

Union MoS Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology Visits Budgam

Inaugurates SDH Charisharief completed at a cost of Rs 11.65 Crore Pays obeisance at Holy Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Ul Alam (RA)

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 24 : As part of Union Government's special public outreach programme, Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar visited Budgam district today.

While interacting with various deputations at Govt. Degree College Charar-i-Sharief, Shri Chandrasekhar said that a new era of development has started in UT of J&K, in next two to three years the people of U.T will feel a new road map of broad based development on equitable share. Prime Minister has dream to envisage progress and prosperity of UT of J&K.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated Sub District Hospital Charar-i-Sharief completed at a cost of 11.65 crores. The minister was accompanied by DDC Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan, DC Budgam S.A.Mirza, Director Health Services Kashmir Mushtaq Ahmad Rather besides officers from medical faculty and district Administration. The Minister minutely inspected all sections of the

Hospital and ascertained from concerned authorities about the functioning of the Hospital and availability of medical supplies and other allied infrastructure required to take care of any emergency needs.



Concerned medical faculty, hospital administration as well as district Administration deserve appreciation for their relentless and sincere dedication they have demonstrated during COVID 19 crisis, he added. The Union minister visited Holy Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Ul Alam (RA) where he was received with enthusiasm by the Sajadahnisheen of Dargah. The Minister apart from paying obeisance at Holy Shrine, interacted

with the local Aquaf Committee to know issues and requirements to be taken up with the concerned authorities.

Later the minister visited Degree College where a good reception was held. Many

association highlighted the demand of waiving of KCC loans, enhancement of subsidy in procuring farming equipment. The students highlighted the demand of improvement in infrastructure, introduction of more streams including electronic and IT, hostel facility, transport facility and up gradation of institution. Similar demands were put forth by the students of ITI Charar-i-Sharief.

Responding to the grievances and issues raised during the interactions, the Minister reiterated that the Government is going to improve all ITIs on latest parameters. The Minister added that the latest curriculum and more employment generation courses will be introduced very soon.

The Union minister laid a foundation stone of Charar-i-Sharief-Hafroo Batpora road which will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 3.75 Crore. On the occasion the minister said that Government is formulating a comprehensive plan to spend allotted amount into the development of infrastructure of the UT of J&K.

J&K Bank allots shares to staff under ESPS

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24 : J&K Bank today allotted shares to the staff under its recently issued J&K Bank Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS - 2021).

The Bank's Compensation Committee of Board of Directors in its meeting held today allotted over 5.17 Cr equity shares to the 8961 eligible employees of the Bank against the share subscription amount received under its ESPS 2021.

Notably, the ESPS got an overwhelming response from the Bank staff resulting in the over-subscription of the issue and the shares have now been allotted to the employees in proportion to the already laid-down eligibility criteria.

In his remarks on the occasion, Bank's CMD R K Chhibber said, "The over-sub-

scription of ESPS-2021 is quite a powerful validation of Bank's strategic vision from its own staff reaffirming strongly that the Bank is working in a focus manner to meet its business objectives while moving ahead to realize its institutional vision."

"Going forward, such a display of unwavering confidence will definitely send a strongly positive cue to the market participants once we proceed ahead to raise Rs 1000 Cr further through Follow-up Public Offer (FPO)/Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)", he added.

He further said, "I would like to emphasize that in terms of percentage of subscription, this has been the most successful ESPS floated by any public sector bank in the recent past." Pertinently, in a major boost to its capital

adequacy, the Bank also got Rs 500 Cr last week from the Government of J&K UT as capital to acquire over 16.76 Cr shares further in the Bank. The UT Government had got a nod from the country's regulator i.e. RBI to acquire these shares on preferential basis. With the infusion of Rs 500 Cr, J&K UT Government's equity stake in the Bank rose to over 74 per cent.

"In terms of commitment to meet our institutional objectives, we along with our promoter and major stakeholder are moving in tandem as the capital infusion from government and successful issue of ESPS-2021 will go a long way in bolstering the confidence of all other stakeholders, pushing the Bank to accomplish greater goals in future", CMD had said on the occasion.

Gram Sabha to be held in all Panchayat Halqas of Jammu district on 26th Sept

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : Assistant Commissioner, Development, Jammu, has informed the general public that Gram Sabha in all Panchayat Halqas of Jammu District will held on 26th September 2021.

