

J&K Bank shouldering more responsibilities, ready to meet new challenges: CMD



Addl CS Finance, Atal Dulloo and J&K Bank's CMD R K Chhibber in the virtual meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: J&K Bank on Thursday hosted its 83rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders for the financial year 2020-21 at its corporate headquarters through video-conferencing mode following Covid appropriate protocol. The meeting was webcast live on the Bank's website.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo represented J&K UT Government i.e. promoter and majority shareholder of the bank, in the virtual meeting attended by Bank's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R K Chhibber, Directors-on-board, Executive President, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Company Secretary besides a large number of shareholders through VC mode.

Capping Bank's performance at the AGM for FY 20-21 themed - Braving Headwinds: Achieving Newer Heights - the CMD asserted, "Going by the numbers, your Bank has performed quite well and delivered profits for all the quarters of FY2020-21 despite tough market conditions. This performance will generate a long-term organizational momentum for

the steady growth of business while cementing our collective resolve to march ahead towards accomplishment of government's vision of self-reliant, entrepreneur-friendly and socially-inclusive economy", adding, "In the recent UTLBC meeting, the UT Government has lauded the role played by your Bank during the flagship 'Back to Village (B2V3)' Program. Under B2V3, your Bank has a major share in credit dispensation with 19,402 cases received for 'Finance of small businesses' from young entrepreneurs, out of which 15,477 amounting to Rs. 249.57 Crore have been sanctioned", he added.

Speaking about the strategic focus of the bank, the CMD remarked, "Pursuing the strategy of preferring provisioning to profits so as to strengthen the balance sheet while keeping other key ratios comfortably intact, we have laid a stronger and better foundation for our future growth. Your Bank has vastly improved its numbers in terms of key financial parameters like NIM, Gross NPA, Net NPA, PCR, CASA, and Capital Adequacy besides gradually improving bottom line. Better financial numbers are bound to reflect in improved market valuation for the Bank."

Apprising the shareholders about Bank's capital planning and position, the CMD said that the Bank proposes to raise Equity Share Capital up to Rs 1000 Cr besides Tier-2

Capital up to Rs 1000 Cr by way of Non-Convertible, Redeemable, Unsecured, BASEL III Compliant, bonds in the nature of debentures on a private placement basis. He also recalled that the promoter and major stakeholder, Government of J&K UT recently infused additional equity of Rs. 500 Cr in the Bank through preferential allotment.

"In addition to this, Your Bank recently launched Employee Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) which received an overwhelming response from all the employees resulting in over-subscription of the issue culminating in allotment of 5.17 crore equity shares worth Rs 150 Crores. With such a planned capital augmentation, the capital position of your Bank would be comfortable to enhance business growth besides meeting the regulatory requirements with adequate buffers for any evolving stressed situation", the CMD added.

Besides thanking the customers, who he said, continue to repose faith in the bank, he also expressed grati-

tude to the Bank's promoters i.e. the Governments of UT of J&K and Ladakh for lending their kind, unflinching support in toughest of the times. He also appreciated the Directors-on-Board for their support and guidance.

Earlier, the Company Secretary Mohammad Shafi informed the shareholders about the conduct and proceedings of the AGM. He also read out the Auditor's Report, comments from Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) besides placing agenda items for approval of the shareholders at the AGM.

The meeting concluded with a question-answer session, wherein the CMD listened and responded to different queries to the satisfaction of participating shareholders.

Regarding recruitments from UT of Ladakh, the CMD replied that the modalities of undertaking a special recruitment drive for UT of Ladakh were being finalized and would be announced soon.

On the question of staff vaccinations, the CMD informed the participants that most of the staff was fully vaccinated as on date.

He expressed gratitude to all the participants in the AGM for their active virtual participation.

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The cardiologist said telemedicine will play an important role in making digital healthcare a reali-



Awareness campaign to achieve goal of 'no heart attack' in JK by 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Noted cardiologist Upendra Kaul on Thursday said his Gauri Heart Foundation has started a programme in Jammu and Kashmir to create awareness among people about heart ailments to achieve the goal of 'no heart attack' in the union territory by 2025.

On the question of staff vaccinations, the CMD informed the participants that most of the staff was fully vaccinated as on date. He expressed gratitude to all the participants in the AGM for their active virtual participation.

"We want to reach out to every district and every corner of Jammu and Kashmir to make people aware about heart attack and how to avoid it," Dr Kaul said.

The cardiologist said telemedicine will play an important role in making digital healthcare a reali-

ty and that his centre is taking steps in that direction.

He said his foundation has installed a machine in Machil, a remote area of Kupwara district, for on-the-spot tests such as ECG and a medicine dispenser.

Two ambulances have been kept on standby to evacuate if anyone needs more medical care, he said.

Dr Kaul said preventive checkups and change in lifestyle can make a huge difference in avoiding heart attack.

"Regular monitoring of cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension coupled with healthy diet and regular exercise can push back the heart attack by decades," he said.

While the service in Machil will start from October 15, the Jagti camp centre will be made functional in November.

He said cost of these medical facilities has been borne by India Oil Corporation under its corporate social responsibility.

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CS releases first edition of IASOWA magazine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday releases the first edition of IAS Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA), J&K magazine titled Udaan.

The magazine was released here in a simple function organized by the Association and attended by Principal Secretary Information and PDD, Rohit Kansal besides the members of this body.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary applauded the efforts of these women and asked them to make this publication a periodical affair. He recommended them for bringing out such an impressive layout with diverse contents.

Dr Mehta maintained that these women had done what their husbands would rival to achieve. He congratulated them for being one step ahead of them. He asked them that this is a good platform to promote different kinds of social activities.

