

Div Com conducts surprise midnight inspection of winter control rooms in Udhampur District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer conducted late tonight visit here to inspect the functioning of control rooms set up for winters and to respond to any emergency situation in the prevailing inclement weather conditions.

During his visit, the Div Com inspected the control rooms including District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), JPDCL (PDD) Jal Shakti (PHE), R&B and Police Control Rooms and reviewed their working during night hours.

He interacted with the duty staff at the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), situated inside DC Office and reviewed the call log being maintained. Certain deficiencies were found in the working



Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer during surprise inspection of a winter control room in Udhampur.

of DEOC, which were mentioned by the Div Com in his inspection note, written on the spot. The Div Com instructed for improvement in tracking of Covid positive patients/contacts/travellers through the Control Room as the Covid related monitoring in the district is also being done through the DEOC.

During the visit to the Police Lines, the Div Com lauded the functioning of the Police Control Room, Udhampur and complemented the DySP DAR and staff on duty for their alertness. The staff on duty also explained the functioning of TMS and vehicle tracking system.

The Div Com inspected the records like PCR logbook, weather situation report, Covid patients line listing and fine/enforcement action for CAB violations etc; which were

found well maintained & in order. The Control Rooms of R&B and PMGSY were not found functional during the night inspection and note of the same was taken.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also inspected the control rooms of EM&RE divisions (PDD) at Dabbar Chowk & Saila Talab and interacted with the staff on duty. The Div Com instructed the officials on duty to be more people friendly in their approach and ensure prompt action on every distressed call. The Div Com also directed the officials to maintain the record of the logbook properly, including records of calls, action taken.



CS reviews COVID situation, seeks conduct of 2 lakh tests per day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the public health response to COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir and asked the Health and Medical Education Department to scale up testing to reach a target of 2 lakh tests per day with a proportional increase in RT-PCR tests.



Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta reviewing COVID situation in J&K.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary asked the Departmental HoDs to establish direct communication channels with the medical teams /professionals and undertake an on-ground assessment of the situation and mitigation measures, besides raising awareness through interactive sessions and programmes on electronic and social media.

To closely monitor the rapidly evolving COVID- 19 situation in the Union territory, a Crisis Management Group under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary has been meeting regularly and taking appropriate preventing and mitigating measures for preventing infection surges in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Department was further asked to ramp up medical facilities and prepare for catering to any surge in reported cases of infections. The Department was also asked to stock up on medical supplies and keep all equipment, machinery, and infrastructure in a state of readiness.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the need of promoting COVID Appropriate Behaviour- masking, social distancing, and crowd management; COVID SoPs and protocols among the general masses and directed the enforcement agencies to ensure adherence to the laid down guidelines.

Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta takes charge of Leh-based 14 Corps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta on Wednesday took charge as the General Officer Commanding of the Leh-based 14 Corps that is tasked with guarding the Line of Actual Control with China in the Ladakh region. The 14 Corps, popularly known as the Fire and Fury

Corps, is also tasked with keeping a vigil along the border with Pakistan in the Siachen sector. Lt Gen Sengupta succeeded Lt Gen PGK Menon who headed the Indian Army delegations at several rounds of military talks with China's People's Liberation Army on the eastern Ladakh standoff. Commissioned into the Punjab Regiment in June 1987, Lt General Sengupta is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Army War College and the National Defence College. In a military career spanning almost 34 years, he has had the distinction of serving in key commands and staff positions.

Before taking over the reins of the Fire and Fury Corps, he was the director-general of strategic planning. He has been an instructor at the National Defence Academy and Directing Staff at DSSC, Wellington. Lt Gen Sengupta also served as an observer in Congo, brigade major of an infantry brigade, director of force structuring at strategic planning directorate among others. He has commanded an infantry regiment and an infantry brigade and an Infantry Brigade in the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

Houseboats, hotel building damaged in separate fire incidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two houseboats and a building of a high-end hotel housing the staff quarters were damaged due to fire in separate incidents around the famous Dal Lake here on Wednesday, officials said. A houseboat in the lake caught fire, which spread to an adjacent houseboat, in the early hours, causing damage to both the floating structures, they added. In another incident, a fire broke out in a building housing the staff quarters of a high-end heritage hotel located along the banks of the lake, the officials said. Fire tenders were summoned and timely action prevented the blaze from spreading, they added. There were no reports of anyone getting injured in any of the incidents, the officials said.

