

"Awaam Ki Awaaz" completes 1 year

Online appointments in all hospitals, digitisation of health services to be taken up in mission mode: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday expressed his gratitude to all the citizens for their valuable contributions in participatory development process to fulfil the aspirations of every section of society.

"Awaam Ki Awaaz" completes one year. This radio programme for public participation is committed to strengthen Jan Bhagidari at grass root level and establish accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, efficient, equitable and inclusive governance, said the Lt Governor. The administration has taken concrete steps on suggestions received from the listeners to meet the needs of community and making the system accountable to public. I also thank Jammu and Kashmir All India Radio and Doordarshan for their continuous support, added the Lt Governor.

During this month's episode, the Lt Governor made special mention of Sandhya Dhar from Jammu, Nasira Akhtar of Kulgam and Dr Nasheeman Ashraf of Srinagar who have emerged as the new age icons for the women in Jammu and Kashmir. Their achievements give a vision to the women who aspire to inspire, the Lt Governor said.



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with people during 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme.

Referring to the suggestions of Shraddha Sharma from RS Pura Jammu and Anantnag's Zakir Hussain Bhat on empowering women entrepreneurs in agriculture sector; and ensuring participation of women in all sectors, the Lt Governor underlined the need to implement dedicated measures for women empowerment.

When women are financially prosperous, their direct and indirect benefits will reach the family, society, nation and the entire humanity. In the last two years, Jammu and Kashmir administration has launched several campaigns to provide more livelihood opportunities to women folks. In order to increase the participation of women entrepreneurs in agriculture and village industries, about 5 lakh women have been added under the Unneed programme. Various programs like Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi have been initiated so that more

and more women come forward in agriculture, horticulture, and dairy sector; the Lt Governor added. Welcoming the suggestions received from Sajjad Noorabadi from Kulgam highlighting the need for awareness campaign about welfare schemes of the government, the Lt Governor said that the main objective of the Block Divas program organized every Wednesday is to take the administration to the doorsteps of people. It is our best effort that in addition to the immediate redressal of the problems of the common citizens, the people shall be informed about the various government schemes, he added.

While mentioning about the insight received from Dr. Shilpi Sharma and Dr. Ankur Bhat from Jammu regarding detailed roadmap for the Digitization of Healthcare, the Lt Governor underscored various reforms introduced by the

government to provide advanced healthcare to the people. He also mentioned about a pilot project in SKIMS for online appointment, which will be soon extended to other hospitals as well. On suggestions of Gazi Ahmad Pandit from Pulwama and Rahul Kumar from Samba pertaining to the welfare of senior citizens, the Lt Governor said that a National Action Plan was approved in April 2020 under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to provide opportunity to Senior Citizens to live life with dignity.

After August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also implemented the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act in Jammu and Kashmir which, despite having been passed by the Parliament, was not been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir for almost 12 years. Er. Abdul

Rashid Bhat from Ganderbal wrote a letter regarding creation of an Environment, Cultural and Archaeological Research Centre (ECARC) in J&K that will engage with youth.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the transformation taking place on the ground as a result of good administrative practices.

The ambitious plan to develop Budgam's Kanihama village, famous for its Kani shawls, into a Craft Tourism Village is now in its final stages. Also, the scheme to provide affordable accommodation at Doodhpathri that was pending for many years have been completed. The Lt Governor also praised district administration Bandipora for innovative digital intervention to track developments in Panchayats. The district has taken the lead in starting Panchayat Development Index, which ranks each panchayat on the basis of their performance.

The farmers of Qamarwari, Srinagar have witnessed manifold increase in their income after creation of market linkages. The district administration is also setting up a Farmer Produce Organization in Tengpora Block to promote vegetable farming, said the Lt Governor.



Maharaja Gulab Singh Statue at Lakhanpur, a fitting tribute to founder of J&K State: Vikramaditya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh on Sunday said that the installation of statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at the gateway of Union Territory- Lakhanpur is a fitting tribute to the founder of the erstwhile State of J&K which also comprised of Ladakh, which is a separate UT today.

