

# Advisor urges preservation, judicious utilization of Water resources

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar urged for the preservation and judicious utilization of J&K's water resources on the occasion of World Water Day Celebrated at SKICC Srinagar where Prime Minister's speech was live streamed. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P K Pole, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Aijaz Asad, SMC Mayor, Junaid Mattu, Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir, officers of Jal Shakti department, DDC members, Sarpanchs, Panchs, Students and others were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the oc-



casional, Advisor Bhatnagar said that Jammu and Kashmir has vast water resources which needs to be preserved and saved from exploitat-

ion. He said over exploitation of water resources will lead to environmental imbalance. While mentioning the UN's theme, 'Valuing of Water' for this year, the Advisor maintained that valuing water is beyond pricing and we need to save every drop of water for future generations. He added that it is our collective responsibility to protect all the natural resources, be it water resources, forests, mineral resources or environment. The Advisor remarked that senseless exploitation of wa-

ter and other resources will adversely impact our future generations. He stated that under Jal Shakti Abhiyan all the schools and anganwadi centers shall be covered and connected with tap water on priority. Advisor Bhatnagar said that water samities will have an important role to check the implementation and operationalization of works besides checking the quality of the water being provided to people. Advisor called upon the youth and students to create awareness among the people regarding saving water. He asked them to become leaders, motivators guardians to play their role in preservation of water bodies.

Advisor Bhatnagar during his address also called for capacity building and skill enhancement of the staff of Jal Shakti department. Other speakers who spoke on the occasion stressed on the need for saving water and harvesting the rainwater to avoid water crisis. On the occasion different cultural programmes on the theme were performed besides theme based Skit was presented to send a strong and emotional message for saving water. Moreover, students were given awards and mementoes for their paintings during the event. Xen PHE Division Ganderbal, JE PHE Division Chadoora and other officers were also felicitated on the occasion.

# DC Pulwama conducts inspection of Administrative Complex



Earth News Service

**Pulwama, Mar 22** : The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary today inspected different offices functioning from Administrative Complex here. The DC on the occasion inspected the Office of Additional District Development Commissioner, Scanning center, Office of Sub Registrar etc. He while visiting the offices directed the heads of department to always remain avail-

able for the public and resolve their issues and grievances without any delay. He also took stock of the facilities / arrangements available for officers and officials. The DC directed the officers and staff to maintain work culture and punctuality and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances and stressed for maintaining proper hygiene and sanitation within and around office premises. He further assured that administration will fully assist the offices in case of any requirement for prompt public services. The DC during the inspection was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioners Pulwama, Tral and several other senior officers/ officials.

# Govt orders reshuffle in Health deptt, Dr Rather Is new DHS Kashmir

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : The Government on Monday ordered transfers and postings in Jammu and Kashmir Health Department. According to government order number Government Order No: 226 -JK (HME) of 2021, Dr Sarnir Mattoo, Director, Health Services, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Project Director, AIDS Control Society, J&K. Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Project Director, AIDS Control Society, J&K, is transferred and posted as Director, Health Services, Kashmir. Dr Shahid Hussain, Medical Officer, presently posted as Officer on Special Duty in the Health and Medical Education Department, is transferred and posted as Extended Program Immunization Officer, Directorate of Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, J&K.

Dr Qazi Haroon, Medical Officer, presently working in the Directorate of Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, J&K, is transferred and posted as Project Manager, National Health Mission, J&K. Dr Naheed Anjum Malik, Dental Surgeon, CHC Hajin, presently working in the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, is relieved for attending to duties at her original place of posting viz. CHC Hajin. The above posting arrangement of doctors is made in the interest of administration and is purely on a temporary basis and subject to the outcome of the writ petition(s), if any, pending before the Court(s) of law and shall not confer any right upon them to claim preferential treatment at the time of regularization/promotions which shall be made strictly in accordance with the rules, reads the order.

