

Mayor inaugurates development work



Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta inaugurating development work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his endeavour to provide better development facilities to the people of Jammu, Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta along with Surinder Chowdhary Councillor of Ward No 29 today conducted an extensive tour in the various of Rajpura, Shiv Nagar & its adjoining localities and inaugurated the much needed development work in terms of construction of Lane and covering of drains by iron gratings in Gali No. 16 Rajpura Mangotarian Jammu of

Ward No 33.

Naseeb Raj, Mohit Vaid, Krishan Verma, Balvinder Kumar, Kiran Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Tripta Devi along with other prominent inhabitants of the locality as well as Ashish Bhasin Executive Engineer, Mohit Gupta Junior Engineer & other Supervisory staff of Engg. Division II & Sanitation Section was also remained present there during the inauguration function which was organized in a very simple manner.

J&K records 146 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 146 fresh Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 3,26,799, while no new death due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 25 were from the Jammu division and 121 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 72 cases followed by 15 cases in Baramulla district. There are 1,301 active cases in the Union Territory as recoveries outnumbered fresh cases while the number of recovered patients was 3,21,086, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union Territory due to the pandemic was 4,412 as no new fatality was reported in the past 24 hours.

The officials said there were 46 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as one fresh

case was reported since last evening.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded four new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 20,600 while the active cases in the Union Territory came down to 39 after five more patients recovered from the disease, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 207 COVID-related deaths – 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil – since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

The officials said a total of 4,606 persons were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday and the reports of four of them – three in Leh and one in Kargil – returned positive.

Five COVID-19 patients were discharged from Leh, taking the tally of cured patients to 20,354 accounting for over 98.8 per cent recoveries, they said.

With this, the total number of active cases in Ladakh has come down to 39, including 35 in Leh and four in Kargil.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor told that it is one of the oldest lane in Rajpura which requires proper renovation as it is the thorough fare and also was one of the long pending demands of the locals which has been fulfilled today after its completion work with an allotted amount of Rs.6.67 Lakh only so that the locals as well as passersby can take full benefit of this newly constructed lane with proper covering of drains on both sides by iron gratings.

He further said that JMC is committed to provide best possible development & civic facilities in all the wards of the city with the active support of the elected representatives of public from the last three years and also appeal to the general public to come forward and cooperate with JMC in all the development activities being undertaken in various parts of the city so that the Jammu can be made neat, clean & green city.

Ten-day Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations begin



Devotees performing Puja of Ganpati Ganesh at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In connection with celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, a beautiful idol of Shri Ganesha was installed after proper pooja archana at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar Jammu and ten days celebrations started in which besides, trustees and special invitees of the Trust led by Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister and President of the Trust, large number of devotees participated. Today in the evening, Mahaarti by renowned pundits led by the Head Pujari Ashwani Sharma was also performed. These celebrations will continue up to September 19 when as per the traditions after performing special Pooja the Murti will be taken in a colourful procession to the Ghats of holy river Chenab near Jia Pota Akhnoor and the same will be immersed there culminating the celebrations. In view of the pandemic the public is requested to participate in the celebrations observing proper SOPs and guidelines issued by the administration. Prominent among those members of the Trust present on the occasion were S.C Rekhi (Gen Secy), Deepak Gupta, (Treasurer), Prithvi Raj Vaid, Kulbushan Bali, Harish Malhotra, Prashant Sharma, P C Gupta, Ashok Khajuria, Ajay Sharma and others.

Closure of Bar, Restaurants : HC directs respondents to pass appropriate orders within 2 weeks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a petition filed by 27 Bar & Restaurant Owners who are running Bars and Restaurants and have also obtained Bar licenses for sale of liquor on premises. The licenses are renewed in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Liquor License and Sale Rules, 1984 framed in terms of J&K, Excise Act, 1958, seeking direction to the respondents to expedite and finalize the process of issuance of NOC for the renewal of Bar licenses in their favour.

Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court after hearing Sr. Adv MK Bhardwaj with Adv Ajay Vaid for the petitioners whereas Advocate General DC Raina with AAG Aseem Sawhney for the respon-

dents, disposed of the petition with the direction to respondents to pass appropriate orders within a period of two weeks. Justice Dhiraj Singh further directed that in case, there is any shortcoming in the documentation of any licensee, then he would be informed immediately not later than one week with a view to enable the licensees to take remedial measures. In case, the licensees apply to the District Magistrate concerned or to any concerned authority for obtaining any NOC, then appropriate orders shall be passed on such applications by District Magistrates or other authorities not later than ten days from the date of such application. Upon making up such deficiencies, the excise authorities would proceed to pass orders within two weeks

thereafter.

