

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Centre approves new...

District Administrations and the local communities for providing access to safe and adequate drinking water supply facility through tap connections within the premises of rural households. Pani Samitis representing the local communities are playing a very critical role in the implementation of the Mission by partnering with the Department in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Mission activities.

The Department has been continuously reviewing its planning and implementation for achieving the 100% coverage with FHTCs in the most economic, transparent and technically feasible manner. As on date, J&K has achieved more than 75% coverage of tap water connections, thereby entering into the 'High Achievers' category at the National Level. The FHTCs being provided are reported on the IMIS portal of JJM with Aadhar linkage of the beneficiaries.

So far, about 3300 schemes have been planned under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 12975.00 crore which are at different stages of execution. The contracts of more than 98% works under these schemes have been awarded through e-tendering in a transparent manner and out of which around 87% works have been started on ground. The allotments orders issued have been placed on the websites of the respective PHE Directorates in both the provinces.

In this regard, the UT has already covered more than 1000 villages, among which are some of the remotest areas like Batlan, Taraiyan and Chanbra villages in Sub Division Tangdar of District Kupwara which are located near the LoC and received piped water for the first time. In these villages people would fetch water from springs and nearby streams by travelling long distances. Similarly, Nilfan village with about 285 households got 100% tap water connectivity for the first time and the women and children of the area got relieved of the drudgery of fetching water by travelling long distances on hill slopes.

By completing and commissioning of Water Supply schemes Rampura and Sujwan at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.67 crore, in district Samba, about 1100 households have been benefited by getting Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) within the premises. The people of these villages were mostly using the water from shallow hand pumps which were quality affected and through the newly commissioned schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission, deep tube wells have been drilled and required storages created for supplying the water of adequate quantity and prescribed quality as per BIS 10500, regularly.

In order to ensure the transparency in work done and households covered, the process of Har Ghar Jal Certification by the Gram Panachayats has been put in place where the villages reported as Har Ghar Jal by the PHE Department are subsequently certified through a Special Gram Sabha resolution. This not only creates the awareness about provision of tap water connectivity in the village but also promotes community ownership.

India hosts anti...

committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO, an official readout said.

The SCO comprises Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran.

India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and RATS, which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

The anti-terror exercise was aimed at suppressing the use of the internet for terrorist, separatist and extremist purposes, the readout said.

The competent authorities of the SCO member states, with the support of the executive committee of the RATS, conducted a joint anti-terrorist exercise of the

competent authorities of the member states to identify and suppress the use of the internet for terrorist, separatist and extremist purposes.

The objective of the exercise was also to increase the level of interaction among the competent authorities of the SCO member states in countering cyber-attacks by terrorist and extremist organisations on the critical information infrastructure of the SCO member states.

Summarising the results of the exercise, the heads of the delegations noted that it was an important step aimed at integrating efforts and strengthening the SCO's anti-terrorist potential, according to the readout issued by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

The NSCS also organised a seminar on "countering the misuse of internet and new information technologies for terrorists, separatist and extremist purposes" for delegates from SCO member states.

ABDM calls for...

on Friday to Medical Superintendents, Associated Hospitals, GMCs, Dental Colleges, as well as Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, and Block Medical Officers across J&K, advising them to adopt these digital payment solutions.

Despite the availability of interventions to simplify the payment process, officials have observed that people still opt for cash transactions in hospitals.

The ABDM, aligned with the Digital India platform, aims to make all payments digital within citizen-centric services provided by the government.

Dr. Shafqat Khan, Additional Mission Director, ABDM, J&K, emphasized the need for hospitals to facilitate this transition.

"In this context, it is advised to create digital payment facilities for patients in all hospitals/healthcare institutions by providing QR codes of the respective banks for making UPI payments, along with provisions for Debit Card/Credit Card payments through Point of Sale (PoS) machines," the communication issued in this regard reads.

Officials believe that these measures will reduce the waiting time for payment processes.

Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department, stated, "We have already taken steps to decrease wait times in OPDs, particularly through initiation of Scan and Share Queue Management system. Ensuring hospitals facilitate digital payments is aimed at providing people with a seamless experience."

Dr. Shafqat Khan remarked, "After successful implementation of a queue-less OPD ticketing facility, the next step is introduction of digital payment gateways for the convenience of patients and their attendants."

He also mentioned that steps are being taken for software upgrading, which will enable patients to book consultations with doctors remotely.

AAP cheating school...

lost deposits and were given votes far less than even NOTA, he added.

Chugh called upon people of Punjab to wake to the political gimmickry of the AAP government and the shallow claims it has been making.

HC collegiums yet...

81 proposals are at various stages of processing in the government. Forty-two proposals are under consideration with the SC collegium," Meghwal said.

According to the law ministry's website, as on December 1, of the sanctioned strength of 1,114 judges for the 25 high courts, there were 324 vacancies.

According to the established mechanism, the chief justice of a high court initiates a proposal to fill vacancies of judges. All the names recommended by the high court collegiums are sent with the views of the central government to the Supreme Court Collegium.

The apex court collegium recommends some of the names while the others are sent back to the high court collegiums.

The government then acts on the recommendations, with the president appointing judges. Some recommendations are returned to the Supreme Court Collegium for reconsideration. The government appoints only those who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

Development our core...

he said. The former chief minister promised that once his party comes to power, he will restart work in triple shifts and ensure Jammu and Kashmir is one of the top developed UT's of the country.

He said development is the core agenda of party.

"I advise you to focus on issues of public and development of the UT. This is our core agenda," he advised the lawyers.

Those who joined the DPAP included Adv Gursimran Walia, Adv Abhaya, Adv Pooja, Deewan Raj, Vipin Rathore, Chain Singh Manhas and others. They resolved to carry the agenda of development forward for peaceful and progressive Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others present on the occasion included senior leaders G M Saroori, R S Chib, Abdul Majid Wani, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Ch Haroon Khatana, Salman Nizami, Ch Gharu Ram, P R Manhas, Dr Tariq Azad, Adv Masood Choudhary and Shakeel Singh Bhagat.

CJ inaugurates Fast...

Court on Fast Track basis as per latest guidelines (Vulnerable witnesses-deposition centre) of Committee appointed by Supreme Court, headed by Justice Gita Mittal, Former Chief Justice of J&K High Court.

Slight improvement in...

to the previous night to provide some relief to the residents, officials said.

Srinagar city -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday night which was higher than the previous night's minus 5.4 degrees Celsius. The city had experienced the coldest night of the winter on Wednesday night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius, while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, officials said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 1.9 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.2 degrees Celsius. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather on Friday, and generally cloudy weather with a possibility of light snow over isolated places in the higher reaches on Saturday. It said overall, dry and cold weather is most likely to continue till December 21 over most places in Jammu and Kashmir. Shallow to moderate fog is also likely to continue at many places in Kashmir.

Duo open fire...

Kumar of Rangpur Sidhriya and Satowali from collecting fodder from a field in Filora village on Thursday evening, they said. After a heated exchange between the two sides, in a fit of anger, the accused opened fire on Vijay and Suresh resulting in injuries to them, officials said. The injured were sent to a hospital and doctors said their condition is stable, they said.

Police said Tarseem and Onkar fled from the spot after the incident but were arrested later. Hunt to nab a third accused is on, they said.

Tarseem Singh and Onkar Singh and others have been booked by the police under sections related to attempt to murder, the Arms Act and other relevant charges. A pistol, 12-bore gun and bog knife has been recovered from them, officials said.

KV Hiranagar organises series of events on Annual Sports Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Kendriya Vidyalaya Hiranagar organised a series of events in connection with the annual sports day. ZPEO Hiranagar Yograj Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion. The chief guest was accorded a very warm welcome by school staff led by Principal Narinder Kumari.

