

# Sinha reviews winter preparedness across UT

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting on winter preparedness of different departments of UT administration at the Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor took stock of department-wise initiatives and works to be undertaken by the UT administration for winter preparedness. He directed the concerned officers to make necessary arrangements well in advance and asked for Department-wise action plans by Tuesday.

"Preemptively plan for exigencies arising out of weather vagaries. Ensure that a robust mechanism is in place to minimize disruptions of essential services to general public", he added.

The Lt Governor asked the Heads of Departments to pass necessary directions to the concerned officials to work in a synchronized manner to achieve the best possible results.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor has set specific timelines for replacement of transformers in urban, rural, and far-flung/remote



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting.

areas of the UT as 12 hours, 24 hours, and 48 hours respectively.

While enquiring about the buffer stock of transformers to be maintained by the Power Development Department, the Lt Governor directed them for rationalization of transformers across all the districts especially the districts which receive heavy snowfall.

The Lt Governor also enquired about the status of target given in previous meeting for reducing the AT&T losses by 10% and gave new targets.

While reviewing the preparedness of PWD department, the Lt Governor laid emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted road connectivity

and proper traffic management. He also directed the concerned officers for deployment of snow clearing machinery and equipment for snow clearance on National Highways, and all the main and internal roads. The Principal Secretary PWD apprised the Lt Governor about the directions passed to the field staff for ensuring smooth road connectivity throughout winters.

Taking stock of the preparedness of Health sector, the Lt Governor was apprised that district-wise control rooms will be set up while ensuring stocks of medical supplies.

The Lt Governor directed to ensure availability of medicines and deployment

of doctors in all snowbound areas of the UT.

Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs was directed to maintain sufficient stock of the essential items including ration at its depots. The Lt Governor also directed to monitor the supplies of Petrol, Diesel, and LPG.

Similarly, the PHE Department and SMC were directed to prepare men and machinery for tackling inclement weather conditions.

Divisional Commissioners of both Jammu and Kashmir were asked to prepare a meticulous plan of the far-flung and snowbound remote areas of their respective divisions with respect to winter preparations.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Home; Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, HUDD; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, PDD and Information Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Sh Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; M Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, T. Namgyal, ADGP Traffic J&K; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs; Chief Engineers and other senior officers participated in the meeting, in person, and through virtual mode.



## Ch Sukhnandan visit Souhajana, Makwal; listens to public grievances

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister, ex MLA Marh & Chairman Panchiyati Raj Cell BJP JKUT Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar on Friday made a visit to Souhajana and Makwal camp villages in Tawi Island area of Marh Constituency for taking stock of the public issues. People of concerning villages put forth various demands and issues and appealed for their redressal. Sukhnandan listened to the demands patiently and assured them that all issues will be resolved shortly. He said that two electric transformer of 100 KV each for Souhajana village and upgraded 100 kv transformer to 250 kv of village Makwal camp have already been sanctioned, which was the Major demands of village Souhajana & Makwal camp . He talked to the officials of concerning department and directed them to install the newly sanctioned and upgrad-



Ex-MLA Marh Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar during visit to Souhajana and Makwal camp villages.

ed transformers within day or two.

"I am already aware of the plights of the people of my constituency and always tried to make efforts to redress them," Sukhnandan asserted. "Modi Govt is very much keen to develop the infrastructure in rural and borders areas, for which he has launched various schemes with the aim to develop the rural economy in terms of infrastructure and creation of wages and self employment," Sukhnandan added.

DDC Mandal Geetu Aulakh

also spoke on the occasion and thanked former minister for the redressal of major issues of villages of his block.

He also asked people to take maximum benefits of centrally sponsored schemes launched from time to time by Modi-led Govt. Both leaders also condemned the recent brutal killings of innocent people in Kashmir by the Pakistan sponsored terrorists. Sarpanch Panchayat Souhajana Ballbir Singh, panches and many BJP activists were also present on the occasion.

## As head of Govt, Modi created new benchmarks: Dr Jitendra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that Narendra Modi, as the head of government for 20 years, created new benchmarks, which are sought to be followed by others.

Addressing a function at Polling Booth No. 92 in the Rohini Assembly Constituency after participating in "Post Card to PM" programme commemorating completion of 20 years of Narendra Modi as the Head of Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Modi's journey as the Head of Government, is a classic example of consistent perseverance, dedication and 24x7 commitment. He said, when Modi took over as Chief Minister of Gujarat on 7th October 2001, the State was going through difficult times, but within a few months, Modi as Chief Minister not only succeeded in putting the State of Gujarat back on the track, but his fast-track development approach came to be known as "Gujarat Model", which every other State tried to follow.