BSF lodges protest with Pak Rangers over arms smuggling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Border Security Force lodged a strong protest with Pakistan Rangers at a commander-level meeting on Wednesday over smuggling of arms and narcotic substances from across the border, a BSF spokesperson said. The BSF reiterated that these types of activities from the Pakistani side are unacceptable. It also strictly objected to the drone operations carried out by Pakistan regularly violating the International Border, the spokesperson said. The BSF delegation was led by DIG Border Security Force Surjit Singh. This was the first commander-level meeting in 2022, he said. During the meeting, various border-related issues were discussed, the spokesperson said. He said the main emphasis was given by the BSF delegation on the infiltration attempts of Pakistan-based elements and recovery of arms and narcotics along the International Border.

BJP Govt using public money for polishing its disgruntle image: Bhalla

Congress to fight for cause of Jammuities: Mula Ram

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Wednesday urged people of J&K to reject pro-rich and anti-youth, anti-farmers and anti-poor BJP for ensuring peace and prosperity in the region. While addressing a meeting of District Congress Committee Jammu (Rural) organised by DCC President Jammu Rural, Th Hari Singh Chib, Bhalla said that at present BJP Government is wasting public money for carrying out massive advertisements of party just to polish their disgruntle image in front of people. He further said that enthusiasm amongst people reflects anti-BJP mood as people are fed up with hollow slogans and lack of development in the areas.

Others present on the occasion included PCC Vice President Mula Ram, PCC Secretaries Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Chairman SC Cell Karan Bhagat, Senior Vice President DCC Jammu-Rural Ravinder Singh, PYC



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing party workers.

President Uday Bhanu Chib, Kuldeep Raj Verma, Satish Sharma, Romal Singh, Sunil Dutt, Vijay Tugotra, Kuldeep Raj, Rajinder Kumar, Balbir Singh, Happy Randhawa, Harbans Lal, Ram Paul, Girdhari Lal, Jang Bahadur, Om Prakash, Dev Raj, Bharat Bushan Kundal, Seva Ram, Sat Paul, Dr Yash Pal Bhagat, Chander Prabha, Sunita Devi, Vipul Sodi, Ranjodh Singh, Krisahn Lal, Ashok Kumar, Mangat Ram Puri, Sat Pal, Kamal Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Mahesh Chander, Sat Pal Choudhary, Mool Raj Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma,

Baldev Raj, Balkar Singh, Vidya Sagar, Kimat Singh, Om Prakash, Krishan Dutt Khajuria, Barsem Lal, Prem Singh, Mohan Lal Bhagat, Neeraj Choudhary, R P Singh, Balwinder Singh, Rohit Nandam, Tarun Vaid, Rakesh Sharma and Rishi Thappa. Bhalla said that Jammu witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of statehood by BJP Government including seizing of jobs, land, and suppression of political and civil rights. JKPC Senior Vice President, Mula Ram said that Congress has been on fore front to oppose anti- people policies

being imposed on people through bureaucrats, as there is no elected Government in J&K for last three and half years. He reiterated that Congress will fight for cause of Jammuities besides restoring lost honour of J&K. District Jammu Rural President Hari Singh Chib also criticized BJP for its negative policies which have made lives of people miserable in J&K.

J&K cops involved in counter-terrorism ops to soon get bullet-resistant jackets of levels 5, 6

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has initiated the process to procure over 8,000 bullet-resistant (BR) jackets of protection levels 5 and 6 for its personnel involved in counter-terrorism and security operations, official sources said. Levels 5 and 6 indicate a high level of threat and protection. They are tested to withstand at least five shots of a variety of weapons, they said. The police will also procure BR vehicles of various levels of protection and glasses for vehicles, helmets, ultra-wide CCTV surveillance systems and deep search mine detectors, they said. As many as 7,416 BR jackets of level 5 protection and 784 BR jackets of level 6 protection will be procured by the police to provide its personnel involved in counter-terrorism and security operations the best possible protection, the sources said.

The police headquarters recently floated bids on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal for the purchase of these jackets. The jackets should protect police personnel from all sides and be available in all sizes, they added. These jackets will undergo mandatory ballistic testing at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) laboratory. The police have also floated bids on the GeM portal for the procurement of 47 BR light motor vehicles (LMVs) of level 3 protection, 15 BR LMVs of level 2, 10 BR LMVs of level 1, 100 ultra wide CCTV surveillance systems, 12 deep search mine detectors and 45 mini drones, among other things, the sources said. This is aimed at providing an edge to the police force, which is engaged in counter-terrorism operations, law and order maintenance and ensuring overall security, they said.

