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Centre to provide ...

the scheme provides free secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation up to Rs 5 lakh per year.

Mandaviya said costly healthcare services is one of the reasons of abject poverty as a large chunk of income is spent on it.

The minister said the initiation of health insurance was an evolutionary step taken in the health sector and budgetary allocation in the sector is being enhanced significantly every year based on aspirations of the people.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated a slew of developmental projects including the inauguration of a high-tech CT Scan machine at sub-district hospital Sopore, inauguration of PM-Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at SDH Sopore, inauguration of photo exhibition depicting developmental journey of new GMCs and AIIMS at Government Medical College Baramulla and inauguration of 50-bedded portable healthcare unit in Baramulla.

The minister did a thorough inspection of the functioning of the "inflatable" medical enclosures, Picturetime, a mobile digital movie theatre company, which has set up the hospital at the Government Medical College here, said.

"Keeping in mind the Covid third wave scare, Picturetime is leaving no stone unturned and is doing its bit to help the existing medical infrastructure," the company said in a statement.

Eight beds have intensive care unit (ICU) facility and 42 have oxygen facility, the statement said.

In collaboration with the American Indian Foundation (AIF), the company set up three "hospital/units/enclosures" that include 50 beds, it said.

The "portable" hospital was installed in 14 days, the statement said.

The company has installed portable rapidly-deployed Covid field hospitals in Mumbai, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Assam, it said, adding that more such hospitals would be set up at Jammu, Betul, Ballya, Rajgad and Rajkot.

Later, he chaired an interactive meeting with DDC members, BDC chairpersons, MC presidents and PRIs and listened to their developmental aspirations and concerns, an official statement said.

The minister gave a patient hearing and expressed happiness over the meeting held with the PRIs, it said.

Sinha hands over...

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Jammu, Pooneh, and Kishtwar for their outstanding work in implementation of Forest Rights Act in their respective districts. He also lauded the efforts of elected public representatives and the officers of Tribal Affairs and Forest departments.

Terming the Forests Rights as the basic right of tribal population, the Lt Governor said that with the complete implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in the UT, the interests of communities dependent on forest resources, and whose existence is incomplete without forests are safeguarded. The UT administration is steadfast for their holistic development and prosperity, he added.

The Lt Governor said that the government has launched various schemes to extend best education and medical facilities, besides offering sustainable employment opportunities to the youth from tribal community. We have also finalized a plan to build transit accommodation for migratory population and develop tribal villages as Model villages, he said.

"Work on transit accommodation will start soon in tribal areas of Kandi, Thanamandi in Rajouri, Behram Gala in Pooneh and Udhampur and Ramban along the National Highway. Similar plan is for Dubjan and Lal Ghulam in Shopian and along NH in Pulwama", he added.

The Lt Governor said that after Independence, many Tribal representatives made the demand for safeguarding their right to education, healthcare, and on forest produce, which was not impossible to achieve but even after decades, the tribal community of J&K could not get their rights.

"I want to assure you that the UT administration is committed to protect your interests and whatever difficulties or obstacles may come, we will work to remove them from the way of your development and prosperity", added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that the Certificates of Forest Rights Act will connect Tribal Population with the mainstream development. It will play a huge role in the UT towards creating an equal society free from any social discrimination.

The Lt Governor informed that 10,389 claims were received from all the 10 districts of Jammu division, out of which more than 8000 claims have been scrutinized at the level of Gram Sabhas and Forest Rights Committees, and are now being examined by Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs).

Listing out various initiatives the UT administration has taken for the welfare of tribals, the Lt Governor said that transit accommodation in Rajouri, Pooneh, Udhampur, and Ramban will also have medical facilities for tribal people and veterinary dispensary for their cattle.

The Lt Governor also mentioned about Tribal Health Plan, health sub-centre, mobile medical care units for the migratory population; Tribal Bhavans in Jammu, Srinagar and Rajouri; 1500 mini sheep farms for sustainable livelihood of tribal community and making them financially capable.; Selecting 500 tribal youth for specialized skill development programmes including Commercial Pilots, Management, hospitality training etc.; Setting up 16 Milk Villages to connect at least 2000 youth to the dairy sector at the cost of Rs 16 crore, besides providing training, branding, marketing and transport facilities to the youth.

