

# CS seeks completion of at least 25,000 works under Distt Capex this year

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday hailed the improvement in the current year's revenue collections despite the ongoing pandemic and stated that a strong and consistent revenue performance and a positive outlook for future will underpin equally strong capex growth this fiscal year and beyond.

He made this observation while reviewing the functioning of the Finance department in which Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department and other senior officers of the department were present.

The Chief Secretary said that the expenditure efficiencies in the system have vastly improved due to the recent introduction of a series of financial reforms and nowhere was it more evident than in the number of works completed in 18-19 as compared to this year at relatively less expenditure than the correspondingly previous years.

"In the past, on an average 2000 works would be completed. Now as on today, 11508 works have already been completed and by the time the current financial year comes to a close, around 25000 works are expected to be completed. This represents 12 times increase over the previous years' average," he said.



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting of Finance Department.

Dr Mehta said the capex performance has to be further improved to maximize the gains of fiscal reforms so as to create a virtuous cycle of the growth in J&K that feeds on itself and continues to grow.

Stating that PRIs are the top focus of the government, the Chief Secretary said that the developmental spending in the rural areas needs to be ramped up with the close support of the representatives of the local self government for better infrastructure development.

Earlier Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Atal Dulloo in his presentation stated that SGST collections as on December 2021 has been 46 % higher than the corresponding period in the last year while IGST settlement has registered a growth of 35 % over the previous year in the

same period. He further said that stamp collection is 87 % higher than the previous year over the same period even as MST collections have shown a growth of 46.41 cr.

It was further informed that Excise collections during the year are expected to exceed the last year's target by Rs 300 cr.

Giving details of the works under execution, Finance Secretary informed that out of 44245 projects/works taken up during 2021-22 under District capex, 42102 works have been accorded administrative approval out of which 40248 works have been tendered. 28523 works out of the tendered works have been allotted / presently under execution. The department informed that out of 28523 works under execution; around 25000 works are expected to be

completed during this fiscal year.

The department further informed that out of 2357 works sanctioned under languishing projects, 1192 works have been completed so far at a cost of Rs. 1983.77 cr.

Finance Secretary said that expenditure performance of various departments is being monitored and wherever necessary instructions are being issued to increase the spending so that annual capex targets

## Govt asks officers, officials to attend R-Day function

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday asked all officers and officials of the government and public sector undertakings, stationed at Jammu to attend Republic Day 2022 function as a part of their official duty.

"The main function of the Republic Day - 2022 is being held at Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, where the Lieutenant Governor will preside over the function and take the salute," reads a circular issued by the government.

"All Officers/Officials of the Government and Public Sector Undertakings, stationed at Jammu, are called upon to attend the function as a part of their official duty," the circular stated and added, "All Heads of the Departments and Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings shall ensure their own participation and also of the employees subordinate to them in the function."

## Govt relieves PA Technical to Excise Commissioner

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday relieved PA Technical to Excise Commissioner, J&K, Atul Dutt Sharma, allowing him to join as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kishtwar.

"It is ordered that Atul Dutt Sharma, PA Technical to Excise Commissioner, J&K, under orders of transfer as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kishtwar, in terms of Government Order No. 17-JK(GAD) of 2022, Dated January 5, 2022 shall be deemed to have been relieved today on January 20, 2022 (A.N.) with the directions to join at his new place of posting, immediately," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.



## Court frames corruption charges against former SDM, Forester, others

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Anti-Corruption Udhampur S C Katal framed corruption charges against Abdul Majid Bhat the then forester, Mohd Hanief Malik the then SDM Mahore, Vijay Kumar Sharma the then Naib Tehsildar Arnas and Abdul Rashid the then Patwari.