As Chief Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Narendra Modi was faced with a



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh participating in the 'Post Card to PM' programme commemorating the completion of 20 years of Narendra Modi as the Head of Government, at New Delhi on Thursday. Also seen is the leader of BJP Legislative party in Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta.

hostile Central Government and yet his schemes like 24 hour uninterrupted power supply, restoration of River Narmada etc won him popularity across the country. He said, it was a rare thing to happen in the 70 years of post-independent India that from every part of the country, from North to South and East to West, all the Indians were unanimously demanding in one voice that

Modi should be given a chance to replicate Gujarat Model at the all India level by taking over as Prime Minister of the country. Having watched Prime Minister Modi from close quarters, Dr Jitendra said, the most distinguished quality of the Prime Minister is that he does not preach but practises what he believes and there is a great deal to learn simply by watching him.

Describing Modi as a Prime Minister who has the courage and conviction to take bold decisions, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in his first Independence Day address on 15 August 2014, he underlined Swachata as a flagship programme and took everybody by surprise by giving a new direction to the government which would give priority to foundational issues which closely related to the life of a common man. Similarly, he recalled that in his second Independence Day address, Modi gave a call for abolition of interview in recruitment to government jobs, thus giving a clear signal that he was aiming at a dispensation which would ensure a transparent, corruption-free and level-playing field for the youth of the country.

Following the same approach, Dr Jitendra said, during the COVID time, Narendra Modi excelled every other Head of the Government in the world through his farsighted vision as well as insightful approach. Under the Modi government, within a year India achieved the distinction of becoming a country which had rapidly moved on from a state of shortage of PPE Kits to a capacity of developing more than one vaccines and exporting these to other countries. This in turn, also established Modi as a world leader to be reckoned with, he added.

## Wildlife Week comes to an end today J&K Bank opens Fresh Cash Counter at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan

### ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Wild Life Week celebrations in which various events have been held in almost in every part of Kashmir with a theme let us save wetlands and forests to reduce or minimize man animal conflicts' to be concluded tomorrow.

In a message, Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Rashid Yehya Naqash said there is need to create awareness among people for the protection of precious wetland.

"We are urging people not to make any contact with wild animals, if anyone sees any wild animal don't make panic just contact the officials, they will deal with the situation, if there is any kind of provocation there is chance of damage, so this is request to general public there is Wildlife Act 1971, according to this act any kind of hunting is prohibited in Jammu and Kashmir," official said.

According to the data from the Wildlife Department, J&K government, about 3,390 persons were injured and 229 were killed in human-animal conflict in the Valley between

2006 and 2019, with incidents peaking in the cold winter months.

According to International Journal of Research in Medical Science (IJRMS), human-wildlife conflict is increasing at an alarming rate. In Kashmir Valley, the people are at risk of wild life injuries all the time.

We have been seeing increasing number of victims of wild life injuries during harvesting season for many years with maximum number of injuries due to bear maul.

According to officials, steps are being taken for betterment of wildlife and are also being outlined the precautions necessary to combat different challenges faced in mitigating Man Animal Conflict.

During week long discussions on wildlife, it has been underlined upon the deteriorating ecosystem and called for launching a mass movement with the help of public representatives to conserve the wildlife and biodiversity and highlighted the importance of the Wetlands for harboring lakhs of Migratory birds during winter season.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the eve of Navratra, J&K Bank established a Special Counter at its Business Unit in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan (SMVDSB) to offer fresh cash currency and note exchange facility to the devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

Anu Radha, wife of CEO SMVDSB Ramesh Kumar and Manju Chhibber, wife of J&K Bank CMD R.K Chhibber jointly inaugurated the facility on Thursday in presence CEO SMVDSB Ramesh Kumar and Bank's CMD R K Chhibber.

Others present on the



Anu Radha, wife of CEO SMVDSB Ramesh Kumar and Manju Chhibber, wife of J&K Bank CMD R.K Chhibber inaugurating Special Counter of J&K Bank.

occasion included Zonal Head Jammu North-II (Udhampur) Anokh Singh, SDM Naresh Kumar, Tehsildar Duni Chand, Manager Bhawan

Pardeep Jamwal, Head Pandit Gopal Sharma and others officials of SMVDB and the Bank.

Prior to the inauguration, CMD R K Chhibber, Zonal Head Jammu North-II (Udhampur), Cluster Head Reasi along with their families and other staff members performed pooja within the premises of the business unit.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO SMVDB Ramesh Kumar lauded the efforts of J&K Bank in conducting such programs for the pilgrims besides providing all banking services to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and its employees.

He also appreciated the Bank's role in providing ATM services along the track for the pilgrims.