Justice Dhiraj Singh while disposing of the petition observed that on a reading of the judgment Balbir Lal Vs State of J&K (wherein Division Bench holds that "Trade in liquor is restricted. It can be regulated. Merely because a liquor vend has been opened at a particular place will not mean that the other development activities, which are basic in nature, in the area have to be put on hold merely because a liquor vend exists there. For renewal of any license, satisfactions of all the conditions which are required for the purpose of grant thereof are inbuilt and have to be satisfied in case, any license is to be renewed. The competent authority will be well within its right to ensure compliance thereof in case, in addition

Union Ministers' visits good omen for J&K: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The concern and pain for the people of Jammu & Kashmir on part of the Central government after the abrogation of Article-370 and reorganization of J&K state into Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, can be well judged from various initiatives being taken during the last two years, wherein, one of the most appreciating step has been deputing Union Ministers in large numbers under 'Outreach Programme' for direct contact with the people residing in urban as well as rural areas.

Jammu & Kashmir, BJP, Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, said this while commenting on the exercise of the Union Government with regard to visits of ministers in Jammu & Kashmir and also Ladakh.

He said that these visits are not confined to Guest



House or Air conditioned rooms but each of the minister is seen going out in public, interacting with the people, discussing their problems and grievances, besides sharing welfare schemes and the developmental activities being initiated, especially after the reorganization of the erstwhile state.

Balbir said that during the first Phase of the 'Outreach Programme' undertaken soon after the repealing of Article-370, it was seen that the Union Ministers were providing an open platform to the public to take up their issues directly with them and also put forth views for better development of their areas, as per their needs and aspirations.

"With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the

exercise could not run continuously and now it has been started again under Phase-II", Balbir said and added that a lot has changed after abrogation of Article-370 and people themselves are the witness that lot of good is being done, which was just a dream during the past about 70 years.

Balbir further said that the BJP government at the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was very serious towards J&K and concerned for peace, normalcy, progress and prosperity from the day one and a new era had begun but with the abrogation of Article 370, the momentum has accelerated. He said that the day is not far when J&K UT will reach heights in development and public welfare with the active involvement of the people in the programmes and policies of the government at the centre and in the UT.

ABVP raises demand for Central Agricultural University in Jammu



ABVP members presenting memorandum to Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu and Kashmir (UT) met Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Kailash Choudhary, MOS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, MOS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and submitted a memorandum in respect of long pending demand to upgrade the status of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) to Central Agricultural University, Jammu.

It is worth mentioning that these ministers are on their three days visit to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation was led by Dr. Permendra Singh, ABVP State President (J&K).

During the meeting, Mukesh Manhas, ABVP (J&K) State Secretary urged before the agriculture ministers for upgrading the status of SKUAST-Jammu to Central Agricultural University, Jammu.

Tomar patiently listened to the demand and assured that his ministry will keep this demand on priority.

Dr. A.P. Singh, Deepak Pandey, Radhey Shayam (SKUAST-Jammu) to Central Agricultural University, Jammu.

CUJ students meet with NDA chairman

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Social Work, Central University, Jammu Neha Jamwal, Anjali Charak and Shagun Sharma, students of Department of Social Work, Central University, Jammu under the supervision of field work coordinator Dr. Vinay Kumar and Supervisor Dr. Ranvir Singh and Dr. Sajad Ahmad Dar held a meeting at Nations Development Association (NDA) Office here wherein Sushil Singh Charak said that Nations Development Association is a run social organizations (Non Profit organization) in the Jammu District.

Sushil, Paryavaran Ratna awardee and Chairman NDA, said that the association is a social organizations that never takes funds or donations from anyone else.

Charak said that NDA affiliated NYK under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is working in different sectors and fields like Health, Water Sanitation, Research and Evaluation, Women Empowerment and Skills Development and Youth Empowerment and Development, Development Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response, Education and Environmental Protection.

Congress leaders' no to Dogra Turban hurts sentiments: Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Saturday slammed Congress leaders present on the podium during the party's rally for disgracing Dogra Turban.

In a statement issued here to media, the BJP leader said that the viral video of the Congress leaders present on the dais during the public gathering showing that many among them including Rahul Gandhi, Ghulam Nabi Azad and GA Mir have disrespected the Dogra Turban by not wearing the same as if it will be a belittling act.