The chief guest was escorted to the playground of the Vidyalaya where he hoisted the school flag and also officially declared the sports meet open in the presence of the Principal of the Vidyalaya.

Immediately after this, students presented an impressive March past, while Apoorav Sharma, class XII student, administered the oath to the participants. It was followed by a welcome song and scintillating cultural programme presented by the students. The cultural items included an action



Faculty members along with students during the event at Hiranagar.

dance by the primary wing and a group dance by the secondary girls.

Subsequently, the sports teacher and the sports coach of the Vidyalaya took over and conducted various events under their able guidance. Other staff members extended their cooperation by maintaining discipline among the students and by arranging for various activities.

The staff members who were actively involved in some way or the other were -Principal

Narinder Kumari, Sanjeev (Vice principal), Gaurav Jamwal (Instructor), Deepika(PET), Naresh (PGT Commerce), Rashmi (PGT economics), Poonam (PGT Hindi), Drishti (PGT Maths), Manisha (TGT English), Dhananjay (TGT Art), Dharamvir (PGT Physics), Kavita (PGT Biology), Preeti (TGT Skt), Sangita (TGT Maths), Anarjeet (PRT), Neelam (PRT), Madhvi, Ashu, Manmeet (Special educator), Akshay (PRT Music). The events organised during

the day-long function included Frog race, 50m race, 200m race, lemon race, Backpack race and relay race.

Later, prizes were given away to the winners by the chief guest. After the prize distribution, bhangra was presented by the boys of the secondary wing. The annual sports event concluded with a race of the staff members. The students participated very enthusiastically and their enthusiastic participation made the whole event a grand success.

Army presents mat to Kabaddi players

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: To promote sports in the border areas and keep the youth away from drugs, many benefits have been given by the Army to help the youth.

A mat was presented to the Kabaddi team by the local Rashtriya Rifles under the Romeo Force of the Indian Army located in Mendhar sub division of Poonch district on Friday. The Kabaddi team of Government Higher Secondary School Boys located in Mendhar town has performed in different parts of the country, which includes youth from rural areas along the India-Pakistan Line of Control. The youth had demanded



Army officials handing over mat to players.

Kabaddi mat from the Indian Army as they were not able to buy it due to the high amount and used to practice in the open field due to which their players got injured. Seeing the enthusiasm and passion of the youth, the Army fulfilled

their demand and today called them to its headquarters and presented them with Kabaddi mat. On this occasion, in the presence of the team coach and the school principal and other teachers, Army officials presented him a Kabaddi mat.

Washout in LS, RS proceedings amid oppn protest seeking Shah's reply on security breach

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Parliamentary proceedings were completely washed out on Friday after opposition protests in both the houses over the security breach issue amid demands that Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement followed by a discussion.

While Lok Sabha was adjourned within moments after it met for the day and again till 2 PM and then within a minute after that, Rajya Sabha saw similar adjournments - first within minutes of the laying of papers and Standing Committee reports and then again for the day within a minute of it meeting at 2 PM.

This is the third day when parliamentary proceedings were disrupted over the security breach issue in Parliament. Two persons jumped in the Lok Sabha chamber on Wednesday and opened yellow smoke canisters inside the house, leading to a scare.

The Opposition is also protesting the suspension of 14 MPs - 13 from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha after they raised their demand for a statement from Shah on the security breach and a discussion thereafter.

The Opposition has raised strong objection to Shah making a statement at a media conclave and not coming to Parliament to give a statement on "such an important issue". When the Lok Sabha met for the day, Rajendra Aggarwal adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm in less than a minute, amid slogan-shouting by opposition members who displayed placards and rushed to the Well of the House.

As soon as the House reassembled at 2 pm after an earlier adjournment, Kirit Solanki, who was in the Chair, adjourned the proceedings for the day.

The Opposition was demanding the resignation of the home minister as well as his presence in the House.

It was also demanding action

against BJP MP Pratap Simha, who had authorised the visitor passes for the two men who breached security to enter the House.