# Singla directs for timely completion of projects

Earth News Service

**Anantnag, Mar 22** : The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla today reviewed the physical and financial progress made under District Capex Budget with the concerned officers of Jal Shakti, R&B, PDD, Health, RDD, Education, ICDS, Urban Development etc at DC office here. The meeting was informed that 88 percent financial progress has been made under the district capex budget in these sectors with cent per cent achievement in PMAY, MG-NREGA and SAMAGRA schemes. It was also given out that NRLM & Nutrition (ICDS) have witnessed 90 percent & 86 percent progress respectively. The DDC directed the officers to expedite the expenditure process and focus on



maximum achievement up to 31st March. He impressed upon the officers to focus on areas of immediate public interest and prioritize the works accordingly. Highlighting the importance of timely completion of projects, Dr. Singla asked the officers to sort out the hindrances related with Right of Works, contractors, litigations etc in a meticulous way with effective interdepartmental coordination. The officers on the occasion put-

forth the issues being faced by them in execution of some vital schemes. Dr. Singla assured them full support to remove all bottlenecks for sustainable and holistic development in the district. The meeting was attended by SEs Hydraulic and R&B, Circle Anantnag, EM&RE Circle Bijbehara along with Ex. Engineers, ACD, CMO, CPO, Dy. CEO, CDPO Hq, EOs of Municipalities, and other concerned officers.

# Awami Conference expels Shaheen

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : Awami conference on Sunday held a Core group meeting of JK Awami Conference, in the meeting it was decided, declared and announced that Abdul Rashid Shaheen (Ex MP) is expelled from the basic membership of party also from the post of Chief Patron in view of his anti party activities. The statement mentioned that due to excuse of his bad health he was not actively participating in party matters. Meanwhile, the statement also added that it was also decided and declared that if Abdul Rashid Shaheen joins any Political party or any organization that will be his Individual decision in every capacity.

# DLSA Srinagar observes 'World Water Day'

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with Ehsaas Trust International today observed the World Water Day at ADR centre District Court Complex Mominabad here. The function on the occasion was organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Rashid Malik, Chairman DALSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar. In his keynote address, Malik impressed on valuing water which is important as a basic necessity of life. He also added to report to the concerned authorities wherever we see a faulty water resource which we

usually ignore. He impressed upon more awareness among the masses for water harvesting which can help us to save water for our future generations. The event was moderated by Adnan Syed, Secretary DLSA Srinagar. While addressing the event he emphasized that there should be proper awareness camps regarding the importance and preservation of water as it is an essential part of both the components biotic as well as abiotic. Syed Tabassum Geelani, Chairman Ehsaas Trust International gave video presentations of various activities regarding water harvesting activities and innovative tippy tap hand washing technique for

children by which they can playfully wash their hands with 75 percent less consumption of water. On the occasion, all the participants pledged to take steps for preservation of water starting with day to day activities like to keep the tap closed while brushing their teeth which can save 92 percent of the water. Among speakers, Sheikh Adil Dyp Traffic Srinagar, Kifayat Husain Environmentalist, Syed Mujtaba and Suhaila Ali both panel lawyers of DLSA Srinagar, besides others also spoke on the occasion. Panel lawyers, students and Para-Legal Volunteers of district Srinagar were present on the occasion.

# Road connecting Khrew Industrial area in shambles

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : The dilapidated condition of Khrew-Balhama road in South Kashmir's Pulwama district is irking the residents as well as the commuters while the local administration has failed in repairing the road for the two years. It may be recalled that the road connecting to industrial area in Khrew is connected to Pampore through Khrew-Konibal road and to Srinagar through Khrew-Balhama and Khrew-Khoumouh Road. "Unfortunately all roads leading to our area are in worst condition despite being the largest contributor to public exchequer due to the Cement factories operating in the area" said Mohammad Akram Bhat Chairman Auqaf Islamia Khrew. As per locals, the condition of road has deteriorated further after the snowfall this winter. They told News Agency, Current News Service (CNS) that due

