

## DC Shyambir reviews arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today conducted a visit to the Kheer Bhawani temple, Tulumulla 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 plan and general face-lifting in and around the temple. The DC directed the concerned departments for making necessary arrangements for uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, transport, security, fire tenders, ration, accommodation, medical facilities, macadamization of roads and other related arrangements at the temple. The EO Municipal Council was directed to start intensive sanitation drives within as well as approaching road stretch to the temple prior



to the Mela besides signing an MOU with the authorities of Temple, shopkeepers and Civil Society Tulumulla which will ensure daily garbage collection and maintenance of cleanliness. The DC discussed department-wise facilities provided for the devotees. He stressed on the concerned au-

thorities to be proactive and make every possible effort for smooth conduct of the Mela. Later, the DC took a round of the temple and reviewed arrangements put in place. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that the devotees visiting to pay obeisance are provided with requisite facilities,

and foolproof mechanism should be put in place to ensure smooth conduct of this Mela. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani; ADC Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad; Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar Tulumulla, besides other officers from district administration.

## Final Orientation programme organised for Presiding Officers, Polling Staff at Shopian

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SHOPIAN:** In order to carry out election duties efficiently and to enhance the preparedness for upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the District Election Office, Shopian today organised two training sessions for the Presiding Officers and Polling Staff at Government Degree College, Shopian. The training cum orientation session was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb, who is also District Election Officer (DEO) Shopian. Addressing the participants, the DEO briefed the Officers about their responsibilities during the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 of Zainapo-



ra Assembly segment of the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency. The DEO, while briefing the Presiding Officers thoroughly about their responsibilities, urged them to put forth every effort to conduct Lok Sabha elections smoothly in a transparent manner. The staff has already been familiarized with EVM, VVPAT operations and ac-

quainted with the necessary knowledge and skills by Master Trainers. DEO apprised that various rounds of training were conducted in the district to acquaint staff and asked for effective and efficient conduct of elections. Principal, GDC, Shopian; ACR, CEO, ACP, District Informatics Officer and other Officers/officials were present on the occasion.

## Randomization for shop pitching during SANJY-2024 held at Ganderbal

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** The randomization process for the pitching of shops during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2024 was conducted today in the V.C Room of the DC Office Ganderbal. The randomization process was overseen by Deputy Commissioner, Shyambir and Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani. It was carried out for several key locations along the Yatra route, including Baltal, D-mail, Railpathri, Barimarg, and Sangam. A total of 134 applications were selected for pitching of shops at these designated locations. The ap-



proval and allocation of shops through randomization ensure a fair and transparent process, providing equal opportunities to all applicants. The successful completion of this process marks a significant step in the preparations for the upcoming SANJY 2024, ensuring that all necessary amenities and services will be available to pilgrims along the route.

The DC expressed his satisfaction with the smooth conduct of the randomization process and emphasized the administration's commitment to facilitating a well-organized and safe pilgrimage for all devotees. The district administration remains dedicated to ensuring that all arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024 are completed efficiently.

## Dr Owais reviews progress of projects under NCAP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed who is also CEO of SSCL today reviewed the progress of projects under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in a meeting held here. The Commissioner reviewed the status of works being executed by Roads and Buildings (R&B) and SSCL under NCAP including the transfer of the Slaughterhouse to R&B and issues being faced regarding the transfer of roads from R&B to SMC. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Central R&B, Joint Commissioner



SMC, Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer (FA/CAO), SMC, Joint Commissioner (Works) SMC, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) SMC, Executive Engineer City Roads Division and senior officials from SSCL, SMC and urban Forestry. During the session, Dr. Owais emphasized the importance of expediting projects under the National Clean Air Program to address environmental challenges and ensure public health. Dr. Owais stated that SMC is committed to the National Clean Air Program and today's meeting provided valuable insights into the progress and challenges of key projects. He said they

are dedicated to accelerating the efforts to achieve tangible improvements in air quality and environmental sustainability. The attendees exchanged views on streamlining processes, enhancing coordination among departments, and mobilizing resources efficiently to meet the objectives of the NCAP. The meeting concluded with a consensus to address identified issues promptly and ensure the smooth execution of projects under the NCAP. Dr. Owais Ahmed reiterated the commitment of SMC and SSCL to promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for the residents of Srinagar.