According to ACB, FIR No. 20/2011 was registered at Police Station ACB pertaining to allegations that Abdul Rashid, Patwari Halqa Duga Dansal and Hanief Malik, SDM Mahore demanded and accepted Rs 60,000 along with other items from complainant namely Ghulam Nabi, son of Hussaina, resident of Dansal Tehsil Mahore District Reasi and others for release of compensation amount in their favour in respect of damage caused to non-fruit bearing trees in their land under Khasra No. 191, 192 and 194 during execution of work of approach road from Duga Dansal, Tehsil Mahore by Konkarn Railways in 2006-2007 but till date no compensation has been paid to them. The above officials were further demanding Rs 1 lakh as bribe for release of the same.

Accordingly, a preliminary enquiry was conducted by Vigilance Organization now Anti-Corruption Bureau which revealed that during 2006-07 while executing work of approach road at Duga Dansal, Tehsil Mahore District Reasi by Konkarn Railways, damage to plants under Khasra No. 284/207 Min was caused for which Ghulam Nabi, son of Hussaina and Hussaina son of Ghamu had claimed compensation. The aforesaid land was however, found on enquiry, to be the forest land under illegal possession of one Bagh Hussain, Jamal Din, Ghulam Nabi and Farooq Ahmed, sons of Hussaina. Accordingly, FIR No. 20/2011 under section 5 (1) (c) read with 5(2) of J&K PC Act Samvat 2006 and Sections 161, 201, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of RPC was registered in Anti-Corruption Bureau against accused Abdul Rashid then Patwari Halqa Dugga

Dansal, Tehsil Mahore and investigation started, during which on basis of statements of witnesses, relevant record was seized and with FSL opinion, it was established that then Patwari Abdul Rashid had prepared a fake assessment report regarding the plants damaged due to construction of road by Konkarn Railways in favour of Hussaina, son of Ghamu, Jamal Din, son of Hussaina and Bag Hussain, son of Hussaina bearing Khasra No. 191,192, & 194, whereas damage was caused to the forest land bearing Khasra No. 284/207. Moreover, he demanded and accepted an amount of Rs 60,000 and other edible items from complainant. Naib Tehsildar Arnas, countersigned & authenticated the fake assessment report prepared by the Patwari. Moreover Abdul Majid, being employee of Forest Department and Incharge of aforesaid forest block, knew that loss was caused to forest land. He prepared assessment report in favour above mentioned persons and facilitated processing of fake compensation case. Mohd Hanief Malik, then SDM Mahore as Supervisory Officer forwarded fake assessment report for release of compensation/payment without ascertaining facts regarding actual damage; thereby become an instrumental in passing of a fake compensation case and after completion of investigation Challan was presented.

Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Udhampur S C Katal after hearing APP Himanshu Kumar observed that in instant case, allegations against accused are that he in order to confer undue pecuniary advantage to the complainant (Hussain) and his sons forwarded the fictitious compensation case prepared by the co-accused & issued a letter No. SDM/CR/D/373 dated 9.03.2009 to Konkarn Railways Reasi and Project Manager for release of payment of Rs. 3,91,822.50 as mentioned in the fictitious reported prepared by accused No. 4 Abdul Rashid patwari and that report was counter signed by Naib

Tehsildar Vijay Kumar Sharma. The accused Abdul Majid Bhat Forester being incharge of forest block Kanthan very much knowing the facts that there was loss to the Forest land (non-Fruit bearing trees) willfully kept silent and prepared the assessment report in favour of the complainant party, as such, he is conspirator with officials of the revenue department and all the officer have misused their official position to confer undue benefits to the complainant parties in lieu of extracting bribe money. It may be defence available during trial of case to the accused that he had recently joined as SDM Mohare & was not part of any conspiracy and in good faith, he had forwarded the assessment report to the Konkarn Railways. The possible defence available to accuse no. 2 cannot be taken into considered at the stage of framing charge unless the clinching evidence is brought on the record/file to prove that there is no evidence against him & he has been wrongly implication in the case. Since, the case in hand was an old compensation case therefore, it was required for the accused no 2 to remain more vigilant & satisfy himself that why the compensation case has remain pending & why his predecessor-in-office has not forwarded the case for release of compensation but the accused no 2 did not took any step to verify the genuineness of compensation case thereby, abused his official position by forwarding the fictitious compensation case for release of compensation. Therefore, prima facie case is made out for framing charge against all the above named accused persons. Hence, accused Abdul Majid Bhat, the then Forester and Abdul Rashid, the then Patwari are charged for the commission of offence under Section 5(1) (d) and 5 (2) of PC Act read with section 161/467/468/471/120-B of RPC & accused Mohd Hanief Malik, then SDM Mahore and Vijay Kumar Sharma, the then Naib Tehsildar Arnas are charged for commission of offence under Section 5(1) (d) and 5 (2) of PC Act read with section 120-B of RPC.

