed, to me at least, a threat unique to China. But soon the Americans were doing the same in a matter of weeks, and then a few other countries and it was already here at our doorstep. I never realised that the phrase would soon be joining so many others - community spread, an abundance of caution, flattening the curve. The growing realisation that like the days under lockdown last year, this time too I have no choice, has given me a panicky loneliness.*

The way this second wave is lapping at us makes me wonder if we came faced with this pandemic recently - a couple of weeks back? We're in a health emergency in spite of the lurking threat for over a year. Hadn't we had enough time for planning and preparation? If only we knew our priorities! Soon started the onslaught of social media posts about all the adorable quarantine activities that seemingly everyone was undertaking with their families - making cakes, cookies, re-enacting famous paintings for photography and, at times, virtual get-togethers and alumni meets. I took perverse pleasure in newspaper articles about China's spiking mental diseases, rising divorce rates, increasingly desperate dis-

patches from parents who had failed at home school. It was around this time last year my sons' school had moved to online learning, and shops and restaurants began to shutter. My kids, like all others I believe, suddenly found themselves sealed within the walls of their homes - no school, no sports, no outings. Both my sons, in their early teens, initially responded by immersing in the world of video games, and very soon started lamenting the impossibility of hanging out with friends. Last year, around this time of the year, when a dialysis patient walked in and came positive on the RT-PCR test for COVID in the hospital I work in, the hospital was marked a containment area. So along with a couple of others, I had to be quarantined for having examined his body fluids under microscope. I had no option but to lock myself in one of the rooms at home. I sat on the bed with my laptop; but did no constructive writing and, instead, ended up signing up for a free 15-day trial of NatureGlow and started watching YouTube stuff like how to wear your hair to bed, and developed a costly impulsive online shopping habit.

My husband had been taking a life-must-go-on approach to the virus, and was doing good getting engrossed in his work. His texts (we had to communicate through phone as I was locked up in a room for quarantine) were about why the media wasn't reporting on the bleakest epidemiological models, why a freight train's worth of tanks were heading up the

Himalayas to Indo-China border when the country is battling to hold its rickety health-care system? I would sip my coffee and text back in validation.

One evening after my quarantine days, a friend from school, Nayna in NYC, who had been complaining of a sore throat, was admitted to a hospital because she couldn't breathe. When I heard this, a sudden cold passed through my body. It was the first time I had been able to actually conceive of the disease that had been obsessing me for weeks now; and the first time, too, that I realised that we would - every single one of us - be intimately touched by it one way or the other. Now in 2021 spring, the virus began its exponential climb in India, worse in Delhi. We went into lockdown again.

The TV screen in front of me was filled with burning pyres in a certain crematorium in Delhi. Bodies burning in rows. Ambulances brought bodies and a sole man appeared in a PPE in the crematorium with a task of burning bodies placed on dozens of wooden pyres.

Every day or so I end up communicating with friends across the globe, listening to their tales of quarantine. It will be interesting to see, Nayna and I agreed when we last spoke, all the ways in which this contagion will bring us together or rip us apart.

*(The author is a doctor working in Moolchand Medicity, New Delhi, as a pathologist consultant and general manager. The views expressed are personal.)*

## Yudhvir Sethi distributes face masks, sanitizers at General Bus Stand Jammu

**PR NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Convener, Sewa Hi Sangathan, J&K today distributed face masks, sanitizers and disseminated information about Covid precautions and SOPs, at General Bus Stand Jammu. SHO Bus Stand Deepanker Manhas, Ashu Gupta, Roshan Sharma, Parven Kerni and Ajit Yogi accompanied the senior BJP leader. As per press statement issued to mercury times, Sethi said that he takes this as his responsibility and told that he has been continuously



engaged from the initial stage to provide essentials to the needy persons.

Sethi asserted that BJP is at forefront in tackling COVID-19 crisis in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. He said that BJP as an organization has been on the toes since the beginning of the Pandemic and taking every possible measure to ease the tough times being faced by the residents of our great Nation. The senior BJP leader maintained that the party workers were serving free ration, food, masks, sanitizers and other essential commodities to needy to mitigate the sufferings of poor people who got affected due to lockdown at different places of UT. "The way the people of the country have supported to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi presenting a new hope for the nation in its fight against the global crisis of Corona virus," he said.

Yudhvir also appealed to the people of J&K to get united and support Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UT Government's proactive measures to contain the spread of coronavirus contagion and strictly follow guidelines issued on various occasions. He also appealed to the people to come forward to donate ration and other essential items so that a large number of families, in distress, may be covered and provided ration items as an interim relief.

He also laid stress upon the party workers to ensure that ration, medicines and other necessary commodities are provided to needy persons, while maintaining personal hygiene and social distance.

## Director Horticulture inspects dev works in Dansal block

**JAMMU**

**Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, long with a team of experts and Chief Horticulture Jammu, today visited Dansal block to inspect last year's work including drilling of Borewells, area expansion works, pack houses, drip and sprinkler irrigation works.**

During the tour, some orchardists reported Mango and litchi fruit drop due to recent wind storm and requested director to address their problems.

Various techniques like use of anti-hail nets, low height high density plantation and making of Ambchuran from unripe fallen mango fruits was discussed in detail.

All precautions for COVID 19 pandemic were followed and no gathering was allowed during the tour. Horticulture Development officer Dansal, Sandeep Sharma was asked to gear up the process for the new plantation that is to be done in July August and incentive is Rs 50000 per hectare for the farmer.

(PR/DI)

## Navin Choudhary launches new E-Plant Clinics, "JMU KHETI" Brand

**Inaugurates LED Display Screen at Krishi Bhawan Jammu**

**Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, today launched e-Plant clinics in 5 uncovered districts of Jammu division.**

He formally launched these e-clinics in Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi and Poonch by handing over the USB microscopes and other related material to concerned Chief Agriculture Officer.

He outlined that this step will pave way to mitigate the insect pests, disease and deficiency problems of various agricultural crops.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary inaugurated an outdoor LED Display Screen in the premises of Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo besides launching JMU KHETI Brand.

Principal Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, said that this initiative taken by Agriculture Department will aid in educating the visiting farmers regarding various farmer friendly schemes and latest technological interventions in the field using audio visual mode.

He suggested uploading the daily subject wise display schedule on the departmental website so the farmers can attend the programme according to their need.

Director Agriculture Jammu, K. K. Sharma, informed that the department is operating

40 e-plant clinics in ten districts of Jammu division in coordination with main Plant Health Clinic, Directorate of Agriculture Jammu for technical back up.

He impressed upon the officers of depart-

ment and CABI to educate the farmers regarding adverse effects of indiscriminate use of pesticides and their residual effect.



ment and CABI to educate the farmers regarding adverse effects of indiscriminate use of pesticides and their residual effect.

Secretary formally launched the Brand 'JMU KHETI' under Project Brand promotion of area specific crops of hills of Jammu division. The officers apprised the Principal Secretary that area spe-

cial products like Saf-ron, Guchi, Honey, Raj-mash, Anardana, Kala Zeera, Turmeric etc will be provided bar coding after quality check by FASSI and ultimately linked with the big commercial stores and food chains for better marketing.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary directed the concerned to promote more brands on similar lines based upon product type like dairy, horticultural crops, vegetables etc. Those present on the occasion were Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, Joint Director (Inputs), B. D. Sharma, Joint Director (Farms), Rajinder Sharma, Joint Director (Mushroom & Apiculture Development), Iqbal Singh, Deputy Director Agriculture (Central), Plant Protection Officer, Agronomist Vegetable, Deputy Director Trainings, Chief Agriculture officers of all districts besides other senior officers. (PR/DI)

## Secretary Co-operatives inspects properties of erstwhile JAKFED at Jammu

**JAMMU**

**Secretary, Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgal, today visited various places in Jammu city and inspected the land and properties of erstwhile JAKFED.**

Secretary was accompanied by senior officers of Cooperative department.

Secretary said the land and properties of erstwhile JAKFED shall be utilized by the government in a productive and constructive way to benefit the general public optimally besides increasing government revenue. She was briefed about the present status of land and properties and other assets of the erstwhile JAKFED besides latest status of rented properties of the department.

During her visit at Transport Nagar and Amphalla Jammu,

Secretary inspected various sections of the buildings of erstwhile JAKFED including godowns, offices, buildings and shops. She directed the

officers to take necessary steps towards putting the properties of erstwhile JAKFED to productive public use by the government.



officers for proper maintenance of infrastructure, timely white wash and installation of proper sign boards declaring them as government property to ensure the same are not encroached upon. Later, Secretary visited Fruit Mandi Narwal Jammu and inspected allotted land property of JAKFED and directed the concerned

During the inspection, the staff members of the erstwhile JAKFED called on the Secretary and raised their issues including release of their pending salaries and retirement dues.

Secretary gave a patient hearing to the staff assuring due consideration to all the issues raised by them for redressal. (PR/DI)

## No case of Mucormycosis in district, situation being monitored on daily basis: DC Doda

*'Timing for partially permissible activities revised to 7am to 11am from tomorrow'*

**DODA**  
**Deputy Commissioner Doda Vikas Sharma, today said that the district administration and health care system is fully prepared to deal with black fungus, even as no case has been reported from any part of the district so far.**

Responding to media queries about the threat posed by Mucormycosis (Black fungus) amid Covid pandemic, here at media briefing, he said "At present no such case has been reported from the district and the situation is being monitored on daily bases. Mass awareness has been disseminated through social and other media about symptoms and precautions on the Mucormycosis epidem-



ic." He further added that the situation in the district is satisfactory and appreciated the role of frontline workers, NGOs and media persons for supporting administra-

tion in overall Covid-19 management in the district.

He briefed the media about the current Covid-19 situation, status of vaccination of target

groups, and preparedness of the health care system in the district to deal with Black fungus (Mucormycosis) epidemic. He informed that at present there are 1101 active covid cases out of

Panchayats, while staff has been deployed with one medical officer for five such centres. The beds are being mobilised and all centres shall be made functional in three to four days, he said.

He further informed that time for partially permissible activities in the district has been changed & new timing shall be 7am to 11am from tomorrow onwards.

On Vaccination, he added that there was no shortage of vaccination and the vaccination sites have been increased to facilitate the targeted age groups in getting their doses at nearest stations. "Moreover the vaccination camps have been shifted to the areas where the administration is receiving demand," he informed.

which only 64 are symptomatic. About setting up of Covid-19 care centres at Panchayat level, it was informed that locations for the same have been identified in all the 237

groups, and preparedness of the health care system in the district to deal with Black fungus (Mucormycosis) epidemic. He informed that at present there are 1101 active covid cases out of

Panchayats, while staff has been deployed with one medical officer for five such centres. The beds are being mobilised and all centres shall be made functional in three to four days, he said.

He further informed that time for partially permissible activities in the district has been changed & new timing shall be 7am to 11am from tomorrow onwards.

(PR/DI)

## Advisor Khan hails Union Ministry for adding two more disciplines at JK's Water Sports Centre

*Efforts afoot to make Jammu, Kashmir as countries' best water sports destinations*

**SRINAGAR**  
**Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved addition of two more water sports disciplines of Kayaking and Canoeing at the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE), Srinagar, which had earlier only facility for rowing.**

According to a communiqué issued by J&K Sports Council in this regard, this significant move is aimed at to encourage and facilitate the outstanding athletes of Jammu and Kashmir in these disciplines.