The Lt Governor said that Rs 73 crores, together with the Central Government and the UT Capex budget, has been sanctioned this year for the Cluster Tribal Model Village.

Noting the problems faced by tribal community of J&K due to non-implementation of Forest Rights Act, the Lt Governor said that Hon'ble PM had started Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana in April 2018, so that the tribal community could enhance their income by marketing forests products, but the program too could not be implemented in the UT, now with the introduction of the Forest Rights Act, these rights have been given to the tribal community.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude towards public representatives involved in this entire campaign and congratulated all the officers of the administration. "We will review the impact of all the programs that are being run for tribal people and wherever required necessary changes will be made. With this new system of social harmony, a strong J&K will move forward on the path of development and prosperity", concluded the Lt Governor.

Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor said that the implementation of Forest Rights Act will open new vistas for the tribal communities and give them renewed confidence during their migrations, which otherwise were deprived of their genuine rights.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary highlighted how the government is working with compassion towards one and all for ensuring inclusive, equitable development of all sections of the society. He also underscored the need to complete the exercise of granting Forest Rights Act to the eligible beneficiaries within minimum possible time.

Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Forests, and Dr Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests also highlighted the working of Forest department, tribal welfare initiatives of the department, besides the interdepartmental synergy behind the conferring of Forest Rights to the beneficiary population.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs read the welcome address and gave the Vote of Thanks.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghab Langer; Deputy Commissioners; officers from Forest department; DDC Chairpersons; PRI representatives including BDC Chairpersons, DDC members; beneficiaries from Gujjar-Bakerwal, Gaddi-Sippi communities were present on the occasion.

Terrorists looking for...

a policeman were shot dead in separate incidents in Kulgam district.

Singh visited Kulgam in south Kashmir and Handwara area of Kupwara in north Kashmir where he led officers and relatives in paying floral tributes to Bantu Sharma and sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad Mir.

While Sharma was killed on Friday, Mir was shot dead in Khanyar area of the city on September 12.

The DGP also chaired officers' meetings to review the security situation in these districts and directed the officers to keep a strict watch on the suspicious elements and over-ground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits who are providing any kind of support to terrorist activities, a police spokesman said.

Senior officers of police, Army and CRPF were present in the meetings.

He said Singh directed the officers to revisit the security plans as terrorists in order to create disturbance are looking for soft targets and stressed on counter strategies and preventive measures.

The DGP emphasised the officers to remain extra alert and ordered a series of counter measures to prevent incidents like the killings of a civilian and a cop in Kulgam.

Singh said protecting the lives of people is prime concern and every attempt of anti-national elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the UT would be dealt with firmly.

The police chief directed the officers to intensify the operations against terrorists and terror support networks and stressed that terrorists involved in Friday's killings should be brought to justice very soon.

The DGP directed the officers to augment the security of vulnerable targets and places and emphasised on putting in use the latest technology in monitoring the movement of suspicious elements.

Reiterating the importance of maintaining close synergy between the J-K Police and other agencies to meet the security challenges in the UT, Singh said the killing of infiltrators in the recent past at various border areas are the indicators that Pakistan and its agencies are making continuous attempts to disturb peace by pushing terrorists here.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain alertness on the borders and the hinterland to check the movement of anti-peace elements.

During the meetings, the officers briefed the DGP regarding the counter measures in response to the present security scenario and strategies to track down the terrorists in

real distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

Thief arrested, stolen cash recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police on Saturday arrested accused in theft case and recovered stolen cash from his possession. As per the details, on 16 September 2021, a complaint was lodged at Police Station Rajouri by one Anil Kumar, son of Kamal Kumar, resident of Sunderban at present Chaprian Rajouri wherein he stated that he was running a Shop at Chaprian Rajouri and on 14 September 2021, an unidentified person had stolen sum of Rs. 1,50,000 from there. Based on this, FIR No 599/21 under section 454/380 IPC was registered and investigation entrusted to PSI Sulman-Ud-Din. In course of investigation, several suspects were rounded up and questioned. Based on leads developed during investigation, the investigation team identified, tracked and arrested accused namely, Mohd Amir, son of Mohd Sharief, resident of WNO 02, Rajouri. On his disclosure Rs. 1,06,000 of the stolen amount were recovered.

