

Distt Admn Srinagar for cent percent coverage of 15-17 yr age-group for COVID-19 vaccination

All schools directed to complete vaccination process within a week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To safeguard teenagers in the age group of 15-17 years from COVID-19 infection and ensure enabling environment for schools to move towards reopening, the District Administration Srinagar on Saturday held an interaction session under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Khurshid Ahmad Shah with heads of various Schools and Senior Health Functionaries at Banquet Hall, here.

The interaction session was held on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad which was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate East/ Nodal Officer Covid-19 Mitigations, Owais Mushtaq, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Anjum Raja, Zonal Education Officers,



ADC Srinagar, Khurshid Ahmad Shah chairing a meeting.

Principals and Heads of various Government Schools, Zonal Medical Officers and all Tehsildars of Srinagar, besides representatives of various Private Schools of the district.

During the meeting, a threadbare deliberation was held with regard to ongoing process of Covid-19 vaccination for 15-17 age group in Srinagar District and target achieved till date.

The meeting was informed that in Srinagar district over 83000 teenagers under 15-17 age group are targeted to

inoculate anti Covid-19 dots. It was also given out that total 9312 students under 15-17 age group are enrolled in 111 Government Schools in the district out of which 7045 students have been inoculated Covid-19 jabs, while left out students will be covered under the process soon.

Similarly, the meeting was informed that over 5000 students enrolled in 174 private schools have also been administered necessary Covid-19 shots.

On the occasion, the ADC

asked all other private schools to update their students registration details so that all students under 15-17 age group are inoculated with the Covid-19 vaccine within one week to achieve the set target.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner said that decisions with regard to vaccination, their research, approval and certification has been scientifically driven. He said vaccinations for children aged between 15 and 17 will not only protect students from the deadly effects of Covid-19 pandemic but also go a long way in assuring worried parents for sending their wards to schools.

He stressed on better coordination between Education and Health Departments to achieve the cent percent target by February 03.

The ADC said the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar is personally monitoring the

vaccination process on a regular basis to ensure a viable environment for schools to reopen for offline classes.

ADC further said in wake of present Covid-19 situation, the students under the target age group can inoculate the Covid-19 jab at any vaccination site as per their convenience and the same can be submitted to school authorities through WhatsApp for updation of record at School level.

The ADC asked the authorities of both Government and Private Schools to ensure all students under 15-17 age group are vaccinated by Feb 03. He also asked them to upload links regarding registration of students.

The ADC also asked the CMO Srinagar to speed up the pace of ongoing vaccination process of the target group and keep close liaison with all school heads so that the process is completed within a weeks' time.

DDC Budgam stresses on work resumption on snow-halted projects



DDC Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Saturday took detailed sector wise review of works and projects taken under District Capex Budget- 2021-22.

At the outset, DDC called for completion of all pending works in time and ensure 30 percent expenditure is made during the last quarter of the current financial year.

The DDC, through a pow-erpoint presentation was apprised about the current status of projects and expenditure made so far. He stressed that work on

projects stopped due to inclement weather and snowfall should be resumed on war footing to ensure that these projects are completed in a time bound manner. He instructed officers that work on all under-going projects be expedited and the tendering and retendering process of pending works is carried out without delay for early execution. The concerned were directed to ensure completion of estimates of all pending works in next five days and take up these works for early execution.

He also stressed that work should also start on projects like Sumerbugh Bridge halted in the dis-

trict. While giving the details, AD planning informed the meeting that against the available outlay including Area Development Fund of Rs. 219 crores, an expenditure of Rs.151 crores have been incurred on the projects so far. It was informed that out of 1805 allotted works, 938 works have been completed so far in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by DPO, ICDS Romin Ahmad, SE R&B, Nayeem Ahmad, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers from all engineering wings, district and sectoral officers and other concerned.

DC Pulwama felicitates frontline workers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary on Saturday felicitated the doctors, besides health, Anganwadi and Aasha workers of the district who are on the frontline of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic at district administrative complex, here. The DC commended the frontline and health workers for their selfless services, with limited resources, amid the pandemic. He assured them of all possible help from district administration.

No need to panic over NeoCov virus: DAK

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: With apprehensions among people about newly discovered coronavirus, called NeoCov, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said there is no need to panic as the virus is confined to animals and does not cause human infection.

"NeoCov has been found in bats and in its current form there is no threat of the virus jumping from bats to humans," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said NeoCov is not a new virus nor is it a variant of Covid-19. It was first identified around 2013 in bats in South Africa, while looking for the origin of MERS, a coronaviral disease that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

"There has been no confirmed case of NeoCov in humans so far," he said.

The DAK President said news reports about NeoCov virus's potential to kill one of every three infected persons are doing the rounds on the internet for the last couple of days. The news is based

on a preprint paper by Chinese researchers.

