

Div Com Kashmir discusses preparedness for containment of 'Omicron'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In view of the spread of new Covid-19 Variant, Omicron, in different countries of the world, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday chaired a special meeting of officers to formulate the strategy for containment measures in Kashmir Division. The meeting was attended by MD, NHM; DC Budgam; ADC Srinagar; Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Airports, Principal, GMC Srinagar, CMO Srinagar, CMO Budgam, Incharge DCCRK, SSO/ Epidemiologist Kashmir and other public health specialists of DCCRK.

In view of government advisory, the meeting decided that mandatory RTPCR test of all international passengers should be conducted at Srinagar Airport irrespective of travellers previous negative report or fully vaccination status. Besides, it was fur-



Div Com Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole chairing a meeting.

ther decided that if RTPCR report turns negative, the passenger shall be kept under home quarantine for Ist week and again retested on 8th day of home Quarantine or whenever traveller develops symptoms of ILI during the course of Quarantine; if the report of RTPCR comes negative he/she will self monitor for one more week at strict home Quarantine.

However, if first test of a international traveler comes out positive then the person will be shifted to DRDO hospital Khunmoh and the testing sample shall be sent for whole genome sequencing to know whether they are infected by new Covid-19 variant of Omicron or any other strain.

At the outset, MD NHM Kashmir Yaseen Chowdhary gave a Power Point Presentation where he shared the information about the presence of new covid variant in some countries and travel related cases in other nations.

It was informed that B.1.1.529 new variant is possibly 500% competitively more infectious and has rapidly spread in South Africa, Some European Countries, and Some Asian countries also. Besides, it was also informed that WHO guidance note mentions that current RTPCR test continues to be effective in detecting the new variant.

The DCCR Kashmir also gave the plan for strength-

ening surveillance of international passengers, enhanced testing, monitoring of hot spots, ensuring augmentation of health infrastructure, prompt dispatch of genome sequencing and other actions. Div Com stressed on widespread campaigning of Do's and Don'ts, IEC for Confidence Building and Fear Mitigation especially IEC materials with messaging and information in local language for ASHAs, ANMs and other stakeholders.

He also directed to Strengthen the call centre for monitoring of suspected cases under home quarantine, besides once again starting Capacity Building of clinicians and paramedical health workers, Refresher Trainings on PSAs, ventilator experts, clinical management, Operationalise the real-time dashboards for tracking available health infrastructure and oxygen status and other important information in view of the threat of this new variant.

Kansal reviews functioning of power sector in Budgam district

Budgam, Chadoora Grids to be augmented; Waterwani, Ratithan stations to be commissioned

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Power Development and Information Departments, Rohit Kansal, on Tuesday chaired a high level meeting to review the functioning of Power Development Department (PDD) of Budgam district.

He took a first-hand appraisal of all ongoing central and UT level projects in the district, besides reviewing the winter preparedness, languishing projects and other projects under CAPEX budget of the district. The Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Shahbaz Mirza welcomed the Principal Secretary and briefed him on the power situation of the district. This was followed by a detailed presentation on the power scenario. The Principal secretary was briefed that the 50 MVA Nowbugh Chadoora grid station which had been languishing for nearly a decade was completed this year. As a result, major relief had been provided to Nagam, Charar e Sharief and other areas by way of reduction in curtailment hours. Kansal said in order to provide further relief to the



Principal Secretary PDD, Rohit Kansal visiting Nowbugh Grid Station.

people, the 10 MVA Waterwani receiving station should be completed and commissioned by the 15th of December. He also directed the officers for the augmentation of Budgam grid station to be done next year and removal of all other bottlenecks for improving the power sector in the district. Kansal said that considering that power supply has been enhanced significantly in most of the Budgam district a reasonable and fair curtailment schedule has to be properly framed and strictly adhered to. He sought details from the officers about the unscheduled power cuts and disturbed power supply and directed them to strictly ensure that no unscheduled cuts were imposed and in case of any exigency adequate information should be shared

with the consumers. He pointed out that people acknowledge the genuine difficulties of the department provided details are shared with the consumers openly and transparently. He also directed the concerned officers to seek regular feedback from the public and make redressal of genuine grievances, which come through different media, a regular feature. While reviewing the position of AT&C losses and revenue generation, the Principal Secretary regretted that the position of losses and revenue collection remained a matter of serious concern. He observed that reduction of losses and uninterrupted supply were two sides of the same coin and if losses were brought down below 20%, the KPDCCL would be in a position to supply uninterrupted power.