14 bovines rescued; smuggler arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/AKHNOOR: Police on Saturday foiled two bovine smuggling bids by rescuing 14 bovines and arrested one smuggler. As per the details, a police team led by Insp. Sumeet Sharma SHO Lakhapur under the supervision of DySP DAR Kathus Sukhdev Singh during routine Naka checking at Lakhapur noticed one suspicious truck (JK08B-3771) which was being driven by unknown person who was signalled to stop for checking. Sensing danger driver of the said vehicle managed to flee away from the spot. During checking of aforesaid vehicle 12 bovines were found loaded in it which were rescued. The vehicle was seized and FIR No. 98/2021 under section 188/IPC, 11PCA was registered at Police Station Lakhapur.

Meanwhile, Akhnoor Police led by SHO Hilal Azar apprehended one Mahindra pick up (JK11A-2475) and rescued two bovines which were being transported illegally. Accused namely Naseer Ahmed, son of Abdul Rasheed, resident of Badhoun Rajouri was arrested and FIR No. 239/2021 under section 188 IPC 11 PCA Act was registered against him.

3 bootleggers arrested, 107 bottles of illicit liquor recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR/AKHNOOR: Police on Saturday nabbed three bootleggers and recovered 107 bottles of illicit liquor from their possession.

As per the details, during routine patrolling duty at Drabshalla Market, PSI Deepak Dogra along with his team, saw two persons moving in suspiciously. They tried to escape from the spot but the police tactfully apprehended both of them. During frisking 83 bottles of JK Special whisky were recovered from their possession and accordingly both arrested on spot.

The arrested person has been identified as Nitish Kumar, son of Ganga Ram, resident of Mugalnaiyan and Babli Thakur, son of Shankar Dass, resident of Dessa Doda. FIR No. 219/2021 under section 48 (A), Excise Act was registered against them at Police Station Kishtwar and investigation taken up.

Meanwhile, Akhnoor Police arrested one notorious bootlegger namely Vijay Kumar, son of Romesh Chander, resident of Jothal Chowki Choura Jammu who was caught selling illicit liquor. In all 24 bottles were recovered from his possession. FIR No. 240/2021 under section 48 (A) (F) Excise Act was registered against him.

Arrest and seizure was made under the supervision of SHO Akhnoor Hilal Azhar.

Absconder arrested after 6 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police on Saturday apprehended an absconder, who was evading his arrest from last 6 years. As per the details, an information was received through reliable sources and a team of Police Post Jawlapur led by In-Charge Police Post Jawlapur PSI Moin Khan raided the suspected locations and arrested absconder, who was evading his arrest from the last 6 years. The arrested absconder identified as Mohd Ayub, son of Mohd Sharif, resident of Malikpura, Chilli Pingal Doda was wanted in case FIR No. 138/2015 under section 379/411 RPC of Police Station Kishtwar. Thereafter aforesaid absconder has been produced before the Court Kishtwar for further course of action.

their respective districts, the spokesman said.

Earlier, accompanied by IGP of Kashmir Vijay Kumar, the DGP paid rich tributes to Bantu Sharma in Kulgam.

He said in the afternoon, the DGP visited the family of sub-inspector Arshad Ahmad Mir and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family.

Singh assured that every support would be provided to the family. A large number of people from the village who had come to condole the death of Ahmad interacted with the DGP, the spokesman said.

Terrorists attack SFs...

on its official Twitter handle.

Policeman said while the terrorists managed to escape, they left behind some arms.

