Congress protests against rising fuel prices; hits-out at BJP Govt



Congress leader Manohar Lal Sharma being detained by police.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Senior congress leaders, party cadre and workers on Monday staged protest against the central government on rising prices of fuel products such as petrol and diesel in the country and also submitted a memorandum President of India through District Magistrate Kathua.

While speaking GL Chalotra (ExMLA) said that Central Government has lost the morality to govern the country as everything is going out of control of the government. PCC General Secy Pankaj Dogra lambasted BJP led State administration on the detention of DCC President Dr Manohar Lal Sharma at Ramkot Challan by Distt. police while on way to lead the protest at District Headquarter Kathuas. While terming the detention as murder of democracy, he said everybody has right to protest and demonstrate against the wrong policies of the government but BJP government is working in a dictatorial way of opposition. He further said that BJP can't suppress the voice of common masses by adopting illegal methods.



Congress Committee (DCC) Kishtwar also staged protest against incessant fuel price hike across the country, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government to rollback the prices.

Led by DCC Kishtwar President Mohinder Singh Parihar lamented that petrol



Members of DCC Kishtwar protesting against price hike.

They also shouted slogans against the governing Bharatiya Janata Party and criticized the arrest as "antidemocratic" and further they described the arrest as a clear case of political vendetta by the fascist government at the

Congress leaders present who were in the protest were Narinder Khajuria, Vinav (Sarpanch), Kb Jasrotia, Pawan Sharma (Block President), Paramjeet Singh Neetu (block President), Karan Singh, Mohinder Pal (Distt VP

and diesel prices are being increased daily when the entire country is hit by Covid-19 pandemic, and people are in crisis due to the restrictions. He said that the Central Government is looting the people by hiking the excise duty on petrol and

Others who were present include Mohd Aslam Malik, Haji Ghulam Hassan Mir, Ganai, Randeep Master Bhandari, Asif Naqib, Nazir Rinku Ahmed. Kotwal. Wassim Maker,

'Misappropriation' of funds: Secretary Panchayat suspended, explanation sought from Sarpanchs

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A Panchayat Secretary was placed under suspension here by the Development District Commissioner, Dr Sagar D Doifode till pending enquiry for 'misappropriation' of grant earmarked for 14th

The action had been taken in view of the complaints filed against the then Secretary panchayat of Barath-A & B for making payment against the non approved works under 14th FC plan. The RDD employee is presently posted in Block Gundna.

Moreover being the second signatory in respect of payments under the 14th FC head, both the current Sarpanchs of the concerned Panchayats - Barath A and Barath B have been served show cause notices to explain their positions as why the

guidelines issued by the Govt were not followed.

They have been asked to submit their replies in the office of the enquiry officer by or before 30th June 2020, failing which disciplinary action as warranted under rules and regulations shall be initiated.

It is pertinent to mention here that the DC Doda has directed the ADC Doda to enquire the matter on priority basis and shall submit the detail report in the DC office by or before 30th of June.

Advisor Baseer terms PRI representatives as key stakeholders in participatory development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Advisor Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmed Khan, today inspected various ongoing works undertaken by Rural Development Department. He also took detailed review of the functioning of RDD, PDD and Tourism sectors in the dis-Advisor was accompanied by

District Development Commissioner Kathua O.P Bhagat, SSPKathua Shailender Mishra, Director RDD Sudershan Kumar. Chief Engineer, JPDCL Singh, Gurmeet Director Tourism Neelam Khajuria, ACD Kathua Narayan Dutt among others. Advisor inaugurated the

passenger shed at Seswan Morh of block Marheen, coming up with an estimated cost of Rs 1.30 lakh under 14th FC. He also inspected under construction Tractor roads at village Tanda coming up at a cost of Rs.2.96 lakh under MGNREGA.

Meanwhile, Advisor Baseer Khan visited various panchayats of block Barnoti and



Advisor Baseer Ahmed Khan chairing a meeting at Kathua.

inspected ongoing works viz tractor roads at Rajbagh and Bhallu, restoration and renovation of ponds at Mearth and Nanan. He passed directions to the BDO to complete the works in line with quality standards within stipulated

Besides, the Advisor dedicated bathing Ghat at Nanan constructed with Rs. 2 lakh and newly renovated building of CFC at Mearth completed with a cost of Rs. 3 lakh undertaken by Rural Development Department.

