

Deprived of Awas Yojana benefits, poor family living under tin shed in Bhadarwah

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHADARWAH: Despite Union Government's flag-ship scheme ensuring housing for all by 2022, alleged official apathy has left a few hapless and vulnerable poor at the receiving end to bear the brunt of the impact of the freezing winter conditions that could lead to illness and death, as authorities fail to provide them shelter under PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) urban.

Such is the case of poverty-stricken Mehboob Ahmed Fani(50) who lives in Chinara Mohalla of Bhadarwah in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. The sole bread-earner for a family of ten is living in a small tin shed in the bone-chilling cold in snow bound Bhadarwah along with his aged mother Raja Begum, wife Shaheena Begum, 3 children including Saima Bano, Asif Hussain, Sania Bano and two infants (Salma 4 yrs & Hania 1.5 years) beside his two younger siblings.

The family of Mehboob Ahmed Fani has been living



Mehboob Ahmed Fani and his family.

in the tin shed for the last three years, which is presently surrounded with knee height snow. Even during the below-freezing minus 10 and 12 the family is putting up in this shed. Unfortunately, Fani a Daily-wage safai-Karamchhari could not afford to shift his family into a safe rented place. Pertinently the Executive Officer of Municipal Committee Bhaderwah is mere 1km away from Mehboob's dingy shed, but the department never even thought to enlist him under the scheme - Pradhan Mantri Awas

Yojana (PMAY) urban. Mehboob Fani is a daily wage Safai Karmachari of MCB and works each day to keep the family pot boiling. Three years back he had written to the local Municipal committee and the block office for a pucca house, but till date nothing has happened. Fani alleged that, he has appealed at least 10 times to the concerned authorities for help to avail of the PMAY facility, but to no avail.

"We were putting up in a rented room, but after coming to know that all the poor are being provided with

financial assistance to build their own house, I sold whatever little we had including my mother's and wife's jewelry, beside borrowing Rs 80,000 from the bank in the form of loan to buy a piece of land to build our own house but since last three years I have been running from pillar to post but to no avail, resulting in that we have been living in tin shed. Now I can't even afford to take my family to a safe rented accommodation as half of my monthly earning goes to repay the EMI of the loan," said Mehboob Fani.

Tear rolling down through her wrinkled face and with choked voice the elderly mother of Mehboob, Raja Begum 75 said, "I fear One day we will get buried under snow or will get freezeed due extreme cold. We are putting all our efforts to keep our kids warm during night by remaining awake and lighting the fire wood. Please help otherwise we won't survive these winters."

Sania Bano (13) daughter of Mehboob said that when it

snows, long nights really become nightmarish for us, as we fear that heavy snow-fall can easily bury us under the tin shanty and to keep us calm Abba(father) keeps on reassuring us by saying that snow has not accumulated. For us the biggest happiness is to see the shining sun.

It is notable to mention here that since last 4 weeks Bhadarwah has remained the coldest town of Jammu region with minimum temperature ranging from minus 4 to -10.

When contacted Executive Officer (EO) Municipal Committee Bhadarwah, Yousaf-ul-Umar assured to take immediate corrective measures on priority into the matter.

"I was not aware of the gravity of the situation and after knowing the plight of the family, we will fast track the process under PMAY urban and hopefully by next week of this month the family will get the first installment of BLC (Beneficiary - Led Construction)," EO added.

DC Rajouri flags-off 4 advance life saving Ambulances



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal flagging-off ambulances.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: To ensure prompt emergency services to the patients during the tough time of pandemic and any other eventuality, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Sunday flagged off the 04 Advance Life-Saving Ambulances funded by World Bank through National Health Mission Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the others, SSP Rajouri, Mohd Aslam; Deputy CMO, Dr Anees Altaf Nabi, DSEO, Bilal Mir, Asif Mir DPM and Media persons were

present. Speaking to media persons, the Deputy Commissioner said that all these ALS Ambulances are fully equipped with life-saving equipment such as Ventilators, Defibrillators, Multi-Para Patient Monitor, Suction Machine, Nebulizers etc and are of great help while shifting the critical care, trauma and accident victims.

He said that there are presently 9 ALS which have already been deputed at Strategic places and are connected with '108' Call Centre.

He said these ambulances would prove of great help in saving the life of the patients in case of a medical emergency. He said that the administration was ensuring that the Emergency Ambulances reach the place of medical emergency within the shortest possible time.