## LMD slaps Rs 50k fine on LPG Agency

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Legal Metrology Department (LMD) has imposed a fine of Rs: 50,000 on a Srinagar based LPG Agency for distributing underweight LPG Cylinders among the consumers. The erring Gas Agency was slapped with a fine during intensified market checking inspections conducted by the department in order to check the quantity of LPG Cylinders so as to avoid any underweight distribution among the consumers. The LPG oriented inspection was earlier on conducted in various parts of Srinagar during which around 20 LPG Domestic Cylinders were found underweight and were accordingly seized. The matter was taken up with the LPG marketing companies as well who have assured to the department that such complaints and any underweight distribution of LPG will be dealt with strictly as per their company policies.

Earlier, the directions were issued by Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K, Majid K.A Drabu wherein the field executives of LMD were directed to conduct the special inspection drives against LPG Dealers in terms of the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and LPG Regulation (Supply and Distribution Order) 2000. Moreover, the Department has requested consumers to remain vigilant while purchasing LPG and has asked them to insist on payment receipt while receiving the delivery. The weight is written on every LPG Cylinder and every customer should insist on checking the weight of the cylinder by using the weighing scale lying with the delivery van. Any instance of refusal for conducting the weight or overcharging by LPG delivery person may be brought into notice of the Department so that the proper legal action can be taken.

## Fraudulent allotment of shop: ACB registers case against 50 persons

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said to have registered a case against the then Dy. Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Deptt. Kashmir, then Area Marketing Officer, Sopore, and 48 other illegal beneficiaries for illegal and fraudulent allotment of shop sites at Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Nowpora, Sopore. A statement issued reads that a Joint Surprise Check (JSC) was conducted by ACB to investigate the allegations of large-scale bungling in allotment of shops at Fruit Mandi Sopore by Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Department. It was alleged that the Area Marketing Officer concerned in connivance with touts of the Fruit Mandi Union allotted shops at their will against huge consideration and the bonafide applicants who had submitted form along with premiums way back two decades were ignored etc. In statement said. "It surfaced that Department of Horticulture (Planning &



Marketing) invited offers on prescribed forms from eligible Fruit & Vegetable Growers/ Traders/ Commission Agents/ Joint Firms/ Societies/ Federations/ Corporations and other NGOs for allotment of 700 shop sites at Fruit & Vegetable Market NowporaSopore vide notice issued under vide No. DHPM/701/2001/1381-92 dated 23.04.2001, with terms and conditions notified vide No. DHPM/701/153/2828-39 dated 23.07.2001 with last date as 09.06.2001 extended up to 29.09.2001. In response to this offer, 595 applications were received with a 1st premium installment of Rs 25,000," the statement said. "The probe revealed that the draw of lots in the allotment of shop sites, as contained in the notification, was dispensed with and allotments were arbitrary. The Area Marketing Officer Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Damnoo has even resorted to forgery for accommodating the preferred beneficiaries. Instead of recovering premiums from allotted beneficiaries, Area Marketing Officer Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Damnoo enlisted the beneficiaries who had not even applied within the stipulated time,

including his own son and brother-in-law. The probe conducted revealed that forty-eight (48) such beneficiaries have been enlisted in the years 2009, 2012, 2013 & 2014 despite cutoff date on 29.09.2001 on same premium Rs. 100,000/- fixed in the year 2001 while the rate of the land increased manifold in the meantime," it added. The statement reads that the probe also revealed that officers/officials of Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Department kept the matter under dormant till 2009. "The allotments were made in disregard to the terms and conditions notified for the purpose. It has also been found that possession and release hold rights of the shop sites have been conferred to the beneficiaries without receiving third installment of premium of Rs 50,000 which was one of the pre-requisites of the terms & conditions of the allotment issued by the Department. The then Deputy Director Horticulture & the then Area Marketing Officer Sopore is-

