

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

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BHADARWAH: Despite Union Government's flagship 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 Chinar 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-Karamchari could not afford to shift his family into a safe rented place. Pertinently the Executive Officer of Municipal Committee Bhadarwah 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 Karamchari 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 jewellery, 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 freezed 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 snowfall 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.

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

DC Rajouri flags-off 4 advance life saving Ambulances



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal flagging-off ambulances.

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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, NHM JK and World Bank for the augmentation of Health Infrastructure at this hour of Medical emergency.

Prakash Utsav celebrations: NC leader pays obeisance at Singh Sabha Gurdwara

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KALAKOTE: Th. Yashu Vardhan Singh, National Conference Zonal Secretary, Peer Panjal Zone and in-charge District Rajouri Singh has emphasized said that in absence of popular Govt in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the problems of people have increased manifold and the elections to the J&K Assembly must be announced soon by the Election Commission of India. The National Conference leader stated this while addressing a congregation at Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Narian Potha where he was the Chief Guest during a function to celebrate the Parkash Utsav of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. President Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee Narian, Bachan Singh apprised the NC leader about the problems being faced by the people of the area on various counts. He said that due to absence of Government High School and Primary Health Centre (PHC) in the area, the people of Narian are facing immense problems. After listening to the highlighted problems patiently, Th. Yashu Vardhan assured to take up the issues with the concerned authorities and get these addressed at the earliest. He appealed to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to take serious note of the people's suffering of Narian and at least

open a Govt High School and Primary Health Centre in the area to address the issues pertaining to basic necessities of people. Meanwhile the people participated with full enthusiasm in Parkash Utsav celebrations at the aforesaid Gurdwara. While extending greetings to the people on the occasion the senior NC leader said that people should take cue from the life of Guru Gobind Singh as there is no one who can match the credentials of the tenth Sikh Guru, who sacrificed his entire family for the cause of Dharma and never fought for personal gains. He emphasized that Guru Jee's every little step was in the direction of righteousness and safeguarding the dignity of the people of India. Yashu Vardhan Singh also threw light on the supreme sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh and his brave and righteous sons. He said that the valour and principles of Mata Gujri, Guru Gobind Singh, and four Sahibzadas are highly inspiring and bestow tremendous strength to millions of countrymen as this noble and righteous family never bowed before injustice. The NC leader urged the people to maintain communal harmony at all costs asserting that it is the key to ensure peace and prosperity of the J&K as well as the nation and at least its people.

Devotees visiting Narsingh temple to undergo Corona test



A devotee being tested for COVID before entering into temple.

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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 admini-

stration 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.

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

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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 its Sr Vice President Swarn Singh Jamwal 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 besides 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 Jamwal 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. Jamwal 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 Jamwal Aaj Tak/Kashmir Times, Sajid Tufail Lone KPS/Lazawaal, Tilak Rayogi Daily Excelsior; Majid Malik Daily Udaan, Sain Hussain News18 Urdu, Rashid Choudhary JK Aawaaz, Abrar Batt Kashmireen Crown/Chenab Times, Rafayat Ganai JK Update/YK 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

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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 Orthomax Multispeciality Hospital

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DODA: The National Health Mission Employees (NHM) working in the Health Department on Sunday demanded immediate formulation of job policy for all the employees working under the scheme.

Addressing a press conference in Doda, the Sr Leader and Former District President, Faizan A Tramboo informed the media that employees under NHM, RBSK, RNTCP, JKSCS and other schemes under NHM like IDSP, NCD and others are working since last more than 15 years in J&K in different capacities included that of Doctors, Paramedics and Management Staff.

Tramboo said that the NHM Employees in the past has put all the demands before the Govts so many times for redressal and has also hit the roads score of

times in order to press for their genuine demands which include formulation of job security and pay hike. "The then Government constituted a committee of three brass officers in 2017 and 2018 to discuss and examine the issues like regularization policy in which one of the committee in 2017 already forwarded a draft proposal before the Govt through Finance Department for approval",

said a Sr NHM Leader Dr Hamid Paray.

The NHM Employees during the press conference said that the employees working under different NHM schemes are doing commendable job in the overall health care delivery system across J&K especially in the remotest and in accessible areas since decades, adding that it is most heartbreaking to see that yet no mechanism is in place to regularize

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 regularizing 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 LG Administration to rise to the occasion and give recognition to them by regularizing our 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.

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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

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, Romee Khan, Qasim Ghani and others also assisted in the mask distribution drive.

Bhadarwah Campus organises weeklong programme on Data Analytics & Modelling Tools

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BHADARWAH : 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 Bhadarwah Campus, Prof. Vinod Sharma, Director, Rammagar 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 learning the emerging Tools in data science and using

his insights into the Industrial prospect of Data Science. Prof. Rahul Gupta in his inaugural speech apprised the dignitaries 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 Bhadarwah 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-Convenor of the FDP in his speech extended his best wishes to scholars and participant for learning the emerging Tools in data science and using

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

world problems and encouraged the Participants to learn and work on use of Data science in Healthcare and Energy related Projects. Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Head, Department of Computer Science and IT, University of Jammu also extended his best wishes on behalf of Department of Computer Science and IT, University of Jammu for all organizing members and participants. Coordinator of FDP, Dr. Ashok Sharma explained how data science and analytics tools like Rapid Miner, R Studio, Qlik Sense, MATLAB, Weka, Jupyter, Anaconda etc can help to gain a good understanding of methods used in building data-driven models. He also shared that Resource persons from IIT's, Public Universities and Other Reputed institutions will be sharing their expertise for the Human issues. The masks were distributed for 7 days.

On behalf of compassion, the masks were handed over to councilor 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

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