In a statement issued to media, the former MLC said that the decision of installing the statue of legendary

Maharaja Gulab Singh deserves applauds as this was the demand of all the collective leadership and public of the erstwhile state of J&K to give the most appropriate tribute to the great king who used his valour and sharp acumen to expand his kingdom far and wide.

Vikramaditya Singh said that the people sitting at helm have aptly recognized the contribution of founder of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Gulab

Singh, which is incredibly significant.

He was the only ruler from the princely family who expanded the boundaries of India outside its domain. He extended the frontiers of India to China, Tibet, close to Russia and Afghanistan. Though a little late, but the move is highly praiseworthy and is endorsed by people of all hues and shades. He empathized that it was matter of pride not only for J&K but all Indians across the country.

Dr. Jitendra unveils Maharaja Gulab Singh's statue at Lakhanpur Says next step of Govt to unveil same statue in PoK

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday said that the next step of this government will be to unveil the same statue of Maharaja Gulab , the founder of Jammu & Kashmir in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Dr. Jitendra said this while unveiling the statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at Lakhanpur, near here.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh unveiling the statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at Lakhanpur, Kathua on Sunday.

While praising the erstwhile Dogra Rulers of J&K, Dr. Jitendra said that the erstwhile Princely State of J&K was the largest among all and the most progressive in terms of development that can be judged from the construction of Ranbir Canal for irrigation under Maharaja Ranbir Singh and the women empowerment schemes under Dogra Rulers.

Dr. Singh further said that their progressive thinking of Dogra Rulers can be imagined from the statement of

Maharaja Hari Singh when he said that his religion is justice. The Minister listed various developments happened in Kathua post abrogation of Article 370 like revival of the Shahpur Kandi Project stalled from many decades, North India's first Biotech Park, Government Medical College, 200 bridges, Atal Setu, Mega Quintal Seed Processing Plants and development of many National Highway Projects connecting Kathua to various other districts and

states. On the demand of the people of Lakhanpur, Dr. Singh said that Lakhanpur will be established as a big tourist destination being the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir with the development of Highway Villages having all the basic amenities available to attract the potential tourists.

Dr. Singh also stressed that the population of this country consists of 70 per cent youth who are in need of unbiased representatives, transparent and progressive government which has been provided to them under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Singh maintained that the results of Uttar Pradesh elections have sent a clear message to all that the people of this country believes in Survidha, Samman and Suraksha provided to people under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh chaired the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of State Health Society of National Health Mission (NHM), UT Ladakh. Advisor Umang Narula, Principal Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Mission Director, NHM Ladakh, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhry and Director Health Services, Ladakh, Dr Motup Dorje attended the meeting.

Thanking the entire medical fraternity for their selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic period, LG Mathur highlighted issues to improve the overall health services in Ladakh.

He suggested conducting an analysis of area-wise disease burden in Ladakh, and the need for plans and measures to address these issues.

He stressed on the need to check with experts the kind of health infrastructure needed in Ladakh as per the Government

of India guidelines.

LG Mathur also highlighted the need to take necessary steps to address the health issues mentioned in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5. He suggested that a mechanism may be developed to monitor these health issues on an annual basis to improve the overall health of the people of Ladakh. He directed the Health Department to achieve the target of eradicating tuberculosis (TB) from Ladakh by the end of 2022.

LG Mathur suggested that locally produced sanitary pads may be distributed among girls and women in Ladakh through the Industries Department, and health advisory on diseases such as TB and diabetes be issued using Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as billboards and social media handles.

He stressed on the need to provide electricity, running

water; heating and ramps in health centres and the upgradation of the SNM Hospital in Leh. He suggested conducting mobile health camps in remote areas such as Changthang, providing facilities such as ambulance and police vehicles along with satellite phones on the national highways for the swift handling of trauma cases, bringing Jan Anshadhi Kendras upfront in Leh and Kargil and expanding these Jan Anshadhi Kendras to cover all the Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Leh and Kargil.