Welcoming the dignitaries on the occasion, the CMD reiterated Bank's commitment to provide easily accessible banking services especially to the devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine from different parts of the country. "Besides the cash counter and note exchange facility, eleven ATMs and three business units have been set in place from Katra to the Bhawan to serve the devotees", the CMD said.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks presented by the Zonal Head.

## Delimitation task with Justice (Retd) R. Desai Commission is very challenging & demanding

- ▶ J&K Delimitation Commission will have to decide its own weightage for the guiding parameters
- ▶ Backward Area People this time pin hopes on Jatinder, Jugal & Lone for due share in Legislature
- ▶ Hope Associate Members help DC for deciding fair weightage to laid down guiding parameters

The Core Group of BJP UT of J&K Unit is said to have indicated in a meeting in Jammu on this 25th September that elections to the 1st Legislative Assembly of the UT are likely to be held in 2022 after completion of delimitation. In view of that it could be hoped that Delimitation exercise is in advanced stage since two associate members of the Delimitation Commission are also part of the Core Group along with the BJP Prabhari for UT Tarun Chug (All India GS of BJP). No doubt People of 'Backward & Depressed areas' ( Districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora , Kathua ) of UT of J&K are this day expecting a lot from the Associate Members of the Delimitation Commission for UT of J&K , particularly Jatinder Singh, Jugal Kishore and Mohd. Akbar Lone worth providing/getting arranged for the

Delimitation Commission adequate information/assistance for completing the exercise in fairness of the constitutional requirements/ guidelines laid in the Acts.

The present delimitation Commission is inherited/ laid with very high degree of (difficult) responsibility since the distantly placed people and areas (Districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora , Kathua ) of UT of J&K are pinning hopes that atleast Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai Commission after 64 years of enactment of J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 ( now replaced by Jammu and Reorganisation Act , Act No. 34 of 2019 of Parliament of India ) would provide fair representation in the Legislative Assembly (LA) to them . After 1951 even with J&K Representation of the people Act of

1957 in place there have been surely unfair 'delimitations' ( Delimitation order of - 1995 ) and adhoc adjustments ( 1966 ) / readjustment after 1975: in terms of 12th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1975 of 19-08-1975 amending Clause - a of Section 48 of J&K Constitution ) that had kept the people of distant / backward areas outside Kashmir Valley ( excluding Ladakh region) short of their due representation in the Legislative Assembly of J&K State although they had better representation in the Legislative Council of J&K as enshrined in Section-50 of J&K Constitution i.e 14 elected MLCs as against only 12 for areas falling in Kashmir Valley justification for which could be well read from the parameters for delimiting the single member segments of the Legislative Assembly that



A Look through the Mist

were laid down in the J&K representation of peoples Act 1957 { Section- 4, Sub Section -2 Clause -a ( i ) : Population, (ii ) Geographical Compactness ( iii) Nature of terrain ( iv) Facilities of Communication ( v) And the like considerations} that surely went for the areas of UT' outside Kashmir Valley. Whereas the ground situation has been otherwise i.e in the Legislative Assembly through which the terms of Government/ Executive 'Chariot' are held the distribution of Single member segments ( MLAs) had been made more in number for some areas falling in Kashmir valley in very irrational manner in total defiance to very clear guidelines / key parameters even after 1957. In spite of guidelines having been slated in clear terms by enactment of J&K RPA 1957 even the 'only' regular Delimitation work/ exercise that was started in 1981 and was

completed in 1995 had distributed 46 MLAs over areas in Kashmir Valley that in terms of Section-50 of J&K Constitution had only 12 elected MLCs in Legislative Council and distributed just 37 MLAs over the areas outside Kashmir Valley of the present UT of J&K that had constitutionally more (14) elected MLCs than areas in Kashmir Valley. The Section-50 of J&K Constitution drafted in 1949 that constitutionally distributed the seats in the Legislative Council on regional / provincial basis appeared well in line with providing a representative of nearness to the people in the Legislative Assembly too going by the parameters that were laid down for distribution of single member assembly segments in the Legislative Assembly after every census.

Ofcourse it is the real test of the capabilities and commitments of the MPs from UT of J&K as associate

members of the DC since The Delimitation exercise being done by Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai Commission (appointed with term of one year under Notification S.O 1015 E of 06-03-2021 of MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE GOI and term extended to two years under Notification S.O. 1023(E), dated 03-03-2021) for the single member segments of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of UT of J&K could be said a Delimitation exercise involving challenges that no other Delimitation Commission might have so far faced, though belated, for applying very truthful corrections which may be round about 14: 12 :: Areas outside Kashmir Valley : Areas in Kashmir Valley for 90 MLA seats.

Continued (Daya Sagar is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).