## Dr Darakhshan Andrabi calls on LG



Chairperson WDC, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with LG Manoj Sinha.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, Waqf Development Committee of Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, on Thursday called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here.

Dr Andrabi expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for

the recent initiatives of the UT administration pertaining to the development of vibrant industrial sector in the region.

She also shared her views and suggestions on devising a comprehensive roadmap for tackling the issue of drug menace in the UT, new waste disposal and treatment policy

for towns and cities of J&K, besides issues of apple growers among others.

The Lt Governor appreciated Dr Andrabi for presenting her valuable insights for furthering the overall development of UT and assured to consider her suggestions in the interest of the welfare of people.

## Plus Two Lecturers' Forum seeks 'work from home' option for teaching faculty

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All J&K Plus Two Lecturers Forum was held under the chairmanship of its Provincial President Pardeep Singh Rakwal through virtual mode wherein he urged Lt Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha to work from home option to the teaching faculty taking into consideration the present scenario.

"The health of the teaching fraternity is at stake as the schools are open and the cases of COVID are increasing day by day," Rakwal said and stressing that work from home can be granted to the teaching faculty as the online classes are already going on.

In some schools, there is network issue, so online classes can be more effectively taken from homes with Wi-Fi, he aid adding that as per the guidelines of Disaster Management it is notified that schools will open only for administrative purposes.

He also emphasized that teaching community should be treated as frontline workers and precautionary or third dose of vaccine should be given to them on priority.

In the meeting, light was thrown on different pending issues of the Plus 2 fraternity including ACP, regularisation of all the pending subjects, consideration of dropout cases of EVS in the elevation of Senior Lecturers, implementation of transfer pol-



Plus Two Lecturer Forum members interacting virtually.

icy in fair manner, release of charge allowance in favour of Principals, Provision of accommodation for Principals, lecturers posted in other districts, filling up of posts of Principals and lecturers lying vacant for many years, repatriation of lecturers posted in remote areas after one year of service, induction of college quota in favour of Plus two lecturers, non-vocational status in favour of all the

Principals and lecturers who are officially engaged during vacations.

Rakwal also thanked and appreciated the Principal Secretary School Education Department, B.K Singh for resolving different pending issues of the cadre and he hoped that all other pending and genuine demands will be fulfilled very soon.

The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Ghar Singh (General Secretary) under the supervision of R S Slathia.

Various Principals, lecturers and Tehsil Heads from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir Provinces attended the meeting.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting include Parveen Akhter (Principal), Yash Pal (Principal), Rajesh Suri (Principal), Charu Anand (Principal), Jyoti Prakash (Principal), Dr Ashok Kumar (Vice President), Dr Sushma (Female Vice President), Mulkh Raj (Tehsil Head Akhnoor), Sohan Singh Chib (Tehsil Head R S Pura), Kamal Kishore Bhagat, Esha Choudhary, Salim Shah, Roopse Kapoor, Ashok Kumar (Tehsil Billawar), Mohd Amin Shah, Mohd Owais Khan, Renuka Manhas, Jai Karan, Mukesh, Geeta Choudhary, Ifiat Shah, Ravinder Singh, Razia Chowdhary, Bashir Sahil, Vinay Kumar, Sanjay, Sandeep Rathore, Sativender Kour and Nityan Sharma.