Pertinently, the J&K Sports Council and the UT government had initiated the request for addition of these sporting disciplines in the Centre.

The KISCE, which was launched in April 2021, after revamping facilities in the existing J&K Water Sports Academy in J&K shall now train athletes in

three disciplines instead of one.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, while hailing Center government for this significant decision, said, "The addition of Kayaking and Canoeing disciplines shall pave way for more impressive performances in international competitions such as the World Championships and the Asian Championships. The KISCE Water Sports Centre shall help in tapping and nurturing of athletes in two new disciplines enabling them to excel in the sport and represent India in world-class competition."

Farooq Khan expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju, for addition of these disciplines to the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence. He said that athletes are overwhelmed that they can get world class train-

ing in more disciplines under one roof.

Advisor said that with the addition of these two sporting disciplines there is scope for greater participation and this shall also draw sporting talent from all across the country. He praised the teams from UT administration and Ministry of Youth Affairs Government of India to make this possible.

Briefing about addition of two new disciplines, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, informed that the Sports Authority of India and the Sports Council will assess the requirements to implement training in newly added disciplines including coaching and equipment.

She said J&K abounds for water bodies and facilities shall be added to other places in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions to make it countries' best water sports destinations.

Earlier, welcoming the

decision, Secretary General, Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association, Prashant Khushwaha, said, "We are thankful to the Centre Government for this decision. Kayaking, Canoeing and Rowing together have a total of 63 medals in the Olympics.

If we can provide training to youngsters in these disciplines then India's medal haul in the Olympics can go up significantly.

He also added that Kashmir is a very strategic location for the KISCE academy as the weather matches with European countries where most competitions are held and this will only strengthen the chances of our athletes to contend for the Olympic and world title. Meanwhile, all the sports enthusiasts of J&K have termed this decision as a significant development as far as augmenting sports infrastructure in J&K is concerned. (PR/DI)

## Special Covid vaccination drive for 18-45 age group to start in J&K from today

**PB NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** A special vaccination drive to cover high-risk and vulnerable groups in the 18-45 age category would begin in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, initially from eight districts having a higher case count and COVID-19 positivity ratio, an official spokesman said.

The drive would be extended to the rest of the 12 districts once the supply of vaccines increases, the spokesman said as chief secretary B V R Subrahmanyam finalized the rollout of the special vaccination drive at a high-level meeting here. The spokesman said the rollout would begin in Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Srinagar districts of Kashmir, and Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur districts of Jammu.

The spokesman said the target groups



have been identified considering their risk assessment and vulnerability to the disease. "It was directed that as a part of the special vaccination drive, additional dedicated vaccination centres are established for centralized and fast-tracked coverage of all identified beneficiaries after proper verification," the spokesman said. He said the chief secretary directed the Law Department to organize two days' special vaccination drives at High Court complexes and district courts to vaccinate all lawyers.

The Information Department was directed to organize similar vaccination drives for journalists at twin Directorates of Jammu and Kashmir, while the Tourism Department was asked to hold such drives at district offices concerned to cover stakeholders associated with the tourism industry, the spokesman said. He said the transport department was asked to hold the drives for truck, bus, taxi and autorickshaw drivers at respective regional and assistant regional transport offices, while the Higher Education Department will coordinate vaccination of teaching and non-teaching faculty at campuses. Similarly, the spokesman said the departments of Labour and Housing and Urban Development were directed to organize centralized vaccination drives at suitable places to cover all construction workers, and shopkeepers, vendors and dhaba workers, respectively. For the target group comprising government employees on Covid duty or in active field offices- viz employees of Public Health Engineering, Power Development Department; people with disabilities; widows or single mothers; orphans; and persons with comorbid conditions, the Deputy Commissioners concerned were directed to mobilize identified beneficiaries towards existing vaccination centres on priority, the spokesman said.

## Covid-19 positivity rate declined from 11.4 % to 8 %: DC Gbl

**Briefs media on Covid containment measures in the district**

**GANDERBAL**  
The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna during a press briefing today revealed that the Covid-19 positivity rate has declined from 11.4 percent to 8 percent in the district.

Giving details on the status of tests conducted across the district during this week, she said that over 9500 tests were conducted this week, and the trajectory of the positivity rate has shown decline in the district which is a positive development.

Elaborating on the status of Vaccination campaign in the district, the DC said that 99 percent of vaccination of people above 45 years of age is

completed and appealed the rest to get vaccinated at the earliest adding that sufficient doses of vaccination are available in the district.

Regarding Corona cur-

adhering to Covid-19 SOPs and guidelines as ordered in the district and said that it has proved instrumental in bringing down the positivity rate in the district.



few, Jyotsna said that corona curfew stands extended till 31st May, 2021 and complemented the general public for

She also briefed on the screening and testing of persons coming from Kargil at Sonamarg and said that one check post

## Covid warrior Som Raj works day & night in Housekeeping section of GMC Rajouri

*'Service done in pandemic is biggest service to mankind'*

**RAJOURI**  
Notwithstanding his nearly retiring age and family expectations, Som Raj, Incharge house-keeping in Government Medical College, is working day and night to ensure that tasks on his shoulders for treatment of COVID patients are met well before time.

Som Raj is not only looking after the house-keeping related responsibilities in Government Medical College and Associated Hospital Rajouri but is also assisting authorities in the management of COVID patients admitted in the isolation ward.

"We have our own set of tasks drawn under the category of house-keeping, but this is the time when everyone needs to work beyond routine jobs," said Som Raj.

He said that the housekeeping staff and private security personnel in the medical college are also assisting authorities in the transporta-

tion of oxygen cylinders, shifting of patients and ambulance services, duty following the safety

ny the ambulance driver, wearing safety gear, for shifting the COVID patient from home to



protocols and Covid SoPs.

"I ferry dozens of oxygen cylinders from the isolation ward to the cylinder bank on a daily basis," said Som Raj and added that he also shifts patients at a time when their attendants maintain a distance.

In some circumstances, I even accompa-

ny the ambulance driver, wearing safety gear, for shifting the COVID patient from home to

hospital or carrying the body of a patient, who dies in an isolation ward. "Services rendered during this pandemic when people are maintaining distance from their family members is the biggest service to mankind and I am working on this principle only" Som Raj added.

(PR/DI)

## Testing, vaccination key tools to fight Covid-19: Dr. Geetanjali

**SAMBA**  
The key to covid-19 control lies in intensive testing and vaccination in each block, each village and a sustained hope for encouraging result of relentless work, says Dr. Geetanjali Rajput, posted at a covid



testing centre in district Samba.

Dr. Geetanjali Rajput, Nodal officer for covid-19 testing at Bassi Kalan, Block Purmandal, knows the fear of working in such circumstances, and it makes no less of her in exhibiting compassion towards visiting patients to her center. "It's a human touch to every problem that resolves most tedious and tangled situations," said Dr Geetanjali.

"Sampling of persons suspected to carry infection doesn't stop us from taking care of their well being.

We have kept tents, chairs, air coolers, masks, sanitizers, made provision of social distancing as we want them to return with a pleasant experience and encourage others to visit the center to take test and facilitate breaking the chain of transmission" said the Doctor.

"District administration Samba has fully supported us in keeping this testing center functional and we have been provided with adequate PPE Kits, Masks, Gloves, Faceshields and Sanitizers to protect ourselves," Dr. Geetanjali informed.

She opined that testing is primary tool for combating covid-19 spread, as intensive testing can break the chain, help isolate and provide early medical interventions for positive cases.

"We conduct both RTPCR and Rapid antigen test in this Centre. The People come early morning as temperature soars mid-day here, so we start registration and sampling side by side as it saves waiting period" the Doctor said while explaining how due care is being taken to ensure convenience of the visitors.

She said on testing positive the person is provided covid kit containing oximeter, thermometers, masks, do's and don'ts and other check list provided by health and medical department, also provide him available ambulance to ensure he stays in isolated room in home quarantine or taken to covid care centre.

When asked about workload, she said it is a part of duty to be patient and show empathy towards the patients, but I believe only diamonds can shine and sustain under high pressure and that is what motivates me to me to keep going. (PR/DI)

## Director Horticulture (P&M) visits Parimpora Mandi *Highlights the importance of E-nam*

**SRINAGAR**  
**Director Horticulture (P&M) Vishesh Mahajan today visited Fruit & Vegetable Market Parimpora where he had a detailed review of developmental activities and also interacted with the trading community. He was accompanied by officers of the department.**

Director took a tour of the mandi where he gave on the spot instructions for a number of issues that were brought to his notice.

He instructed that the water logging issue should be addressed without delay and the concerned were directed to act upon issue immediately. He also

instructed engineering wing of the department to take on war footing the macdemisation of mandi link roads.

He stressed upon need to have modern waste disposal mechanism in the shape of a segregation machine installed in the mandi periphery to segregate and convert the waste into compost. He also advised all the stake holders to maintain hygienic environment in the mandi.

Director visited the site of a huge Controlled Atmosphere (CA) store coming up in the mandi which according him will be of extreme help to the traders in mandi.

A number of issues were raised by the members of Fruit Association during the

meeting with Director Horticulture (P&M) who assured them of

traders to enroll themselves on e-NAM portal for their trading prac-

is going to be the future for trading.

Director

about the development activities that the department was undertaking for the further improvement of the infrastructure in the Mandi that would enable the trading community to carry their business with more ease.

Fruit Association president and other members thanked Director Horticulture (P&M) for the visit and for the immediate redressal of the issues they raised with him. They assured him of full support in all those endeavours that the department will undertake for the benefit of farming and trading community. They also pledged to start the trading on E-nam from this season. (PR/DI)



speedy redressal.

Director stressed upon growers and

benefits of trading on E-nam which he claimed

Horticulture (P&M) was apprised by officers of the department

## Strengthen district hospitals to shun load from GMCs, SKIMS: Kavinder Gupta *Seeks tech staff for rational use of 'PM Fund' ventilators*

**JAMMU**

There is dire need to strengthen the health edifice at the district hospitals to lessen the mounting pressure on the GMCs in Jammu and Srinagar, and SKIMS Soura due to unprecedented surge in the coronavirus cases.

This was said by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta while addressing media persons here on Saturday. Arvind Gupta, State Secretary and Naresh Singh, Vaccine Incharge, J&K, were also present.

As per press statement issued to mercury times, the Senior BJP leader said that government should not waste even a jiffy in ramping up the healthcare facilities in the peripheral hospitals to alleviate gigantic amount of stress on the premier health institutes in Jammu and Srinagar on account of second wave of the lethal virus Corona.

Taking up the issue of number of ventilators including those procured under PM Cares Fund lying defunct in GMC&H Jammu, the BJP stalwart said that immediate steps should be taken to appoint the requisite technical staff in the hospital to bring to life these 'dead' equipments having potential to save lives of the patients.

He said that authorities' in-

difference in utilizing these life saving equipments during the hour of crisis is not at all justified and things should be rectified as soon as possible.

"Dearth of senior doctors could be addressed by requesting those medicos who are superannuating in the coming months to offer voluntary services till December 2021 to supplement the workforce and help surmount the biggest challenge the humans are facing in over last hundred years", he said, adding that thinking out of box can only bring some respite from the prevailing tense situation due to inception of the second wave of corona pandemic.

