

Samoon visits Food Craft Institute, Jammu; inaugurates online admission portal



Principal Secretary SDD, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon along with students and others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, on Thursday visited Food Craft Institute, Jammu.

On the occasion, Dr. Samoon inaugurated online admission portal of the institute where students can enrol themselves online with the institute besides generating E-certificate on completion of course. This is a big step towards providing better facilities to citizens towards ease of doing business in the citizens' charter. He also inspected the ongoing works being executed in the institute.

Principal Secretary also distributed

certificates among student trainees of one month Skill Development programmes, trained in the field of bakery and patisserie.

Principal Secretary suggested the youth to utilize their valuable time on add-on courses to up skill themselves as per industrial requirement. He directed the concerned officers to promote various government loan schemes for unemployed youth so they start their own business unit. While interacting with the trainees, Dr. Samoon appreciated the efforts of Principal FCI and other faculty members of the institute for imparting quality skills to the trainees.

Principal briefed that the institute has

signed an MoU with Directorate of Industries and Commerce under which every pass out trainee in the entrepreneur programme (one month) gets facilitated in early registration and commissioning of their units so as to become entrepreneurs. This not only enable them to earn their livelihood but makes them job providers as well, he added.

He elaborated that the institute is conducting one and half year diploma courses in various trades of Hotel Management besides Short Term Skill Development Programmes ranging from one month to four months for creating employment opportunities for unemployed youth. Meanwhile, in order to encourage the passing out students of one and half year diploma courses in Food Production trade, the final preparations were displayed in the form of various dishes. Most of the trainees have already been short listed for six month Industrial Training in various 5 star properties and chain properties across the country.

Later, Principal Secretary also visited the Migrant Camp Jagati Nagrota and enquired about the facilities being provided by the Skill Development Department to the migrated youth.

DC Ganderbal visits Kheer Bhawani; reviews arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir on Thursday visited Kheer Bhawani temple,Tulamulla where he convened a meeting to review arrangements for annual Kheer Bhawani Mela.

Threadbare discussions were held on lodging, bedding, repairing works of lavatory blocks, lighting, sanitation, barricading, establishment of joint control room, health facilities, parking of vehicles, fool-proof security, and availability of essential commodities, route



DC Ganderbal, Shyambir visiting Kheer Bhawani temple, Tulamulla.

plan and general face-lifting in and around the temple. The DC directed the departments concerned for making necessary arrangements for un-

interrupted power and drinking water supplies, transport, security, fire tenders, ration, accommodation, medical facilities, macadamization of roads

and other related arrangements at the temple. The Municipality officials were directed to start intensive sanitation drives within as well as approaching road stretch to the temple prior to the Mela besides installing dustbins at appropriate places within the premises and market. The DC discussed department-wise facilities provided for the devotees. He stressed on the concerned authorities to be proactive and make every possible effort for smooth conduct of the Mela. Later, the DC visited around the temple and took

Pre paid counter for pony services in Gulmarg inaugurated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GULMARG: Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez on Thursday visited Gulmarg where he inaugurated the pre-paid counter for pony service started by the Tourism Department.

This is the second pre-paid counter for pony services started by the Department after Pahalgam last week.

The Secretary, Tourism formally handed over the first pre-paid slip to a tourist Tahura in presence of representatives of various Departments and local stakeholders. Under the prepaid service, tourists can book a pony ride at a designated spot (near TBC, Gulmarg) and get a pony ride booked on designated routes for the rates notified by the Department.

The Department intends to launch the service in other tourist destinations of Kashmir as well.

Speaking on the occasion, the Tourism Secretary congratulated the local stake-

holders for establishing a pre-paid counter for pony service hoping that with the establishment of this counter there remains no scope for any complaint of cheating or inconvenience.