"However, there is little connection between the paper and inference that have been drawn by news reports," he said.

"The researchers clearly say that the virus which exists in bats cannot infect humans except in case the virus undergoes a particular type of mutation which is a mere speculation," said Dr Nisar.

"The idea that NeoCov may be able to infect human beings is in the realms of theory and should not be a

cause of concern," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said coronaviruses are often found in animals, including bats which have been identified as a natural reservoir of many of these viruses.

"Not everything jumps to humans and there is no way of predicting anything," he said.

"It is important that we must continue surveillance of zoonotic pathogens as the likelihood of potential spillover events from animals to humans is possible," he added.

JKBS demands inclusion of Guru Gyagi's birthday in public holidays list

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) held its meeting at Shahzadpur Kothii here today. The meeting sought inclusion of the birthday of Guru Gyagi's in the official calendar.

JMC Corporator Naib Subedar Rashpal Bhardwaj, who chaired the meeting, revealed that the case of holiday had since been endorsed to the previous Government of Jammu and Kashmir by the former President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi but unfortunately no action was initiated in the matter to declare the holiday.

Bhardwaj further said that the Batwal Community constitute a huge segment of population in the Union Territory of J&K and it would

be quite injustice to it if no action is taken to include the birthday of Guru in the list of holiday.

The Sabha's General Secretary R.L Kaith mentioned that the birthday of Guru Gyagi falls on Magh Purnima every year and this year it's coming on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022.

The prominent among others who attended the meeting included JKBS President Rachpal Kaith, SDM (Retd) Duni Singh Motan, Ex Sarpanch Jagdish Raj Sandhu, Panch Sham Lal Kaith, Ex Panch Ashok Kumar Motan, Subedar (Retd) Ram Dhan Lakhotra, Subedar (Retd) Baldev Chand Sandhu, Naib Subedar (Retd) Krishan Lal Tugga, Havidar (Retd) Des Raj Kaith, Waryam Chand Motan, Tilak Raj Bassa, Krishan Lal Motan, Suraj Prakash Sargotra, Bishan Lal Motan and Ved Prakash Sargotra.

DC B'la takes stock of measures for Annual Plan Formulation 2022-23

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar on Saturday chaired a meeting of concerned officers in Dak Bungalow here to discuss various measures for timely formulation of plan 2022-23 and subsequent execution of developmental works.

A comprehensive discussion was held during which the DC emphasized for carrying out all the related necessities like identification, consultation, Gram Sabhas etc well within the stipulated time frame. On the occasion, DC directed the concerned to ensure that feasibility and formulation/submission of

estimates is completed before 05th of March 2022 so that developmental works are taken smoothly during the financial year 2022-23.

Meanwhile, the DC stressed to take all stakeholders more specifically elected representatives on board so as to realize the mission of inclusive development. He said that the objective of balanced and equitable development of all regions with more emphasis on rural connectivity and durable assets creation, shall be taken into consideration during the plan formulation.

Moreover, he appreciated the concerned officers for working tirelessly and taking the district on the path of

development with more vibrancy and speed.

The concerned officers also put forth their feedback and highlighted several issues hampering the path of smooth and rapid development. They sought early and timely disposal of all such issues so as to realize the mission of socio-economic development.

Joint Director Planning M. Yousuf Rather, General Manager DIC Mohammad Asadullah Rather, Assistant Commissioner Development Yaar Ali Khan, SE's, Executive Engineers of R&B and PDD, BDOs besides various district and sectoral officers were present in the meeting.

ADC Kulgam visits several areas in Qaimoo, Khudwani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: To take first hand appraisal of issues grievances and demands of people, the Additional Development Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather along with other officers on Saturday visited Qaimoo and Khudwani areas of the district and interacted with locals here.

During the visit, locals apprised the ADC and other officers about various issues of the area. They also projected various demands and grievances of the area for timely redressal.

Issues raised on the occasion include widening of

Bridge to avoid traffic jams in Khudwani area, frequent traffic Jams, construction of lanes and drains besides others that the people are facing in day to day life.

All their issues and demands were listened to patiently by ADC and other officers present on the occasion.

The ADC said that the main objective of this visit is to listen to the issues of people and redress the same in a time bound manner. He also added that the Administration is committed to provide hassle-free services to people.

The ADC was accompanied by Tehsildar, AEE R&B and other officers.

ADDC inspects SDH Kupwara, takes stock of implementation of weekend lockdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Altaf Ahmad Khan on Saturday visited Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara and different markets of Kupwara town and inspected the arrangements put forth by the administration to tackle with the latest

wave of Covid-19 in the district.

