

Over 200 tonnes sea-coast garbage removed in 20 days: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday informed that more than 200 ton of garbage, mainly single use plastic, has been removed from the sea coast during the first 20 days of the ongoing 75-day Coastal Clean-Up campaign launched on 5th July, 2022. Taking a review meeting after 20 days of the launch of campaign, Dr Jitendra Singh also noted with satisfaction that so far more than 5,200 volunteers from 24 States have already registered for the 75-day long campaign to raise awareness about "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar", which will culminate on "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September 2022. The Minister directed the officials of the Ministry of Earth Sciences to rope in NGOs, citizen groups, children and youth forums, corporates, non-profit



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media.

organisations, consular staff as well as the Municipal Corporations of the Coastal States to convert it into a Jan Andolan.

Dr Jitendra reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a lead in the cleanliness campaign and has motivated the entire nation to keep the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India clean, safe and healthy for mankind.

Secretary, MoES, Dr M. Ravichandra informed Dr Jitendra Singh that coastal clean-up campaign were carried out at Digha and Haldiya in West Bengal, Bhawanipatna in Odisha Paschim, Thiruvananthapuram and Manjeshwar in Kasaragod district of Kerala, AsmawatiGhat in Porbandar and Gir, Somnath in Gujarat, Mangalore, Udupi in Karnataka and Chatham for Shore Road in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He said that apart from removal of garbage from the sea coasta, activities like campaign pledge, NukkadNatak, Cycle Rally for Plastic se Azadi, Beach cleaning and Plantation, Sensitization of local communities about the coastal clean-up campaign were carried out in the last 20 days.

Dr Jitendra Singh sought active cooperation of members of civil society

to achieve the target to remove 1,500 ton of garbage, mainly single use plastic from the sea coasts on "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September 2022, which incidentally is also birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, observed as "Sewa Divas" in the country.

He called upon all to join the massive clean-up drive on 17th September to be carried out at 75 beaches across the country with 75 volunteers for every kilometre of the coastline. He also added that this year's event also coincides with the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the 75th year of the country's independence.

On 22nd July, Dr Jitendra Singh had convened a meeting of Union Ministers and Members of Parliament from coastal states of the country and sought their suggestions and support to make it a mass campaign.



Skill training of COVID warriors under PMKVY 3.0 in J&K reviewed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon on Monday held a meeting to review the completion of skill training of COVID-19 warriors in health sector under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0).

Mission Director National health Mission J&K, Director Skill Development, representatives of MSDE, GoI, Principals Government Medical Colleges Jammu/Srinagar/Nursing/Paramedical Colleges, Registrars of University of Jammu/Kashmir/ SMVDU/ BGBSU/ IUST/ Central University, State Engagement Officer NSDC, J&K and officers of J&K Skill Development Mission, Directorate of Health

Services Kashmir/Jammu attended the meeting in person and through online mode.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary was informed that out of a target of 12000 across Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, 7000 candidates passed COVID-19 Crash Course Programme under PMKVY 3.0 Scheme.

The meeting was informed that 1601 candidates were enrolled and registered on the portal, of which 1581 imparted training both with classroom and On-the-job (OJT) training. It was further given out that 1245 candidates appeared in the online exam, subsequently assessed and were declared pass with assessment pending in online mode for 92 candidates.

Similarly, 502 candidates are assessed and passed and certi-

fied in final/OJT exam.

Dr Samoon said during COVID-19 Pandemic there has been immense pressure on healthcare sector and in order to address the shortage of medical equipment, essential supplies and trained staff to deliver appropriate healthcare delivery to citizens, COVID Crash Course was started to fight against this disease. He added that like rest of the country to address deficit of skilled COVID warriors and channelling of available healthcare resources and services within shortest possible of time, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under PMKVY 3.0 created this programme to create a pool of trained/skilled COVID warriors with desired requirement.

ECI conducts workshop for First Level Checking on EVM, VVPAT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Election Commission of India (ECI) in collaboration with office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K on Monday conducted a One Day Workshop program on First Level Checking (FLC) of EVM/VVPAT for District Election Officers and Dy District Election Officers at Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu.

The program was organized by the Election Commission of India in collaboration with Chief Election Office J&K and the program was chaired by the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Hirdesh Kumar.

Director EVM, ECI, Sunder Rajan, Secretary, ECI, Madhusudan Gupta, Dy General Manager, ECIL Hyderabad, P C Mandal also spoke and highlighted the main objectives of the workshop.

District Election Officers



Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Hirdesh Kumar chairing a programme on First Level Checking of EVM/VVPAT.

and Dy District Election Officers of Jammu Division besides other concerned officers were also present during the awareness program.

During the workshop various aspects related to issues regarding EVM and VVPAT besides FLC basics including most important starting steps, quality of machines, political parties participation and introduction of P-FLCU. The other issues were also highlighted and demonstrated to deal with all stakeholders to conduct

the election process smoothly.

