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being completed on time."
"I want every decision taken by the government to serve the people within a reasonable time frame and it must follow the law of equity and inclusiveness," the Lieutenant Governor said.
Pertinently, Jammu & Kashmir is number one in the country for taking lead in enforcing reforms in expenditure management, and account of each penny has been made available in public domain.
The intuitive Budget, Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System (BEAMS) is an online computerized web based application for preparation and authorization of budget. It enables online flow of resources and the departments can allocate funds to their field offices through this system. It supports reliable, accurate, and better monitoring control for budget planning and expenditure audit, besides real-time reconciliation of accounts in comparison to manual budgeting process which lacks transparency.
Similarly, the government of J&K has launched the EMPOWERMENT (Enabling Monitoring of Public Overview of Works Being Executed & Resources for Meaningful Transparency) initiative to bring transparency in the execution of works by enabling citizens to monitor works/projects being implemented in their areas and become a partner in the process of development. The information available on this one-stop platform can be utilized for timely feedback and suggestions for improving expenditure outcomes in spirit of Jan Bhageedari.
The web portal hosting all the works being executed in the UT is designed to capture flow of funds to each individual project under execution on real-time basis.
The 'Janta Ki Scheme-Janta ki Bhagidari' will be a targeted campaign to improve access to BEAMS-EMPOWERMENT. It will focus on encouraging, educating, and empowering common public to access the details of all ongoing works in an area/village, available online, and to utilize the information to help government bring about greater responsiveness and accountability, besides greater participation of stakeholders in the process of development happening in their area.
The interactive portal (www.beamsjk.gov.in) offers public an opportunity to give their feedback about any of the works going on in J&K, enabling citizens to directly participate in the development of their area.
As on date, the portal hosts 33099 works being executed in the Union Territory at a cumulative cost of around Rs 12200 crores with micro details of up to village level.
The J&K government has taken a string of other e-initiatives in addition to BEAMS-EMPOWERMENT to achieve greater transparency and accountability. Some prominent among those include: PROOF (Photographic Record of On-site Facility), which is a mobile app to monitor progress of all the works allocated of different departments. It gives the public a pictorial view of the work along with its geographical coordinates i.e. latitude and longitude and user comments on work progress; JkPaySys(JK Payment System) that enables online submission of bills to treasuries eliminating unwarranted delays and provision for corruption.
Further, as a result of sustained Institutional Reforms in the UT and sharp focus on completion of works in a time-bound manner, there is a substantial impact on the

ground in terms of the completion of the projects. 9229 projects/works were completed during 2018-19 and 12637 in 2019-20, a total of 21943 projects/works have been completed across UT in 2020-21.

India will give...

naming China. Singh said he must make it clear that if there is an attempt by any country in the world to "occupy even an inch of our land, India will give a fitting reply to it".
Noting that everyone was aware of India's defining victory in 1971, Singh warned India's neighbours of not living under any delusion.
The defence minister said there was an attempt to create misapprehensions in Nepal about a road from Lipulekh Pass to Mansarovar through Dharchula that was inaugurated by him recently.
"But it has failed to affect our close cultural ties with Nepal," he said.
Conferring Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma with the honorary rank of Indian Army Chief recently is a reassertion of India's close cultural ties with Nepal, Singh said.
Launching the second leg of the Shaheed Samman Yatra', Singh said the state government should ensure that names of martyrs and the names of their villages should be inscribed on the Sainya Dham being built in Dehradun as a memorial tribute to them.
Soil from homes of 1,734 martyrs' families in Uttarakhand are being collected in urns to be brought to Dehradun and used in the construction of the Sainya Dham, a vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

187 new COVID...

