

# LG inaugurates adoption of BHIM-UPI mode of transactions in Gram Panchayats of J&K

Handed over land allotment orders to beneficiaries of PMAY-G

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the 'Cashless Panchayats', adoption of BHIM-UPI mode of transactions in Gram Panchayats of J&K UT.

At the Swachh Bharat Diwas Celebration event organized by Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor handed over the land allotment orders to the Landless beneficiaries of PMAY-G.

A total of 245 landless PMAY-G beneficiaries from across J&K UT were identified for land allotment orders today on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

He also dedicated 13 Block Development Council buildings across J&K to the PRI representatives to mark the occasion.

In his address, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for shaping a new destiny of J&K, which has



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating 'Cashless Panchayats', adoption of BHIM-UPI mode of transactions in Gram Panchayats of J&K UT.

achieved historic milestone of ODF Plus under 'Model' category.

He congratulated the Rural Development Department, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and the citizens for achieving 100% cleanliness and Solid & Liquid Waste Management in all 6650 villages.

Door to door collection of waste has been initiated in all the Panchayats, segregation sheds have been established and a financial model has been developed to ensure sustainability of the waste collection mechanism, thereby converting waste to wealth, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor shared

the efforts of the UT Administration to bring socio-economic transformation in the lives of the people living in villages.

"Growth in rural areas is fueling the socio-economic development of J&K UT. Our villages have come closer to the cities in terms of facilities, connectivity and infrastructure," the Lt Governor said.

With participatory approach, we have strengthened social and environmental security and creating entrepreneurship opportunities at the grass-root level, he added.

He said the on-boarding of 4274 Gram Panchayats of J&K on Cashless Mode today are the part of the

government's endeavour to digitize the gram Panchayats and make them more transparent, accountable and effective.

The Lt Governor commended the Directorate of Rural Sanitation for its novel initiative of 'Swachhata Bulletin' to monitor and share daily updates, activities by districts in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari and encouraging the community members to share feedback and contribute in building "Swachh and Swasth J&K".

He directed the Rural Development Department to ensure the new system put in place in rural areas for sanitation remains dynamic, the new facilities developed in this journey are properly maintained, and the waste management system should be continuously monitored.

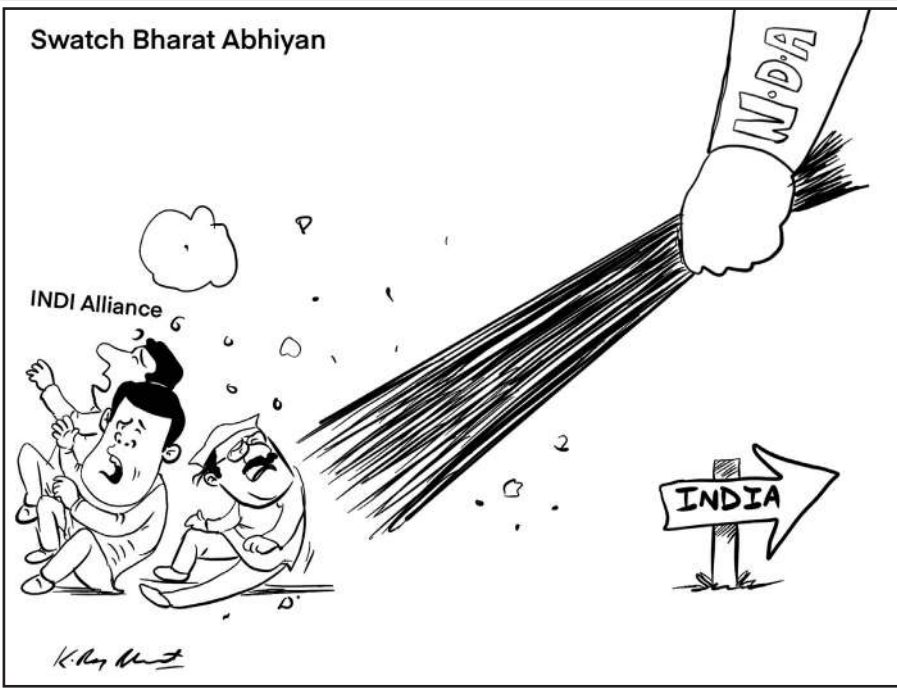
He called for data analysis for day to day manage-

ment of Swachh Gram and other future requirements with help of technology like Artificial Intelligence.