Praising the local stakeholders for upholding the tradition of local hospitality, Sarmad Hafeez said there has been a demand from local stakeholders about establishment of such a counter and hoped that with this the tourists and visitors would have a hassle free pony ride free from any inconvenience and cheating. Enumerating the steps taken by the Department, the Tourism Secretary said Gulmarg now has become an all season destination with the addition and betterment of attractions like improved skiing activities and games during winters, better road connectivity, power supply and sanitation and now with the addition of pre paid pony service tourists should have all the reason for a satisfac-

tory stay at and visit to Gulmarg. He said added facilities are being thought of to let the resort maintain its international appeal.

Emphasizing on cleanliness and ensuring environment friendly tourism activities, the Tourism Secretary said that the Department would provide various stakeholders including youth from Eco Clubs, Pony wallahs, hoteliers and other service providers a common platform to take action at preserving the fragile ecology. He appealed to the tourism stakeholders of Gulmarg to come forward and be conscious of the environment and ensure cleanliness at the resort. Director, Tourism, Kashmir; Dr G N Itoo, Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, Ghulam Jeełani Zargar, senior officers of Tourism Department, Local Bodies besides representatives of local tourism stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Later, the Tourism

Secretary took a detailed tour of the Gulmarg bowl. He impressed upon the local Tourism authorities to ask the local tourism unit holders to maintain sanitation around their properties and keep them in good condition. He also directed the allied Departments to keep their assets in good condition and not let any sore spot greet the tourists.

Sarmad Hafeez also reviewed the pace of works being undertaken by the Department besides functioning of the JKTDC and Cable Car Corporation at the world famous resort.

He directed installation of hoardings and signages at different spots across the destination for facilitation and convenience of the tourists. He also directed early completion of work on ski lift and homologation of ski slopes.

Later, a deputation of Pony associations met the Tourism Secretary and apprised him of their difficulties.

Tourism Dept condoles Bhajan Sopori's demise

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Department of Tourism on Thursday condoled the demise of acclaimed Santoor maestro, Padma Shri Pt. Bhajan Sopori who breathed his last at a Gurugram hospital today.

A condolence meeting was held this evening at the Directorate of Tourism in which speakers recalled and hailed the contribution of Mr. Sporori in promoting tourism of J&K through culture and music.

The condolence meeting was chaired by Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez and it was attended by Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo and other officers.

Terming Mr. Sopori as a great exponent of culture and music of J&K, Sarmad Hafeez said Mr. Sopori was an ambassador of cultural tourism of J&K and wherever he went in his life he promoted J&K's rich culture and music. He prayed for peace to the soul of Mr.

Sopori and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved family particularly Abhay and Sorabh, his two sons.

In his remarks, Dr G N Itoo described Mr. Sopori as an epitome of cultural uniqueness of J&K in recent times which helped it to carve out a niche on the cultural map of the country.

The meeting expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Parmar inspects lift irrigation schemes, Khuls of Ranbir Canal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti, Ashok Kumar Parmar, on Thursday conducted an extensive inspection visit of various lift irrigation schemes and khuls of Ranbir Canal in Jammu.

Principal Secretary inspected lift pumping stations at Bathera, Manyal Brahmana, Malpur, Gurha Pattan and Ranjan and Ranjan provide water supply to various irrigation channels around Jammu.

He was accompanied by DDC Chairman, Bharat Blushan, Chief Engineer I&FC Jammu, Hamesh Manchanda, Chief Engineer

Jal Shakti Jammu, Manish Bhat and Executive Engineer Ground Water Drilling Division, Jammu among other senior officers.

BDC Chairperson, Kuldeep Raj; Sarpanch, Neetu Verma, Jaswant Singh, Anjali Sharma and Partap Singh Rana; and Panch, Shakti Mehra were present on the occasion. Principal Secretary took stock of damages caused to irrigation channels and canals due to ongoing Jammu-Akhnour four-laning project. He directed the respective officers to prepare estimates for their immediate reconstruction besides asking them to restore the electro-mechanical infrastructure to ensure that the irrigation water reaches up to the tail end.

