

It is our firm resolve to remove developmental imbalances: LG

Reiterates J&K Administration's commitment of delivering Good Governance to villages by strengthening PRIs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: LG Manoj Sinha on Monday interacted with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of District Development Councils of Jammu Division at Civil Secretariat. During the interaction, the Lt Governor took first-hand appraisal of the district-specific developmental needs of the people, and received feedback from the DDCs on implementation of developmental works and progress made under District Capex in their respective constituencies.The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of J&K Administration for delivering good governance to the villages by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions. "It is our firm resolve to remove developmental imbalances. Sustained economic growth, efforts to meet the basic needs of the people and better quality of life constitute priorities of district administration and PRIs", said the Lt Governor. The Lt Governor acknowledged the crucial role being played by the DDCs & other PRIs in ensuring benefits of rapid economic growth flows to



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of District Development Councils of Jammu Division at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

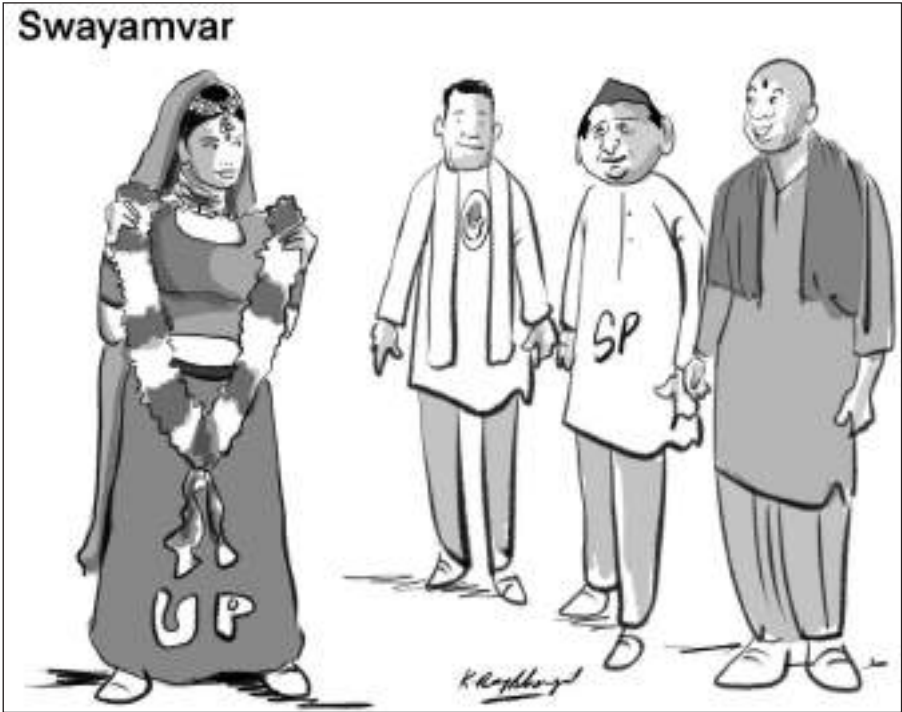
the lowest rung of the society. Emphasizing the need to maintain transparency and accountability in the development process, the Lt Governor said that the efficient technological tools like BEAMS-Empowerment are helping in monitoring of projects & expenditure for smooth coordination so that projects are not held up due to inordinate delays. DDCs are now regularly monitoring ongoing projects in districts and evaluating for timely implementation of all important programmes. The Government services are also being connected with a feedback system to bring fundamental changes in the public service delivery mechanism, added the Lt Governor. During the interactive meeting, the DDC Chairpersons and Vice-

Chairpersons welcomed the Lt Governor's initiative to interact with the DDCs and listen to their issues and concerns.

They apprised the Lt Governor about District-specific issues pertaining to tourism development; employment generation; augmenting power and water supply; saturation of public welfare schemes; upgradation of health & education infrastructure; strengthening road connectivity; creating more banking facilities in rural and far-flung areas; capacity building & exposure visits of DDC members, besides putting special focus on snowbound and far-flung areas. DDC Chairpersons also submitted a 10-point memorandum to the Lt Governor regarding various administrative and other concerning issues. The Lt Governor

assured due consideration of the issues projected by the DDC Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for their redressal at the earliest. The Lt Governor said that the UT Government is giving dedicated focus on improving infrastructure and enhancing connectivity to tap immense tourism potential of the region.The Lt Governor directed the Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to hold regular review meetings with the Chairpersons and other members of DDCs for continuous assessment of the implementation of developmental projects. On being apprised about the drug menace in some districts, the Lt Governor said that the UT Government is putting special focus on fighting the

evil of Drug addiction through 'Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan'. The DDCs were further advised to involve themselves in Swachhita planning of every village. Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary; Finance Department; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Mandeep Kaur Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department; Dr Raghav Langer; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.



