

Admn will fulfill people's aspirations, developmental needs: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said his administration is committed to fulfilling the aspirations and developmental needs of the people.

Sinha made the observation while interacting with a delegation of Panchayati Raj Institutions led by the Ganderbal District Development Council (DDC) chairperson Nuzhat Ishaq at Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesman said.

The administration is working on several fronts for the holistic and equitable development of all sections and regions of the Union Territory. The government is committed to fulfilling the aspirations and developmental needs of the people, Sinha said.

During the meeting, the



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with delegation members at Jammu on Monday.

spokesman said the members of the delegation discussed with the lieutenant governor various area-specific issues on the development of the Ganderbal district and the welfare of people.

They submitted memorandums with demands and issues regarding improvement of road connectivity,

health, power and drinking water facilities besides sanctioning of fire and emergency sub-stations for Chattergul, Ganiwan and Sonamarg.

The issues and demands also included the upgradation of schools, exploring the tourism potential and strengthening of the health

sector, besides expediting other developmental projects in the district, the spokesman said.

The Lt Governor assured them that all their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal.

Sinha directed

Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur of the Rural Development Department, who too was present at the meeting, to extend all possible help to the DDC Chairperson and the PRI representatives for discharging their roles and responsibilities smoothly and efficiently.

Sukhnandan hands-over face-makes, thermometers to SDH Marh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sensing gravity of grim situation caused due to COVID across the globe, former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary handed-over more than 4,000 N-95 face-masks and 150 infra-red thermometers to SDH Marh and PHC Sohajana for further distribution among people to remain safe from the pandemic. The former Minister was accompanied by SDM Marh, BMO Marh and BMO Sohajana.

Speaking on the occasion, Sukhnandan Choudhary said that LG's administration is taking all possible measures for containing the spread of contagious virus besides providing all essential amenities at health insti-



Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary handing over N-95 face-masks and 150 infra-red thermometers to SDH Marh.

tutes for welfare of people. Choudhary further urged people to follow all COVID SoPs like wearing face-masks, maintaining social distancing and remaining at homes for breaking chain of COVID spread, which at

present is spreading fast. Others present on the occasion included Virajmeet Singh (Vicky), Rajinder Sharma (Moti) District President BJYM Jammu Rural and Deepak Pandey President Langeh Biradari.

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Gaurav Gupta elected as Secretary Jammu Club

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, a renowned business entrepreneur was on Monday elected as the Secretary of Jammu Club. Gaurav won the election by three votes against Dr Sandeep Singh. Gaurav Gupta has got 9 votes while Dr Sandeep Singh got six votes.

The election was conducted through secret ballot by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Raghav Langer, the Vice President of the Club in the presence of Ratandeep Singh Honorary Secretary of the club.

Four nominated Members of Jammu Club include Er Ajay Sabharwal, Er Sumeet Puri, Er Tania Mahajan and Prof Akelta Gupta while eleven elected members of the Club include Gaurav Gupta, Er Ashok Gondota, Dr Sandeep Singh, Dr Uttam Singh, Ashwani Gupta, Er Ashok Sharma, Chandra Kapoor, Indu Puri, Aditya Gupta, Vikram Sharma and Kavita Gupta.



Be job provider than job seeker: VC SKUAST-J to Vet graduates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, RS Pura conducted Veterinary oath ceremony of passing out graduates of batch 2016.

The Chief Guest of the function, Prof. J P Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu distributed the internship completion certificate to the veterinary graduates.

Prof. Sharma congratulated to passing out veterinary graduates and highlighted the role



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. J P Sharma handing-over internship completion certificate to a veterinary graduate.

of veterinarians in the society

value while treating animals. He also stressed upon that in

Longest surviving terrorist urged by his nephew to surrender

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Thanking the Army for imparting him 90-day carpentry training, a relative of the longest surviving Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist commander Mohammad Amin in Kishtwar district of J&K appealed him to surrender and return to the national mainstream.

Amin alias Jehangir Saroori, a resident of Kishtwar, has joined the militant ranks in the early 1990s and has been evading his arrest for over the past three decades.

I am thankful to the Army which came to the rescue of our family and provided me with a 90-day course in carpentry to earn a living, Junaid, son of Amin's elder brother Kareem, told reporters after the successful completion of the certificate course.