The Lt Governor felicitated the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal, Ramban, Srinagar, Budgam and Kulgam, and Swachhata Champions for their outstanding contribution in Swachhata campaigns and in achieving ODF Plus Model status.

Four booklets under SBM-G on Door to Door Waste Collection Guidelines, Legacy Waste Management Guidelines, Safe Sanitation Index and Panchayat Sanitation Index released, and Sarpanches of Cashless Panchayats were also felicitated on the occasion.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; HoDs, PRI members, senior officers, Swachhata Champions and beneficiaries under PMAY-G attended the event, in person and through virtual mode.



## Persistent dry weather, declining water levels force KPDCL to unscheduled power cuts

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is currently grappling with an unprecedented power crisis, with power cuts from 5 to 9 hours a day, leaving residents and industries to suffer hugely.

Hot, humid and dry weather conditions during the months of August and September in the Valley has reduced the water level in the famous water bodies including river Jhelum, Chenab and Doodh Ganga and others following which the people are facing power crisis much before winters.

Officials said that the root cause of this crisis lies in the dwindling power generation within J&K, which currently stands at a mere 500 MW, far below the increasing demand.

Despite the ample hydropower potential in Jammu and Kashmir, power generation has declined to 500 MW, while the government's reduced procurement of 1400-1500 MW from external power has resulted in a power crisis in the Union Territory.

Additionally, the government's decision to reduce power purchases from external generating companies has further worsened the situation.

According to sources, the power deficit in Kashmir alone hovers between 300 to 400 MW, and with the mercury dipping rapidly, the power demand in Kashmir has surged, reaching up to 1500 MW at peak times.

Ironically, the available

power supply falls significantly short, hovering around 1000 MW, creating a considerable gap between supply and demand.

"In response to this crisis, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is implementing a strategy to prioritise power supply. The first and foremost priority is to ensure uninterrupted electricity to essential facilities such as hospitals, critical installations, metered areas, and industrial estates. Unfortunately, this leaves no alternative but to resort to scheduled load shedding to bridge the demand-supply gap," the sources said.

According to KPDCL officials, metered areas were facing unscheduled power cuts of 5 to 6 hours per day, while non-metered areas were experiencing even longer cuts, up to 9 hours. Industrial estates are also grappling with erratic power supply, severely affecting industrial production in the region.

Chief Engineer, KPDCL, expressed optimism that the power supply situation would improve in the coming days as additional electricity purchases from external sources were set to be made.

Officials said that the Baglihar power project was expected to contribute an additional 150 MW of power during the evening hours. "The government has also made arrangements to purchase additional power from Uttar

Pradesh (UP) to alleviate the crisis," they said.

J&K-owned power plants currently contribute 18 percent of J&K's total energy requirements, with Central Generating Stations (CGS) making up the majority at 70 percent, and the remaining 12 percent sourced from the power exchange and private sector.

As per the official data, J&K-owned power plants play a significant role in the UT's power generation, with the Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP) alone generating approximately 900 MW.

Other locally-owned power generation plants like Upper Sindh, Lower Jhelum, and Chenani collectively produce around 200-250 MW.

This cumulative generation typically amounts to 1100-1140 MW, however, it drops to approximately 200 MW during winter due to reduced water discharge in rivers when demand surges to over 3000 MW.

According to the Power Development Department (PDD), of the total installed capacity of 1140 MW in the UT sector, the majority, around 1030 MW (88 percent of the total capacity), is utilised within J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold to other entities outside J&K as per agreements executed in 2009.

As the power crisis continues to grip J&K, residents and industries alike are eagerly awaiting relief measures and an increase in power supply to mitigate the hardships faced due to prolonged power cuts.

## Dr Andrabi leads mega cleanliness drives at Makhdoom Sahib & Dastgir Sahib shrines



Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi carrying out cleanliness drive.