LG Mathur also highlighted the need to provide ultrasound facilities at CHCs and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) for the benefit of pregnant women, providing health insurance to all individuals, conducting mohalla clinics for tourists and migrant labourers, upgradation and a full-fledged hospital for Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel, procuring

new equipment such as high-quality dental chairs and eye-testing equipment, and improving diagnostics in all health centres. Principal Secretary Dr Kotwal and Director Health Services Dr Motup said that they would try to resolve these issues at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Narula suggested making plans to address the issues and having fixed targets for the target areas. He also suggested providing incentives to ASHA workers and NHM staff through various central government schemes.

Earlier, Mission Director NHM Ladakh, Dr Iftekhar, gave a detailed presentation on the agenda of the meeting, viz. approval of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) for the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24, incentives for ASHA workers from funds under Emergency COVID-19 Response Package (ECRP)-1, incentives for NGM staff, etc.

Vocational Trainers hold protest, seek job policy



Vocational Trainers raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Demanding a job policy for them, Vocational Trainers in the Government schools in Jammu and Kashmir held a strong protest, here on Sunday.

Carrying banners and placards in support of their demand, the protesting vocational trainers raised slogans and appealed the Lt Governor for his personal intervention to ensure justice with the trainers, who are highly qualified.

"We are well trained and having the recognized degrees like Ph.D, M.Tech, MTTM, MBA, MCA, MSE, B.E, B.Tech, BSc, etc and experiences in the required streams with extra ordinary training skills," they said adding that they are engaged as Vocational Trainer in the Government High School and Higher Secondary Schools to impart training to the aspiring students under RMSA Schemes/Samagra Shiksha.

"We are working since 2016 with no increment for the last 6 years and complete uncertainty over our future as the Government has failed to introduce a job policy for the Vocational Trainers despite

assurance for the same," they said. "Vocational Education has been compulsory now from 6th-12 Std. and J&KBOSE has introduced the Curriculum in running academic calendar along with academic one," they said and added, "Unfortunately we have been deprived of our basic and fundamental rights of existence in the educational system as there is no policy for our future or development."

Reiterating the demand for job policy and removal of VTPs (Contract System) and stopping of commercialization of education, the protesting Vocational Trainers urged the J&K Government to take necessary steps in this regard on the analogy of Haryana, Assam, Kerala and West Bengal Government to secure their future and potential in the interest of students and nation as a whole.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Residents of Top Sherkhania falling under Ward-39 are facing a bad situation as high mast lights installed in recently inaugurated public park have blown out with concerned authorities not showing any interest in repairing the same. The people who are privy to concerned officials are claiming that despite annual maintenance contracts, the concerned officials failed to ensure replacement of faulty lights thus putting public especially the old and infirm into deep trouble due to darkness in the park during evenings and night hours. It seems that accountability is nowhere in sight as it is difficult to

understand that such poor quality lights have been installed which could not remain functional for even a season. The park was recently upgraded and the high mast light installed for the welfare of people so that they can use the park for walking purposes.

As per inputs, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has allotted a tender to a firm to install high mast lights at public parks and several prominent crossings and squares in the city. Besides, the firm was also hired to have two years AMC of high mast lights but it seems that there is some kind of clandestine understanding between concerned agency and the firm, not to repair faulty lights despite

exchange of stipulated amount for the purpose.

Suresh Sharma, a senior citizen of the area, said that during evening time several senior citizens come to park and spend time but after sun-set it becomes difficult for senior citizens to walk in the park due to darkness prevailing on account of blown out High Mast Lights.

"If government has created the facility then it's moral responsibility of authorities concerned to maintain the same but in the case of parks things are left on the mercy of God", he said and demanded that the faulty lights should be repaired without any further delay. Sanjay Magotra, a local resident said that park has become

useless for people who used to come for late evening walks and children who usually play badminton and other games but soon after sunset, darkness rules the entire area thus leaving very little scope for locals to spend time in the park. Talking to STATE TIMES, Councilor Rajinder Singh Jamwal said that instead of creating more facilities authorities should first maintain existing infrastructure so that the resources can be utilized in a rational manner.