He said the Army, despite knowing the fact that his uncle is a militant, came to their house and enrolled him for the course.

My appeal to him (uncle) is that he should surrender and return home. Nobody ever came to help us and we are grateful to the Army which is always there to help us, he said.

Declared terrorism-free over a decade ago, the communally sensitive Kishtwar was rocked by a series of terror incidents in 2018 and 2019 and

Amin, the longest surviving Hizbul Mujahideen commander, was believed to be the brain behind the revival of terrorism in the district.

Terrorists had shot dead senior BJP leader Anil Parikh and his brother Ajit Parikh in Kishtwar town on November 1, 2018 while RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO were assassinated in a separate attack at a hospital on April 9, 2019.

The ultras had also struck on two more occasions in 2019 and decamped with service rifles of two policemen.

The first major success against the terrorists operating in the district, however, was registered on September 28, 2019 when security forces killed three ultras including Osama Bin Javed, wanted in connection with the targeted killings, in an encounter in nearby Ramban district.

They were killed while fleeing an offensive which saw nearly two dozen members and over-ground workers of the outfit arrested and several of their hideouts busted. Earlier in October 2019, police had announced a bounty of Rs 30 lakhs on the head of Amin and two others.

The youth should stay away from the wrong path of militancy and drugs, Junaid said.

High-density plantation gaining momentum in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

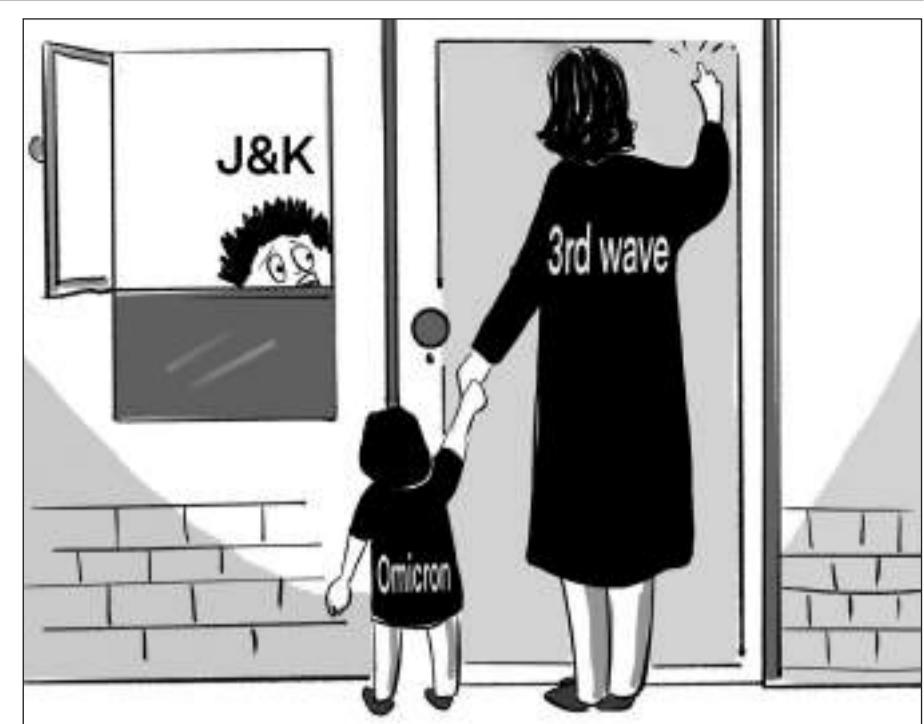
Srinagar: To double the income of farmers, Horticulture Department is targeting to set up high-density plantations on 5,500 hectares. J&K government has accorded sanction to implementation of a modified High Density (HD) plantation scheme. On March 12, the Administrative Council under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved the implementation of high-density plantation scheme in the horticulture sector with support of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

One of the main industries supporting economy of Kashmir is horticulture bearing a variety of fruits and providing sustenance to a major

chunk of rural population particularly those living on Keravas and high-terrains. Due to the temperate climate, numerous varieties of apples, apricots, almonds, peaches, cherries, plums, pears, walnuts and other fruits are grown in Kashmir. As horticulture sector witnessed prolific production and cultivators earned a huge income, the sector attracted more and more people into pursuit. This attraction of farmers to grow their orchards found new High-Density plants provided by Horticulture Department.