Ceiling of 25 persons in public gatherings continues: Jammu Admn

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the surge in Covid-19 cases, Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg today convened a series of meetings with district officers and representatives of Market Associations.

Interacting with the representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industries and various other Market Associations across the district, DC appealed them to follow and also to enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour such as wearing mask and social distancing while venturing into the crowded areas.

"Risk of corona virus is again looming large, so it is our collective responsibility to follow CAB and other guidelines regarding Covid-19 to tackle the prevailing situation". Many teams at the district level, SDM level besides Police and other enforcement agencies are working hard to aware people regarding the present COVID situation." the DC said.

The Deputy Commissioner also sought the cooperation



Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg chairing a meeting at Jammu on Monday.

of media persons to make people aware of the Covid-19 pandemic and its hazards.

The representatives of Market Associations while applauding the efforts being made by the district administration also gave their suggestions and ensured their full cooperation with the administration to fight against Covid-19.

SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli also appealed to the representatives of the associations to co-operate with the Administration in order to curb the spreading of Covid-19. He said that the people violating SOPs regarding Covid-19 will be penalized according to the law.

SSP Chandan Kohli and ADC Satish Sharma, Rajan Gupta,Rajesh Gupta,

Gourav Gupta, Pooja Kapoor, Ashwani Khullar, and other representatives of Market Associations were present in the meeting.

Earlier Garg, while chairing a meeting of Tehsildars and Naib- Tehsildars stressed to generate proper awareness among the general public regarding COVID Appropriate Behaviour through various means including announcements, hoardings, appeals, and awareness through other mediums at prominent places in the district and also to strictly enforce COVID guidelines especially in public places of gatherings including marriage halls, Gyms, hotels, etc. to curb the spread. He directed officers to meet with the owners of

institutions of public gatherings and to educate and aware them.

Deputy Commissioner said that "the focus should be on awareness generation among the people rather than penalizing them."

He further said that the ceiling of 25 persons in public gatherings shall continue and shall be strictly enforced by the SDMs and Tehsildars concerned.

The Deputy Commissioner said that 95% people of 18+ age category has been vaccinated and vaccination for 15 to 18 age group and booster dose for 65 Plus age group have already been started. He added that four to five thousand tests have been conducted on daily basis.

Congress asks LG administration to declare holiday on Sept 23

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has fully supported the demand of holiday on the birthday of the last ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh and asked the LG administration to declare holiday in this regard without further delay. In a joint statement senior functionaries of JKPCC have fully endorsed the demand and extended full support to the struggle of Yuva Rajput Sabha and others, for declaring holiday on the birth day of Maharaja Hari Singh. The Congress party has already endorsed the demand several times, since it was strongly raised and always extended its support in this regard.



Congress leaders after a meeting in Jammu on Monday.

However, the present dispensation in particular and the previous BJP Govt. have failed to fulfill their commitment to the people of Jammu, in this regard and there is strong resentment amongst vast population.

The Senior Congress leaders today reiterated their support to

the demand and struggle for holiday and asked the L.G. Administration to immediately consider the popular demand of the people without further delay.

This joint statement was issued by the Working President JKPCC Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Shri

Ravinder Sharma, General Secretaries Shri Yogesh Sawhney & Th. Mamohan Singh, Chairman PCC Unorganized Workers Congress Rajvir Singh, President PYC Uday Bhanu Chib, Chairman SC Cell Karan Bhagat and others.

LG reviews COVID preparedness in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur on Monday reviewed the COVOD-19 preparedness in the union territory. He said five percent of the budget of the Union Territory will be allocated to the health sector from the next financial year. Mathur said the administration plans to purchase 1000-D type oxygen cylinders in the wake of the surge in Covid cases in the UT.

He appealed to people to strictly follow the Covid appropriate behaviour (CAB).

Director Health Services (DHS) Dr Motup Dorje informed the Lt Governor in the meeting that the Health Department has started giving the precautionary (booster) dose to healthcare and frontline workers as well as to people above 60 years of age in the UT Ladakh. He said that over 60 per cent of the 15-18 age group has been vaccinated with the first COVID-19 vaccine jab.

Congress questions Govt over inaction in Vaishno Devi tragedy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress has questioned the Govt. over the failure to fix responsibilities and take action against those guilty of the painful tragedy at the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi over the eve of new years when over dozen pilgrims were killed and more than this number severely injured in the stampede.

In a statement JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma questioned the sensitivity of the Centre Govt. and LG Administration to the serious issue of loss of several precious lives due to the sheer negligence, callousness apparent in competence and dereliction of duty by those at the helm of affairs.