Later, a brief meeting with officers and local PRI members was also held at Lift Irrigation Scheme Ranjan, in which the

Principal Secretary was apprised of the working condition of the pumping station.

While taking cognizance of projected issues, Principal Secretary directed the officers to ensure speedy redressal of issues like lack of manpower, machinery and other supplies. He also sought a report with regard to alleged tapping of power supply from a dedicated power feeder. Meanwhile, Principal Secretary visited PHE Station Old Amb, wherein he discussed issue of drinking water supply in surrounding areas. He directed the officers to identify land by consulting local PRI members and prepare a detailed project report for setting up of a tube well in the area. He also visited Panchayats Lower Amb, Rajpura, Malpur, Doomi, Jandyal, Gharota, Ghaink, Seri Pantan and Kot.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: As the summer sets in Gurez valley, the locals are all set to welcome the tourists this year as they have opened their homes for the tourist stay and arranging tented accommodations for them while the government is making efforts to attract more tourists to this virgin valley by organizing promotional events- Gurez festival being one of these events.

From the past few years, the Gurez Valley has witnessed a considerable increase in foot-fall of tourists. In order to enhance the availability of accommodation for the incoming tourists, the Bandipora Administration in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Army has been focusing on propagating the concept of Home stay and tented accommodation to preserve the local traditions and ecological bal-

ance.

This year the bookings can be done through popular tourism websites including MakeMyTrip and Goibibo.

Officials said in order to enhance participation of the main stakeholders i.e local population and to make them partners in the future growth of tourism sector, administration has invited application forms from all those households who want to provide their accommodation with the form of home stay to tourists so as to get additional economic benefits on one hand and the other hand tourists enjoy the home stay, enjoying and experiencing the local culture and lifestyle, as such being win-win situation for both.

Till date around 15 home stays have been established and are receiving a good response from the visitors bringing them economic pros-

perity. The civil administration has been actively coordinating with the Tourism department for facilitating the home stay owners with requisite process of registration, housekeeping, skill up gradation and best practices, so as to provide a whole experience to the tourists.

Last week- Afsara Guest House at Kanzalwan Village- first home stay accommodation for tourists in Gurez valley welcomed the first batch of tourists at the guest house. "The hard work of locals finally fructified as the first home-stay of Kanzalwan, 'The Afsara Homestay' has attracted guests.

Further civil administration has involved local unemployed educated youth for establishing tented accommodation, wherein six locations have been identified in the first phase for the same.

Till now, 20 numbers of per-

missions have been granted in favour of the local population for establishing tented accommodation and to earn their livelihood. Tented accommodation having capacity of around 300 persons has been established and more are in progress. Administration has started in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and Skill Development Department for providing basic skills of tourist trade and hospitality to these youths.

Besides infrastructural development and logistic support, the District Administration in collaboration with various other departments including Army is organizing promotional events inviting celebrities and prominent artists to attract more tourists.

Last year, the District Administration launched an online campaign under hash-

tag #goGurez wherein the visitors shared their thoughts, experiences and the pictures and videos to attract others. Several other festivals have been organised so far to showcase the local traditions of the Dard tribe.

This week Gurez Festival was also launched jointly by the District Administration, Tourism Department and Army that will witness a range of events from June 1 to June 16. Besides a cricket and volleyball tournament, a trek to Disssan heights, Anamita Khan's concert, Jashne-e-Gurez Movie Night, Village Games and Dard Shin Festival and Nari Shakti trek are the pick of the bunch during the celebration of the fortnight long festival.

Prominent celebrities Sunil Shetty, Milind Suman and other bollywood actors are also expected to visit the Gurez Valley this year.