Kashmir Division. Moreover, 158 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 34 from Jammu Division and 124 from Kashmir Division.
On COVID vaccination, the officials said that 48,875 doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours bringing the cumulative number of doses administered across J&K to 1,61,40,344.
According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 335203 positive cases, 1696 are Active Positive (252 in Jammu Division and 1444 in Kashmir Division), 329046 have recovered and 4461 have died; 2182 in Jammu division and 2279 in Kashmir division.
The Bulletin further said that out of 17136262 test results available, 335203 samples have tested positive and 16801059 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 50,067 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.
Till date 4199383 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 5546 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1696 in isolation and 434047 in home surveillance. Besides, 3753633 persons have completed their surveillance period.
Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 28 new cases of COVID-19 in last one day, pushing the overall tally to 21,298, officials said.
Of 224 active cases in the Union Territory, Leh has 216 and Kargil eight, the officials said.
Out of 2069 tests conducted on Friday, 27 returned positive in Leh and one in

Kargil, they said.
No death was reported in last 24 hours from here, officials said.
Ladakh has so far registered 212 Covid-related deaths -- 154 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.
It has witnessed a spurt in the positive cases since the beginning of this month, recording four COVID-related deaths and 336 new cases with most of them being reported from Leh.
The officials said 13 Coronavirus-infected patients were discharged from a hospital in Leh and two others in Kargil, thereby taking the number of recoveries in Ladakh to 20,862 -- 97.95 percent of the virus caseload.

Newly appointed HM...

and 18Bn CRPF in the area.
During the operation, as the presence of terrorists was ascertained they were given ample opportunities to surrender; instead they started firing indiscriminately on the search parties. The joint parties rescued the civilians and shifted them to safer places.
The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter in which newly appointed district commander of proscribed terror outfit HM was killed and his body retrieved from the site. He has been identified as Mudasir Wagay son of Jamal Wagay resident of Malwan Kulgam.
As per police records, killed terrorist Mudasir was an A+ categorized terrorist and was active since year 2018 figuring among the list of most wanted terrorists. He was part of groups involved in several terror crimes including attack on security forces and civilian atrocities. He was also involved in killing of a political worker Gh Hassan Lone in Devsar area of Kulgam.
Moreover, the Insas rifle recovered from the killed terrorist is the same which was snatched by terrorists in 2017 at Pombay DH Pora during an attack on bank vehicle.
Incriminating material, arms and ammunition including said Insas rifle were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law and investigations have been initiated.
Besides, Pulwama police, during the investigation of cases pertaining to multiple grenade attacks in district Pulwama, busted a network of active associates of proscribed terrorist outfit LeT by arresting five active terrorist associates. They have been identified as Showket Islam Dar, son of Mohd Rustom Dar; Aijaz Ahmad Lone, son of Mohd Abdullah; Aijaz Gulzar Lone, son of Gulzar Ahmad; Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, son of Ali Mohd and Nasser Ahmad Shah, son of Late Gh. Rasool all residents of Lelhar Pulwama.
Preliminary investigation revealed that the module was acting as sleeper cell and were involved in procurement as well as transportation of arms/ammunition. They were also involved in carrying out grenade attacks on security forces at the behest of their handlers.
Incriminating materials including arms/ammunition have been recovered from their possession. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 139/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Kakapora. Further investigation into the matter is in progress.

Modi Govt committed to develop rural areas at par with urban: Bharat Bhushan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Government led by PM Narendra Modi is committed to develop rural areas at par with urban areas as the same is a prerequisite for making India a developed nation.
This was stated by DDC Chairman Jammu Bharat Bhushan after inaugurating construction work on the road stretch connecting Nai Basti Panchayat to Gango Chak Panchayat.
The aforesaid road stretch starting from Bathoor to Gol Pattan will be constructed under NABARD with an estimated cost of Rs. 2.93 crore. Former MLA Sukhnandan Choudhary was also present.
Speaking on the occasion,



DDC Chairman Jammu Bharat Bhushan along with Former MLA Sukhnandan Choudhary during a public meeting.

the DDC Chairman said that development of rural areas holds much significance as still large segments of the population lived in villages. He said that development of villages has been one of the priorities of the Modi Government and the imbalance between Urban and Rural areas has to be removed to offer quality life to people living in far off hamlets. He said that villages have to be self-sufficient and agriculture has to be made more prof-

itable, and for this roads and other infrastructure has to be made robust.

