

VC DDC Kupwara visits various villages of Lolab sub-division

Inspects snow clearance work, power scenario

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KUPWARA: The Vice Chairman, District Development Council (VC-DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir on Sunday visited various villages of Lolab sub division of Kupwara district to take stock of the situation arisen from recent snowfall.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected various roads, lanes and inner-links and checked the snow clearance operations. He directed the concerned departments including R&B, PMGSY and MED to widen Snow clearance on main roads and also from link roads where Snow is yet to be cleared.

The VC also inspected several Receiving Stations (RS) including RS Khumriyal, RS Krusan and RS Lassipora Sogam to assure the power supply



VC DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir inspecting snow bound areas.

scenario in the sub division. He directed the concerned engineers and officials to ensure speedy restoration of electricity so that people do not suffer in this bone chilling cold.

The VC took also took stock of essential commodities.

The Vice Chairman visited various villages of the Lolab valley including

Tangecheck, Krusan, Lalpora, Sogam, Daramwari, Darpora, Maidanpora, Cheepora, Kuligam, Wavoor, Shartmoqam etc and heard the issues of the people.

At Tangecheck, the PRIs and people apprised the Vice Chairman about a transformer which has been installed two years ago under Saubhagya scheme

and has not yet been operational due to which people are facing severe hardships.

The Vice Chairman assured the people that he will take up the same with the concerned department and will resolve the issue within the stipulated time frame. During the visit, the Vice Chairman met various public delegations who apprised him about the problems and issues faced by them in their daily life. He assured them for redressal of their genuine issues.

The Vice Chairman conveyed the District administration to provide uninterrupted essential services including power supply, water, essential commodities and health care to the people of Lolab valley in this harsh winter season so that they do not suffer.

Play 'Love in the time of Corona' staged at Natrang Studio

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Yet another show of the new play 'Love in the time of Corona' staged here on Sunday at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

The play has been devised and directed by Aarushi Thakur Rana who is England based Theatre Director, Writer and Actor.

She is the first Indian from Jammu and Kashmir whose directorial debuts have been performed in the most prestigious Nehru Centre, London, Mayfair Zoroastrian Centre, London in 2019, Kala Ghoda Arts festival, Mumbai in 2018, Tagore Hall Chandigarh in 2018 and Kingdom of Dreams, Delhi in 2017.

Natrang consistently initiates such creative ventures for the youth of Jammu in which they are given right training in acting, dance, singing, backstage management and stagecraft. Natrang's endeavor



Natrang artists performing in a play.

or is to bring talented people together and give them a positive space to explore their talents.

Today's performance revolves around a love story between Sweetie and Vicky who are childhood sweethearts and want to get married. They have been love-struck since they were kids and as they grow up, their fondness for each other grows. After convincing their families to allow them to get

married, they get involved with the preparations. As the preparations are at its peak, the world is stuck by a pandemic. In India, there are covid restrictions and only limited people are allowed to be a part of the wedding festivities.

The chaos leads the bride's and groom's families into an argument which further leads to the cancellation of the wedding. This leaves the bride and groom disheartened and

what happens next is history.

The artists who participated in the play included Meenakshi Bhagat, Satyam Mehra, Sanket Bhagat, Asma Gul, Gautam Sharma, Sagar Gupta, Diksha Pandita, Raghav Sharma, Sonali Dub, Vashudha Sawhney, Pratham Sharma, Abhinav Singh Rajput, Toyab Hussain, Rahul Gupta, Aafaque Khan, Aarti Bhagat and Kushal Bhat.

The lights of the play were designed and operated by Shivam Singh whereas the sound was rendered by Brijesh Avtar Sharma. The show was coordinated by Neeraj Kant and Mohd Yaseen.

On the occasion of Vishav Hindi Diwas, Natrang will present Dr. Shankar Shesh's landmark play 'Aadhi Raat Ke Baad' directed by Mohd. Yaseen virtually on the social media platforms of Natrang Jammu.

District Admn Pulwama on toes to combat post snowfall situation



DC Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary interacting with a patient.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
PULWAMA: The District Administration Pulwama is on toes to combat the post Snowfall situation in the district and the normal life has partially normalized with immediate steps taken.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary on Sunday

issued specific instructions to all the concerned officers, field-level officers to ensure swift completion of Snow-clearance operation. He also directed them to monitor restoration efforts and ensure round-the-clock operations for the earliest possible restoration in areas where public services are still dis-

rupted. He enjoined upon them to remain at the beck and call of the people and ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials and health-care facilities across the district.

The DC and SSP are personally monitoring the situation under and have carried extensive tours to different places in the district including hospitals, Receiving stations and other important public utility installations.

The DC also directed senior officials to ensure adequate men and machinery for snow clearance of village link roads and further asked them to ensure the team on the ground is functional round the clock to provide maximum relief to the common man.

The Snow clearance drive has been started in the nook and corner to maintain smooth traffic movement on roads besides helpline numbers have been setup by the administration to ensure its access to the general public.