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SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday led Mega Cleanliness Drives of J&K Waqf Board at famous Sufi shrines of Makhdoom Sahib & Dastagir Sahib in Srinagar. Fire & Emergency Services Department and Srinagar Municipal Corporation also assisted in the Cleanliness Drive. Employees of the Board were joined by some volunteers from public to

assist in the Drive. Waqf Chairperson was accompanied by the members of the Waqf Board Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem & Mohammad Syed Haqqani.

It is pertinent to mention her that Waqf Board has initiated a Mega Cleanliness Programme at all shrines of J&K from today. Similar drives were undertaken by the Board at the shrines at Char-e-Sharief & Pakherpora also. 'Cleanliness is the very important part of the faith of an individual & such

Programmes help us make cleanliness our collective habit. Sufi shrines are the centres where inner cleansing of soul and mind happens but we ought to keep these shrines very clean and tidy in order to ensure a pious environment around", said Dr Andrabi on the sidelines of the drive.

She thanked the staff and the administration of Fire & Emergency Services & Srinagar Municipal Corporation for their help in the drive. "Without public support and cooperation we cannot do anything worthwhile & so we always believe in collective measures to enforce any significant change at ground level", said Waqf Chairperson. She said that no negligence on the part of any staffer in his/her duties was acceptable and Waqf Board was committed to ensure the basic facilities & services to the people at all shrines.

## Sure Diagnostic Specialised Lab organises medical camp



Doctor along with lab management during the camp.

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JAMMU: Sure Diagnostic Specialised Lab organised a free medical camp at Green Belt park, Channi Himmat on Monday. Team of doctors led by Dr Sumedha Mengi, Chief pathologist examined more than 60 people from all walks of life. Even poor people

availed the facility of free blood sugar, blood pressure monitoring and health packages.

Sure Diagnostic Lab is a NABL ME (LT) Certified Lab. Only 3 per cent of Lab in India have this certification. Sure Diagnostic Lab is situated at Rail Head complex, Behind Reserve bank.

## Registrar General felicitates Swachhata workers



Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem along with Swachhata workers during the programme.

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JAMMU: In a function held at High Court complex, Jammu on the eve of culmination of Swachhata Hi Seva, 2023 campaign, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Shahzad Azeem felicitated number of workers under the Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan in recognition of their dedicated services provided round the year and particularly during the aforesaid campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, Azeem addressing the gathering greeted and appreciated the work of those who were felicitated and urged other members to follow their footsteps in keeping the High Court premises neat and clean. He further said that the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi had a dream of cleaner India free from garbage and the said dream shall become reality by the efforts of all the stakeholders. On this occasion

those who gathered on spot were made to take pledge to keep their surroundings neat and clean. A similar function was organized at High Court complex, Srinagar wherein also the Swachhata Work Force was felicitated for upkeep of the High Court premises.

Those who attended the function include M. K. Sharma, Pr. Secretary to the Chief Justice, Tasleem Arief, Registrar Vigilance, Rajinder Sapru, Registrar Rules, S. R. Gandhi, Registrar Judicial, Jammu wing, Anit Gupta, Members Secretary, JKLSA, Pravin Pandoh, Joint Registrar Judicial, Jammu wing, Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar Judicial, Jammu wing, Srinagar wing, Aftab Ahmed Chouhan, Addl. Registrar, Ajay Sharma, Joint Registrar, Sanjay Bhat, Joint Registrar, Sanjay Kumar Verma, Deputy Registrar along with officers/officials of High Court.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu in collaboration with the Home for the Aged and Infirm, Ambphalla celebrated the 33rd International Day of the Older Person here last evening with a Health Talk on 'Urinary Diseases including Prostrate'.

The noted young Urologist, Dr. Rahul Gupta, Associate Professor in the Department of Urology & Renal Transplant, Govt Medical College, Jammu who is also expert in advanced Endourology/ Laparoscopy, delivered illuminating & highly informative lecture dealing with various aspects of urinary diseases especially among older people.