Later, the Advisor chaired a meeting of officers in the DC office and took detailed review of the RDD. PDD and Tourism sectors.

While reviewing the Power scenario in the district, the Advisor directed the PDD engineers to ensure proper maintenance of health records of assets such as transformers to fix liability for their upkeep. He also called for having buffer stock of transformers to meet up any contingency. He laid thrust on

removing illegal connections

and directed concerned to

take action against defaulters

indulging in power theft. The Advisor directed engineers of PDD to expedite the works under Languishing projects stalled due to lockdown by strengthening the labour force without delay. He also called for observing all

ing and social distancing at work sites.

Advisor, while reviewing Tourism sector, directed authorities to make a salient feature report within week's time on tourism potential of hilly area Dhaggar and area around Atal Setu identified by the District Administration to tap the tourism potential of the area. He also called for identifying sites for developing Heritage, Craft, pilgrimage, adventure and village tourism to give fillip to the tourism activities in the dis-

He also directed Tourism authorities to take legal action with the help of the Revenue department against any encroachment on the assets of the tourism department.

During the meeting, the Advisor also reviewed the physical achievement and financial performance of the Development Rural Department in the district.

The Advisor emphasized upon the need to take demand driven projects under the Development Department involving PRI's representative to make them key stakeholder in participatory development. He said the endeavour must be to expedite Rural Development activities marred by lockdown due to Covid-19 outbreak.

He also called upon the elected representatives of PRI's to help administration in generating awareness on Covid-19 precautions such as social distancing and frequent hand washing in their respective areas. The Advisor informed that process of recruiting Account Assistant for Panchayats has been initiated. Earlier, DDC Kathua gave a detailed account of the works undertaken by the department of Development, PDD and Tourism Sectors through power point presentation. The DDC informed that Kathua district has a huge potential of becoming a tourist hub as the district has unique qualification in craft, rich in landscape and scenic viewpoints to attract tourists especially to Billawar, Basohli and hilly

Secretary Higher Education Department visits GCW Udhampur



during visit to GCW Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Commiss Secretary, Education Department, Talat Parvez Rohella, accompanied by Nodal Principal Dr. Ravinder Tickoo paid a visit to Government College for Women Udhampur to review the ongoing development projects here this morning.

Principal of the college apprised the Commissioner Secretary of functioning of the college, existing infrastructure, total strength of students, the courses being run in the college, activities

and programmes being conducted at the institute. She also briefed him about the institutional plan for the development of college and facilities to be provided to students. She also highlighted her serious concern for the development of college. Commissioner Secretary

discussed in detail about the ongoing projects, the infrastructure and functioning of the institution. He stressed upon the skill development courses and directed the staff to take serious initiative in this regard. The Secretary

the skill course in fashion technology proposed by the college principal and stressed that in the current times all other colleges should also opt for the skill courses to prepare the students to become entrepreneurs. He had a detailed interaction with the staff of college at the grassroots level to know the conditions of the college to revamp the system for the larger interest of the student community and college. He also visited various blocks of the college. Assistant Commissioner

Revenue, Udhampur Viqar Ahmed Giri apprised the Commissioner Secretary regarding availability of government land for further expansion of the college.

Principal GDC Boys Udhampur Prof. Subhash Chander besides representatives of executing agencies of R&B and Housing Corporation were also present.

Jhallas villagers without drinking water for one month



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The residents of village Jhallas Centre, Ward No 5 Poonch held a strong protest against the PHE department for its failure to provide water for the last one month.

The $_{
m villagers}$ approached the officers of the department but inspite of repeated requests the department failed to provide them water due to which they are facing great hardship during the dry summer season.