A notice issued in this regard said that the agenda of discussion will include comprising of Simplified system of registration of contractors at Panchayat Level, Receipt of applications from intending contractors at the Panchayat

level and Displaying of information with regard to the list of works e-tendered at the Panchayat Level.

The notice has been issued to seek maximum participation of all stakeholders in these Gram Sabhas.

Power shutdown

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCI, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Malhori, Kupar, Tutan Di Khui and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 25 from 08 am to 01 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramsoo and Ukhal shall remain affected on September 25 from 08 am to 04 pm.

Advisor Khan congratulates Umran Malik for inclusion in Sunrisers Hyderabad IPL Team

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24 : Advisor to Lieutenant Governor has congratulated Jammu and Kashmir speedster Umran Malik for his inclusion in the Sun Risers Hyderabad squad in the ongoing IPL tournament in UAE.

Advisor Khan in a message to Umran said, "I am very happy to know about your selection in the Sunrisers Hyderabad. I on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and the sporting fraternity of J&K congratulate you on making it to the coveted star studded IPL team. I wish you all success in the tournament. I also take this opportunity to congratulate your family, coaches and the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association on this occasion.

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur inaugurates 1st Himalayan Film Festival at Leh

Leh : Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur today inaugurated the star studded five-day 'First Himalayan Film Festival' at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh. The five-day film festival is a part of the celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of India's Independence. The film festival is expected to have an active participation from the local filmmakers and will showcase talent and skills across 12 Himalayan states and UTs. Union Minister, Shri Anurag Thakur in his address first congratulated the entire team for making this dream film festival a success in this Himalayan Region which will open new opportunities for the youth of Ladakh. The Minister also said that the mountains of India will be given a new identity under PM Shri Narendra Modi and for this will be done using the Indian Film Industry.

In his inaugural address, Shri Anurag Thakur said that the Himalayan Region is known for its great diversity and talent that now needs to be showcased to India and the world. He said that under the leadership of PM Modi, the greater number of opportunities will be created for the people of the Himalayan Region in various sectors especially the film industry. The Minister further said that cinema provides a platform to bring all the cultural diversities together and the Himalayan Film Festival is a step in this direction to provide multiple platforms to budding talent in the region. He said that the film festival would also be helpful in imparting skills for which diverse set of workshops are being held as a part of the festival.

Speaking on the rate of progress of OTT platforms, the Minister said that since there is tremendous traffic on OTT platforms, a good number of opportunities will be created for the whole of India be that the smaller north eastern states or UTs of Ladakh or J&K which will be seen very shortly on the international Film Platforms. The Minister emphasized on the creation of good content on the OTT platforms and said that only those which have a great content creation will attract a good traffic like the famous web series and hence greater opportunities. While emphasizing on the need for good content creation on the OTT platforms, the Minister said that India can become the sub-continent of content creation for the rest of the world. Talking about the streaming market of the OTT platforms, the Minister said that India is going to become the 6th largest OTT market in the world up to 2024 for which the expected compound annual growth rate will be 28.6 per cent in the next four years.

The Minister said that the expected compound annual growth of Media-entertainment sector is 30 billion dollars up to 2023 which is an indication that a lot of employment will be generated by the Media-Entertainment sector in the country including Ladakh and other Himalayan states. He further said that the India is the second largest pay TV market in the world after China having 19 crore 70 lakh pay TV viewers. He added that around 30000 free dish TV sets have been provided to the households of Himalayan Region so far and rest will be given within a year.

Praising the people of Ladakh for their valour, the Minister said that the people of the Himalayan Region has

made a lot of sacrifices for motherland and many Param Vir Chakra winners 'have been from the Himalayan Region. As a tribute to the sacrifices made by the war heroes, the opening of a film at the Film Festival was "Shershaah" which depicts the life of a soldier, his valour, love for his motherland. The Minister praised actor Siddharth Malhotra for his role in 'Shershaah' and said that his role in the movie will be an inspiration for the upcoming generations.