Inaugural address was given by Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Hirdesh Kumar and highlighted the various objectives and importance of workshop and gave valuable suggestions to the participants regarding EVM and VVPAT and other components of Election process.

The representative of ECI gave a comprehensive overview of the FLC process, presentation and interactive session. The other important issues were also highlighted including responsibilities of DEOs and FLC in charge, Administrative safeguards and stakeholders' participation. The concerned officers cleared all queries pointed

out by the DEOs and DDEOs raised by the participants during the workshop.

An interactive session of hands-on training was also held during the workshop to clear all doubts related to Ballot unit (BU), Control Unit (CU) and VVPAT. During the demonstration the officers were also informed about installation and other processes of first level checking of EVM process.

Among others, DC Jammu, Avny Lavasa, DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, DC Kathua Rahul Pandey, DC Reasi, Babila Rakwal, DC Samba, Anuradha Gupta, DC Poonch, Inderjeet, DC Doda, Vikas Sharma and other concerned officers were attended the Workshop.

DGP, FC (ACS) Home review implementation of CCTNSs project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh along with Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Home Department, J&K, R K Goyal chaired a high level meeting at Crime Headquarters J&K to review implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNSs) project. Special DGP Crime J&K A K Choudhary, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ M K Sinha, SSP Crime Economic Offences Wing Amritpal Singh, Special Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir Peerzada Naveed DySP CICE Musadiq Basu and other officers also attended the meeting. During the meeting, approval of funds regarding the major



DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh interacting with Financial Commissioner Home Department J&K, R.K Goyal.

and minor requirements of CCTNSs project were granted and funds for replacement of hardware and migration of data was also approved along with inclusion of Police Stations of ACB under CCTNSs coverage.

DGP and Financial Commissioner, Home Department, witnessed a demonstration regarding

functioning of CCTNSs project conducted by the officers of Crime Headquarters. Threadbare discussions were also held regarding agenda points of meeting including migrations of CCTNSs Data Centre to cloud, inclusive of new sites, replacement of old/obsolete hardware and handling of CCTNSs project post exit of System

Integrator.

Speaking on the occasion, both the officers stressed for ensuring complete implementation of the project by taking all necessary measures. They stressed for real time coordination between all wings for achieving desired result besides speeding up remaining work. The officers directed for monitoring the functioning of project at police stations levels on regular basis. They reiterated that all required and necessary measures must be followed to completely switch over the system. DGP informed that for popularizing and promoting JKeCOP application, directives have already been issued for downloading the App by all police personnel so that more and more people can get connected with the system.

Sadhotra expresses solidarity with striking lawyers, seeks fulfillment of their demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing solidarity with the lawyers currently on protests under the aegis of J&K High Court Bar Association, former minister said senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Monday exhorted the administration not to sit on prestige and accede to the justified demand of relocating all the courts under the same roof and premises.

"This will not only ease the judicial dispensation but will be beneficial for both the lawyers and the litigant public", Sadhotra said in a statement issued here this afternoon.

He hoped that the Lieutenant Governor's administration will show sensitivity towards pressing public issues instead of pushing the people to the wall, forcing them to take to the streets and resort to Dharnas. It is all the more worrisome when the conscience keepers of the society feel constrained to sit on dharnas and hold protests. He expressed concern over the lawyers abstaining from the work in the District Court Complex Jammu besides the tribunals and the commission that has eventually put the general public in

a lot of inconvenience.

Sadhotra said the demands of the legal practitioners with regard to housing of the different Tribunals in single multi dimensional complex of High Court is justifiable in the aftermath of the shifting of district courts. The scattered institutional edifice entails the lawyers to undertake cumbersome movement from one place to the other, especially in view of intermittent traffic jams and the absence of adequate parking spaces. He also supported similar arrangements at all the Districts and Muffasil Courts so that the genuine grievance of the legal fraternity can be redressed.

Sadhotra urged the Lientenant Governor to engage the striking lawyers in a meaningful dialogue process so that a mutually agreed via media is found to the issue. He also sought adequate funds for the construction of court complexes in the capital city and other areas in the Jammu division Adhocism and delaying tactics won't help in mitigating the problems faced by the lawyers.

Therefore, both sides should take to the dialogue route and end the ongoing stalemate, the former minister added.

Segregation of Solid Waste Material: More efforts required for making Srinagar city garbage-free

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Authorities have failed to start segregation of solid waste material at source in Srinagar, affecting scientific disposal of garbage at Achan dumping site, thereby resulting in spread of foul smell in vicinity. People are facing numerous troubles due to stench, especially in morning hours, when hundreds of youth, children and senior citizens go out for a walk.

According to official data, Srinagar City produces more than 400 metric tons of waste every day. Actually the real problem is not waste but it is its poor management.