GGF holds 57th relief camp

The villagers have appealed to the District Development Commissioner to issue suitable instructions to the department to provide drink-

Prominent among those present in the protest include Ashu Sharma, Mohd Rafiq, Mohd Shamim, Abdul Aziz, Haji Aslam, Liaquat Hussain, Mohd Mushtaq, Mohd Ghulam, Mohd Hussain Jat, Mohd Latief, Vishva Nath and Ashok

Violators fined for not wearing masks in Tehsil Drabshalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: District Kishtwar Rajinder Singh Tara has ssued the order for imposing a fine of Rs 300 against the persons moving in public places without wearing masks as a precautionary measure to combat the spread of Covid-19.

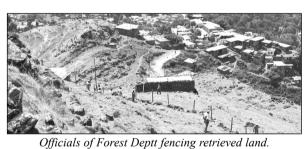
In the follow up of this order today civil adminis-Drabshalla comprising of Naib Tehsildar Drabshalla, Mohd Ahsan Zargar and Naib Tehsildar Balgran, Rajinder singh conducted checking drive and found people without wearing masks. The Naib tehsildars also realised a fine of Rs. 1800 in Tehsil Drabshlla against those

who have violated directions of the DM Kishtwar. It is pertinent to mention here that yesterday Naib Tehsildar Mughal Maidhan NaibTehsildar, Chhattroo also realized a fine of Rs. 3600 against erring persons at the various public places.

District administration has already issued specially printed Challan books to designated officers for imposing fine on violators not wearing masks at public places.

Public of Kishtwar is informed to abide by the post lockdown protocol of wearing mask and forbade spitting at public places, besides observe SOPs and other guidelines as notified from time to time in letter and spirit.

Encroached forest land retrieved



STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Forest Depart ment Poonch along with staff of FPF, Social Forestry with police in presence of Executive magistrate, fenced approx. 100 Kanal prime land in Khasra No. 485/1 Mumkin Jaad) Kamsar Banpat in Poonch city area. Earlier on basis of a specific compliant, direction was issued to Poonch Forest Division from office of Commissioner Secretary

Forests to look into a complaint of encroachment on forest land.

Poonch Forest Division. after conducting enquiry found that area is recorded as Ghair Mumkin Jaad. In 1992, there was an old closure of social forestry. Currently, maximum area of Khasra No. 485/1 is open but under heavy pressure of encroachment in form of KAP with lots of illegal revenue entries.

Mohan Choudhary IFS DFO Poonch informed that a joint Nishandeyi was carried out and field staff has submitted inspection note.

Acting promptly, DFO Poonch coordinated with Rahul Yadav DC Poonch for deployment of Executive Magistrate, Ramesh Angral SSP Poonch to provide police assistance, Ranjeev Sharma DD FPF to provide field staff of Forest Protection Force and Navid Iqbal DFO Social forestry to provide field staff of social forestry division for peaceful drive of fencing of area & to check any untoward incidence during drive. Further, matter pertaining to illegal records in Khasra No's 485/1 have already been taken separately with revenue department to cancel illegal records.

ilies of village Lower Banghi Panchayat, Thanamandi District, were provided relief material by Global The camp was organised by GGF District President,

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Local needy fam-

Rajouri- Bashir Ahmed Shawl while the needy families were identified by the local Sarpanch, Abdul Aziz. Sajad Ahmad Khan-SDPO Thanamandi, distributed the relief material among the needy families in the presence of local Sarpanch, Panch and prominent citizens of the area- Tariq Ahmed Shawl,

Ganai and Rizwan Malik. SDPO Thanamandi, Sajad Ahmed Khan advised the people to follow the guidelines

Javed Ahmed Khan, Rahil



SDPO Thannamandi Sajad Ahmed Khan handing over ration to needy.

and SOPs issued by the local administration regarding the COVID-19 and also appreciated the role of Gandhi Global Family in organizing relief camps in far flung areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier public awareness and preventive measures on Covid-19 was also conducted. In his message, GGF J&K President, Padmashri Dr. S.P Varma has appreciated the GGF Rajouri President-Bashir Ahmed Shawl and his team and appealed them to organise more such relief camps for the needy families. He expressed gratitude towards Tahira Shawl, member GGF for bearing the cost of relief material. The relief camp was dedicated to Sufi Saint Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah Shahdara Sharief.