IT Deptt team interacts with industry representatives, visits Incubation Centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A team of Information Technology Department led by Secretary Purna Puri and CEO, J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) Amit Sharma held an interaction with major Industrial Associations followed by a visit to Incubation Centre in J&K located inside EDI complex Jammu. Others who accompanied IT team included J&K IT Consultant, Sanjay Gaden and Additional Secretary, Rajinder Kumar Khajuria. The industrial delegation which called on IT Secretary and CEO JaKeGA included Chariman, ASSOCHAM J&K Manik Batra, Co-Chairman Jammu Committee PHD Chamber Kuldeep Gupta, Director Jodhamal Group Vikrant Kuthiala and others. Main



Secretary IT Deptt Purna Puri; CEO, JaKeGA Amit Sharma and others during visit to Incubation Centre.

issues included in the talk with IT Department included setting-up a Centre of Excellence in J&K, creating of IT ecosystem in sync with IT/ITES Policy 2020 for creating jobs in IT sector, organising several initiatives to showcase IT sector achievements of J&K for organising a major IT Summit in J&K soon etc. Further, during visit to Incubation Centre at EDI Complex by IT Team,

Executive Director EDI J&K Anil Kaul and Project Manager Shivani gave a presentation about Incubation Activities and Policy initiatives taken in this behalf and it was followed by a brain-storming session to extend these services to IT start-ups in J&K in a big way. A round of Incubation Centres the Complex was also undertaken by the visiting team before culminating the trip.

Prakash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated with religious fervour



Glimpses of Prakash Purab celebrations of Guru Gobind Singh in Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prakash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj, the Sirjanhaar of Khalsa Panth was celebrated on Wednesday at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Dev, Chand Nagar Jammu with religious fervour and gaiety. The function was organised by District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu, in which devotees from different parts of J&K including women and children participated in large numbers, to pay obeisance and to seek blessings of Guru Sahib.

Prominent Sikh preachers and Ragi Jathas from within and outside the UT delivered sermons and recited Gurbani Kirtan. The speakers threw light on life-history

and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh, describing him a saint, soldier and a poet, who took sword to fight oppression and infused martial spirit among people through soul-inspiring heroic poetry.

Bhai Gurdeep Singh, Preacher Kapurthala Wale delivered sermons Bhai Davinder Singh, Hazoori Ragi Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Jasbir Singh Jamalpur, Hazoori Ragi, Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Gurpreet Singh Johal Amritsar, Central Gurdwara R S Pura, Bhai Jagtar Singh Jammu Wale, Bhai Randhir Singh and Bhai Surjeet Singh of DGPC Jammu recited Gurbani Kirtan and delivered sermons.

On the occasion, various resolutions highlighting reli-

gious, social and political problems faced by minority Sikh community in UT of J&K were highlighted.

The resolutions were presented by Ramnik Singh, Member DGPC Jammu, seconded by Avtar Singh Khalsa Member DGPC and were approved by huge gathering of Sangat amidst Chanting Jai Karas of 'Bole- So- Nihal, Sat-Sri-Akal'.

While addressing the gathering, Jagjit Singh, President DGPC Jammu greeted Sangat and urged the Lieutenant Governor's administration to fulfil all legitimate demands of Minority Sikh community and assured the Sangat that DGPC Jammu, with cooperation and support of Sikh Sangat, shall continue its whole-hearted efforts for fulfill-

ing all genuine demands of Sikh Community. He also urged Sikh masses, particularly youth, to become Amritdhari (Baptised) as per code of law instituted by the great Guru for his followers. He further thanked volunteers, different organisations and entire administration for smooth conduct of Gurdwarab celebrations.

Fateh Singh General Secretary DGPC managed the stage while Kuldeep Singh Vice President, Mohinder Singh Joint Secretary, Manmohan Singh (Member), Jathedar Mohinder Singh (Member), Manjit Singh, Narinder Singh Khalsa, Karan Singh Wazir, Surjeet Singh, Balwinder Singh, Ajmeet Singh, Balwant Singh Chatha and Harmainan Singh also shared the podium.