He expressed jubilation on the fact that despite having pressing engagements at home these women have carved out time for this

service at GMC at the peak of the first wave of COVID-19 last year when no one wanted to come out of their homes.

"We were promised that if we served in the best way during the COVID period, we will be regularised in the services. But instead of regularisation, they threw us out after using us during the worst COVID period," she said.

They demanded regularisation of NHM employees who have helped save hundreds of COVID-19 patients.

According to official reports, the government is reported to have terminated over 1,500 such employees from services.

She said they had joined



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and others releasing the first edition of IAS Officers' Wives Association, J&K magazine 'Udaan'.

social work. He thanked them for all the social work the group has done in mitigation of corona concerns besides other initiatives.

On the occasion Kansal also lauded the efforts of this Association. He asked them to continue all their good work besides creating awareness among public about various positive things. He said that these women have made a good beginning that deserves appreciation. He underscored the need of recognizing good things and providing feedback for any

improvements.

In her message the President, IASOWA, Amita Mehta called 'Udaan' a piece of hard work of all the active members in penning down their thoughts. She urged all the members to utilize this platform for personal and professional growth. She encouraged them to showcase their professional knowledge, experience and talents among their peers.

In her message the editor of Udaan, Shveta Kansal called it a transformation from the realm of thought

to that of reality. She called it a small step towards a long journey. She said, "It is a platform through which we can pause to think about contributing back to our society and country which has blessed and nurtured us". The newsletter has wide range of topics including empowerment of women and children, safeguarding nature and environment, cooking tips, fashion and other activities carried out by IASOWA in the UT.

It was further elaborated during the event that other

objectives of the Association comprises of welfare of society, physical and mental health, experience sharing & caring, health care counseling, celebration of festivals and Yoga. The magazine showcases glimpses of different events organized by this all women association. These events include women empowerment, World Environment Day, International Yoga Day, World Nature Conservation Day, World Ozone Day etc. It also includes articles written by different members including Shveta Kansal, Geetanjali Singla, Sapna Agarwal and Dr Mehal Khateeb.

The other members of the editorial board are Anita Choudhary, Anuradha Jangid, Rajni Kumar, Geetanjali Singla and Aashna Gupta.

The slogan of the magazine as inscribed on it is 'IASOWA J&K is working towards the welfare of society and environment'.

BJP Govt's moves in J&K proving disastrous for all sections of society: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: JKPCC Vice President and former Cabinet Minister Raman Bhalla on Thursday claimed that BJP Govt has created such an atmosphere in J&K that people are not able to live peacefully and comfortably.

He said people are in trouble because of BJP Govt's wrong policies. This was observed by former Minister while interacting with aggrieved people of Guru Nanak Nagar, Sector 8 Ward-43 in Gandhi Nagar constituency.

Reacting over recent move of BJP Govt of allocating 50% of PG seats in J&K to All India Quota, Bhalla said that move will make the entire healthcare system, which is termed as the best in the country, collapse and will also result in unemployment which is already at its peak, adding move is going to be disastrous for the overall patient care as well as the doctor-patient ratio.

"The general public is informed to visit Zonal Police Headquarters, CPO Complex, Panjguri, Jammu on the working days mentioned above or contact on 0191-2544332 (from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM) one day in advance to obtain a weblink for online redressal of grievances," reads the circular.

He said that earlier, all the seats used to be available



JKPCC Vice President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

able for J&K, however, now 50% of seats will go to the All India Quota which means that half of the PG seats in J&K will not remain available for the local doctors.

He also said that as per the move, at the deemed Universities such as SKIMS, 100% of seats there will remain available to the All India Quota.

"It means that just a minuscule number of local doctors will get an admission there which will wreak havoc on the healthcare system of the UT," he said.

He said that the move

promises made to the people and failing the people on all fronts. Not only in jobs to the educated unemployed youth, the BJP has brought the engine of development to a grinding halt thus pushing J&K and its people to wall. The people of J&K have seen through the divisive game plan of these divisive forces and they will never oblige the hate mongers this time. He said BJP stands exposed for its anti-poor and anti-youth policies and these are the segments which are going to punish the party whenever elections are held for ditching people's interests.

He claimed that all sections of society were suffering under BJP rule as promises made to them have turned out to be hollow. Launching attack on BJP Govt, the Congress leader said that this Government has left no stone unturned to destroy democratic institutions.

He stressed that the J&K needed fair and strong constitutional institutions.

ANTF arrests two drug smugglers with Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: The sleuths of Jammu and Kashmir Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) on Thursday arrested two drug peddlers with contraband of 18-kg cannabis, commonly known as 'charas', worth lakhs of rupees here.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) J&K ANTF, Vinay Sharma said that the team has achieved another success on Thursday after it foiled a bid to smuggle cannabis worth lakhs of rupees.

"We received specific information that one car coming from Kashmir Valley and going towards

son of Syed Ghulam Geelani Qadri, resident of Hamdaniya Colony Kralpora Bagh Mehtab, Srinagar were arrested on the spot while a case FIR 13/2021 under Section 8/20/29 NDPS Act was registered.

The Anti Narcotics Task Force is investigating further links as more arrests are expected.

"We have appealed to the general public to share information regarding such drug dealers so that appropriate legal actions are taken against them and this menace is uprooted from our society," said Sharma.

He said that two persons identified as Shabir Ahmed, son of Noor Ud Din Tantray, resident of Sudrabal Srinagar along with Sayeed Bilal Qadri,

read the circular.

"During search of the car, ANTF team recovered 18 Kilograms of Charas from three fabricated cavities," said Sharma.

He said that two persons identified as Shabir Ahmed, son of Noor Ud Din Tantray, resident of Sudrabal Srinagar along with Sayeed Bilal Qadri,

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