During the visit, the ADDC inspected Covid Control Room of the Sub District Hospital and took stock of the arrangements put in place. He also interacted with the Covid patients telephonically who were in home isolation and enquired about their health condition and the facilities provided by the hospital administration. The

ADDC also inspected other sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD, Dialysis, CT-Scan and Gynea and interacted with the doctors and patients. Earlier, the ADDC visited several markets of the Kupwara town and took stock of the implementation of the weekend lockdown on the ground.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by a team of officers.

DC Pulwama visits various markets to check CAB enforcement



DC Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary conducting round of Pampore town to take appraisal of CAB.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Amid spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary accompanied by the senior officers on Saturday conducted a round of the Pampore, Avantipora town to take the first-hand appraisal of COVID appropriate behaviour enforcement. During the inspection, the DC visited various markets to oversee the CAB enforcement. While interacting with the traders and pedestrians, the DC asked them to ensure strict compliance to the Government directions for larger public safety and health.

The DC said that the inspection was carried out to take stock of the implementation of various Government Advisories, Guidelines and Covid-19 SOPs such as wearing of

Masks, maintaining social distance, and other practices to protect the public health and prevent the spread of infection of the deadly Coronavirus.

India delivers 3 tonnes of medical assistance to Afghanistan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has supplied three tonnes of essential life-saving medicines to Afghanistan in the fourth batch of medical assistance to the war-torn country and will provide further humanitarian help to the people there in form of medicines and food-grains in coming weeks, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday.

In a statement, the MEA said India stands committed to continuing its special relationship with the people of Afghanistan and providing humanitarian assistance.

"As part of our ongoing humanitarian assistance, India supplied the fourth batch of medical assistance consisting of three tonnes of essential life-saving medicines to Afghanistan. The same was handed over to the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kabul," it added.

Prior to this, India has supplied three shipments of medical assistance, consisting of 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and essential life-saving medicines to Afghanistan that was handed over to the WHO and Kabul's India Gandhi Children Hospital.

"In the coming weeks, we would be supplying more batches of humanitarian assistance consisting of medicines and foodgrains for the people of Afghanistan," it added.

India has not recognised the new regime in Afghanistan and has been pitching for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul besides insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

India has been concerned over the recent developments in Afghanistan.

regard from time to time.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Anantnag and other officials.

Director Rural Sanitation holds administrative inspection of Kulgam Block

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The Director Rural Sanitation, Tariq Hussain Ganai on Saturday visited district Kulgam and held an administrative inspection of Block Kulgam.

The visiting officer conducted a threadbare review of different parameters pertaining to SBM. He impressed upon ACP Kulgam & BDO to accelerate progress on BLS/ LOB/ NLOB, completion of online physical and financial pendencies and ensure timely completion of IHHL units and other verticals and achievement of desired targets. He also directed the officers to be citizen centric and people friendly.

ACP Kulgam was directed to ensure timely expenditure and hold weekly meetings with the BDOs for obtaining tangible results under different components of rural sanitation.

Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui of Info Deptt bereaved

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The employees of Information Department Kashmir Division on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of Aunt of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui.

A condolence meeting in this regard

was held in the divisional office in which all officers and officials of the divisional office participated.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The employees also expressed their solidarity with the Joint Director and the bereaved family for the loss.

DDC Rajouri reviews performance of Agriculture Deptt

Asks to educate farmers about farm-centric development schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Saturday reviewed the performance of the Agriculture Department under various centrally sponsored schemes and programmes, here at a meeting of the concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; CAO, Som Singh and DSCO, Shashi Kant and AD Planning, Mohammad Rafi.

The meeting reviewed achievements under the District Capex Budget, PM KISAN, Kisan credit card, Soil Health card, RKVY, PMKSY, farm mechanisation and other interventions.

Bottlenecks for successful implementation of farmer welfare schemes were also discussed in depth in the meeting. The DDC asked the concerned officers to expedite utilisation of funds under Capex Budget 2021-22 to ensure maximum achievements. He further asked to geotag all the completed infrastructure development works in the shortest possible time.



DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting.

Regarding the progress under PM KISAN, the meeting was apprised that there are 78191 Farm Operating Families in the district and so far 09 installments have been credited to the accounts of the beneficiaries.

While reviewing the status of the progress on Kisan Credit card scheme, it was informed that 97 percent farmers of the district have been covered under the scheme. He directed the concerned to expedite the progress and ensure that all the beneficiaries are covered under KCC. Discussing the activities being carried out in the field of apiculture, it was informed that there are 136 departmental colonies and 36 registered beekeepers in

the district.

Regarding the Soil Health Card scheme, he advised the officers to motivate the farmers to get their soil tested as it helps them improve the health of different crops grown by them. Addressing the officers in the meeting, the DDC asked the officers to generate massive awareness among the farmers about various welfare schemes being implemented by the Agriculture Department in the district through IEC activities and motivate them to avail the necessary benefits of the same.

He also emphasized upon the concerned officers to conduct field visits to get real time feedback from farmers.