Annual Sarthal Devi Yatra culminates



Hawan being performed during Sarthal Devi Yatra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS KISHTWAR: The Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra 2020 was concluded here on Monday

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The Yatra was conducted by Sanjeev Parihar, Chairman along with a few members of the Management Council on June 28, 2020. Today, the Yatra was culminated by offering the Thali to the Deity at the Holy Shrine in a traditional manner by Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council under the patronage of Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman of the Council. The Yagya and other holy rituals of the Deity were organized as per traditions by Priests in the temple premises. Pertinent to mention here that this year the participation of devotees was restricted in the Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra

due to restrictions imposed by the administration in view of COVID-19 pandemic. Vikramaditya Singh, in his

message, extended warm greetings to all devotees and people of Kishtwar on this auspicious occasion and prayed for peace, prosperity and well being of all. He also prayed for early passage of Covid-19 pandemic and asked people to remain careful and observe social distancing and other guidelines issued by the authorities in letter and spirit. The Temple of Sarthal Devi Mata is located in Sarthal town of Kishtwar district amidst the mountains of the Pir Panjal range. The devotees believed that Sarthal Devi is the Hindu Kuldevi residing in Kishtwar and have held her in high reverence. The historic religious Yatra is organized every vear in Kishtwar by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council with great participation and support of residents of

Kishtwar.

Maha Mandleshwar Anoop Giri Maharaj honours NGO Third Eye Anti Crime Team



Maha Mandleshwar Anoop Giri Maharaj felicitating members of Third Eye Anti Crime Team.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: During time of epidemic disease Corona Virus , many people made their best contribution in which NGO, Third Eye Anti-Crime Team also set a precedent in the society by doing better works.

Team Members of NGO under the supervision of its chairman Sham Lal Gupta sanitised many villages, Panchayats of Bishnah Block, Arnia Block, Vijaypur various police stations, hospitals, temples, Masjids,

Gurudwaras, parks, clinics,

banks to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Ration Items were distributed by organisation to the needy public during Lock down.

Niranjani Akadha Anoop Giri Maharaj honoured and gave appreciation letter to the Chairman of Anti-Crime Team, Sham Lal Gupta, after seeing his work and activity.

Those present include on the occasion include Rakesh Kumar. Neha Mehra. Manmohan Singh, Krishan Lal, Tushar Digra, Rakesh, Rajesh and Municipal Corporator Sahil Gupta.

NYK holds COVID protection campaign **■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Nehru Yuva

Kendra Rajouri, (MoYAS, GOI) on Monday organized Covid protection awareness event here at village Tata Pani of Block Kalakote under its ongoing Youth Club Outreach Programme, started earlier from Block Doongi.

The main purpose of the outreach programme is to aware the youth about COVID-19, to fight the social stigma against healthcare workers and to highlight the importance of physical fitness in enhancing the immunity and at the same time keeping the spirit of Fit India Movement high. In pursuance to this vision, Team Nehru Yuva Kendra, Rajouri visited the youth clubs of village Tata Pani of Block Kalakote and interact-

ed with the youth club members. The campaign team led by District Youth Coordinator. Nitin Hangloo included Master Trainer Resource Person, NYK, Vikrant Sharma and



NYK members providing sports material to youth

National Youth Volunteers Akshay Sharma and Rahul Chandan. The District Youth Coordinator highlighted the issue of social stigma that the healthcare workers are facing in the time of the pandemic. He said that healthcare workers are the frontline warriors and any stigma against them would undermine the fight of the nation against this virus. He explained how enhancing one's immunity would result in the defeat of this virus.

Vikrant Sarma said the youth about the strength of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan lies in

the youth clubs. He said that protecting old people in these times is very important in the fight against Coronavirus as they more vulnerable to this virus and fatality among them is higher than other age groups. He expressed hope that the youth would involve themselves in physical activities and games to defeat the virus. The youth expressed gratitude to Nehru Yuva Kendra, Rajouri for providing sports materials. Pamphlets regarding stigma against health care workers were also distributed to the vouth.