Dr Thappa urges LG to consider demand of paramedics



Dr Rajinder Thappa interacting with NHM paramedics.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Incharge Health Wing AAP Jammu Province, Dr Rajinder Thappa on Sunday met National Health Mission (NHM) paramedics who are protesting for their genuine demands at Government Medical College Jammu for the last many days.

Dr Rajinder demanded that the genuine demands of NHM paramedics be addressed on priority, as the family members were dependent upon them for sustenance and livelihood.

He assured the NHM paramedics that AAP stands behind them for their legitimate demands.

He said NHM paramedics had joined service at GMC at the peak of the first wave of COVID-19 when no one wanted to come out of their homes with the assurance that their service should be regularized if they served in the best way during the COVID period. He added that NHM paramedics saved hundreds of COVID-19 patients.

Dr Rajinder Thappa appealed Lt Government Manoj Sinha to consider the demands of paramedics and issue regularization order of their services on priority.

DC Kulgam visits several rural, hilly areas of Noorabad

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Sunday conducted an extensive tour of various rural and hilly areas of Noorabad and took firsthand appraisal of Snow clearance operations, restoration of essential services besides taking stock of the availability of essential commodities.

The DC visited K. B. Pora, Nihama, Gopalpora, Batpora, Yaroo, D. H. Pora besides other areas and interacted with people and listened their issues.

People appreciated the Deputy Commissioner and administration for prompt and timely restoration of essential services and mitigation of sufferings, issues of people.

They also complimented administration for bringing the normal life on track despite these areas witnessed heavy Snowfall.

The DC also urged the people to adopt COVID Appropriate Behavior to avoid



DC Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat interacting with officials.

spread of Covid-19 infection and to keep the possibility of third wave of COVID-19 at bay.

Later, the DC inspected Sub District Hospital at D.H.Pora and took stock of patient care and other medical services being provided to people there.

He also interacted with the patients and attendants and enquired about the facility being provided to them in the hospital.

He also instructed ACD to ensure lifting of Snow from premises of hospital within hours.

The DC also urged hospital authorities to provide best medical services to people to ensure 24x7 functioning of control rooms.

He also instructed Tehsildar and other concerned officers to ensure regular market checking to curb black marketing, profiteering and hoardings to ensure availability of quality goods and products in market.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Engineer MED Kashmir, ADC, ACR, ACD, Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar, SHO and other officers.

RWS donates edibles, stationery to Balniketan



Vice-President RWS, Advocate Kamini Mahajan donating food and stationery items at Balniketan.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: To provide necessary assistance to needy class of persons, Advocate Kamini Mahajan, Vice-President Rani Welfare Society-NGO provided essential food items of day-today needs and stationery items among the inmates of Home for Aged & Infirm and Ved Mandir Balniketan, Ambphalla.

Kamini urged the management to ensure safety measures against COVID for the safety of inmates as well as management.

The management thanked Advocate Kamini for such timely and substantial help and expressed hope that such like persons should also come forward with same goodwill gesture.

PUKAAR Helpline: About 100 emergency calls addressed in 48 hours at Anantnag

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

ANANTNAG: PUKAAR helpline, a simple effective good governance initiative, is a 24x7 emergency response and grievance redressal service for District Anantnag. The helpline has been instrumental in minimizing response time for emergency assistance and ensuring prompt grievance redressal.

Started in April, 2021, the control room is manned by 10 employees and is headed by Tehsildar Consolidation at the District headquarter.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla, talking about PUKAAR helpline said that the initiative is a simple step aimed at accountable and transparent governance. He said that the PUKAAR helpline is a one stop solution for citizens where they can register their grievances, know the status of power supply or water

supply in their area, contact for assistance in emergency situations. The idea is to assure the citizens that their voices are being heard and acted upon as well as bringing in more accountability and transparency into the system.

Ms Nusrat, the nodal officer for PUKAAR helpline said that they receive more than 50 calls on a daily basis related to delivery of services and sometimes related to emergency assistance. She said that once a call has been received by the operator at the control room, it is then forwarded to the concerned department. Based on the nature of grievance, the response time may vary from a few minutes to one or two days. After a grievance has been resolved, the complainant is called and informed regarding the redressal of their grievance.

Recalling various emergency assistance calls addressed during the recent snowfall, Ms

Nusrat said that they received more than 100 calls in a span of 48 hours and all of them were redressed in record time. One of the calls was related to a pregnant lady who was stuck in a snow bound area. Immediately the control room forwarded the matter to MED and Revenue officials and the lady was evacuated in less than an hour. Similarly, the first call regarding the fire incident at Nai Basti Anantnag was lodged on the PUKAAR helpline at 1am in the morning and immediately issue was flagged to Fire and Emergency Department for further action.

Other such incidents involved rescue of some passengers stranded in Vailoo due to incessant snowfall, calls related to essential supplies in far flung areas which were promptly redressed.

The helpline was instrumental in the fight against COVID 19. Random calls were made to

COVID patients to check their vital parameters. Further, calls verifying administration of COVID vaccine doses are being made on a regular basis.

The helpline also saw heavy inflow of calls after the incessant snow and rain in October that caused heavy damage to orchards in the district.