Kavinder, however, said that there is urgency before the government to make fast track recruitment of doctors and paramedical staff to cater to the needs of the people looking into the dangers involved in probable third wave of this ruthless virus which has already wreaked havoc in UT of J&K and elsewhere.

"The new appointments are also required because all of the retiring medicos cannot render services under such stressful times because with age many of them are also facing co-morbidities", he said, adding that new recruitment is the need of the hour.

Raising a valid point,

Kavinder asked the government to revisit the decision to give annual Rs. 25,000 incentive to 'Move' employees of the Secretariat this summer, as most of them are not moving anywhere due to COVID restrictions and the gargantuan amount of over Rs 130 crore saved by this decision can be used to clear the pending dues of NHM health workers who are working day and night in the wake of COVID by risking their lives.

Claiming that a large number of doctors are getting salaries for doing nothing during these emergent times as they are attached, Kavinder said that a comprehensive exercise should be carried out to place all such medicos in health facilities which are facing dearth of doctors right now.

Raising another vital issue of making masses aware about the necessary guidelines and SOPs to be followed during the Corona times, the former Deputy Chief Minister asked the government to also rope in Doordarshan for imparting awareness as newspapers and FM radio's outreach is only upto cities.

He demanded that at least one hour slot should be used by the J&K on DD to disseminate information on COVID-19, Black Fungus and other diseases whose threat is looming large.

(PR/DI)

## DC Kishtwar briefs media on Covid Care Scenario in the district

*Establishment of 5 bedded COVID care centres going on the war footing basis in each Panchayat*

**KISHTWAR**

**Amid the 2nd wave of the COVID19, for the first time due to the strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs, the positivity rate has started to decline in the district, stated Deputy Commis-**

The DC further informed that at presently there are 388 active positive cases in the district whereas 604 patients have recovered so far.

He said that aggressive testing mechanisms has been placed in which includes RTPCR @ 50-100 per day and RAT @700-800 per day in the district to detect the positive patients besides he reiterated that district administration has enhanced infrastructure with better healthcare facilities in the district to save the lives of people.



**sioner (DC) Kishtwar Ashok Sharma today here during a press brief at Conference Hall DC office Complex Mini secretariat Kishtwar.**

On the occasion, the DC said that the situation is gradually improving however people have to stick to Covid-19 SOPs for further improvement in the situation.

With regard to availability of Oxygen in the district, the DC informed that 361 filled cylinders are available in the district hospital and the supply is being continuously monitored by the concerned. Giving details on the positive cases in home isolation and their care, the DC said that the 499 Medical Kits containing essential medicines have been provided to patients at home isolation besides proper follow up of positive patients is a routine.

In order to strengthen Covid care and isolation facilities in rural areas, the work of establishing the Covid care center with a capacity of 5 beds with one oxygen supported bed at every Panchayat is going on at the war footing basis informed the DC.

About 67% of the population above 45 years of age have been vaccinated and the left out population will be inoculated in a sweep mode at panchayat level, he added. He appealed to people for the cooperation and urged for sticking to the precautionary measures for containment of the disease. He advised people to strictly follow the SOPs and guidelines issued by the administration so that spread of this disease is curtailed and added that by collective efforts we will overcome this situation. (PR/DI)

## Yudhvir, DDC Chairman visit Covid hospital, vaccination centre; take stock of healthcare facilities

PB NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU

**Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Sewa Hi Sangathan in-charge, J&K, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, DDC Chairman Jammu and Omi Khajuria, State President Kisan Morcha visited Covid Hospital at Bhalwal and took stock of the healthcare facilities being provided to the people besides reviewing the ongoing vaccination drive at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bhalwal here today.**

Addressing media persons, as per press statement issued to mercury times, after concluding the visit J&K, the BJP Vice President said that he along with the DDC chairman had a detailed interaction with the staff working at the Covid Hospital as well as the vaccination centre at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Bhalwal. He added that he also enquired from the people there about the facilities at these health institutions.

Yudhvir expressed satisfaction over

### 'Prevention better than cure'; HoD Medicine GMC Jammu

JAMMU

Head of Medicine at Government Medical College & Hospital, Dr Vijay Kundal has said, "The age old adage 'prevention is better than cure' has the greatest relevance to Covid-19 infection as there is no better protection against it than to adopt Covid appropriate behaviour." The appropriate behaviour, he explained, includes wearing a mask, frequent hand sanitisation and keeping social distance and avoiding crowded places. As per press statement issued to mercury times, the doctor reiterated the government's instructions of going out only if necessary, self hygiene, wearing a mask and avoiding crowds. He also requested the people to 'teach social distancing to others around'. Timely vaccination is another major defence against the virus, he added. So what if one is already infected, To this, the doctor said, "Still there is no need to panic as most of the Covid cases fall under the mild category who recover easily. Such people develop symptoms like cough and cold". They should immediately iso-

late themselves and eat healthy food, he advised. Elaborating further, Dr Kundal said that Covid patients without any comorbidity recover easily in most of the cases. 'In



any case', he reminds, 'if one's oxygen saturation level falls below 94 percent, the patient, whether comorbid or not, should immediately consult a doctor'.

The Head of Department warned against self medication, use of anti-coagulants and steroids without a doctor's prescription and said the Steroids are 'two edged swords'.

'On one hand they help Covid patients, and on the other they may weaken one's immunity', said Dr Kundal.

Dr Kundal suggested taking the Six Minute Walk Test, a rudimentary exercise to judge if one needs medical help or not. In the test, the subject walks for six minutes, and if his oxy-

gen saturation level falls, either by three percent or below 94, it is time to consult a doctor. Such patients must lie in a prone position to restore oxygen saturation quickly, he advised.

In prone-position the patient is made to lie facing down, with arms bent comfortably at the elbow and positioned forward.

In any case, if Covid symptoms persist even after four to five days, one must immediately seek medical help. 'Please do not delay hospitalization. Many of Covid deaths are due to delay in reporting by the patients', informs Dr Kundal.

The public is informed that all Covid-related queries and doubts can be cleared on helpline number 0191 2571616. Public can also call the Divisional Control Room at 0191-2520982, 2549676, 2674444, 2674115, 2674908. Moreover, J&K Government has started a live phone-in health programme on Gulistan channel which is aired twice daily- from 8:30 am to 9 am and 8:30 pm to 9 pm and can be reached through the Divisional Control Room numbers. (PR/DI)

the fact that that the facilities including treatment and other services being provided there were fully in conformity with the detailed briefing provided by the staff there.

He said that the doctors and ancillary staff were relentlessly working to ensure the best possible management in the aforesaid COVID hospital.

The BJP leader said that the vaccination drive at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bhalwal was also going on smoothly and the services being provided there were quite satisfactory. After listening to the attendants of patients patiently during his interaction with them, Sethi thanked them for extending overwhelming support and cooperation during the ongoing crisis be it COVID-19 vaccination campaign or other related activities.

He said that with the proactive efforts of the Union Territory Administration coupled with people's cooperation it has been possible to achieve higher percentage of vaccination in J&K as compared to the national average. However, the vaccination campaign for the people in the age group of

18 to 45 years for which the government stands fully committed, is being paced up on priority basis.

Appealing to people to ensure their vaccination by visiting the vaccination centres, Sethi said that despite tough conditions amid unprecedented pandemic the administration is leaving no stone unturned in addressing the situation and people must continue to cooperate fully in making government's efforts successful.

The DDC Chairman, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi said that being committed to serve the society BJP has fanned out its workers and activists' right upto the grass roots level. He appealed to the people to desist from coming out of their homes unless there is some utmost urgency besides asking them to sacredly adhere to the

COVID-19 SOPs and precautions announced by the government from time to time.

Later, the BJP leader along with DDC Chairman distributed face masks and sanitizers during a camp organized by the party workers at Bhalwal.

Among others who were present include Ashok Kerni, Mandal President, State General Secretary KM Rohit Verma, Dr Yagyab Dutt Sharma State General Secretary KM, Vijay Sharma State Media Secretary KM, Vijay Bhagat SC Morcha Block President, Babu Ram Bhagat, Parbhari, Ankit Sharma General Secretary, Ajay Sharma, Narinder Singh Lachhu, Raman Dharoch, Balwant Singh Vice President, Mandal Secretary Sanjeev and others.

### Jugal Kishore MP boosts moral of Covid positive patients at SDH Bishnah

Jugal Kishore MP visited SDH-Covid Hospital at Bishnah

PB NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU

**Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu Poonch Constituency today visited Sub-District Covid Hospital Bishnah and boosts moral of Covid-19 positive patients, also took stock of arrangements for Covid-19 Positive patients. He also visited Covid Care Center established by Bharatiya Janata Party Workers at Bishnah and installed Oxygen Concentrators at Covid Care Center at Bishnah in Bishnah Assembly Constituency.**

As per press statement issued to mercury times, Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament visited Sub-District Covid Hospital at Bishnah and took stock of arrangements made for Covid-19 positive patients at SDH Bishnah. He also paid visit to Covid Care Center established at Radha Swami Satsang Ghar at Bishnah by Bharatiya Janata Party workers and equipped it with Oxygen facility by dedicating Oxygen Concentrators at Covid Care Center at Bishnah.

Member of Parliament

while speaking at the occasion said SDH Bishnah is designated as Covid Hospital at Bishnah and having all the facility to cure Covid-19 positive patients. He while interacting with Covid-19

ing difficult hours.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that BJP Government in Center under the stewardship of Honourable Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji is working hard to fight



positive patients and their attendants enquired about the facility and care provided to them. They were satisfied with the treatment and facility provided by administration and staff. Jugal Kishore while visiting covid care center at Bishnah said that this 25 bedded Covid Care Center is established by Bharatiya Janata Party workers and will be run by collective efforts of administration also.

He said that this Covid Care Center can also utilized by Covid-19 positive patients who do not have enough arrangements to quarantine themselves at their homes. He said that Oxygen Concentrators dedicated to the Covid Care Center will meet the requirement of the patients may needed dur-

with second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and Lieutenant Governor of J&K (UT) Sh. Manoj Sinha is also taking major steps to fight with the conditions aroused due to out break of Second Wave. Ashwani Sharma Ex-MLA Bishnah and BDC Member Surjit Kumar thanked Member of Parliament for his support in needy time and ensure him that they will provide best help to Covid-19 positive and also Non Covid patients of their area. Block Medical Officer Rakesh Mangotra, Tehsildar Sohan Rana, Councillor Jai Bharat, Sarpanch Padam Dev Singh, Vijay Saini, Kuldeep Sodhi, Prem Pal, Surinder Singh, Shamsher Singh, Rajkumar Panch were also present at the occasion.

## ***J&K Biodiversity Council Observes International Biodiversity Day*** **Jammu University mulling establishment of Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity, Seed Bank**

**JAMMU**  
**J&K Biodiversity Council today observed International Day for Biological Diversity by organizing a webinar with the theme "We're part of the solution#For-Nature".**

The event was organized with University of Kashmir and University of Jammu as knowledge partners.

Former IAS officer and Chairman, Advisory Board Smart City for Jammu and Srinagar, Keshav Varma, was the chief guest while Commissioner Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, was the guest of honor on the occasion.

As per press statement issued to mercury times, Keshav Varma shared his experience on benefit of alliance of partners to achieve convergence and direction for biodiversity conservation.