"This step will go a long way in enhancing the quality and quantity of horticulture produce and doubling farmers' income," claimed officials.

The fruits identified for high-density plantation are apple, walnut, almond, cherry, litchi, and olive. The produce will be



All healthcare institutions must obtain quality certification within 1 yr: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Health & Medical Education Department and progress achieved under the CAPEX Budget during this financial year:

The Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Director SKIMS, concerned HoDs, Principals of all Medical Colleges, and other senior officers of the Department attended the meeting.

It was informed that 422 drugs are provided free of cost across all government hospitals, especially under maternal and child health care through government drugs stores. The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to submit a report on procurement, storage, and distribution of free medicines in all government facilities, besides raising awareness on the provision of free medicines through displayed lists at prominent places in the hospital premises.

Further, to streamline prescriptions of drugs by doctors, the Chief Secretary directed a prescription audit and asked the Department to ensure that all doctors produce their seal and signature on the prescription card, in case the prescribed drugs include non-generic medicines to be procured from the



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

market.

Dr. Mehta emphasized switching over to digital prescriptions by the next financial year through suitable provisions in the CAPEX budget, which will be a step ahead in the direction of implementing e-Health Services in the Union territory. He maintained that the system is to be further integrated with a patient feedback mechanism on the quality of services available at government hospitals through 'Mera Hospital' initiative by February 2022.

With a view to improve the standards of healthcare at all institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the Department to introduce the Health Management Information System by March 2022. The Department was also asked to obtain quality certification for all Health Care

Facilities within one year; and conduct regular training of the healthcare professionals.

Moreover, the Health and Medical Education Department was asked to notify a quality policy to be followed by the government health care institutions to ensure uniformity of treatment throughout the Union territory, while maintaining a high level of hygiene and cleanliness.

Dr. Mehta also directed the concerned to ensure adequate testing, fast-tracked vaccination in the 15-17 age category, and the best possible treatment to the COVID patients.

With regard to the completed works under the UT and District CAPEX and PMPD, the Department was asked to compile a compendium of completed projects with all details and geo-tagged photographs, to be put in the public domain for public view.

Navin directs for timely settlement of all crop insurance claims



Principal Secretary AP&FWD, Navin Kumar Choudhary chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department (AP&FWD), Navin Kumar Choudhary on Monday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The stage was assisted by Dr. Ankur Sharma, Assistant Professor, Veterinary Surgery & Radiology and members of TVCC cum Internship in charge and Veterinary Oath was administered to passing out graduates by Dr. M S

Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Nazam Khan, Assistant Professor, ILFPC.

The occasion was attended by Heads of all the divisions of Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry.

The stage was assisted by Dr. J.S. Soodan, Head, Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex (TVCC) cum Internship programme namely

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in J&K attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

Principal Secretary AP&FWD directed the officers to release the UT share immediately to

ensure timely settlement of all crop insurance claims.

While highlighting the importance of the scheme, Navin Choudhary said that the scheme is meant for ensuring economic security to the farmers by insuring their crop so that they could cope up with the situations arising out of losses either as a result of crop failures or damage to their crops due to natural calamities.

He impressed upon the officers to follow all operational guidelines and procedures so that maximum farmers will get benefitted from this flagship scheme.

The meeting also discussed the status of implementation for the current Rabi crop season in the Jammu division and some areas of the Kashmir division.

increase of GDP of the region. With every passing year, High Density Apple farming is gaining momentum in Kashmir, looking at the success of farmers who adopted it at first instance. Farmers are satisfied with HD Orchards as this year also their realization of profit was more than double as compared to conventional apple farming.

The trend of converting other land into orchard land is increasing besides the under Acre Expansion Programme, in Kullgam district during current fiscal year; an area of 138.10 Kanals has been brought under Ultra High Density Plantation (Apple) with financial assistance of Rs 140 Lakh. Moreover, an area of 8.9 hectares has been brought under normal high density plantation (Apple) under CSS-MIDL.