Conversely, if illegal power usage and theft continued unabated, the position of the department to supply power would be severely constrained. Kansal also sought a detailed list of all the feeders which suffer more than 80 percent losses and directed the field staff to take immediate remedial action.

He also took serious note of the use of crude heating devices which were not only illegal but also a safety hazard. He asked the DC Budgam Shahbaz Mirza to provide all possible support to the department in carrying out intensive drives to seize crude heaters besides seeking support from the public in this regard. He also appealed to the public to make judicious use of power and desist from illegal use of power.

Later the Principal Secretary also visited the Nowbugh grid station and reviewed its functioning. He reviewed the progress in the work of further augmentation of the grid by way of addition of 50 MVA capacity and directed that the work should be expedited and completed in the current financial year.

32nd Batch of DAGO visits 160 Bn CRPF HQ Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per directions of higher authorities, the 32nd Batch of Directly Appointed Gazetted Officers (DAGO) of CRPF arrived at 160 Bn. CRPF Chatha, Jammu for familiarization.

They were welcomed and accompanied by Bhanu Pratap Singh, DIG, Range Jammu, K.D Joshi, Commandant, 160 Bn.

tioning of CRPF unit.

They have visited all the functionaries of 160 Bn, and various locations adjacent to 160 Bn CRPF Headquarters viz Ragunath Mandir, Suchetgarh (Indo-Pak Border), Bag-e-Bahu etc.

They have interacted with officers and men present in the camp and familiarized with various kinds of duties



32nd Batch of DAGO of CRPF arriving at 160 Bn. CRPF.

CRPF and other officers.

All the DAGOs have visited in and around the camp area and familiarized with func-

being performed in Unit.

160 Bn. CRPF also organized a lunch to the visit of DAGOs at GOs Mess.

Dharmarth Trust committed to provide adequate facilities in temples, shrines: Gandotra



President J&K Dharmarth Trust, Ajay Gandotra inaugurating a public convenience complex inside premises of Rani Park Temple complex.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President J&K Dharmarth Trust, Ajay Gandotra on Tuesday asserted that Trust is committed to upkeep of all the temples and shrines running under its ambit and it will leave no stone unturned in providing all necessary facilities to devotees visiting these places of worship.

He said this after inaugurating a public convenience complex inside the premises of Rani Park Temple complex in presence of Corporator Ward No. 10, Anil Masoom and Secretary DT, Dr Gopal

Parthasarathi Sharma.

On the occasion, Gandotra lauded the proactive role played by the aforesaid Corporator in carrying out development in the constituency. He said that by constructing a public convenience complex, Anil has fulfilled long pending demands of the people living in the vicinity.

After the inauguration ceremony, Trust's President also inspected the temple premises and also reviewed the facilities being provided to visitors. He gave some suggestions to further improve the facilities for

those coming to temple to pay obeisance.

Administrator Dharmarth Trust Manmohan Singh Jamwal and Manager Outer Temples, Brij Mohan Sharma also accompanied the President.

Later, Ajay Gandotra also visited Gadhadhar Mandir and inspected the entire complex.

It is pertinent to mention that Gadhadhar Temple is a heritage site as it is historically very significant.

The locals present on the occasion demanded that the temple, being ancient and historically very important, should be developed on the lines of Shri Raghunathji Temple.

Upon this, President DT assured that soon the work of beautification of this temple will be taken up and all the required facilities to facilitate visiting devotees will be ensured to realize increase in visitors' footfall.

SKUAST-TAJ felicitates Dr JP Sharma on his superannuation



President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma and other members of association felicitating Dr. J.P Sharma on his superannuation on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) felicitated Prof J.P Sharma, Director Research-cum-Registrar SKUAST-J on his superannuation after rendering distinguished services of 33 years.

President Teaching Association Dr. Vikas Sharma, while felicitating Dr JP Sharma, presented him a trophy and read the citation

in which latter's achievements as a teacher and contributions in the discipline of Plant Breeding were reflected.