He cited the example of Global Tiger Recovery Program wherein 13 countries, 65

NGOs joined hands for Tiger Conservation. He expressed serious concern over threats of unplanned urbanization. He highlighted the importance of high mountain ecology, high altitude wetlands and need for conservation of biodiversity and ecology of these areas besides stressing the need for monetization of biological resources.

He spoke on Singapore model of Urban Development and need to learn from it. He also shared his experience of Sabarmati River Front Project and appreciated the e-launch of awareness materials and newly created webpage by the J&K Biodiversity Council on the occasion and advised for reaching out to youth at country level for bright ideas and updation on use of this important wealth of knowledge.

Sanjeev Verma highlighted the role of Biodiversity Council in providing foundation for steering path of sustainable development. He elaborated the role of different agencies and departments especially

the Biodiversity Council who should involve all Universities, Institutions and adopt an integrated approach for Biodiversity Conservation.

He advised the Council to meet frequently and lay out goals for achieving the objectives of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Vice Chancellor, Jammu University Professor Manoj Dhar, Dean Kashmir University and other dignitaries briefed about activities of Biodiversity Council. They informed on constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers and future plans of the council.

Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo highlighted the importance of glacial biodiversity, high mountain ecology and need for its documentation and conservation.

Professor Manoj Dhar gave a detailed description of Biodiversity of India and deliberated upon issues and challenges on biodiversity

conservation at all levels. He advocated addressing gaps in conservation, giving importance to field work, creation of awareness etc.

He also informed that Jammu University is in process of establishing Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and establishment of seed bank.

Earlier, the Biodiversity Council conducted competitions on 'Painting on Biodiversity of J&K'; Essay writing on 'How Biodiversity is important for all species including human beings'; (for students) and competition on 'Innovative ways of creating awareness on Biodiversity Conservation in BMCs' (for staff of Forest Department).

B.V Umadevi, Additional Secretary Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, announced the name of winners of these competitions. She also launched the E-library of books written by Om Parkash Vidyarthi, former PCCF.

The event was attended by

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council, Dr. Mohit Gera, Roshan Jaggi, APCCF, Suresh Kumar Gupta Chief Wildlife Warden, Veteran Forest Officers Lal Chand, Former PCCF, Dr. C.M Seth, Former Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Sh. O.P Sharma, former PCCF and Member Secretary SBB, Dr. Yash Pal Sharma, Deptt. of Botany, Jammu University, Dr. Anzar A. Khuroo, Asst. Prof. Kashmir University, Nadeem Qadri, Environmental Lawyer & Activist, Sh. Nazir-Be-Nazir, who also shared their views on the theme of the event.

The program was also attended by concerned senior officers and other dignitaries besides members of 8 Biodiversity Management Committees from across Jammu and Kashmir and frontline staff of Forest Department who shared their views on functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees and creation of awareness. (PR/DI)

## **Agri dept, JKHPMC committed to safeguard farmers interests: Director Agriculture/ MD JKHPMC**

**SRINAGAR**  
**Amid lockdown and lack of availability of regular marketing facilities, the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with JK HPMC has started a special drive wherein the JKHPMC shall procure the vegetable and other agriculture produce directly from these farmers and market it in and outside of the union territory.**

As per press statement issued to mercury times, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal reiterated the commitment to provide vegetable growers and other farmers with marketing facilities for their produce for which a memorandum of understanding between the directorate of Agriculture Kashmir and J&K Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation JKHPMC Ltd has been introduced to boost di-

rect linkage between the farmers and the markets.

While starting this initiative, JKHPMC procured 60 quintals of potato from Tulail Bandipora and in a visit to organic vegetable cluster Patal Bagh Pulwama where 1200 kanals have been brought under cultivation of Peas and JKHPMC is ready to facilitate the marketing of the produce from the said area.

During the visit, the Director said this initiative is going to eliminate the exploitation of farmers by mediators and commission agents and will fetch more income for their produce which is the ultimate goal of the Department.

He said the department along with JKHPMC is trying to make this entire process easy, farmer friendly and more attractive so that more and more farmers get benefited by the this exercise.

MD JKHPMC, Shafat Sultan while expressing his views said that the Corporation is taking all the necessary steps to trade/market fresh and dried vegetables both within and outside J&K. The corporation is trying to explore more marketing options for the vegetable and other agriculture products of the union territory, he said and added. (PR/DI)

## **Advisor Baseer Khan asks for ensuring 24\*7 power supply to vital installations**

**SRINAGAR**  
**Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, today convened an officers meeting to review functioning of Power Development Department (PDD).**

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer KPDC and Chief Engineer KPTCL Kashmir besides Chief Engineer Projects and Procurement Kashmir and other concerned officers.

As per press statement issued to mercury times, Advisor Baseer Khan took stock of progress on various centrally sponsored schemes like RAPDRP, IPDS, DDUIJY and PMDP besides assessing the status of inspections, metering, transmission and power generation.

While reviewing physical and financial progress on CSSs, Advisor directed the concerned officers to remove all the bottlenecks and Right of way (RoW) issues so as to speed up the execution of these projects. He also asked the officers

### **KULGAM**

A meeting of District Planning Committee (DPC) members was today held here at mini-secretariat Kulgam for approval of the district plan for the year 2021-22.

The meeting was attended by District Development Council Chairperson, Mohammad Afzal Parry, Vice Chairperson, Shazia Jan and other PRI members.

Besides ADC, ACD, ACR, CPO, Ex. Engineers and other concerned officers participated in the meeting. As per press state-

ment issued to mercury times, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat highlighted the importance and significance of the District plan for the development of the district. He said that the plan has been formulated by active participation and involvement of DDCs, BDCs and PRI members. The DC also added that PRIs have an instrumental role in development and implementation of Developmental programmes. Later Proposal for approval of District Plan for year 2021-22 was

laid for approval and District Planning Committee approved the Plan of Rs. 537.99 crore for year 2021-22 which will set impetus to developmental scenario of the district. On the occasion, the District Development Council Chairperson, Mohammad Afzal Parry extended his full support to district administration for the development of the district. He also applauded and complimented district administration for their efforts and measures put in place to combat Covid-19 pandemic. (PR/DI)

Advisor further directed for intensifying inspections in all districts to curb the menace of power theft and illegal connections.

Chief Engineer, Transmission informed that the department is endeavoring increase in transmission capacity by additional 600 MVA bringing the total to 2800 MVA by the year end. This year the department has peaked its capacity which is further being augmented and it is for the first time that the department is all set to almost double the capacity.

Advisor was also informed that the upcoming projects expected to be completed within 6 months at 220 KV level included augmentation of grid station Mirbazar from 320 MVA to 475 MVA.

Also augmentation of 220/132 kv grid station Delina from 320 MVA to 4800 MVA will also be done by way of utilising spare transformers of grid station Mirbazar. (PR/DI)



## ROB J&K & PIB Jammu organizes Webinar on 'Preparedness of Jammu District in Handling Second Wave of Covid19'

**JAMMU**  
**Regional Outreach Bureau, J&K in coordination with Press Information Bureau, Jammu, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India organized a webinar today on "Preparedness of Jammu District in Handling Second Wave of Covid19" by involving Jammu administration and some prominent doctors of Jammu district.**

The webinar completely focused on the preparedness of Jammu district to tackle the second wave & the importance of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the masses so that there would be decrease in

the number of Covid19 cases and deaths in coming days.

In his welcome address, Sh. Shahid Mohamad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, said that the biggest aim of conducting these webinars is to send positive vibes among masses using the officials from District Administration & Health and Medical Education so that the people don't panic & strict themselves to the Covid19 appropriate behaviour. He further said that when the whole country is reeling under Covid19 second wave, the Government along with the frontline warriors is doing its best to stop its spread by creating an awareness using social media and other platforms & by vaccinating people across the country.

In his address,

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Satish Sharma gave an overview of the preparedness of Jammu district to tackle the second wave of Covid19 and said that the necessary facilities have been ramped up, be that the COVID-19 beds, oxygen availability at GMC Jammu and it's associated hospitals. He further said that the Jammu administration along with the health department is on toes, working days and nights, has geared up to equip all the hospitals with the necessary Covid19 facilities. The COVID-19 helpline has been started in Jammu district for all the assistance during this pandemic and there is no compromise whatsoever in handling these crisis.

Dr. Sonjogita

Soodan, Health Officer, Municipal Corporation, Jammu said that JMC is neck to neck with the district administration and health department to tackle this second wave of Covid19 and the need of the hour is an integrative approach to curb this pandemic.

Besides officers of the district and students, Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Media and Communications Officer, PIB Jammu, Shiekh Mudasir Amin, In charge Field Outreach Bureau, Rajouri, Gurnaam Singh & other officers of Ministry of I&B across the country were also present.

The Webinar was moderated by Shri Vijay Matoo, in charge Field Outreach Bureau, Kathua. (PR/DI)

## Only BJP cadre visible on ground to help people: Balbir

**PB NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU: It is most unfortunate that the opposition parties have crossed all limits of inhumanity and indulging in cheap politics when the nation is passing through tough times due to COVID-19.**

In a handout, Jammu and Kashmir, B J P, Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that politics should not be above nation and every citizen, irrespective of his or her political affiliation, should come forward and support the government in its initiatives in times of crisis but the present situation has seen total negative role of political parties.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that besides volunteers of some social and non political organisations, only BJP cadre is seen on ground.

The BJP leaders, alongwith their local cadre, are providing masks, sanitizers, food items, donating blood and plasma, establishing COVID care centres, visiting hospitals to enquire about the facilities given to the infected people, regularly, interacting with the hospital authorities and replying queries of the people through Helpline numbers at District, Mandal and Ward levels.

The two Members of Parliament, Union MoS, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, are working round the clock to ensure that the demand of required medicines, oxygen, ventilators etc is fulfilled at the earliest in their constituencies.

They are in regular touch with the administration as well as the people but none from Congress and other parties are seen any where, who are only busy in politics of criticism.

"BJP has always worked on the principle of Nation First, Party Second and Self Last", Balbir said and added that whenever it comes on the nation and the welfare of the people, every activist comes out to contribute in best possible way without caring for own safety.



## GMC Kathua self sufficient in O2 needs: Principal

**120 B-Type, 346 D-type Oxygen Cylinders kept as buffer; supply to Samba, Jammu being made through Pvt Source**

**KATHUA**  
**The establishment of 2250 LPM Oxygen Generation Plant has helped the Government Medical College, Kathua to become self sufficient in Medical Oxygen needs.**

As per the concerned officials, prior to this, the medical oxygen dependency of the healthcare units in the district, including Government Medical College, Kathua was on private suppliers functioning in Industrial Estate, Kathua.

Following the fresh surge in Covid-19 cases, the District Administration started the installation work of 2250 LPM capacity OGP on war footing and also took administrative control of production and distribution of private installation M/S Kay Kay Gases to streamline the availability of Oxygen Cylinders to Covid Hospitals in line with the instructions of the Government, they said.