He alleged that the aforesaid park has been upgraded using substandard material and that is the reason behind the facility fast transforming into dis-

mal condition. The Councilor said that despite taking up the matter with the concerned firm which is responsible for the repairs of the edifice for a period of two years, nothing concrete has come to fore.

He said that due to the lackadaisical attitude of the officer sitting at the helm of affairs the firm is adamant and not doing what it is bound to do. "The contractor who carried out works in the park is also indifferent and gone into hibernation", he said adding that there is a deep rooted conspiracy in whole gamut otherwise it is not possible that even after having two years AMC, the concerned firm dares not to repair faulty edifice.

4th edition of Kailakh Sandesh Panchang released



Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma and others releasing 4th edition of Kailakh Sandesh Panchang Calendar.

worked for serving society and promoting our culture.

Prof R K Sinha said that in ancient times, Jyotish emerged with the purpose of calculating time. "At that time people used to calculate time to predict arrival of rain. The root word of Hindi word 'Varsha' (rain) is 'Varsh' (year). At that time calculation of time was based

mainly on movement of sun and moon. On the basis of their movements, day-night, fortnight, month, season, and year were calculated," he added.

Dr Rakesh Kumar Upadhyay, said that Panchang is a ready source of providing information about all local fairs, festivals and auspicious occasions, accurate dates and time-

ing about festivals and events like eclipses etc. Shakti Pathak said that Panchang is used to match the current positions of planets with the positions of planets in a person's astrological chart so as to find, and if required, to look ahead to find astrologically good days and times for that person. Abhinav Sharma said that Panchang is a Hindu calendar and is a Sanskrit word comprising i.e., 'Panch' meaning 5 and 'Ang' meaning parts. These 5 parts are Nakshatra, Tithi, Vaar, Yoga and Karan. All the dignitaries congratulated Rohit Shastri, the Editor-in-Chief of Panchang and sponsors namely Ajay Sharma, Ashwani Suri, Parbodh Sharma, Sahil Sharma and Rakesh Gandotra

for releasing the same.

Those who were felicitated on the occasion included Honorary Secretary of Red Cross Jammu Sat Pal Sharma, Dr C M Seth, Dr Madan Jha, Dr Suman Panth, Dr Romesh Atri, Dr Mohan Kumar, Seema Anil Segal, Gagan Deep Singh, Insp Rakesh Jamwal and Vijay Kumar. Others present during the function included Swami Sunishchalananda, Ankush Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Bushan Bral, Shard Chander Sharma, Pawan Khajuria, J K Sharma, Pandit Dev Dutt Shastri, Sukjeet Singh, Surinder Singh, Rakesh Master, Bushan Jamwal, Jagdev Singh Chib, Jagan Singh, Shiv kumar, Yash Seth, Rajinder Seth, Neeraj Shastri,

Vijay Sharma, Ajay Bharti, Amarjeet Singh, Rajeshwar Shastri, Suman Lal Shastri, Bhushan Shastri, Rajinder Seth, Vijay Seth, Rohit Verma, Subash Seth, Shamsher Kumar, Anita Singh, Rajesh Sharma, Pt Tilak Raj Shastri, Krishan Sharma, Ashok Shastri, Bobby Singh, Makhan Shastri, Rajiv Sudan, Pawan Sharma, Mohan Sharma, Harsh Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, Angrage Singh, Vikram Singh, Mannohan Singh, Pandit Ajay Bharti, Rajeshwar Shastri, Uttam Chand Sharma, Vishal Sharma, Sanjay Shastri, Roshan Bral, Sanjay Sharma, Rahul Seth, Vijay, Master Raj Kumar, Mahant Anil Sharma, Krishan Sharma and Vinod Shastri.