Dr Vivak Arya- General Secretary of TAJ, Dr. PK Rai-Joint Secretary, Dr. Rajeev Bharat-Treasurer Dr. Anil Bhat-Executive Member of TAJ while appreciating Dr. Sharma's contributions in research and extension selflessly wished him a very healthy post-retired life.

Besides, Sr. K.D. Singh-President Non Teaching Association, PDK Uppal, Ex-President NTEA-J, Zameer-Ul-Haq-General Secretary NTEA-J and Divyansh Verma Student Leader, Dr. Pradeep Wali, Dr. Sandeep Chopra, Dr Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Satish Kumar, Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr SK Singh, Dr. Anil Bhushan, Dr. Mahital Jamwal and Barkat Ali were present on the occasion.

NC stands for secularism, socialism & democratic values: Babu Ram Paul

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference is committed to strengthen the secular fabric in the J&K. It was stated by former minister and President of newly carved Central Zone (Jammu, Samba and Kathua) of National Conference, Babu Ram Paul while chairing his maiden meeting with the office bearers of the zone. While speaking on the occasion Babu Ram Paul welcomed and congratulated all the newly nominated office bearers of the Central Zone. He said that the party has entrusted them with a very tough job amid crucial political scenario and now all of you are beholden to work honestly and dedicatedly to strengthen the party at grass root level. He urged



President of Central Zone (Jammu, Samba and Kathua) of NC, Babu Ram Paul chairing party workers meeting.

upon the office bearers to highlight the genuine issues of the people which are viciously impacting the normal life of the common man.

He said that National Conference stands for secularism, socialism and democratic values and is committed to strengthen the communal harmony in the region. He said that any attempt to disrupt it would be fought with full force. "We have to unitedly work

for the unity, integrity, peace, progress and prosperity for the people of the Jammu and Kashmir", Ram Paul added. He urged upon the party cadre to work with zeal and dedication to uphold the political ethos of the National Conference.

Those who attended the meeting included: Haji Mohd Hussain Ex-MLC, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Swaran Lata, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta, Rakesh Singh Raka,

Israr Khan (Rtd DIG), Ashok Kumar Attri (Rtd DIG), Ch. Rehmat Ali, S. Peter, Ravi Dogra, Ravi Mahajan, Rahul Mahajan, Vijay Singh, Sham Lal Mehra, Amrishi Sharma, Ch. Bagh Ali, Pandit Brahamanand, Sandesh Shan, Mohinder Kumar Rana, Thoru Ram Mandi, Bharat Bhushan, Adv. Aslam Choudhary, Manhor Lal Bhagat, Dr. Y.P Singh, Dr. Vikash Sharma, Sardar Surjeet Singh Sasan, Dharampaul Kundal, B.D Sharma, Arvind Singh Jamwal, Som Raj Troach, Syed Ali, Adv Om Parkash Hans, Sham Lal Sadhotra, Sardar Devinder Singh Khurana, Om Parkash Bali, Abid Hussain, Suresh Sharma, Parvez Qadri, Adv. Anwar Choudhary, Moul Raj and Sat Paul Shabotra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Development Council (DDC) Jammu Chairman, Bharat Bhushan has asserted that the unprecedented overall development witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir today is the result of sincere commitment of BJP and Central Government for the progress and prosperity of the people of this sensitive Union Territory. He reiterated that Union Government stands fully committed to the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated this while addressing a gathering after kick-starting road macadamization work here on Tuesday. This road project from Gharota Fagwari to Bann has been taken up under PMGSY and is estimated to cost Rs. 58 lakh.

Bharat Bhushan said that the execution of various works



DDC Jammu Chairman, Bharat Bhushan starting blacktopping work.

which had got stalled to a great extent due to the ongoing pandemic has now been initiated and all the roads pending will be macadamized in a phased manner without any compromise with quality of work. He said that after the completion of macadamization of this road from Gharota Fagwari to Bann, the life of the roads is also going to increase thus leaving less scope for dilapidation. He said that he would leave no stone unturned in transforming

the Council constituency for which providing good roads is the first step in the direction.