Responding to the sudden rise of Covid-19 cases, the district Administration constituted a team headed by Nodal Officer Sandeep Dubey ( Functional Manager, District Industries Centre, Kathua) to station at Kay Kay Gases 24x7 to oversee the arrangements for distribution of Oxygen Cylinder to Covid Care Hospitals as per priority in coor-

dinated manner. As per the Data provided by Nodal Officer, Kay Kay Gases supplied 1025 cylinders to GMC Jammu, 2330 cylinders to GMC Kathua, 3193 cylinders to K K Gupta Hospitals, 350 to ASCOMS, 75 cylinders to District Hospital Samba, 30 Cylinders to Military Hospital Satwari, 102 Cylinders to CHCs/ SDHs of Kathua district besides 52 cylinders to 2 Control Rooms in Jammu from 30th April to till date.

Principal GMC Kathua, Dr Anjali Nadir Bhat informed that with the functioning of 2250 LPM unit at GMC Kathua, the institution has become self sufficient in meeting the oxygen supply need. The hospital has also stocked 346 D-Type and 120 B-type Oxygen Cylinders as Buffer to meet any exigency. She said 50 Oxygen Concentrators were also received by GMC Kathua which are being utilised for patient care in Covid Isolation wards. As per the data shared by Health Department, the CHC Parole, CHC Billawar, CHC Bani, CHC Basohli, CHC Hiranagar and AK Gupta Hospitals are equipped with 237 B-type and 350 D-Type Oxygen Cylinders besides sufficient provision has been made for Oxygenated beds at Covid Care Centres in CHC Kharote, Polytechnic College Badala, Engineering College Janglote,

GDC Billawar and Community Hall, Hiranagar.

Pertinently, as informed by Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav in a presser the other day, an additional 750 LPM capacity Oxygen Generation Plant besides a 1000 LPM capacity Oxygen Generation Plant has been sanctioned for GMC Kathua, which will scale up the capacity to 4000 LPM and also help in increasing the number of Oxygen Supported Beds. (PR/DI)

## 661 oxygen supported beds available at 8 covid care centres in Udhampur district: DC

**UDHAMPUR**  
**District Udhampur, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Indu Kanwal Chib today said that the district administration has made available 661 oxygen supported beds at 8 covid care centres setup in different parts of the district.**

She was briefing media persons on Covid management scenario in the District, here at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. "Apart from this, around 291 D-type and 468 B-type Oxygen cylinders are available in the district, including 361 (both type) in

District Hospital", she added and said that the district administration has prepared a fresh road map to further increase the bed capacity in Covid Care Centres in the District. The District Hospital and covid care centres also have sufficient number of ventilators, oxygen cylinders and high oxygen flow equipment, she added.

Regarding Medicare services, the DC said that around 350 Covid kits have been distributed to positive patients in home isolation and more 2000 are available for further distribution.

While referring the mopping exercise, she added

that ULB members, Asha Workers, Anganwadi Workers have been engaged in the exercise of collecting appropriate information about potential cases and aware the people especially those symptomatic or others in home isolation. She said that about 1.10 lakh household population has been touched in the District.

Under this Health survey, 2182 suspected persons were also tested by the health department so far. The DC said that District Administration Udhampur would further upscale the exercise and start IEC activities at Panchayat level with the help of PRIs. (PR/DI)

## Justice Magrey reviews functioning of Juvenile Home/ Observation home, all Child Care Institutions in J&K

**SRINAGAR**  
**Jammu and Kashmir High Court Judge and Chairman Juvenile Justice Committee, Justice Ali Mohamamd Magrey today visited Observation Home, Harwan to take stock of facilities available to the inmates.**

He was accompanied by Member Secretary Juvenile Justice Committee, Abdul Rashid Malik, Deputy Commissioner, Aijaz Asad, Joint Registrar Judicial, High Court, Abdul Bari, Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar Dr. Jameel Ahmad Mir, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board Srinagar, Touseef Ahmad Magrey, Administrative Officer ICPS, Dr. Malooqa and DCPO Srinagar, Mr Ashraf Akhoun.

Justice Magrey on the occasion held interaction with the children to enquire about their well-being and the facilities available to them.

Referring to the directions and recom-

mendations of Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India, Justice Magrey emphasized upon creating of helplines for Child Care Institutions as well as for general public to aid the children who have been orphaned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring of Institutions to access their needs for medicines, healthcare, ensuring vaccination of the entire staff of Child Care Institutions, mapping of COVID-19 affected child, if any, and immediate measures to be taken by the Government and Health authorities for his/her care and rehabilitation, mapping employees and staff working in Child Care Institutions who might be affected and the impact on the staff strength of Child Care Institutions and remedial action.

While interacting with the officers with regard to children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, Justice Magrey directed the Mission Directorate,

ICPS to share the data of all CCIs, who are registered as well as unregistered with the Deputy Commissioners to enable the District Magistrates to monitor these institutions to ensure proper coordi-



nation. Justice Magrey highlighted various issues in the meeting regarding the welfare of children and the need to protect them from the ill-effects of the present pandemic and further directed proper screening/testing and medical care for the children in the institutional care, provision of emergency medicine, supplies, emergency access to hospitals and a roster of doctors available for

tele-consultation, vaccination of all staff working in the Child Care institutions and other frontline Child Protection Workers, nomination of Government and District Level Nodal

Officers empowered to take decisions and constitute a task force for rapid emergency response for children during COVID-19, for orphaned children, setting up of Committee in each District comprising the Nodal Officer (including the DM or SDM) a representative of the concerned CWC and the District Legal Service Authority representative, and secure all information /data relat-

ing to the deceased parent or parents of any child, measures to stop spread in childcare institutions and the medical treatment and care of the children. It was also highlighted in the meeting that children who have been deinstitutionalized in this COVID-19 Pandemic are required to be considered for Sponsorship under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to meet the Medical Nutritional, Educational and other needs of these children with a view to improve their quality of life, as all these children belong to poor and downtrodden families. Justice Magrey stressed upon the objects of the Juvenile Justice Act which is fundamentally enacted for the benefit of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, and focused on the rehabilitation of such children who are the future asset of our society.

During the visit,

Justice Magrey interacted with Superintendent, Sameena Mir, Accountant, Sumaira Mushtaq, Tabassum Altaf Wani, Probationary Officer and other officials and reiterated that such institutions like Observation Home are rehabilitation centres set-up for the care, protection, restoration, and welfare of Children, and shall have the facilities like education, health care, free legal aid, psycho social counseling, medical facility, etc.

Justice Magrey also directed the District Administration Srinagar and Superintendent Home to put all COVID-19 protocols in place in all CCIs to prevent the spread of the virus with special focus on the protection of children from COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination of staff of the child care institutions and periodical testing of inmates is mandatory and has to be given special preference. (PR/DI)

## Establishment of Isolation facility in Panchayats: DC Kishtwar discusses modalities with PRIs

**KISHTWAR**  
**Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Ashok Sharma, today held a day long interactive meeting with the PRI members and the concerned officers here at the block headquarter Paddar to discuss the modalities for establishment of 5-bedded isolation facility in each Panchayat as ordered by the Jammu Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor.**

BDC chairman Arpan Singh Rana; DDC member Hari Krishan; ACD, Kishore Singh Katoch; SDM Paddar Varunjeet Singh Charak; Tehsildar Paddar Major Singh; BDO Paddar G N Affaq; BMO Paddar Dr Raj Kumar besides other PRI members of the block attended the meeting.

At the outset, the DC Kishtwar apprised the house that the district administra-

tion, on the direction of LG is going to gear up for the establishment of 5-bedded COVID isolation facility at each panchayat to strengthen health infrastructure in rural areas for the effective tackling of the COVID 19 pandemic.

He further informed that 5-bedded isolation facility at each Panchayat will have One Oxygen-Supported Bed for immediate patient care.

He asked all the PRI members and the concerned officers to work in coordination and ensure the identification of the buildings with adequate accommodation facilities for the establishment of the well-equipped COVID isolation facility.

Panchayat ghars, community halls, or Schools could be utilized for creation of facilities in consultation with nearest Health Centre and Panchayat representatives, he said.

He further informed that these facilities will be equipped with necessary medical kit and linked to nearest health centres & Tele-medicine facilities.

The Panchayats shall use upto Rs One Lakh available with them for creation of isolation facilities including beds, purchase of oxygen cylinder, and creation of toilet & other basic facilities.

The meeting was further informed that this basic minimum infrastructure shall be created to provide isolation facility at Panchayat level as many households may not have option for isolation of Covid positive patients in their own residence.

He directed BMO Paddar to provide logistics and training to AASHA and Aanganwadi workers in manning these centres. Besides AASHA, Aanganwadi Workers, Sarpanches &

Panches shall act as a village health committee, which shall ensure healthcare facilities including regular visit of doctors.

Volunteers shall also be roped in for testing and upkeep of such facilities. The persons needing isolation shall be identified by the Panchayats/ concerned Medical Staff / AASHA Workers/ members of Panchayat, Gram Sabha of the area, added the DC. Special focus shall be laid on managing Covid at rural level with enhanced surveillance, screening, isolation, and referral, he said.

He further urged the PRIs for the community mobilization and awareness generation on Covid-19 management, behaviour change, communication and Covid vaccination of priority groups in local languages.

He added that the PRIs can play a major role in pre-

ventive measures, supporting the families and maintaining coordination with medical and administrative officers.

The DC directed SDM Paddar and BMO Paddar to work in tandem to scale up the Testing in the area and establish referral linkage with dedicated Covid health centres and ensure the enforcement of the corona curfew in the area.

Meanwhile DC Kishtwar also inspected the developmental works in the area and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work.

BDO Paddar was asked to take up the work for the upgradation of the Bus stand Gulabgarh on immediate basis.

En-route, the DC Kishtwar inspected health care facility and duty roster at PHC Keru. (PR/DI)

## DH Udhampur working with 3-tier system to implement corona treatment protocol: MS

**UDHAMPUR**  
**In-charge Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Udhampur, Dr. Balvinder Singh today said that hospital administration is working with three-level system to implement covid treatment and Management protocol.**

Speaking at media conference, Dr Singh said that three different teams of medical staff has been deployed to execute the protocol

"The first category includes Medical Officers

assisted by four nurses round the clock available in the covid ward to provide every possible service to critical patients. Similarly a team of physicians (M.D Medicine) are made available to attend new patients, while Nodal Officers, who are consultant Specialists are managing the things at the entry level.

Dr. Singh said that the prevailing crisis have posed a great challenge for medical warriors, but they are committed and are giving the best possible services to the patients. He said



He further said that this war can be won collectively and sought the cooperation of public in following covid appropriate behavior to break the chain of transmission. "Only doctors and paramedics cannot win this war alone, the civil society should also accept their responsibility. They have to behave in COVID appropriate manner, follow all guidelines and instructions of the govt" he added

He further said that this war can be won collectively and sought the cooperation of public in following covid appropriate behavior to break the chain of transmission. "Only doctors and paramedics cannot win this war alone, the civil society should also accept their responsibility. They have to behave in COVID appropriate manner, follow all guidelines and instructions of the govt" he added

only if every individual comes forward to take vaccination. It is safe and will protect us from the infection" he appealed.

The Medical Superintendent further advised the people to right away go for testing if anyone develop symptoms like sore throat, fever, cough, cold as treatment at the early stage guarantees early recovery.