The field staff of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has also failed to convey to people the importance of separation of solid waste material. As SMC is still collecting mixed waste from areas, there are

numerous complaints that SMC vehicles arrive late in several areas, causing problems for people. Under SWMR, each house has to keep two separate dustbins, one for biodegradable and another for non-biodegradable waste but non-implementation of the rule has multiplied problems of garbage dumping, processing and its disposal.

However, SMC Commissioner Athar Aamir

had numerous times made commitment that SMC is taking various measures to implement SWMR in letter & spirit and recently it started door to door garbage collection in Srinagar, but the real problem is still unattended. There is need to add more vehicles in fleet of SMC for transportation of garbage besides taking several other measures to make Srinagar city garbage and stench-free.

More we follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour, more we help breaking chain of virus transmission: Dr Kirti Bushan

■ MALU SHARMA

JAMMU: The number of daily positive cases as well as active cases has been on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir for the past two weeks. With the change in weather and casual approach of people, COVID cases are again on rise. Whether there is a wave or not, doctors say the pandemic is still on and Covid is out there-evolving, infecting and claiming lives. STATE TIMES interacted with Dr Kirti Bushan, MS CD Hospital, Jammu in this regard. Dr Bushan reiterated that we need to be keeping a closer eye on the rate of increase in illness and hospitalisations, rather than infections, which, they say, are bound to continue to spike and dip in the foreseeable future. According to Dr Kirti Bushan the present situation resembles the time before the

second wave hit the country. Looking around us, the feeling one gets is that we have overcome COVID-19 pandemic and the public at large has lowered the guard. It resembles the situation before the second wave hit India.

While talking to STATE TIMES, Dr Kirti Sharma said, "Festive and wedding seasons are the times when we need to adhere to the Covid guidelines. Our negligence can lead to a grave situation. We have already seen how our ignorance towards following the Covid-19 guidelines had led to the deadly second wave. So, in the times of celebration too, we need to follow the Covid appropriate behaviours including social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands to avoid the emergence of the third wave. Fully vaccinated people should also follow the guidelines diligently."

Dr Kirti added, "Whenever there is a large gathering, there is always a chance of exposure to infection. "A large number of people attend gatherings like weddings. So if gatherings happen, not only maximum people will be travelling from one city or state to another but also from one country to another. This will cause an inflow of people and the infection might spread in such scenario. Be it flu, COVID or any other infection, the number of cases increase on exposure to infected people. It is mandatory that If we are attending a function, we have to follow COVID guidelines like wearing masks and using sanitiser so that we do not expose ourselves to the infection. Dr Sharma further added, "Omicron variants haven't increased deaths. Instead, deaths have been reported in

those cases that have co-morbidities. We should continuously follow the golden principle that has protected us from COVID-19. We must wear a mask, adopt COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, maintain social distancing and get vaccinated on priority."

"Moreover, it is important that people should complete their vaccination. We should also consider booster additional dose of vaccine for people at highest risk. It is also very important to get children vaccinated," says Dr Kirti Bushan. In his message, Dr Bushan said, "The more we follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour, the more we help break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. It is the primary responsibility of everyone to take precautions rather than taking risk of getting infected with the virus by not following CAB."

Bhalla slams BJP Govt for selling India, increasing burden of taxes on public

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Firing salvos at the BJP government at the Centre for its failure in addressing basic public issues in J&K, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla stated that rather than fulfilling its promise of providing jobs, the union government has been selling off the public sector undertakings (PSUs) and thus, permanently denying jobs to lakhs of youth as well as denting their livelihood prospects.

This was stated by former Minister while interacting with people of Village Langar Ward-68 a part of Greater Kailash as a part of his mass contact programme to listen to public grievances in various parts of RS Pura-Jammu South constituency on Monday.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

PCC Secretary Satish Sharma, Corporator Pritam Singh, District President Jammu Urban Youth Congress Happy Randhawa, Neeraj Kumar, Jeet Choudhary, Surjeet, Amar Nath, Ram Lal, Papu, Bhadur Singh, Lucky Kumar, Ram Chand, Naik Ram, Harbans Singh, Ghar Singh beside others. Bhalla said BJP Govt failed to maintain law and

order, resolving farmer's problems, improving education and health services, employment generation and delivery of public services. He lambasted the Centre for "decimating" small and medium businesses resulting in millions of job and livelihood losses across various sectors of economy.

Underscoring the fact that Manmohan Singh, when he was the Prime Minister, never

let the prices of oil rise even when the crude oil became costly in the international market, he pointed out that despite the low crude prices internationally the Modi government has not even passed on the benefit of the low price to the public.

Taking a dig at LG Administration, Bhalla said, it is acting as the agent of the central government. He said, "The union government's policies are putting common people into trouble."

He asserted that BJP Government has betrayed people of Jammu by reducing status of a state to union territory and Govt is also not coming clear on many issues. Bhalla said that only Congress is a secular party and never believes in caste, creed and colour. He claimed that it is only Congress which can keep the whole J&K united.