The Deputy Commissioner also expressed gratitude towards Medical Supplies Corporation, NIM JK and World Bank for the augmentation of Health Infrastructure at this hour of Medical emergency.

Devotees visiting Narsingh temple to undergo Corona test



A devotee being tested for COVID before entering into temple.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBA: The concern of the government and administration has increased due to the increasing cases in the midst of the third wave of Corona. At the same time, the admin-

istration has also set up some new testing centers by increasing the scope of investigation of Corona. Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta has issued orders to SDM Ghagwal,

Ramkesh Sharma to conduct corona testing of devotees visiting Narsingh temple.

On the other hand, the team of medical department of Ghagwal conducted the corona test of the devotees who reached Narsingh temple. Meanwhile, the SDM has requested the people to cooperate with the administration and medical team in Corona testing. On Sunday, the team of the department did corona testing of the devotees coming to the temple. In which RT PCA was done for 350 people in the market and 60 devotees of Narsingh temple, in which the report of all came negative.

976 vaccinated, 3,730 samples collected in Ramban

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAMBAN: As per report issued by District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr. Suresh, the Health Department administered the vaccination to 976 people including 289 children in 15-17 years age group which includes 120 in Medical Block Banihal, 22 in Batote, 62 in Ukhral and 86 in Gool.

Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol across the district Ramban, the Enforcement teams today 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. 54,800 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs. 81,61,700. The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 3730 samples including 649 RT-PCR and 3081 RAT samples besides administering Covid vaccine to 976 persons at various dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Will boycott all future events of NC: JoB

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHADARWAH: In a meeting of Journalists of Bhadarwah (JoB), unanimously decided to boycott all future events of National Conference (NC) after some NC leaders used un-parliamentary language against some of the media persons.

The meeting of JoB was held under the chairmanship of it's Sr Vice President Swarn Singh Janwal virtually in view of Covid-19 restrictions, in which all members participated via video conference. It is notable that some NC leaders of Bhadarwah used un-Parliamentary language against some Media persons in an interview, in which they beside using foul language, also tried to teach the media persons how to work especially with regard to public issues, even after they themselves failed to highlight or mitigate the hardships of general public.

Sr Vice President Swarn Singh Janwal said that it's unfortunate on the part of some leaders, who never bothered to highlight the miseries of the people, but criticized the media persons who always highlighted the problems being faced by general public in absence of road connectivity, electricity and other issues especially after snowfall. Janwal said that it has been decided unanimously in the meeting after threadbare discussions that no media person affiliated with JoB association will not cover future events of NC unit Bhadarwah till further decision. Those who joined the meeting include Swarn Singh Janwal,Aaj Tak/Kashmir Times, Sajid Tufail Lone KPS/Lazawaal, Tilak Raj Yogi Daily Excelsior, Majid Malik Daily Udaan, Sair Hussain News18 Urdu, Rashid Choudhary JK Awaz, Abrar Batt Kashmiri Crown/Chenab Times, Rafayat Ganai JK Update/VK News, Kehar Singh Gulistan TV, Kamran Khan Growing Kashmir/P24 News, Abid Malik Hind Samachar, Raja Rehber Jamal State Times/ZEE Media and others.

DM Rajouri designates Health facilities as Category-2 COVID Centres

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: With fresh surge in Coronavirus, the District Magistrate, Vikas Kundal has designated Government/private hospitals and clinical establishments as Category 2 Covid Health centres and asked the management to keep their beds in readiness to meet out any emergency.

The District Magistrate has asked the seven private hospitals and clinical establishments Orthomaxx Multispecialty Hospital

Rajouri, Matrix Hospital Jawhar Nagar Rajouri, Rajouri Medicity Hospital Rajouri, Navjeevan Nursing Near GMC Rajouri, Dr Nissar Surgical Hospital Rajouri, Smt Shanti Devi Trust Hospital Sunderbani and KRS Nursing Home Sunderbani to reserve 21 beds for treatment of COVID-19 patients.

"Keeping in view the emerging situations due to Covid 19 and the recent spike in number it is imperative to designate Government/Private Hospitals and clinical establishments to designate them as Category 2 Covid Health centres so that these establishments remain in readiness to meet any emergency," the order reads.

The Chief Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent have been directed to ascertain the availability of men, machinery and infrastructure as per SoP.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
B H A D A R W A H : Department of Computer Science and IT, Bhadarwah Campus, University of Jammu in Collaboration with Ramanujan College of Delhi University have initiated a week-long faculty development programme on Data Analytics and Data Modelling Tools for Research in virtual mode from 16-22 Jan 2022.