Bharat Bhushan said that various exclusive schemes have been formulated to benefit the people hailing from rural India who will eventually become the pillars of the country's economy in the long run.

He said that small steps taken in building rural infrastructure will subsequently help in bringing about colossal change in the entire country and asked the people to act as the arms of the government in accomplishing this cause to steer India to new heights of progress.

He said that the policy envisaged by Prime Minister Modi will soon put an end to the dif-

ference between urban and rural lifestyles as the same convenience and facilities will be available in villages as are currently available in cities.

Prominent among those who were present included J&K BJP Kissan Moreha President Omi Khajuria, DDC Marh Balbir Lal, BDC Marh Surinder Kumar, State Secretary BJP J&K Vikas, Ex Sarpanch Nai Basti Om Prakash, Sarpanch Gajansoo Panchayat Tilak Raj Choudhary, Ex Sarpanch Saharan Panchayat Sham Lal, Sarpanch Galwadey Panchayat Vikramjeet Manhas, Sarpanch Dhatreyal Panchayat Parshotam Lal and Sarpanch Rathua Panchayat Lal Singh.

DDC Chairperson Ramban convenes public outreach programme at Rajgarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: District Development Council, Chairperson Ramban Dr Shamshad Shan has reiterated that the Council in coordination with District Administration is put in extra efforts to ensure overall development of the district and effective implementation of all beneficiary and youth oriented schemes.
Dr Shan was interacting with the local public during a public outreach programme at Rajgarh.
Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam also highlighted the schemes of different sectors launched by the Government for the welfare of people and directed all the departments to implement the schemes in letter and spirit especially in rural and far-flung areas.
BDC Chairperson Rajgarh,



DDC Chairperson Ramban Dr Shamshad Shan chairing a Public Darbar at Rajgarh.

Sonika Devi; DDC Councillor, Mohammad Shafi Zargar; Assistant Commissioner Development, Zameer Ahmed Rishu; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mohammad Freed Bhat; ALC, AD Employment, XEN of PMGSY, Jal Shakti besides various senior officers and a large number of people attended the programme.
The Chairperson empha-

sized upon DDC, BDC, PRI members to focus on development of road infrastructure in their respective areas, which is the basic need for any economic development.

The DDC Chairperson directed the Forest department to fence all Forest Closures and instructed the execution agencies to complete the tendering process of sanctioned development

works.
She assured that the issue regarding creation of Education Zone at Rajgarh will be taken up with the department. The JPDCL was asked to speed up the replacement of wooden poles to strengthen the power supply system in rural areas.
Meanwhile, the DC directed the ALC to hold e-Sharm registration camps in Rajgarh area to cover all eligible persons under the scheme. He also directed Horticulture and other line departments to hold awareness camps in the block to sensitize the people about their schemes.

Earlier, the people thanked the DC for opening a bank branch at Rajgarh. They also highlighted the their issues and demands relating to basic facilities including road connectivity to Panchayat

Kumate, opening of AWAS PLUS portal, transformer for Kumate, release of pension in favour of old age and specially abled persons, supply of firewood, construction of Foot bridge over Grela Nallah, deployment of Doctors and Ambulance for PHC Rajgarh, shortage of staff in HSS Rajgarh, sanction of Fire Tender for Rajgarh, construction of passenger shed and toilet complex at Rajgarh, issuance of BPL ration card to left out genuine poor families and sanction of New water supply schemes for the area.

Responding to the issues pertaining to their respective departments, the officers heard one by one to all the people.

The Chairperson assured them their genuine demands would be fulfilled in a time frame manner.

Elections not a solution to J&K issue: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said elections have never been a solution to the Jammu and Kashmir issue, though they are important for addressing the basic needs of people.

She said her party is ready for the polls whenever they are held.