Addressing a packed Seminar Hall of the IIPA, Dr Rahul Gupta advised elders to be always conscious of their health and get their medical concerns evaluated by a concerned specialist. He cautioned them against self-medication and said that such an approach could lead them in difficult health conditions. He said that Jammu Medical College and other Govt health facilities have adequate diagnostic equipment that elderly people should immediately benefit from these amenities rather than trying to learn from google or social media. This approach is



Association members along with dignitaries during the event in Jammu on Monday.

dangerous and needed to be avoided.

Talking about prostate and related problems like obstruction or overflowing of urine, Dr Rahul Gupta said that today, "Men Health" is becoming important and they should not be skeptical about any symptoms relating to urine problems. He said every man has a prostate which is an organ in reproductive anatomy. This gland is located directly below the bladder and plays a role in producing and fine-tuning semen and changes in it can lead to urinary issues.

Dr Gupta also talked about Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) and said that their symptoms should not be overlooked. The LUTS occurs among men that are associated with many medical comorbidities that need immediate qualified benefit from these amenities. LUTS is mostly caused by infection or obstruction of the urinary system. It is due to

urinary bladder outlet obstruction, cysts of stone in kidney, ureteral obstruction, or urethral stricture. There could be specific conditions like prostatic enlargement or hyperplasia, prostate cancer, kidney infection, neurological conditions, high-pressure retention, and urinary tract infection (UTI).

He indicated four indicators of advanced disease that include increased frequency of urine, overflow incontinence, persistent feeling fullness in lower abdomen, bed wetting, fever with urinary burning & pedal edema.

Speaking about the need for consciousness of health conditions by senior citizens, Dr Rahul said that it is advisable to have regular tests which he described as "crucial four". He explained these tests as urinalysis, serum PSA, serum creatinine and non-invasive transabdominal ultrasonography. Regretting that the people

have forgotten their roots, he advised elders to have vegetarian Indian food which is the best-balanced food that is good for health.

Delivering presidential address, Dr Ashok Bhan, former DGP complimented the CGPWA for arranging such useful, informative, and motivating Health Talks to celebrate the national and International Days. Complimenting Dr Rahul for his lecture to the audience, he agreed that we could hide our symptoms to our own peril. He said that the rapid increase in the population of elders unfolded a challenge to the society in the management of this population.

Dr Bhan called the senior citizens as "young veterans" and advised them to remain active and social. Remaining aloof with the mental bent of mind of a retired person

has a huge personal and health costs. He narrated a story of "knocking fee" that had gone viral recently on social media, and said in old age when someone unfortunately remained single, he would pay just for a knock on his door as being all alone he would crave for listening to this knock and then talking with him for a while.

B R Sharma, State Election Commissioner, J&K & Life Member of the Association who was the Guest of Honour, cautioned older persons against becoming your own doctor and self-medication said this could lead to irreversible medical disorder. Counselling members of the Association against considering themselves as retired, he said that they are actually "young old" and keep doing something to keep themselves busy.

Sharma said that this Day has been celebrated since 1991 world over and every year there is a meaningful theme. This year's theme is "Fulfilling the Promise of the Universal Declaration of Human rights of the Older Persons".

Across Generations'. The objective of celebration of the Day was also in consonance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and generated commitments among all stakeholders to strengthen

the protection of the human rights of current and future generations of older persons around the world.

I. D. Soni, President of the Home for the Aged and Infirm, educationist, social activist and co-host of the event, asked the senior citizens to religiously follow the underlying meaning of Hindu holy scriptures and emulate exemplary good conduct, noble mind, purification of body and soul, loving heart, caring for others, missionary zeal, selflessness and become a real a good human being. Such noble persons would never face any problem in their lives as they would become messiahs for the poor and needy. He advised pensioners against retiring the brain after retirement and keep doing constructive social, ethical, and other pious work for the welfare of the society.

Earlier the General Secretary of CGPWA, K. B Jandial welcomed the dignitaries and explained the objective of nominating 1st October as International Day for Older Persons.

The Vice President of the CGPWA, Dr Sudarshan Kumar presented the Vote of Thanks. He suggested that the social bodies should consider visiting rural areas and interact with poor and neglected older persons who needed attention in every respect.