Shri Thakur said that with a view to create more opportunities for people of the region, Ladakh would be joined with the FTII so that the opportunities will come at the door steps of the people of J&K and Ladakh. The Minister also said that the day is not far when the film makers from Ladakh will showcase their talent at the Goa international film festival. The Minister assured that the sports infrastructure including those for ice hockey ring will be developed on modern lines in Leh. He further said that the time of Ladakh programs on DD Kashir would be doubled.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member of Parliament from Leh in his address praised the efforts of Ministry of I&B and the administration of the UT of Ladakh for organizing this first 'Himalayan Film Festival' in Ladakh. He further said that the organisation of this festival will create new vistas for the talented youth of Ladakh at the national and international platforms. Praising the efforts of PM Shri Narendra Modi for creating a new dawn of development for the UT of Ladakh after becoming UT, Shri Namgyal said that Ladakh is making great strides in education, economy, health, infra-

structure etc. now and the day is not far when Ladakh will be among the top most UTs in terms of development index in the country.

LG, Ladakh, Shri R K Mathur while delivering his address said that movies are things of interconnectedness & the genesis of organising this film festival was to enthuse the best of talent from Ladakh for the national and international platforms and for garnering of the skills of youth of Ladakh in photography, film, heritage and culture.

'Shershaah', the biographical war movie based on 'Param Vir Chakra' awardee Captain Vikram Batra was also screened during the opening ceremony in presence of its Director, Shri Vishnuvardhan and the lead actor Shri Siddharth Malhotra. He also inaugurated exhibition on Freedom Fighters of Himalayan States as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and best of Indian Cinema with a focus on Himalayan region organised by Regional Outreach Bureau, J&K, Ladakh region.

Besides other dignitaries, the inaugural event was attended by Sh. Vidhu Vinod Chopra, producer and director, Anupama Chopra, CEC LAHDC Ladakh, Sh. Tashi Gyalson, jury members of the festival Manju Bora, Raja Shabir Khan and G P Vijay Kumar.

Besides screening of popular award winning films at the Sindhu Sanskriti Auditorium, Leh to enthrall the audience and film buffs, the film festival will be organizing diverse set of workshops and masterclasses wherein filmmakers, critics, technicians from the Himalayan Region have been invited to impart knowledge and skill to the local film enthusiasts.

Sensitisation workshop on promotion of Mission Youth schemes held

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : With an objective to positively engage youth of J&K through multi-pronged strategy involving all necessary systematic interventions for their inclusive development which includes provision of Livelihood Generation, Skill Development, Education, Counseling & Rehabilitation, Sports and Recreation, a one day sensitization workshop of the staff of Rural Development Department of Jammu District was today organized here at Panchayat Bhawan, Jammu on the directions of Chief Executive Officer Mission Youth, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

Officers on Special duty for Mission Youth, Dr. Abdul Khabir, Anoop Kumar and Gourav Gupta among other officials of Rural Development Department of Jammu district were present on the occasion.

During the workshop, the OSDs sensitized the participants about various schemes of Mission youth which

includes, Mumkin, Tejaswani, Rise Together, Tourist Village network, SAYTHA-Youth in Distress, AVSAR, Skill Development Initiatives, Youth Clubs,

of hope, security and aspirations of the youth. These centers will provide a vibrant medium for engagement and empowerment of youth through professional, cogni-



Psycho-Social Support etc.

During the workshop, it was highlighted that for the holistic and pragmatic youth engagement and empowerment in J&K on sustainable lines, Mission Youth envisions setting-up of specially tailored youth centers with the state of art architecture primarily designed to present a safe youth-appealing environment with manifestation

psychological counseling, systematic assistance and positive beneficence. The centers will facilitate not only the positive channelization of youth energy but will enhance socio-economic and political awareness among youth regarding the issues that impact their lives.

It was reiterated that Mumkin Scheme has been launched to facilitate youth of

J&K to procure Small Commercial Vehicles under which Mission Youth provides ? 0.80 Lakh or 10% of vehicle cost as upfront subsidy with a similar matching contribution by the vehicle manufacturer and the rest of the amount is financed by J&K Bank as MUDRA Loan. Under Specially tailored self-employment scheme "Tejaswani" for empowerment of young women of Jammu & Kashmir, Mission Youth contributes ?0.50 Lakh or 10% of project cost as upfront subsidy and an additional interest subsidy to the extent of ? 0.60 Lakh besides the rest of the amount is financed by JK Bank as MUDRA Loan besides details about other schemes of Mission Youth was also provided to the participants. All the participants were further appealed to disseminate the awareness about the schemes of Mission Youth among the masses so that benefits of these schemes percolate down to all the eligible ones.