Prof S.P Agarwal Director ,Teaching Learning Centre ,PMM-NTT in his welcome speech thanked the chief Guest Prof. Rahul Gupta ,Rector Bhaderwah Campus, Prof Vinod Sharma, Director ,Ramnagar Campus of University of Jammu for their kind cooperation and collaboration for such events for the Researchers and Teachers. He also thanked Pawan Patel, Director General Manager (IT & Analytics) of Jindal Steel Works ,Mumbai for

his insights into the Industrial prospect of Data Science. Prof Rahul Gupta in his inaugural speech apprised the dignities' about the need for initiative to be taken to meet Gross Enrolment Ratio of 50% by 2030 in higher education. He also congratulated the Head Dr. Jatinder Manhas and Faculty of Bhaderwah Campus for initiating such event and providing platform to the young researchers working in the field of data analytics. Prof Vinod Sharma on the occasion extended his best wishes for researchers and faculty to utilize the emerging tools to solve the societal issues and apprised the participants how data science tools can be used for data preparation. Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Co-Convener of the FDP in his speech extended his best wishes to scholars and participant for learning the emerging Tools in data science and using

the same for their projects. Dr. Manhas applauded the collective efforts made by the hardworking team of young faculty members Dr. Ashok as coordinator and other faculty members Dr. Abid Sarwar, Ajay Lakshnotra, Neeraj Kumar, Waseem and Bablo in different capacities to make this program a grand success. He also pay his sincere thanks and encouraged PhD Scholars of the department Rachit Gupta, Priya Rani, Shailu Kotwal, Diksha Sambyal for hard work and dedication shown for active participation in organizing any kind of research related activity.

A total of 130 participants from different parts of India joined this course. In his key note, Pawan Patel, Director General Manager (IT & Analytics) of Jindal Steel Works shared with participants how industry is making use of Data Science for Real

our services, despite the fact NHM Employees constitute as being backbone of the health department after giving valuable years of their prime youth in the service of people under NHM.

Another Sr Leader, Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi informed that in the recent past, the Manipur Govt has taken a initiative to regularize all NHM Employees against regular posts, so demanded that on the analogy of that initiative, it was high time for the LG Administration to rise to the occasion and give recognition to them by regularization of our services.

The NHM Employees said that denial of the genuine demands of NHM Employees since long and especially regularization, amounts to usurping their basic rights and right to equal wages for equal work, guaranteed under the con-

stitution of India.

Other than the demand of regularization, the NHM Employees raised the issues like implementation of equal pay for equal work, enhancement of their salaries particularly among paramedics, social security benefits and transfer policy for non local employees.

They however informed that NHM Employees are working tirelessly day and night during the COVID-19 pandemic since two years in longer shifts and with utmost dedication, but its very unfortunate that their genuine demands have yet not been considered by the authorities. It is the high time for the Govt to address the genuine issues of NHM Employees who are confronting from long run, the employees added.

The NHM Employees hoped that the LG Administration would take

immediate action to concede to the demands of NHM Employees & bring their services at par with other regular employees. They reiterated that employees working under NHM since the last 15 years without any job policy see their future very uncertain and are confronted with severe psychological stress.

The NHM Employees have urged the LG and other sr health bureaucrats of the UT to come upto the expectations of the employees and regularize their services immediately, in a phased manner; if not in one go besides redress other issues raised, so that the NHM Employee may not suffer anymore & live the life of dignity and equality.

Those present in the press conference include Mohd Ashfaq, Surinder Kumar, Ashok Shan and Ajay Manhas.

NGO distributes masks among people



Councillor Sajad Iqbal distributing masks among people.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: 1,100 masks were donated by the compassion, an organisation working for the social issues were distributed by Sanjay Sharma Councillor MCR Rajouri to people and belt persons on various points of Rajouri.

On behalf of compassion, the masks were handed over to councillor by Sajad Iqbal, a social worker and office bearer of compassion organisation which is working for animal welfare as well as for the Human issues. The masks were distributed

among the peoples at Bus Stand, Nagesh Bridge, Workshop Bridge, Salani Bridge and other various entry and exit points of Rajouri Town. Para military and police personnel on duty were also given sufficient masks so that they can perform their duty effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Sharma and Sajad Bhat stressed the people to take extra care while stepping out of houses. Nazam Mir, Romeez Khan, Qasim Ghani and others also assisted the mask distribution drive.

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