## Is it possible to eliminate TB from J&K by 2025?

### ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: According to health experts, Tuberculosis or TB is still more prevalent in rural pockets of J&K for many reasons. The disease was initially known as poor man's disease. Although that scenario is changing now but due to increasing population and lack of proper nutrition in rural areas, thereby TB is still much prevalent in rural belts. TB is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19 (above HIV/AIDS). In 2020, an estimated 10 million people suffered from tuberculosis (TB) worldwide including 5.6 million men, 3.3 million women and 1.1 million children. TB is present in all countries and among all age-groups. According to WHO data, in 2020, 30 high TB burden countries accounted for 86 per cent new TB cases while eight countries

accounted for two thirds of total, with India leading the count, followed by China, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa.

According to World Health Organisation, globally TB cases were falling at about 2 per cent per year and between 2015 and 2020, with cumulative reduction 11 per cent. This was over half way to end TB Strategy milestone of 20 per cent reduction between 2015 and 2020, but COVID pandemic caused a major setback and it was observed that tuberculosis is on rise again globally for the first time in a decade, linked to disruptions in access to healthcare because of COVID pandemic.

In 2018, 4,774 TB cases were recorded in J&K. In 2019, it was down to 4,080 while in 2020, the number further declined to 2,836

cases.

Earlier this year, the Union Health Ministry declared Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam as tuberculosis-free.

Dr Rubeena Shaheen, State Tuberculosis Officer (STO) told that Tuberculosis cases are on decline in Kashmir division. "We are doing our best to complete our target. By 2025, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory will be TB free," she hoped.

She said cases are on decline in all other districts, except Srinagar, where TB cases are still more. Dr Rubeena said that in Jammu division, there are districts which have more TB cases as compared to Kashmir division. When asked whether COVID-19 has affected TB testing in UT, she said, "COVID-19 has impacted pace of NTEP but now it is picking up again."

According to report, around 165 persons per 1,00,000 are assessed to have medically-treated Tuberculosis. "Budgam has been certified as Tuberculosis free under sub-national TB certification claims. This year, we are applying for two more districts which are Kupwara and Pulwama," she added.

According to official sources, at present in Srinagar district, the number of TB patients are increasing and more than 2.13 lakh people were screened in Srinagar D out of which 1,106 people were found having symptoms of TB.

The district administration is also worried on this data and has stressed upon all officers of Health Department to increase TB testing capacity through active and passive mode to achieve targets under the National TB Elimination

Programme before 2025. District administration also emphasized to take every step for keeping advanced TB testing facilities available at every institution besides ensuring implementation of Bidirectional TB-COVID Screening without any fail. Recently, additional Chief Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Vivek Bhardwaj convened a meeting of UT-level TB Forum for community engagement interventions and community led TB response in J&K. ACS said that community led response for TB is one of the key strategies to reach unreached and support TB patients throughout their treatment and recovery phase and community engagement is important, as it is time to work with communities to eradicate TB from UT of J&K before 2025.



JKSSB aspirants during a protest at Jammu on Thursday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) has informed that Computer Based Test (CBT) examination, which were earlier scheduled to be held at Vaishnavi Institute of Technology (both shifts), Jammu Skill Development Centre (both shifts) and

Eshal Online Services (2nd shift) would not be conducted due to some technical snag in server, shall now be held on January 24, 2022.

Earlier, a large number of aspirants, who reached Jammu from other districts for examination, staged a protest in front of JKSSB office demanding conduct-

ing exams after three-week time.

The trouble started when students protested against the mismanagement at JKSSB. They alleged that they were scheduled to appear for exam but JKSSB cancelled the exams after some technical snag.