DC inspects RDD works in Reasi, Pouni Blocks

REASI, SEPTEMBER 24 : Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, Charandeep Singh today visited Panchayats of Reasi and Pouni blocks where he inspected the ongoing and completed works of Rural Development Department (RDD).

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr. Anirudh Rai; Executive Engineer REW, Pankaj Sharma; District Panchayat Officer, BDOs, AEEs and other officials of RDD including field functionaries.

During the visit, the DC inspected the construction of tile laying work at Chaki Mohalla and drain diversion work in Panchayat Seela being executed at a cumulative cost of over Rs 15.00 lakh. He also visited Flour Mill sanctioned under the self-employment scheme and Anganwadi center.

En-route, the DC also inspected culvert work with approaches over Seela Nallah to be completed at an estimated cost of Rs.4.00 lakh under 14th FC in convergence with MGNREGA. The culvert will connect two habitations and benefit over 300 people.

He also enquired from the PRI members about population profile, cropping pattern, economic activities, development gaps, priorities and requirement of the areas. He instructed the BDO for timely completion of pending MGNREGA works and other plans with special focus on works proposed for 'catch the rain' programme. The Deputy Commissioner visited Panchayats Mari-A, Mari-B and Block headquarters, where he conducted inspection of Panchayat Ghar completed under the RGSA scheme with a cost of Rs 32.58 lakh. In Mari, he also inspected a diversion drain constructed with the cost of Rs 4.80 lakhs under Back to village and culvert at Sabaz Mandi.

During the visit to the Block office, he instructed BDO Reasi to develop landscape, plantation and assessment of old building structure.

Later, he also visited the historic site at Camel Danga where he instructed for cleaning of the pond and removing of wild grass. Instructions were also passed for preservation of the site by executing small works.

Pre sale Testing of Seeds mandatory for private Dealers: Director Agriculture Jammu

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : A maiden meeting of Wholesaler and Retail Seed dealers was today held to ensure the smooth supply of quality seeds to the farmers here at Conference Hall of Joint Directorate of Agriculture Extension, Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, K. K. Sharma chaired the meeting.

Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), B. D. Sharma; Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Rajan Sharma; Assistant Director Law Enforcement, Roshan Lal Bhagat; Programme Officer, Sanjay Dhar, and Enforcement inspectors of all districts attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, the Director highlighted the importance of Seed as the main input for agricultural crops. He stressed that smooth and timely stocking/supply of the quality and disease-free seed in Jammu Division must be ensured at every cost.

The Director impressed upon the Seed Dealers that no seed should be supplied to farmers without prior lab testing for quality parameters

including moisture and germination. He instructed the dealers to supply seed within the working area specified in their license and abide by relevant laws and norms. Seed dealers were asked to submit quantity and area wise monthly seed statement to JDA (Extension). Taking serious note of non participation on part of some seed dealers in the meeting, the Director said that such non serious attitude is unacceptable in future.

Joint Director (Inputs), B. D. Sharma asked the dealers to maintain the record of stocking and sale and uphold the sanctity of their business in favour of farming community.

Joint Director (Extension), Rajan Sharma directed the Enforcement Inspectors to keep vigil on the working of private seed dealers and take stern action against wrong doers.

Point wise agendas including quality of seed, system of supply of seed from companies to whole sellers and further to retailers, area of operation, stocking of seed as per requirement were discussed thread bare in the meeting.

Bouquet of Events organised by DSEJ to observe International Day of Sign Languages

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : Directorate Of School Education Jammu celebrated the International Day of Sign Languages by conducting a series of events including webinars, sessions, elocutions, debates, skits and physical demonstrations etc. by experts in schools and offices across all the 10 districts of Jammu division, with the aim of supporting and protects the linguistic identity of people who are deaf along with other users of sign languages.

The day was observed in order to acknowledge the necessity of early access to sign language and various services in sign language like quality education which is vital to the development and all round growth of deaf children.

The Students were made aware about the importance and need of sign languages by resource persons ranging from language experts and

psychologists to educators through various programmes organized under the supervision of respective Chief Education Officers at district level while at the divisional level the Directorate organised a webinar through it Councillor Cell - 'Cued Language : Let's Understand It'.