to the dilapidated condition of the road; they face several problems during their commute. "It is damaged and the dust that emanates from it has made our life difficult," said Shamim Ahmad Bhat, a resident. He said that the children who are now going to schools are also facing a tough time as they pass through the road. "The things become difficult in case of any medical emergency, particularly, when pregnant women are taken to the hospital; it is a nightmare then as it takes half an hour to pass the damaged patch of the road," the residents said. The concerned official of the R&B Department could not be contacted despite repeated attempts. It is pertinent to mention that Khrew is a town falling under the limits of Municipal Committee Khrew and is the most important source of Revenue for J&K government as at least 7 cement factories area operating in the area.

# Mobile Covid-19 testing kiosks to be established at Kulgam

Earth News Service

**Kulgam, Mar 22** : In view of spike in Covid-19 infection cases, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today informed that Mobile testing kiosks will be established in Kulgam to carry out random Covid-19 tests. He said this during a meeting convened here to review the measures put in place to contain spread of Covid-19 infection. During the meeting, Dr. Bhat directed the concerned to go for aggressive testing and fine and challan people found without masks. The Enforcement agencies were also directed to ensure strict implementation of SOPs. The DC said that following the spike in Covid-19 cases, the authorities have to be tough and appealed people to adhere to Covid-19 SOPs and guidelines in letter and spirit. All the concerned were directed to intensify awareness among people and to work with added zeal and dedication to stop the spread of Covid-19 infection. The meeting was attended by ADDC, ACR, SDM Noorabad, CMO, CEO, DSP-HQ, Tehsildars, BMOs, CDPO and other concerned.

# DC Kupwara reviews Covid-19 containment measures

Earth News Service

**Kupwara, Mar 22** : The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din today convened a meeting of Health Officers to discuss the necessary measures to be taken for raising awareness among the general public to follow Covid-19 SOPs laid down by the World Health Organisation. He also reviewed the functioning of District Covid-19 Control Room. The DC directed for sampling of passengers coming from outside UT of J&K and also directed the concerned to speed up the vaccination drive for maximum coverage of people. He directed for conducting of awareness programmes in weekly Block Divas. Addressing the meeting, the DC asked Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, BMOs and other concerned Health Officers to strictly ensure guidelines for containment of Covid-19 in view of the recent spike of Covid cases in the country. Meanwhile, District Magistrate Kupwara today ordered compulsory usage of masks in the district. In this regard, an official order has also been issued which reads, 'It has become imperative to ensure cent percent usage of masks in the district to minimize the chances of further spike of Covid-19 cases'. The order further reads that all Tehsildars and Block Development Officers shall ensure the usage of masks in their respective jurisdictions and a penalty of Rs.500 for the first offence and Rs.1000 for repeat offence shall be imposed on violators.

# Dir Info reviews functioning of department in Kashmir Division



Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : Director Information and Public Relations, Rahul Pandey today held a meeting with the officers of divisional office here at Directorate of Information & Public Relations Srinagar and reviewed the functioning of the department. The meeting reviewed the administrative issues of the department besides discussing various aspects relating to the guidelines laid down in the Media Policy and its adherence by the newspapers and other publications. Director Information emphasized that department needs to encourage healthy journalism and ensure that publications adhere to basic standards of printing and original content. Improvement of Online Advertisement Distribution Portal, empanelment of newspapers, filling up of vacant posts, media coverage of major events also came up for discussion. While discussing the is-

sue of implementation of Media Policy, the Director said that those newspapers need to be encouraged which run on professional lines and maintain the desired standards. He said plagiarism and irregularity needs to be checked and added that the newspapers practicing this will have to face the action under the relevant provisions of media policy which may entail suspension and de-empanelment. The Director issued appropriate instructions to the officers for making the functioning of the department more vibrant. Urging upon officers to work in a coordinated manner, the Director asked them to ensure that adequate coverage is given to programmes and initiatives of the Government. He said that effective promotional campaigns need to be carried out to promote major events taking place in Jammu & Kashmir during the current tourist season.