"Elections have never been a solution of J-K issue. Elections, whether they take place today or tomorrow, will keep on happening. While they are important for addressing the basic needs of the people, they (elections) are not my priority. Whenever they take place, we are ready for that," Mehbooba told reporters in north Kashmir's Kupwara.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief also

assured the Centre of trying to divide the Muslim votes in Jammu and Kashmir by propping up new parties.

"The Centre is attempting to divide the majority community vote in J-K. The Congress is being split, people were taken out from the PDP, the NC and new parties were created. It is being done to disempower the people here, to reduce their power. But I am sure that the people of Kashmir are politically mature and they understand it," she said.

Mehbooba has said several times in the past that she is not going to fight the assembly elections as her objective is to seek the restoration of Article 370 of the Constitution which was abrogated by the BJP-led government in August 2019.

Heroin, illicit liquor seized; woman among four arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing its drive against drug menace 'Ek Yudh, Nashe Ke Virudh' District Police Reasi arrested three notorious drug peddlers and illicit liquor smugglers besides recovering heroin and illicit liquor from their possession.

As per details, a team of Reasi Police at Check Post Balini, during checking and frisking of vehicles, noticed suspicious movement and stopped a motorcycle (JK02AP 7907) plying from Reasi towards Katra.

During checking 2 gm Heroin (Chitta) like substance was recovered from possession of bike rider, identified as Ravi Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of Shapanoo, Dera Baba in District Reasi. He was arrested and FIR No 253/2021 under sections 8, 21, 22 of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Katra.

In another incident, a team of Police Station Reasi on a specific information laid a Naka near Bus-stand Reasi, stopped a person namely Kehar Singh, son of Prem Singh, resident of Dhanore Arnas and recovered 45 bottles (750 ml each) of liquor from his possession. He was arrested and FIR No 225/ 2021 under section 48(a) of Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Reasi.

Meanwhile, a team of Police Station Arnas, in an action against distillation of illicit liquor, arrested a woman namely Sunita Devi, wife of Bakel Singh, resident of Matlote, Tehsil Thuru and recovered 9 liters illicit (Desi) liquor from her possession. She was arrested and FIR No 126/2021 under section 48(A) of Excise Act was registered against her at Police Station Arnas.

In another incident Police Station Arnas registered FIR no 127/2021 under sections 48(A)(B), 50 of Excise act against one illicit liquor smuggler Jagdev Singh, son of Laxmi Dass, resident of Thub Thanole and recovered 5 liters illicit liquor from his possession. Later, the team also destroyed illicit distillation unit. The accused was arrested and investigation started.

3 smugglers arrested, illicit timber along with 3 horses seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Police on Saturday arrested 3 timber smugglers and seized illicit timber being carried on 3 horses.

As per details, a party of Police Post Pakherpora during Naka checking at Balkhi Mohallah Pakherpora intercepted three persons carrying illicit timber swans laden on horses. They were identified as Showkat Ahmed Awaan, son of Mohd Shafi Awaan; Ghulam Mohi-u-din Parray, son of Abdul Ahad Parray, both residents of Chawan Keller and Shabeer Ahamd Tedwa, son of Mohd Yaqoob Tedwa, resident of Sangerwani. The accused were arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remained in custody. Three horses used in the commission of crime have also been seized. Accordingly, FIR No. 118/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Charar-e-Sharif and investigation has been taken up.



Rs 19,600 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Saturday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 19,600 Taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 66,42,950.

The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr Suresh informed that as many as 1112 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district on Saturday. As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1,531 samples including 338 RT-PCR and 1,193 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 1,112 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

60 Kanals 4 Marla State land retrieved

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In continuation of ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the local administration in Gandoh retrieved 60 Kanals and 4 Marla state land including 3 Kanals Roshni land in village Gwalo (Bhalessa) falling under Khasra no 393.

A Revenue Department team headed by Naib Tehsildar Kako Bharti led the drive. It is pertinent to mention here that the district administration has started a drive to remove encroachments from state land, which shall continue till all the encroached land is retrieved.