Anita Kumari Pandoh (Inclusive Education) and Neelam Sharma (School for Hearing Impaired) were the chief resource persons for the webinar and Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu was the chief guest.

In his message, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma appreciated the efforts of the teaching community and other officials of the Directorate for rising up to the occasion despite pandemic restrictions and organising events at such a large scale covering schools and students across the division. Dwelling on the

significance of the day, he said that this year's theme as declared by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was 'We Sign For Human Rights'. In the spirit of this theme, it was only imperative for all of us to join hands in creating awareness to promote the recognition of one's right to use sign languages in all areas of life. Sign languages are equal in status, importance and usage to spoken languages and obligates us all, deaf and hearing, to facilitate the learning of sign languages so as to promote the basic right to linguistic identity of the deaf community, he added.

Resource persons, Anita Kumari Pandoh and Ms. Neelam Sharma threw light on the subject in detail to reach out to the students discussing the finer aspects of observing the day and the significance of sign languages in today's day and age when we have over 70 mil-

lion deaf people across the globe.

They discussed various difficulties faced by the deaf and dumb children and shared tips for parents and teachers of such children. They also demonstrated the basic sign language alphabets to familiarize the participants with the basics and enriched everyone about the eight handshakes used. They further suggested that the parents, teachers and students need not sympathize with them but empathize. A willing mind and a bit of an effort from us could bring a sea of change in the lives of such specially abled children.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Head Counselling Cell presented the welcome address and formal vote of thanks assuring everyone that such events will be organized in future as well for the betterment of the students while Alka Sharma conducted the proceedings of the webinar.

1720 ASHAs of J&K NHM, appear in NIOS certification exam

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24 : A total of 1720 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) of National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir, today appeared in NIOS theory examination for certification by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Pertinently, the theory examination was conducted by NIOS in all the districts of J&K amid strict adherence to COVID-19 preventive protocols.

According to district wise number of ASHAs appeared in the said examination, 87 ASHAs appeared in Jammu district out of 87 trained; 116 appeared in Doda out of 118 trained; 120 appeared in Kathua out of 120 trained; 80 appeared in Kishtwar out of 80 trained; 116 appeared Poonch out of 116 trained; 175 appeared in Rajouri out of 189 trained; 86 appeared in Ramban out of 88 trained; 59 appeared in Reasi out of 60 trained; 17 appeared in Udhampur out of 17 trained.

Similarly, 120 appeared, out of 120 trained, in Anantnag; 96 appeared, out of 103 trained, in Bandipora;

109 appeared, out of 115 trained, in Baramulla; 116 appeared, out of 120 trained, in Budgam; 120 appeared, out of 120 trained, in Kulgam; 116 appeared, out

tification of ASHAs has been envisaged to provide a legal and administrative framework within which the ASHA would be eligible and responsible for providing



of 120 trained, in Kupwara; 117 appeared, out of 121 trained, in Pulwama and 69 ASHAs appeared in Shopian district. Despite various challenges, 22% of non-certified ASHAs in J&K appeared in the All India level NIOS examination. Till date, 41% ASHAs of J&K have been certified by NIOS, which is proportionately the highest in the country.

Yasin Choudhary, MD, J&K NHM, while giving details regarding the examination, informed that the cer-

community level care for a range of illnesses. This would enhance the competency and professional credibility of ASHAs, allow her to use a set of drugs and point of care diagnostics appropriate to that level of care and also provide an assurance to the community on the quality of services being provided by the ASHA, he added.

ASHA certification project is a Government of India initiative and third party accreditation for stabilizing level of quality in ASHA and

their cadres as they deal with all the National Health Programmes for pregnant ladies, vaccinations, communicable diseases, tuberculosis, leprosy etc.

At present, about 12622 ASHAs have been engaged in the UT of J&K and all shall be certified in a phased manner by NIOS in a period of two years. The department is targeting that 3000 ASHAs would appear in the All India Level ASHA Certification Examination in every six monthly session by NIOS to create a pool of health activists in J&K. The focus is on ensuring that after 2022 no ASHA is left uncertified in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

This flagship project is being closely monitored and reviewed by Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K and Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, Mission Director, NHM, J&K and has a direct and active support of Chairperson, NIOS, Dr. Sitansu S. Sena and National Project Director, NIOS, Alok Mishra.