Govt constitutes panel for scrutinizing cases of regularisation of retired officers of erstwhile J&K LC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday constituted a committee for scrutinizing cases of regularization of retired officers of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council. "Sanction is accorded to constitution of a Committee for scrutinizing cases of regularization of retired officers of erstwhile J&K Legislative Council in terms of extant Recruitment Rules, Government Orders and seniority list," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration

Department.

As per order, Administrative Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will be chairman of the committee while representative of Finance Department not below the rank of Member Additional Secretary; Representative of General Administration Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary and Director Finance, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will be Members of the committee.

Chhibber designated as Dir Estates Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday re-designated the post of Director Estates, J&K as Director Estates, Jammu. "Consequent upon the creation of separate posts of Director Estates, Jammu and Director Estates Kashmir, it is ordered that Subash Chander Chhibber, JKAS, Director, Estates, J&K shall be designated as Director Estates, Jammu. He, however, shall also hold the charge of the post of Director Estates, Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday reviewed the status of different road projects including national highways being laid out here in the UT.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, PWD; Divisional Commissioners; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary Revenue; Secretary, PD&MD; Deputy Commissioners; MD, KPDCL; Chief Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD; Representatives of BRO, NHIDCL and other officers of the concerned Departments.

The Chief Secretary (CS) urged the executing agencies to enshrine it as their goal to deliver all these projects on set time-

lines. He asked them that the erecting of crash barriers, sign boards, parapets on National Highways for the safety of travelers should be done before 15th of this month. He also advised the district administration to look into the availability of utilities like Eateries, Washrooms, etc on the National Highways for enjoyable ride over them.

Dr Mehta enquired about the status of five tunnels (T1-T5) being constructed on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway that are going to drastically reduce the travel time between these cities besides making the road more reliable. He asked them to expedite the work on these tunnels so that all of them are timely dedicated to public.

He enjoined upon them to move extra men and machinery for mainte-

nance of this road till the works are completed. He also directed for minimizing the waiting time at toll plazas by opening all the lanes for vehicles and using updated RFID readers over there. He made it clear to all the DCs that there should be least traffic disruptions on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway with focus on clearing the route within an hour or two. Regarding the availability of material for construction of new roads the Chief Secretary asked the concerned departments to provide online permissions for mining of minerals besides exploring the possibility of allowing them to transport the same beyond daylight hours. The CS also directed the departments of PDD and Jal Shakti to immediately shift their utilities wherever required

so that both the construction and providing of services to general public do not get affected. He also reiterated that the land acquisition process needs to be completed at an earliest. He directed both the district and divisional administration to resolve all the issues at their level and ensure the land is transferred to the departments without any further delay. The Chief Secretary reviewed the status of roads like Jammu, Srinagar semi-ring road projects, Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Highway, Shopian-Qazigund Bypass, K a t h u a - B a s h o l i - BaniRoad, Srinagar-Sonamarg Road, Z-Morh tunnel project, Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, Akhnoor-Poonch Road, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Road and many other internal city roads in Jammu and Srinagar cities. The meeting deliberated upon the issues pertaining to these road projects and their relevant resolutions. It also discussed the expected deadlines for each of them. These road projects were termed as highly significant for the people of the UT and the work needs to be expedited to complete them as soon as possible for the general good of public, as was discussed in the meeting.

Retd SP placed in Selection Grade-II

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday ordered placement of Superintendent of Police (Ministerial) in the Selection Grade-II (Non Functional).

"In terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2002, notified vide SRO-132, dated

3rd April, 2022, read with Government Order No. 653-Home (P) of 2017 dated June 7, 2017, sanction is accorded to the placement of Badder Hussain, Retd. Superintendent of Police (Ministerial), in the Selection Grade-II (Non Functional)-Level-12 (Rs 78800- Rs 209200) of the Pay Matrix with effect from January 28,

2020," reads an order issued by R.K Goyal, Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary, Home department.

"He shall also hold charge of the posts of Mission Director; Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 and Mission Director, DAY-NULM, in addition to his own duties." it added.