The DDC Chairman also interacted with the residents of the area who apprised him of their problems. He listened keenly and patiently to them. Taking note of all the genuine demands he assured to get their grievances redressed at the ear-

liest. He asserted that it is his duty to fight and work for the public of his constituency. He appealed to the residents of the area to become proactive and remain vigilant about the ongoing works in their area. He added that more works are in the pipeline and shall be taken up soon in the near future.

Among others present on the occasion were BDC chairman Kuldeep Raj, Sarpanch Santosh Kumari, Sarpanch Joginder Singh, Sarpanch Pratap Singh, Ex Sarpanch Bhabishan Singh, Naib Sarpanch Rahul Singh, Panch Veena Devi, Poli Devi, Executive Engineer PMGSY Ram Pal Gupta, JE Sohail Ibrahim and JE Anjeel Sharma.

DGP sanctions retirement gift of Rs 71 lakh in favour of 71 cops

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a token of appreciation of their services to the department the Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbag Singh has sanctioned retirement gift of Rs 70.75 lakh in favour of 71 police personnel of J&K Police who retired from active services on Tuesday after attaining superannuation or on voluntary retirement.

Sanction of retirement gift has been issued vide PHQ J&K Order No. 3574 in favour of three gazetted, 54 non gazetted, 10 lower subordinates, and four followers. These personnel belong to different units and wings of the department.

Retirement gift of Rs 1 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of 70 police personnel and Rs 75,000 is sanctioned in favour of one DySP (M) who had retired from services on voluntary basis prior to October 8, 2021.

The gift is sanctioned from the Contributory Police Welfare Fund at the time of retirement. The gift serves as a token of appreciation for services of the rendered to the department by the retiring persons.

As a gesture of welfare, the Police Headquarter (PHQ) has sanctioned over Rs 8.37 crore retirement gift in favour of 1094 police personnel this year so far.

Artists mesmerize audience at Kali Mata Temple Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In an initiative to take cultural programmes to major Shrines of Kathua and Samba district, the Sub-Office Kathua of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized a 'Bhajan Sandhya' at Kali Mata Temple, Jasrota in Kathua district.

The programme was presented in connection with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' which is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India. Large number of people thronged there to witness the soulful programme by the local artists.

Jagdish Singh Jasrotia, President Kali Mata Mandir Management Committee was



JKAACL artists performing during Bhajan Sandhya.

the chief guest on the occasion who lauded the efforts made by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages for bringing cultural event to a religious place.

While appreciating the mesmerizing programme by the artists, he said that every artist has made him spell bound with their soulful and magical performance.

Speaking on the occasion Sanjeev Gupta SOCA, JKAACL Sub-Office, Kathua dwelt in detail about the journey of Sub office Kathua since he took charge.

He said that we are trying to do best of efforts for the preservation and promotion of the Art and Culture of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu is very rich in terms of performing

arts and our motive is to take our culture to every house so that the younger generation gets known by its roots.

It was a second programme of JKAACL Kathua this month and we have planned to do more cultural events in Kathua and Samba districts in coming days.

The programme was started with the vibrant singing of Mohinder Kumar and party from Samba, Tara Chand and Party from Samba, Suman lata & Party from Jammu who made everyone spellbound with their mesmerising soulful singing.

The programme was culminated by the performance by Randeep Chandel and Party from Billawar. The show was ably conducted by Sat Salarbi.

JKSPYM observes World AIDS Day



Students making posters on topic HIV/AIDS.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (JKSPYM), a NGO working in the field of Health and Development on Tuesday observed World AIDS Day.

On this occasion, poster and Rangoli making competitions were organized by JKSPYM with the students of B.R College of Paramedical Sciences and Nursing Gangyal, Jammu on the topic of AIDS. About 60 to 70 students of Nursing participated in the competition. JKSPYM distributes IEC materials on HIV/AIDS and refreshment to students. Students also presented Nuklad Natak on prevention from HIV/AIDS.

Organization thanked College Principal, Afsal Kunju and all the staff members for their co-operation. Afsal Ahammed Kunju felicitated the prize distribution ceremony. Paramveer Kour, GNM third year student got the first prize, Balvinder Kour, GNM third year student got the second prize and Gurjeet Kour GNM second year got the third prize.