He said that most of the people including youngsters come to the hospital after 8 to 10 days of symptoms,

when the situation has worsened which also minimize the survival rate. (PR/DI)

## Rushing to crowded places increases the chances of getting infected

*Covid virus is formidable, second wave targeting young population: Medical Expert*

**SRINAGAR**  
**Acknowledging pan World spread of the virulent SAR COV2 disease and the large scale devastation and deaths**



protect themselves and family by wearing triple surgical or cotton masks and to avoid putting on filter masks. People need to understand the gravity of the situation and should take precautionary measures even at home, he advised and asked for maintenance physical distance at home, also. Rushing to crowded places will increase the chances of getting infected with the disease that may aggravate health of a person, he cautioned. "Passengers should also wear multiple masks," said Dr Irshad Hussain Dar while also recommending wearing of masks by private transporters

Family members of an infected person need to take precautions and adopt safe protocol in letter and spirit like

using PPE, Gloves and Masks, he said while speaking about attending to home Isolated persons by family members in the same way as a covid positive patient is attended in a hospital.

"Wash hand with soap if the sanitizers are not readily available at home, soaps help as much as a disinfectant", he informed. (PR/DI)

## DC Srinagar visits various Panchayats in the district

**PHC Zewan building to be handed over to Health department**

**SRINAGAR**  
On the direction of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today visited various Panchayats in Srinagar to set into motion the process for setting up of the Covid Care mitigation infrastructure to strengthen the Covid-19 management and containment measures at Panchayat level.

The aim of setting up of covid care centers (CCCs) is to create basic minimum infrastructure to provide isolation facilities at Panchayat level as many households may not have option for isolation of Covid positive patients in their own houses. The facility would be having a minimum 5-bedded Covid

Care Centre including one Oxygen supported bed in each Panchayat for the patient requiring immediate medical attention.

During the visit, the DC inspected available infrastructure in panchayat of Khonmoh-A, Khonmoh-B, Balhama-A and Balhama-B. The Panchayat level Covid care Centers shall be equipped with necessary medical kits, and linked to nearest Health Centres. On the occasion, the DC said that the building of Primary Health Center (PHC), Zewan will be handed over to health Department. He directed for making the Center operational within weeks time. It was informed that the PHC will cater population of Khonmoh and Balhama Panchayats. (PR/DI)

## Work is Worship for Pharmacist Irshad working at CHC Batote without availing a single leave in past 1 year

**RAMBAN**  
**'Work is Worship' for 50 year old Corona Warrior, Irshad Ahmed Zargar, working as a Pharmacist in Community Health Centre, Batote, who has not availed even a single leave in the past one year.**

For the past about one year, he has been dedicatedly sampling the people for Covid in hospital or at quarantine centres, Covid Health Care Centres and in public places.

"Though I am extremely prone to risk of contracting Corona infection, but till now I am safe with the grace and mercy of Allah," said Irshad with his characteristic smile.

In the hospital, his day routine starts with donning of PPE kit at 10 AM in morning and doing Covid sampling-RAT or RTPCR, in between hopping from Operation Theater and emergency ward to assist the doctor in dealing the emergency cases, till he puts it off in evening. Then he arranges the samples, code, tag and pack them systematically and cautiously.

On an average he collects about 100 samples and a maximum of 200 samples daily alongwith his team.

Known for his affable, polite, compassionate and helpful nature, he is seen writing his own cell phone number in the record for every illiterate or poor person who doesn't either have his or her cell phone or remembers its number as it is mandatory to record it, besides the Aadhar Card number he can convey them the result of the test.

Hardly any day passes when he doesn't have to visit a patient in the neighbourhood or village for dressing, injection, drip etc before going to duty and after returning from hospital as well, free of cost. "This entire (work load) becomes very hectic and exhausting as not only my bosses but locals too have always high expectations from me since I am a local and known to everybody here" he said.

"After the demise of my father in 2017 and mother in 2019 my domestic responsibilities have increased and often my family and social responsibilities get badly

neglected," said Irshad.

In recognition of his services, Irshad was awarded on the last year's Independence Day function.

Recalling an incident, he said that last year in the 3rd week of May when one day he had to go to Dhalwas Quarantine Centre for sampling, the travellers who were brought there and had to stand under the blazing sun in the PPE kit for whole day while on Ramadan fasting (Roza) he was about to collapse in the evening due to dehydration but still he didn't break his fast (Roza).

"I am ready to even sacrifice my life while doing my duty as it is my religious duty to serve the ailing and suffering people and I derive immense satisfaction while helping them," he beamed. Praising Irshad, the Ex Sarpanch of his Panchayat, Ladhwal, Jagdish Chand said "He has been serving one and all in the village day in and day out free of cost, irrespective of caste and creed". It is fortunate to have such a compassionate person in the Health department" he added.

(PR/DI)

## BJP Rajouri delegation met DC rajouri demands inquiry against high death rate in GMC Rajouri, submits memorandum

**RAJOURI:** On Thursday, a delegation led by Rajinder Gupta District President BJP Rajouri met Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Rajesh Kumar Shavan and submitted a memorandum to them regarding their demands. Rajinder said that a virtual meeting was held with Rajouri shopkeepers and BJP leaders. In the said meeting, a memorandum of the points discussed by the prominent citizens of Rajouri town has been submitted to DC. The meeting was also attended by Principal and Superintendent GMC Rajouri, CMO Rajouri

and DIO. The BJP head told that the main demands that have been placed before DC include



being built in GMC Rajouri as soon as possible and should be completed in time. In Rajouri, those who have not been vaccinated above 45 years should also be given immediate vaccinations, covid-patients who are found to be Corona positive. Covid Kits provided on time. To promote contact tracing and sampling in rural areas of the district, covid-19 SOP should be strictly adhered to in areas where micro containment zones have been declared and for open shops in Rajouri city new plan should be made so that the shopkeepers do not suffer much loss. DC assured to discuss all the demands soon. (PR/DI)

## Commissioner Secretary Forests reviews progress on Smart City Mission, CAMPA, CAPEX, CSS

**JAMMU**  
**Commissioner Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, today held an online meeting to review progress on plantation of 5 lakh plants each, under Smart City Mission, in Jammu and Srinagar cities besides assessing implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like CAMPA of Forest and Social Forestry Department.**

The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. Mohit Gera; Director Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing, Dr. Neelu Gera;

Chief Wildlife Warden, Suresh Gupta; Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir; Chief Conservator of Forest, Jammu; Chief Conservator of Forests, Planning and Projects; Chief Executive Officers of Smart City Mission Jammu and Srinagar cities, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar districts. The meeting was informed that the Forest Department has prepared a detailed plan under Green J&K drive wherein 5 lakh plants each have been kept for plantation in smart cities of Jammu and Srinagar. The department will plant these saplings in the identified areas and will also provide saplings to various

other agencies for plantation in the earmarked areas under the Mission. Besides, the Social Forestry Department will also be contributing in this plantation drive especially in institutions. Regarding progress achieved in the month of April under CAPEX, CAMPA and other CSS schemes, It was informed that the actual planting season starts in the month of July in Jammu region and November in Kashmir region. Besides, at present all the forest divisions are all set for the plantation drive and sufficient plants have already been raised and being maintained in the government nurseries besides e-tendering for works, procurement of

## Government Polytechnic Kathua hosts poster making competition

**KATHUA**  
Government Polytechnic Kathua today observed Anti-Terrorism Day by hosting poster competition and other activities.

The pledge was administered with the objective to wean away the youth from terrorism and the cult of violence by highlighting the sufferings of the common people. On the occasion, Online Poster making competition was also

organised in which 39 students of 2nd, 4th and 6th semester participated. First position was shared by Gulshan Kumar and Sohail Kumar, second by Randeep Singh and Manav Aryan and third by Sourav Sharma and Angad pal Singh Sodhi. The judges for the competition were Er. Rishabh Gupta, Er. Vishal Sharma and Kuldeep Kumar, faculty of the college. (PR/DI)

## Samba leading in Agriculture marketing activities

**SAMBA:** Albeit district administration samba preoccupation with the Covid-19 mitigation efforts, the agriculture sector is continuing to scale progress to new heights as orchardists are successfully growing CAAH crops and infusing much needed vigour in the sector for others to follow.

Under supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Anuradha Gupta, the agriculture marketing activities are being enchanted manifold for maximizing its reach to the far flung areas as well.

On the directions of the DC Samba, Assistant Grading and Marketing Officer Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, today visited multi culture orchard of Kuldeep Singh at village Penthi on Sumb road. The orchardists has been successfully growing flowers, mangoes, lemon, kinno, Mousambi, Guava, pumpkin, watermelon, Anjeer etc. in an orchard spread over fifty kanal area. The AGMO, Anuj Verma, discussed in detail the marketing strategies adopted by Kuldeep Singh and improvements required with regard to grading, packaging and value addition. The orchardist was also registered under E-NAM.

"Under guidance of Agriculture Farmers' Welfare and Horticulture Department, the field functionaries are working with full zeal to increase income of farmers vertically by adopting different techniques like diversification of crops, judicious use of land including multi layer cropping, demand driven production of crops, ethical grading, innovative and presentable packaging alongwith using national on line portal for marketing of their produce using E-NAM platform" said AGMO. The department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing has started special campaign in Samba district to register all farmers/ growers having marketable surplus under E-NAM (Electronic National Agricultural Marketing), so as to ensure them better returns of their produce in a transparent and easy manner. (PR/DI)

## J-K reports first case of black fungus

**JAMMU**  
The first case of black fungus or Giving details, Principal GMC hospital, Dr Shashi Sudan



**mucormycosis in Jammu and Kashmir was on Friday detected in a 40-year-old man here, officials said.**

The COVID-19 patient, who is admitted to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, is critical, Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, said. Sharma told PTI that the man suffers from diabetes and was immunocompromised. She said that this is an avoidable complication which can be restricted by strictly monitoring the blood sugar levels of COVID-19 patients put on steroids, which was being undertaken by doctors at the hospital. (PR/DI)

## FOB Rajouri organises Webinar on "Precautions for home isolation during Covid-19"

**RAJOURI**  
Field Outreach Bureau,, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Rajouri in close coordination with Tehsil Administration, Sunderbani, District Information Centre, Rajouri, Health department, ICDS and Rural Development organised a webinar on "Precautions for home isolation during Covid-19" today. The webinar was presided over by Shri Vinod Kumar Behnal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sunderbani.

He also broadly provided crucial information related to the pandemic including details of the cases in Sunderbani and provision of testing facilities. While speaking about the generating awareness of Covid-19, he appreciated the steps taken by Regional Outreach Bureau in organising such webinar and sharing crucial information and awareness through such webinars and other mediums of social media like face book, twitter handle, whatsapp, etc. he suggested that such webinars should be organised frequently for sharing information of such important issues and to contain further spread of Corona Virus.

Sh. Rajnesh Singh, Medical Officer, who acted as resource person delivered a key note address on Precautions for home isolation during Covid-19 and also spoke about the importance of physical distancing, wearing mask, washing hands frequently, refraining from social gatherings and coming out of home unnecessarily. Dr. Meena Kumari, Medical Officer provided awareness of SOPs and guidelines for home isolation. She said that only asymptomatic and mild cases are kept under home isolation.

She also held a detailed lecture on the precautions to be taken by care giver to a home isolated patient. She was of the view that oxygen saturation at room air of more than 94% (asymptomatic cases), Upper respiratory track Symptoms or fever without shortness of breath and oxygen saturation at room air more than 94% (Mild cases) plays a crucial role in keeping patients at home isolation.