Seems terrorists managed to escape after dropping their #weapons 01 pistol & 01 AK 47, they said. Meanwhile, security forces have arrested a former terrorist in Kishtwar district, officials said. On specific information received through reliable sources, a special team of security forces raided the suspected locations on Friday and arrested the former terrorist, they said. The arrested person has been identified as Abdul Gani. He was wanted in a case registered at Marwah Police Station, officials said, adding he was produced before a court in Kishtwar and sent in judicial custody.

COVID: 152 fresh...

67 cases followed by 23 cases in Baramulla district, the officials said.

There are 1,479 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of those who have recovered from COVID-19 is 3,21,878, they said.

The death toll in Jammu and Kashmir due to the pandemic stands at 4,416, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the officials said, there were 46 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

Jammu traders call...

policies have hit the business fraternity, especially in the Jammu region, he added. He said the chamber has raised the issues concerning Jammu traders with the concerned officials from time to time but the government remained unmoved.

Referring to the new excise policy which left several hundred vendors jobless, he said almost after a gap of two months when the government has e-auctioned wine shops, the liquor bars across the Union Territory have been closed as the excise department has sought renewal of licenses and 'No Objection Certificates' from over 20 government departments for the smooth running of the business.

Nearly 250 liquor bars are running in J&K and thousands of people are engaged in this business. The government move has badly affected their livelihood, he said.

On scrapping the traditional 'darbar move' from this year, Gupta said the government's unilateral decision to end the past practice of shifting offices between the twin capitals bi-annually would adversely impact not only the traditional bond between the two regions and their people but also the business community.

Thousands of families from Kashmir and Jammu used to move along with Darbar to spend winter and summers in Jammu and Kashmir. It has severely affected the traders of Jammu as well as Kashmir regions, he said.

Gupta also questioned continued capping of the number of guests at banquet halls in 25, saying the government decision has hit the business very hard.

We request the government to fix the capping criteria of banquet halls as per their size and capacity and allow them to function with 50 per cent capacity, he said.

The chamber president also expressed resentment over the Reliance-like big companies' proposal to open retail stores in Jammu.

If this happens, the small shopkeepers of Jammu will be ruined and their shops will be closed. Despite adding business opportunities, the directionless government has snatched away what was in the hands of traders and it is unacceptable, he said, adding the traders have already borne the brunt of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns.

Terming as alarming the Geology and Mining Department policy on the allotment of mining and extraction contracts, he said the lack of protective mechanisms has deprived thousands of families of their livelihood and exposed consumers to exploitation by a mining syndicate.

Over 60 per cent of mining contracts have gone to the outsiders. From contractors to sand diggers, labourers to transporters who are directly or indirectly associated with the extraction of minerals, all have lost their livelihood, he said.

Referring to the outreach programme started by the Centre under which Union ministers visit different parts of the Union Territory to review the developmental scenario, Gupta said it seems to be solely meant for Kashmir as practically Jammu is not on their itinerary.

Those who visited Jammu, they only preferred to meet the leaders belonging to a particular party, ignoring the stakeholders of Jammu region, he alleged.

He said it appears that the government was acting totally against the interest of the Jammu people and is appeasing the people of the other region despite Jammu being a nationalist region and a staunch supporter of the government.

Teenager's body exhumed after police suspect murder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Police Saturday exhumed body of the 14-year-old boy suspected to have been murdered in his native village in Gohlad Kalara in Pooneh district.

The deceased namely Sharqi Ahmad son Mohammad Sadeeq was exhumed by a team of doctors in presence of Tehsildar Mendar Dr Vikram Kumar, SDPO ZA Jaffri, SHO Mendar Manzoor Kohli on the orders of District Magistrate Poonch from the local graveyard, after police had apprehensions of murder. The body was taken to Sub-district Hospital Mendar for post-mortem.

Sharqi, a 10th standard student, was the lone son of his parents, who have four daughters. Several villagers suspected in the involvement of killing of the teenage boy have been taken into custody.

Two drown in stream in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Two people, including a minor boy, drowned while taking a bath in a stream in Udhampur district on Saturday, police said. The deceased were identified as Daleep Kumar (37)