The usual laying of papers as well as standing committee reports could not be tabled in the lower house on Thursday and Friday due to protests.

The three bills that seek to replace the criminal laws were listed on the agenda on Thursday and Friday but could not be taken up for consideration.

Soon after the Upper House met at 11 AM, it was adjourned till 2 PM within minutes amid protest by Opposition parties after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected their demand to suspend the scheduled business of the day to discuss the security breach in Parliament.

Soon after the listed papers were tabled, the Chairman informed the members that he had received 23 notices under Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha procedures for suspension of the scheduled business of the day to discuss the "serious situation arising out of breach of security" in Parliament on December 13.

The Chairman did not approve the notices, and announced the Zero Hour.

At this point, the entire Opposition members erupted in protest.

Aam Aadmi Party member Raghav Chadha tried to raise a point of order by making a hand gesture.

Dhankhar objected to the gesture, and said, "Mr Chadha, you don't have to do like this (hand gesture) to raise a point of order...use your tongue...don't do it." "... you were convicted, you were sentenced by this House," the Chairman said to him.

Chadha was earlier suspended from the Upper House, but his suspension was ended later.

At 2 PM, Opposition members were

Police attaches properties of 2 involved in drug peddling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Police have attached property of two persons allegedly involved in drug peddling in Poonch district, an officer said on Thursday.

Police attached the property of accused Shakar Din, including a house of his in Degwar-Terwan village, for his involvement in drug peddling, they said.

A JCB excavator and tractor belonging to Mohd Yaseen, the other accused, were also seized in drug peddling, UAPA, and Explosive Substance Act, they said.

JMC terms review of rates, fee for various services, assets as continued process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation on Friday described the review of rates or fee for various services and assets as a continued process, saying that in some cases the taxes or fee are even reduced.

Referring to recently revised rates/fee, a spokesperson of the JMC said that the exercise is carried out after due diligence and considering relevant factors including inflation index. The rates of various services/rent of municipal assets are enhanced after a long period.

Spokesperson JMC stat-

ed that the Residential accommodation policy has been notified on the directions of High Court. Accordingly, the rent of flats occupied by authorized allottees is being enhanced as per market rates worked out by rent assessment committee in line with policy and High Court order.

Elaborating on detailed status on this account, JMC apprised that the building permission fee was fixed in 2016 which has now been enhanced as approved by the General House. Similarly, existing rates of Trade Tax were fixed in the year 1994 and were not revised since

then. The last revision in respect of NOC fee was done in the year 2019 and now these rates have been revised along with rationalization of rates to ensure small business are subject to less fee.

Earlier, various establishments were included in the miscellaneous category and were uniformly charged at Rs. 7700. Now the same has been revised/rationalized as per the size of the shop/school/establishment. For instance, previously all type of schools were charged at the uniform rate of Rs 7700. Now after the revision, the rate for the Creche/Playschools

has been fixed at Rs 2000, Primary schools at Rs 4000 and middle school at Rs 6000 per annum.

Likewise, the advertisement rates have been enhanced by considering inflation index into account. Last revision for street vendor license fee was also done in the year 2015 and increase after a gap of 8 years is nominal. The rent of Shops/Godowns/Garages was revised in the year 2019 and was due for next revision in 2022 as it is being revised after every 3 years as per the policy norms but the same has been revised now with nominal increase.

Govt invites applications for appointment of Director SKIMS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has invited online applications for appointment of Director SKIMS Soura.

A notification, in this regard, has been issued by the Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar, which reads that "online applications on prescribed proforma are invited from Indian Nationals for the position of Director, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The notification is available on the official website www.skims.ac.in of SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar".

The date of submission of application form shall be with effect from December 16, 2023 to January 15, 2024, reads the notification.

The complete information with regard to the advertisement for the post of Director SKIMS Soura, Srinagar is available on the official website of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar, www.skims.ac.in in the notification added.