# 'World Water Day' observed across Kashmir division

Earth News Service

**Srinagar, Mar 22** : The 'World Water Day' is being observed annually across the globe on March 22 with the purpose of highlighting the importance of water and raising awareness about the water crisis that the world faces. Meanwhile to observe Jal Shakti Abhiyan, launched by the Prime Minister under the theme 'Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls', to strengthen water conservation efforts in the country, functions were held across all the districts of Kashmir. The live telecast of launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan by Prime Minister was also streamed live by the respective district administrations across all the districts at respective block and tehsil levels and watched by the participants. Later, the participants also took part in the live 'Jal Shapath' Oath administered by Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT. At Budgam, a mega seminar was today organized by the Department of Jal Shakti, Division Budgam in collaboration with District Administration at Sheikh ul Alam Hall here. The District Development Council Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, other DDC members, ADC Dr Nasir, BDC Chairman, MC President, SE Hydraulics, ACD Nuzhat Qureshi other District Officers and Officials of Department of Jal Shakti were present on the occasion. At Ganderbal, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna today presided over the function organized to mark the cele-



bration of World Water Day in the district. The function was organized by the Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal in the lawns of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal with an aim to sensitize the participants about the importance of water and advocate the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The event was attended by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti division Ganderbal, CEO Ganderbal, DIO Ganderbal besides students of various schools of the district. At Anantnag, District Jal Jeevan Mission and Hydraulic Circle Anantnag in collaboration with Kashmir Research Institute of Education and Solar Technology (KRIEST) today organised a mega function at Dak Bungalow Khanabal. The event was presided over by Chairman District Development Council, Mohammad Yousuf Gorski and was attended by District Development Commissioner, Dr. Piyush Singla, President MCA, Er. Hilal Ah Shah, DDC members, ACD, Nisar Ahmad Malik, SE Hydraulic Circle Anantnag, Gh. Mohammad, other engineers of Jal Shakti Depart-

ment, district and sectoral officers and a large number of local people. At Pulwama, the District Jal Jeevan Mission Pulwama in collaboration with Jal Shakti Division, Pulwama today organised an impressive function at DC Office complex here to mark the World Water Day. The function was presided over by District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary. Besides Chairman District Development Council Pulwama, Syed Bari Andrabi, the function was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama/ Tral, SE Hydraulics, Pulwama, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Pulwama, Newly Elected DDC members and other concerned officers and officials of the district. At Shopian, a mega function on the eve of World Water Day was organized by Jal Shakti Department Shopian with District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar in Chair. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC raised awareness among people about the importance of fresh-water and the need to

save the precious gift of nature by making its judicious use. He further said that it is the responsibility of all of us to save and preserve the water as it is essential for our life. He said that under Jal Jeevan Mission every household would get tap supply in the district and for this purpose several measures are being taken. At Bandipora, the District Administration Bandipora on Monday organised a grand event to celebrate the World Water Day and commemorate the Week Long functions organised to create awareness at grassroots level regarding the importance of water. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad was the Chief Guest on the occasion while DDC Chairperson, Vice Chairperson ADDC Bandipora, ADC Bandipora, Joint Director Planning, BDC Chairpersons, Executive Engineer PHE, district and sectoral officers, members of K-Ford, an NGO, students, Asha workers and Anganwari workers were present on the occasion. At Kupwara, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din today urged upon all the stakeholders to take part in the water conservation efforts so that the gift of nature in the shape of water could be preserved for posterity. The DC said this while taking a pledge to save the water on the eve of World Water Day, here. Chairman, District Development Council (DDC), Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpuri, Deputy Chairman, DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir were also present, besides, various DDC members, ADDC, ADC Kupwara, ACR and District Officers also took pledge, on the occasion.