Child Development Project Officer, Sunderbani spoke on the role of Supervisor, Anganwadi workers, and helpers in spreading the awareness of Covid-19, providing medical facilities and essential commodities to masses at their door steps. Having about 184 ICDS centres in Sunderbani, the supervisors and workers reach every nook and corner of the area for this noble cause. Dr. Manzoor Hussain, Block Medical Officer, Sunderbani extended his support and coordination in making the event successful and result oriented.

Shri Khurshheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur presented the Welcome address and Shri Shahid Mohammad Lone Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag proposed the vote of thanks. The webinar was moderated by Shri Gurnam Singh, Incharge Field Outreach Bureau, Rajouri. A number of participants from Health, ICDS and Rural Development department took active part in the webinar. (PR/DI)

### Mental positivity is very essential for Covid patients, health workers & public at large: Dr. Amrita

*'I will advise everyone to smile even behind your mask'*

**UDHAMPUR**  
Dr. Amrita Thakur, a clinical Psychologist, deployed in District Hospital on Covid 19 duty today said that to maintain mental positivity was very

she stated that the surge in covid cases has developed high risk of depression, anxiety, mental fatigue. "During this difficult time it is important to keep ourselves both physically as well as

mentally healthy" she said and added "This will not only help you to fight against the virus if you get it but also help in the long run. She suggested that to eat a healthy and nutritious diet which helps ones immune system to function properly. In addition to this, she advised the general public to take care of yourself and that of your family members than every-



essential for recovery of covid patients. While sharing her views regarding Covid-19, she emphasized that this Coronavirus pandemic led to unprecedented hazards to mental health globally. In this era mental positivity is very essential for the Covid patients, health workers as well as general public also. Being a psychological medico,

thing will become so easy to handle. She further advised to take a walk and stay away from social media to develop a positive attitude. "I will advise everyone to smile even behind your mask". To develop a positive attitude the people should think of the doctors and paramedical staff, who work day and night to fight against this deadly virus" she advised. She said it has been observed that paranoia and hysteria are adding to the woes of both the Covid patients and the health workers. She said one should keep exercising like walking for at least 20 minutes daily and stay away from negative thoughts and news. "We need to stay optimistic that the virus will disappear soon because we are collectively fighting it" she maintained and appealed to the public to protect themselves and not to come out of their houses without an inevitable reason. (PR/DI)

### District admin Ramban braces up for setting up Panchayat covid wards

#### DC reviews follow up action on government decision

**RAMBAN**  
Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, today reviewed follow up action on the decision taken by the Government to create 5-bedded Covid Care facility at Panchayat level in the J&K UT, here at a meeting.

He also advised the DPO to immediately coordinate with CMO to identify the locations for setting up isolation wards in each Panchayat of the district.

On the issue of vaccination of construction workers who are yet to take the first dose, the ALC said that reconnaissance has been done and a detailed lists will be

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the MUMKIN scheme, a customized livelihood generation programme launched for aspiring youth along with financial assistance to the labour community.



The DPO informed that the directions have been given to BDOs to contact respective Tehsildars and BMOs to identify suitable location at all 144 Panchayats of the district.

Chief Planning Officer, Kasturi Lal; District Panchayat Officer, Sunil Bhutyal; Chief Medical Officer, Mohammad Fareed Bhat; ALC, Angrez Singh and AD Employment, Naresh Kumar attended the meeting.

While reviewing the MUMKIN scheme, AD Employment informed the meeting that in all 26 applications have been received so far. These cases shall be shortly brought before the District Level Implementation Committee for approval and bank finance.

The DPO informed the meeting that DDC and BDC members have been briefed about the allocation of Rs.1.00 lakh to be made from within the Panchayat grants for setting up of 5-bedded Covid Care facility at Panchayat level.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the need has been felt to create a basic minimum facility for isolation of covid patients at Panchayat level as many households do not have the option available within their houses.

The Deputy Commissioner exhorted the AD Employment to widen the scope of MUMKIN and bring more progressive youth under the ambit of the scheme.

The ALC apprised the meeting that 300 additional labourers shall be provided financial assistance under Covid relief today. The Deputy Commissioner directed the ALC to ensure early renewal of the expired labour cards of the remaining construction workers so that they are also able to avail the financial assistance announced by the Government. There are 22,777 registered labour card holders in the district. (PR/DI)

## 'Awaam Ki Awaaz': Jammu Psychiatrist thanks LG Sinha for reaching out to health professionals for suggestions

*'Mental health equally important as physical health'*

**JAMMU**  
**Dr. Shabnam Rizvi, a mental health professional from Government Psychiatry Hospital Jammu, has thanked the office of Lieutenant Governor for reaching out to her and other health professionals for seeking their suggestions and appreciating them during 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' radio programme.**

Last week, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in his monthly Radio talk dedicated the programme to corona warriors particularly those who are at forefront during COVID-19 pandemic in the Union Territory. Dr. Rizvi like other medical professionals was appreciated for her services during the ongoing pandemic.

"The approach adopted shows the dedication and genuine approach of the Lieutenant Governor in resolution of the public issues", Rizvi remarked.

Dr Rizvi said that at present large number of people are coming forward for getting consultation on issues like anxiety, panic attacks and depression than during the first wave of Covid-19.

Continuing, Dr Shabnam said, "It could be that we may observe a sudden jump in mental health cases in the months to come while such people with potential mental health cases are having a hard time coping with the reality at present".

"Earlier, during the DC Kupwara inspects SDH Kralpora, Directs for completion of hospital block within stipulated time frame

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din today visited Sub District Hospital Kralpora and took stock of the functioning of the hospital.

During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the hospital including Covid Immunization Centre, OPD, IPD, Female ward and also inspected the attendance of the staff. He directed the concerned Block Medical Officer to ensure hassle free treatment and medical care of the patients.

The DC also inspected ongoing construction of various sections of the hospital building. He directed the DGM JKPC to speed up the progress of work on remaining sections of the hospital building and ensure its completion within the stipulated time frame. (PR/DI)

first wave, mental health counselling facility was available only in Jammu. Now, such facility is available in all the districts and a mental health professional has been deputed for telecounselling" she informed.

She added that usually we are getting cases of hyperventilation in which a patient feels heart rate speeding up, feel weak and lightheaded, and feel like they aren't able to take a deep enough breath.

She thanked the Lieutenant Governor's administration for giving 'equal importance to physical as well as mental health' during the Covid pandemic. She said that with the launch of teleconsultation facility for mental health, people are able to come out of the feeling of helplessness and the anxiety which is the result of this pandemic.


"Our job does not end with treating only the patients approaching us. Some times we have to counsel even their family members which really helps in the end.

I have seen people getting better with help and returning back to their lives with renewed enthusiasm", Dr Rizvi said. She suggested that meditation should be done to relieve stress and anxiety. Covid patients and even their family members should do regular

exercise, read books, listen to music and celebrate little joys of life to come out of the agonising days, she said. I believe that if you're mentally sound and have a positive outlook, you can achieve a healthy body with much ease, she said. Those seeking mental health consultation could call on mobile numbers- 9419110668 and 7889905359. Other Covid-related queries and doubts can be cleared on the helpline number 0191 2571616. Public can also programme on Gulistan call Divisional Control Room at 0191-2520982, twice daily- from 8:30 am to 9 am and 8:30 pm to 9 pm. (PR/DI)

can achieve a healthy body with much ease, she said. Those seeking mental health consultation could call on mobile numbers- 9419110668 and 7889905359. Other Covid-related queries and doubts can be cleared on the helpline number 0191 2571616. Public can also programme on Gulistan call Divisional Control Room at 0191-2520982, twice daily- from 8:30 am to 9 am and 8:30 pm to 9 pm. (PR/DI)

Moreover, J&K Government has started a live phone-in health programme on Gulistan channel which is aired from 8:30 am to 9 am and 8:30 pm to 9 pm. (PR/DI)



**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KISHTWAR**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**Short e-NIT No. 14 of 2021-22 Dated 22-05-2021**

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **Item basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

| S. No. | Name of Work   | Name of Division            | Construction Cost (in lacs) | Maintenance Cost | Total Cost (Rs. in lacs) | Cost of document (in)            | Earnest Money (in)                              | Time Allowed for completion | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contractor        |
|--------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1      | Imp't./up-gradation of Trauma Hospital and SDM Office link road Thelrei by way of providing / laying 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Premix Carpet Surfacing and Metal Patches & Drain in stretches. | PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar | 24.75                       | 0.00             | 24.75                    | 0.01% of Advertised Cost of work | Bid Security Declaration on notarized affidavit | 25 Days                     | 29-05-21                           | A,B & Int.Mix Plant Holder |

**Position of AAA: - ACCORDED**  
**Major Head: - 5475 CITY & TOWN**

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice                    | 22-05-2021   |
| 2 | Bid submission Start Date                         | 22-05-2021 From 1800 Hrs   |
| 3 | Bid Submission End Date                           | 28-05-2021 upto 1400 Hrs   |
| 4 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 29-05-2021 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed                                       |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work or S.No. of the work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Kishtwar uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt Bid Security Declaration** as mentioned in the bid documents. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, **Bid Security Declaration on the notarized affidavit** and relevant documents of **L1** be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar at the time of award of contract.
- Bidder cannot resubmit/ withdraw or make any modification in the bid during bid validity.**
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
- The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if :-**
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
  - In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within **28 days** after fixation of contract.

**No. 193-204**  
**Dated: - 22-05-2021**

**Sd/-**  
**(Er. Romesh Singh)**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**PWD (R&B) Division**  
**Kishtwar**

**No: DIP/J-1728/21**  
**Date: May 24/2021**

## Zeal to serve humanity gives me strength to work relentlessly: Physiotherapist Tajamul Giri 'Teamwork approach makes things easy even in tough times'

**RAMBAN** as per the roster. "Though I missed the wedding of my sister on June 17 and 18 at my native village Krawa in Banihal yet I had no serious qualms as I firmly believe in Khidmat-e-Khalq (service to the mankind) which Islam and prophet (SAW) has

taught me," said Tajamul. "For me, duty towards my society is paramount and working wholeheartedly in the national crisis is my moral duty," he added.

Though last year as per the roster, he used to work on alternate weeks only, but this year his duty is more tougher as he has

to work daily from 9 in morning till late evening up-to 6 or 7pm even on Sundays and holidays. In the wake of the prevailing pandemic the Government has also cancelled the leaves of all employees of the Health Department.

In the District Hospital, he conducts about 180 Covid tests both RAT and RT-PCR, on an average and sometimes upto 250 tests during special drives which greatly entails the risk of contracting the Covid infection thereby putting the lives of his children and wife to risk.

He does have a remorse of not giving enough time to his two children playing with them and teaching them. Besides, he has got totally disconnected with the society as the duty hours

are too demanding. He says that he has not gone to his native village for the past about three months to see his parents.

Elucidating his daily routine, Giri said that after reaching the hospital at 9 in morning he does some documenting work and preparation for sampling which, he starts at 10 am after putting on the PPE kit.

The process continues till late evening upto 4pm without any break in between. Then he has to arrange the samples, preserve them after coding, tagging and packing them before leaving for home at 6 or 7 in the evening.