More than ten days have lapsed but no preliminary action has been taken

against anyone, which shows a totally insensitive approach towards the matter of grave concerns about the loss of lives of pilgrims and the failure to respect the religious rituals & religious sanctity post the tragedy.

Sharma also regretted the silence of all those awakened citizens especially political, social and religious organizations, who have been always been on the forefront and very concerned about the issues of religious importance but have maintained studied silence over this highly unfortunate incident, why such parties and bodies are selective in the matters of religious faith and the loss of lives due to utter failures of those responsible to manage the affairs of the historic holy shrine of the faith of crores of people.

Executive Council felicitates NCM Member GoI at LAHDC Leh

Discusses implementation of minority welfare schemes in Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Executive Council of LAHDC Leh led by Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk felicitated Rinchen Lhamo, Member of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), Govt. of India at the Council Secretariat, Leh.

Smt. Rinchen was appointed as a member of the NCM, GoI recently. Executive Councillor for Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor; Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chospheh; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse, CPO Leh, ASP Leh, and DSWO Leh were also present during the meeting.

Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh informed the meeting about the major social welfare schemes for minorities executed in the Education sector of Leh district which includes, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship for students.

All the Executive Councillors put forth their suggestions during the meeting and emphasised on covering the entire district under various governmental schemes.

They also stressed the need for creation of various posts



Rinchen Lhamo, NCM Member, Govt. of India interacting with a delegation.

for teaching staffs in Bhoti language and Buddhist Studies and introducing Vocational courses in the schools of Leh district.

Further, a discussion was held upon implementing the 'Naya Savera' scheme for providing free coaching to students belonging to minority communities by setting up coaching centre in Leh for cracking competitive exams, 'Padho Pardesh' scheme on interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for the students belonging to minority communities and 'Nai Udaan' scheme for supporting students clearing Prelims exam conducted by UPSC, PSC and SSC.

DC Leh apprised the meeting of various developmental works for minorities carried

under the PM Jan Vikas Yojana in the sectors of Health, Education, Sports & Infrastructure Development, etc.

Member NCM, Rinchen Lhamo stated that all the welfare schemes from the union government will be implemented thoroughly in the UT of Ladakh.

She stressed the need of empowering women and create awareness among the youths regarding various Skill Development schemes to generate self-employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

Rinchen also took stock of various National Pension schemes under the Department of Social Welfare, Leh.

Failure to follow SoPs religiously led to present scenario: Experts

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: COVID-19 is an airborne disease and omicron is the most contagious variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus so far. All of us emit tiny droplets while breathing, talking, singing, coughing and sneezing. When a person infected with COVID-19 interacts with another person who is uninfected, the virus gets transmitted through micro-particles and droplets exhaled by infected person. According to health experts, if an infected person wears a good-quality mask, it would reduce the risk of spreading infection among others around them to a great extent. If an uninfected person wears a

mask, that also enhances his protection against the virus. Masks should be used in indoor spaces you share with other people such office, hospitals or doctors' clinics. One should also wear mask in crowded outdoor locations like market or mall, and especially while travelling in bus, taxi, airplane or train.

Over last two years, most of us have worn masks of various types. Cloth masks reduce some emissions but the best masks are only those manufactured as per American N95 standard or similar global standards. When fitted properly, they filter out at least 95 per cent (N95, KN95) or 94 per cent (FFP2,

KF94) of particles. It is best to avoid masks that have valves on them as they don't filter exhaled air, which is very necessary.

High-filtration masks give everyone more protection from omicron variant than cloth or surgical masks. Everyone who can use these masks should use them, especially healthcare workers and others who are at risk of COVID-19 infection (elderly, people with diabetes, heart disease, etc.)

The major concern people facing with high-filtration mask is its cost. 3M VFlex is currently priced very high and a common man cannot afford the same in present scenario. While these masks can be

used for a week with care, double-masking or a tight-fitted cloth mask over a three-ply surgical mask can be a good low-cost alternative. Providing Government subsidies to ensure that everyone can afford high-filtration masks would be the ideal solution.

But only high-filtration masks by themselves are not enough. You need to make sure that mask fits your face properly. In occupational health settings, an N95 mask is usually fit-tested, but it is not feasible for most people. The most common mask failure (other than not covering your nose or wearing it as a chin guard) is a loose or ill-fitting

mask that lets virus-carrying particles escape outwards (for an infected person) or inwards (for uninfected person). Cloth and surgical masks that are used repeatedly become loose and ineffective. The mask should cover your mouth and nose.

It should fit your face tightly at the edges, so the air you exhale or inhale only passes through filtering material. According to experts, if we had followed COVID Appropriate Behaviour properly, third wave could have been averted but unfortunately none of us acted responsibly resulting in present scenario, when we are heading towards another lockdown.