Many people registered their cases on the helpline and the losses were then promptly assessed and damage compensation rewarded.

A few persons who had recently lodged grievances on the PUKAAR helpline were contacted while filing this report and they lauded the initiative for being simple and meaningful. They said there issues were flagged in a time bound manner and they were satisfied with solutions provided.

The PUKAAR helpline can be reached on 01932222255/01932222188/01932222187.

LJP extends support to Yuva Rajput Sabha



President LJP J&K, Rafiq Malik taking to reporters.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) (Ram Vilas) on Sunday extended full support to Yuva Rajput Sabha's call for agitation which will be launched from January 10 for declaring holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh Jayanti.

Addressing a press conference, Rafiq Malik, president LJP J&K Unit said that LJP extended support to demand of Yuva Rajput Sabha and also demanded a

government holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, who merged Jammu and Kashmir with India.

Malik said that people of Jammu demands this Holiday from very long but it is a matter of regret that for many years have been passed this demand not fulfilled yet.

Malik also appealed to the LJP cadre to come in large numbers at the protest site and stand shoulder to shoulder with Rajput Sabha.

JKAACL's poetry festival concludes with UT-level Urdu Mushaira



Urdu poet, Partipal Singh Betaab and others during an event.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A 4-day poetry festival that Jammu and Kashmir has contributed immensely towards development of Urdu language. He appreciated the Academy for nurturing new talent in Urdu and other languages of the UT. Khurshed Bismal said that more such events are required to be organized in all the districts. Dr. Shahnaz Qadri said that these events would promote enhanced leaning towards literature in J&K.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor JKAACL, highlighted that the main objective of these events

was to provide a platform to new generation to recite their poems before prominent poets.

An elaborate discussion was held in Dogri, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu languages during the festival. The event was held under the supervision of Rahul Pandey, Secretary JKAACL and Sanjeev Rana, Additional Secretary JKAACL.

Other prominent poets who recited their poems included Ahmed Shanas, Raj Kumar Chandan, Gh Sarwar, Chouhan Mohan Singh Ulfat, Parwaiz Malik, Khurshed Bismal, Geetika Kohli, Naseem Akhter, Dr. Shahnaz Qadri, Fauzia Mughal, Shahnaz Chowdhary, Amin Sobania, Ameen Banihali, Tariq Ali Raza, Adil Farhat, Arif Malik, Irfan Arif and Sahel Imran. Dr. Shah Nawaz Editor cum Cultural Officer presented vote of thanks while Dr. Arfan Arif, conducted the programme.

Baru highlights developmental works in Ward-41



Councillor Ward-41, Sanjay Baru speaking at a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: JMC Councillor Ward-41, Sanjay Kumar Baru on Sunday organized a meeting of permanent residents and BJP workers at Hazuri Bagh, Bohri here and presented his report card of various developmental works executed in his ward after completion of successful three years tenure as JMC Councillor.

Sanjay said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi development works are witnessed in full swing in JK UT. He said that during his three years tenure as ward councillor, he has planned, executed and completed various public importance development works like construction of a number of deep drains, lanes, paver tiles and blacktopping works more than Rupees 10 crores which he got sanctioned for the ward. For the upgradation of electrical infrastructure in the ward fourteen new 100kv and 250kv transformers were installed and old wires replaced by newly covered cables at Pattapaloura, Shanti Vihar, Priyadarshini lanes, Patta Chungi, Surya Vihar, Anand Nagar and Hazuri Bagh.

Over 1,000 villages in J&K covered under 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The dawn of 2022 has brought joy in the lives of residents of over 1000 villages in Jammu and Kashmir, as every household in these villages has been provided with tap water connection under government's flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission.

According to the statistics from the Jal Shakti Department, 1077 villages have been provided with Functional Household Tap Water Connections (FHTC). The progress report of Jal Jeevan Mission in Kashmir division reveals that 593 villages have been provided with 100 % tap water connection. It includes 37 villages in Anantnag, 5 in

Bandipora, 129 in Baramulla, 68 villages in Budgam, 147 in Ganderbal, 19 in Kulgam, 34 in Kupwara, 66 in Pulwama, 29 in Srinagar and 59 in Shopian.

Similarly, in Jammu division, 484 villages have been provided FHTCs under JJM. According to the data, Samba tops the list with cent percent FHTC coverage of 109 villages, followed by Doda with coverage of 105 villages and Jammu at third position with 100 percent coverage in 95 villages. Besides, 100 percent FHTCs have been provided in Ganderbal and Srinagar in the first phase which includes 11 blocks, 383 panchayats and 925 villages.

The department aims to

provide tap water connections in the entire UT by the end of 2022, two year before the target.

According to the data, J&K has provided 4.64 lakh tap water connections since the launch of the scheme on August 15, 2019. The government has set a target to cover all the 20 districts of the union territory by September 2022.

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Syed Abid Rasheed said 1000 villages becoming 'Har Ghar Jal' is a remarkable achievement by J&K's Jal Shakti Department and underlines the commitment made by government to cover every rural household with FHTC before the deadline of 2024.