He also lambasted Rahul Gandhi for terming the Pindis of Maa Vaishno Devi as symbol which also hurt the sentiments of people of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking a strong note of the offensive behaviour of many Congress leaders, he said that it would have been better that they should not have asked for the same from the organizers as this has deeply hurt the sentiments of Dogras for whom their turban is a matter of pride and it is recorded in the history that for saving the honour of turban many Dogras have sacrificed their lives.

He maintained that by saying no to the turban the Congress Party has once again shown that it beholds no respect for the people of the Temple City and whatever is being said or showcased is just a political compulsion to add few votes to the volley of the Congress party. Kavinder said that there is only one party which knows the

ground level issues of Jammu and its people and that is Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that his party is always stood behind the people of Jammu and will continue to do the same. He said that the gist of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Jammu is that the party is alien to the issues and demands of the people of the UT and it is desperate to rule the State without toiling for a day for the welfare of the people.

The senior BJP leader said that people have well understood the fact that Rahul Gandhi and his ilk in the party can be of no use for J&K as the development envisaged by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the UT of J&K is matchless and no party can even come closer to it.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said people can receive Covid and flu vaccine at the same time.

"You can get jabs for the flu and Covid on the same day," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"Receiving the Covid-19 vaccine and flu shot together is safe and won't affect your immune response to either one," he said.

Dr Hassan said it is just as safe and effective to get Covid shot and a flu shot at the same time as it is to get them several days or weeks apart.

"You can get both vaccines in the same arm, but providers should separate injection sites by at least one inch," he said.

"However, those influenza vaccines that are more likely to cause a local reaction like the high dose or adjuvant flu vaccine should be administered in different limbs," he added.

"Previously, the CDC had recommended that people should receive their Covid-19 vaccination alone and schedule any other vaccination at least 2 weeks before or after Covid-19 vaccination," Dr Hassan said.

"This was out of an abundance of caution, since Covid-19 vaccine was brand new to all of us," he said.

The DAK President said getting a flu shot in times of Covid crisis is more important than ever.

"Becoming infected with both viruses at the same time is possible and could increase the chances of

becoming severely ill," he said.

"Last year flu season was mild due to masking, social distancing, reduced travel, remote work and other mitigation measures in place because of Covid-19 pandemic," Dr Nisar said.

"But unlike last year, this year's flu season could be harsher as students are returning to schools, workplaces are transitioning back to in-person operation and many people have thrown caution to the wind," he said.

"As last year flu hasn't been able to be in circulation like it normally would, there is less of that natural immunity to the flu.

So we could have more flu cases this year than last year that makes this year's flu shot crucial than ever," he added.

CEO KVIB visits CFC site of Banihal beekeeping cluster, takes stock of ongoing work



Secretary/CEO JKKVIB, Atul Sharma speaking during the programme at Banihal.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: To inspect the ongoing work and overall progress viz. implementation of Banihal Beekeeping Cluster, Secretary/CEO J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB), Atul Sharma on Saturday visited Common Facility Centre of the said cluster. Besides associated beekeepers and stakeholders from the cluster area, Tilak Raj Divisional officer Jammu, Dr Sandeep Kotwal Executive officer (Schemes)

J&K KVIB, also accompanied Secretary/CEO. Highlighting the slow progress in execution of civil works, Secretary/CEO advised the representative of Implementing Agency to gear up and ensure that clusters is implemented in a time-bound manner.

Later on, an awareness cum sensitization programme of beekeepers was conducted under the chairmanship of Secretary/CEO. Besides senior officers of the Board; Chief Agriculture

officer Ramban, Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban, LDM Ramban and other sectoral officers from District Administration Ramban also attended the said awareness camp. Referring to the main objective of the said cluster, Secretary/CEO said that with the establishment of this cluster, the earnings of beekeepers of Ramban district shall increase, besides raising the profit margin and productivity and production of honey in the dis-

trict. He added that the cluster is coming up with project cost of Rs. 138.10 lakh and its CFC shall house Honey Processing Plant, Comb Foundation mill and other relevant machines and equipments. The facilities of honey extraction, processing, packing, labelling and marketing shall be provided to beekeepers of the area under one roof.

He underscored the need for coordinated and synchronised efforts from stakeholders to ensure target oriented and objective implementation of the said cluster. Earlier, Secretary/CEO visited various micro industries units established under PMEGP and JKREGP in Banihal area of Ramban. He was satisfied with the overall status of the units; he, however, underlined the need for penetration in remote areas through organisation of localised awareness and sensitisation campaigns.