"But for the support of my family members, particularly my wife living with me here in a rented accommodation, I would not have been devoting this much of time unhindered to my duty. Because of my parents, I remain

carefree about my family there. My wife does all the shopping besides other chores thus leaving little for me on my shoulders," he said proudly.

"Similarly, at work place also doctors and my other senior colleagues are my main source of inspiration and support for me who make it a full team work.

The hospital administration also leaves no stone unturned in protecting us and providing us the required safety paraphernalia like PPE kits, sanitizers etc.," he said with a smile.

As a word of advice to his colleagues, Corona Health Warriors, he said that slightest carelessness in following the laid down guidelines during sampling or vaccination can cost a patient's life and also put many others at risk. (PR/DI)

## BJP Kissan Morcha distributes Masks, Sanitizers under "Seva Hi Sangathan"

**PB NEWS SERVICE** J A M M U : Distribution of Mask & Sanitizers under



"Seva Hi Sangathan" among who came to install Covid-Vaccine at Hospital with BJP Kissan Morcha Jammu and Kashmir State President Omi Khajuria and Sanjeev Sharma, P.A. to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh (PMO)

State Kissan Morcha of BJP President Omi Khajuria and Sanjeev Sharma, personal assis-

tant to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh ji, along with SDPO Kosheen Koul ji people He said that as long as the outbreak of this epidemic continues, the Kissan Morcha at every booth level will continue its service to the needy Labour and Farmers!

On this auspicious occasion, Kissan Morcha State General Secretary Rohit Verma ji, State Media Secretary Vijay Sharma ji, SHO Kanachak Bhanu Pratap ji, Block President of Raipur Domana Ashok Sharma Keerani ji, Yuva Morcha District General Secretary Ankit Sharma ji, Mishriwala Sarpanch engineer Pallavi Varma ji, Block General Secretary Bharat Bhushan Ji, Block President of Kissan Morcha Jasvir Singh Ji, Sardar Kulwant Singh Ji, Naib Sarpanch Sukhjit Singh Ji, and others were present.

## DC Anantnag directs for expedition of work on Vailoo Singapore tunnel, NH-244

Calls for prompt land survey, settlement of issues

**ANANTNAG** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag Dr. Piyush Singla, in a meeting with concerned officers, directed for expedition of work on Vailoo Singapore Tunnel, Ahlan Vailoo and Vailoo Donipawa stretches of NH-244.

It was informed by GM NHIDCL that the identification of land for 10 km approach road from Vailoo to Ahlan (tunnel spot) has been done besides work on Vailoo Donipawa stretch is under process from Akingam downwards.

The DC stressed for prompt verification and survey of land from Vailoo to the tunnel in a time support from administration. The DC directed SDM Kokernag to constitute revenue teams which will



bound manner so that the project is completed at the earliest. He directed for issuing land title verification, pollution control clearance, NOCs etc to ensure the work is expedited. Assuring the NHIDCL authorities full

coordinate on ground with them. He also called for taking welfare measures for the local people. The meeting was also attended by ADC (G), ACR, engineers of NHIDCL and other concerned officers. (PR/DI)

## DFCO team checks availability of critical care Covid management drugs in Jammu market

**JAMMU** To ensure equitable access & availability of all Life saving and critical care Covid management drugs during these tough & challenging times, the Officers of Drugs & Food Control Organization (DFCO), J&K under the direct supervision of Assistant Drugs Controller, Jammu conducted a special drive where-in surprise & supervisory checks of Retail Pharmacies/Wholesale Outlets mostly situated near Covid Designated Hospitals & other tertiary care institutes viz Bakshi Nagar, Shalamar, Gandhi Nagar, Channi, Talab Tillo, R.S Pura, Akhnoor were carried out

During the said drive, inspections of outlets which deal in Medical Devices viz Infra Red Thermometers, Digital Thermometers, Pulse Oxymeters, Medical gas cylinder (Portable), Medical / Surgical masks, Respirator masks( N95 & FFP2), Face shields (Single use), Protective goggles, Surgical Gloves, High Flow Masks, Nasal Canule (Pronges) were also carried out and it

was observed that such products are abundantly available with select outlets to meet the specific demands of the end users.

The main thrust of the drive was to curb stockpiling of medicines that may lead to shortage in the supply chain and to ensure that there is no shortage of essential and critical drugs pertaining to Covid-19 and to ensure that the formulations/medical devices are available at affordable process in the market and to prevent black marketing, hoarding profiteering, stock piling of drugs.

The Pharmacies were impressed upon to dispense drugs in most ethical manner mainly Scheduled formulations and to prevent the misuse of Steroids so that they are procured by the needy patients strictly against the prescription of RMP's.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the drive Operations of three Retail Sale Establishments which were found violating the norms were disallowed on spot u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot.

The Licenses were warned of severe action in case the omissions are repeated and SOP's are not followed in letter and spirit.

Moreover, Drug

samples of more than hundred formulations were lifted from supply chain for determination of strength and purity. These samples have been sent to Drug Testing Laboratories located within the State for framing legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

The State Drug Controller has informed that the administration & the department has gone an extra mile to ensure the procurements of all life saving drugs by taking and resolving the issue of shortages directly with the concerned manufacturers, principal suppliers based outside J&K and also with NPPA to bring in sufficient quantities of Remdesivir & Tocilizumab in the Government supply Chain adequate supply of such drugs, as such there is no need to panic.

She further emphasized that an effective regulatory mechanism is in place to ensure quality, safe and effective medicines, vaccines and medical devices are provided to the general public. Through the medium of this press release the general public is requested to inform any issue related to the availability /hoarding/black marketing/overcharging of Covid Management Drugs- 9796011065, 9906136659. (PR/DI)

## Putting future plans on hold, young doctors serve Covid patients at GMC Jammu

Only work, eat, sleep; the medicos reveal their job routine

**JAMMU** day, seven days a week. When we're not working, we retire back to the isolated accommodations provided to us by the government. The time is mostly spent sleeping, doing laundry and speaking with family over occasional video conference. Not much time is left to do anything else."

Dr Needa has a different take on the situation and says, "When I'm not working, I make sure I take an 8-hour sleep. Besides sleeping, laundry is another thing that consumes time". Setting a philosophical tone to the conversation, she said, it is ironical that a Covid patient has to isolate himself maximum for two weeks, while the doctor taking care of such patients needs to live in isolation for a far longer time. Speaking about family, the two said, "Most of our conversations revolve around Covid and are filled with tension. Our parents are always Covid-conscious and apprehensive; telling us to take good care and precautions," said Dr Needa. "I'm mostly wor-

ried about my grandparents and make sure to talk to them every time I call home," Dr Shefali added.

When asked about how the two feel about local media coverage, they don't seem much hyped. "We want to tell the world that the patient to doctor ratio in India is huge. Even in a ward with 50 patients, if we spend 2 minutes with one patient, it takes us more than an hour to attend to the same patient again," said concerned Dr Shefali.

Sounding a bit optimistic, Dr Needa said, yet new wards, new health professionals and new ventilators are being added by the government. "We can hope that we won't remain so hard pressed for ever". In a steadfast tone, the two said, "We are here to do our duty! Negativity and bad press won't deter us from doing our job."

The only qualm the two have is not being able to eat and breathe properly with their PPE kits. "It isn't easy spending an entire day in a

PPE kit. A couple of our colleagues suffered dehydration and tremors due to it. We also avoid eating while wearing the kits as it is neither safe nor convenient. We mostly limit our daytime meals to fruit juice, liquid foods and water only," they said. Sharing her thoughts on the pandemic, Dr Needa said, "Unless we spearhead our fight against it by adopting Covid appropriate behaviour, it won't end soon. I hope the future generations also take lessons from the present situation," she added. Dr Needa wants to become a surgeon in future and said, "with the way Covid is hampering our routine lives, I can't say how long it will take me to take up Specialisation and Super Specialisation courses, as all entrance exams are on hold."

On the other hand, Dr Shefali doesn't have any particular discipline in mind and said, "Whichever specialisation I opt for, I will make sure it involves direct interaction with the patients." (PR/DI)

## Recruitment of contractual Staff for DRDO- Hospital being ensured on time: GMC Jammu

**JAMMU** The administration of Government Medical College Jammu today said that the process for recruitment of the staff on contractual basis required for early commissioning of DRDO- Hospital has already been initiated and the team will be available by May 26. Responding to a news report "DRDO Hospital to function from May 25, staff not recruited yet" appearing in a section of press, the authorities stated that the Government, Vide Order No. 398-JK (HME) of 2021 dated 18.05.2021, has created 683 posts to be deployed in 500 bedded DRDO- COVID Hospital, constructed in collaboration with Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

"The post of Medical Superintendent and Deputy Medical Superintendent shall be filled-up on deployment basis from the Health Services Department. The post of Physicians, Anesthetists, Pediatricians and Medical Officers shall be filled-up both on deployment from the Health Services Department as well as on contractual basis. The Nursing Staff and Paramedical Technical Staff shall be filled up both on deployment from Health Services Department as well as on contractual basis" the Medical College Authorities informed. The GMC authorities said, the process for recruitment of the staff on contractual basis was started with publishing of three advertisements in the leading newspapers of J&K on 20th of May 2021, indicating the designation, number and the eligibility qualification required for the staff to be posted in DRDO Hospital. "The aspirants of the same were given three day time for filling the forms up to 23rd of May 2021. Accordingly the selection process for the same was completed by 24th of May 2021. As per plan, an orientation programme for newly recruited staff will be held on 25th of May 2021" the GMC authorities said.

As such the staff required for functioning of the DRDO-Hospital shall be readily available by 26 of May 2021, the authorities stated. (PR/DI)

# bZ oj dk dkbZ : i ugha



euq; dks l e>uk pfg, dh bl /kjh ij tks dN Hh gs i M i kX; i gM) tkuoj i "kij i N h l Hh bZoj gh gA tgla rd dh gj euq;] pgs og fcl h fcl e dk Hh gks l Hh ds vdkj bZoj gh gA

euq; pgs eNjka ea ftruh pgs eura elaks xMh) i S k] "Hxj r] uke vkrj] Hxoku ml dh ,d h eura dHh ugha igh djaks ; g l c euq; dks egur] dke djdsg gh gkl y gks l drk gA

euq; i g s l d kj ea dHh Hh bZoj dks fcl h : i ea ugha nqk l d r k A uk dHh nqk kA l d kj ea c—fr %upj½ gh bZoj gA th gk /kjh tks gfj; kyh l s ; e cgn l n j v g v k d'z d gA **dqjr gh Hxoku gS** tks gea /kjh

ij thou thus ds fy; s l Hh t#jh l d k/ku mi yC/k djkrh gA c—fr gea i hus dks i kuh] l ka yus dks 'kq' gok] i v' ds fy; s Hkst u]

jgus ds fy; s telu] i 'kq; i {kh] i M&i kXs vkrn gh bZoj gA

bZoj us euq; dks tks fn; k gs og veW; gA

l d kj ds gj euq; dks vxj bZoj l s l; kj gS rks ml s izdfr %upj½ dks opkuk gskA gea i M&i kX; i 'kq; i {kh] i gMka dks cpkuk gskx ogh Hxoku gA

**Hxoku f'ko 'kqj th vfkok tks Hh gk izdfr %upj½ ds irhd gA bl s l d kj dks l e>uk gskA**

By Vikas Sharma (Editor PB)