

## 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 Capes 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 BEAMPS-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 Department; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

## 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 JKPPC 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 LG Administration to immediately consider the popular demand of the people without further delay.

This joint statement was issued by the Working President JKPPC Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravinder Sharma, General Secretaries Shri Yogesh Sawhney & Th. Manmohan Singh, Chairman PCC Unorganized Workers Congress Rajiv Singh, President PYC Uday Bhanu Chib, Chairman SC Cell Karan Bhagat and others.

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## Extend date of filing Tax Audit report beyond Jan 15: Anand

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Vice-President, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF-Jammu) president, Neeraj Anand on Monday appealed to the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman for extension of the date of filing Tax Audit report under Section 44AB of Income Tax Act 1961 for the assessment year 2021-22.

At present January 15 has been kept as the last filing date by the government.

Anand said that in view of unprecedented surge in COVID-19 across India including Jammu & Kashmir, extension in time limit will not lead to any loss of revenue to the government and taxpayers will make perfect compliances as far as audit report and return is concerned.

CTF president said that India is facing acute third wave of Covid-19 and has witnessed substantial growth of Covid-19 cases. Jammu & Kashmir is also witnessing a daily surge in cases which has affected every sector.

"Such exponential increase is a matter of concern for all of us. Several State Governments including Union Territory of J&K have imposed partial or weekend curfew to contain the growth of Covid-19 cases in the last one week. The present compliance anxiety among the SMEs & SMPS Tax Auditor could expose them

and our country to Covid-19 virus", Anand said.

Praising the efforts of the government, Neeraj Anand said that the motto of the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always been "Ease of Doing Business" specifically for Small & Medium Enterprises and (SME) and in this regard but government needs to hear the plea of trade sector.

"Tax compliance of furnishing of Income tax audit report u/s 44AB of Income Tax Act 1961 (Commonly known as Tax Audit Report). The tax audit report if not furnished within the prescribed due date, then SMEs may be subjected to penal consequences under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Government needs to take a decision as COVID 19 has already affected the trade and business sector", said Anand.

Giving a detailed background of the IT system, Anand said that for the assessment year 2021-22, the due date of filing of Tax Audit Report was September 30, 2021 which was extended to October 31, 2021 vide Circular No. 9/2021 dated 20.05.2021. It was further extended to January 15, 2022 vide Circular No. 17/2021 dated September 9, 2021.

"As such the prescribed due date for the assessment year 2021-22, happens to be January 15 2022. The first exten-

sion on May 20, 2021 was given due to the unprecedented Covid-19 situation and second extension on September 9, 2021 was given due to Income Tax website software glitches. However now there has been a gradual rise in Covid positive cases since new year", said Anand. He said that the Tax Audit Report consists of 44 clauses which provides necessary information required for proper computation of taxable income of the SMEs.

CTF has said that in this background, the common concern is that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) carried out changes in the application for filing the audited information i.e. Form 3CD-Schema ("Tax Audit Schema") in which Tax Audit Report is required to be filed electronically.

The Tax Audit Schema was changed thrice in the last two months i.e. on November 3, 2021, December 2, 2021 and latest on January 6.

"Due to these sudden last minute changes, information furnished in the old Tax Audit Schema is required to be rechecked and reverified in the latest Tax Audit Schema. This cautious approach of SMEs is needed as any error in the information submitted in the Tax Audit Report would subject those SMEs to penal provisions under Income Tax Act, 1961", Anand said.

## 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.

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They also stressed the need for creation of various posts

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.

## Swayamvar



## 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".

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.

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.

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

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

## Congress questions Govt over inaction in Vaishno Devi tragedy

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: 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.

In a statement JKPPC 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 Gol 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 Angekhu 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 Chospel; 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, 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



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

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.