sued allotment orders in favour of 591 applicants without realizing full premium amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh, the outstanding towards the allottees as on 30-06-2021 was Rs 1,21,88,000," the statement said. "The involved officers/officials of Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Department Kashmir under well-knit conspiracy hatched amongst themselves & with the beneficiaries, by abuse of their official positions, dishonestly and fraudulently in lieu of pecuniary gains, managed application forms for shop sites at Fruit and Vegetable Market Nowpora, sopore years the cut off date and issued allotment orders in their favour in disregard to the notified terms and conditions which also include their relatives, depriving deserving ones, thus conferred undue benefit upon themselves and the beneficiaries. They deliberately did not take any prescribed panel action against defaulting allottees & did not realize the requisite premium amount well in time, which

ultimately resulted into the corresponding loss of Rs. 1,21,88,000/- to the state exchequer 30.06.2021," it added. "The acts of omissions & commissions on the part of accused persons then Deputy Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) Dept Kashmir namely, Mohammad Sultan Teli, then Area Marketing officer, Sopore namely Mohammad Ashraf Damnoo, the beneficiaries & others constitute offences punishable u/s 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K P.C.Act, Svt; 2006 & sections 465,468,471 & 120-B RPC," it reads. Accordingly, the statement reads that a case under FIR number 06 /2024 was registered in P/S ACB Baramulla and investigation was initiated. Immediately after registration of the case searches were also conducted at the residences of the accused public servants during which various incriminating documents pertaining to the matter were also recovered and seized, adding that further investigations in the case are going on.

## Dr Abid conducts administrative inspection of GDC Srinagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar and assessed working of all departments of the hospital besides taking stock of healthcare facilities being made available to the patients. The Secretary had an extensive round of each department of the hospital to review their functioning. He interacted with the patients, attendants, students, faculty and other staff. He sought suggestions from all the concerned to further improve the field of dentistry across Jammu and Kashmir. He assessed the status of healthcare infrastructure and services at GDC Srinagar focusing on patient care, infrastructure, equipment and overall operational efficiency of the hospital. During administrative inspection, the Secretary also



interacted with the hospital faculty enquiring from them about their issues and concerns. He sought information about the teaching programmes and the clinical exposure being provided to undergraduate and post-graduate scholars. Dr. Abid Rasheed asked the HoDs to list out the department wise priority list of material and equipment. Maintaining that patient care should be top priority of the hospital, the Secretary directed the concerned to make optimum use of the

resources available for better patient care. He underlined that the goal is to ensure that the medical facilities meet the highest standards and we are able to provide effective healthcare services to the patients. He emphasized upon the doctors to commit themselves towards enhancing the quality of medical services in the hospital. During his interaction with the students, Dr. Abid Rasheed underscored the need for a broad based interaction among the students and the teachers.

## SSP Ganderbal held meeting with transporters to prevent heavy congestion

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** In order to prevent heavy congestion/traffic jam in Ganderbal town especially during peak hours, a review meeting and field visit was conducted by SSP Ganderbal Shri Sandeep Gupta-IPS accompanied by DySP Hqrs Ganderbal, in which Transport Department, Traffic Police and Representative of Mini-Bus Association & other Stakeholders participated. During the meeting, SSP Ganderbal took review of traffic management on ground especially in the main town Ganderbal. After getting the proper feedback from the stakeholders



& Traffic Police, SSP Ganderbal directed all the associations of transporters to board and de-board the passengers at designated bus stops only so to avoid heavy traffic jam in the district. Moreover, SSP Ganderbal urged to all the stake

holders to implement the guidelines of Traffic Police in order to ease out the traffic congestion in the town. J&K Police also requests general public to follow the guidelines of traffic management & District Police Ganderbal.

## Police destroy poppy cultivation in Awantipora



**AWANTIPORA:** To curb illegal cultivation of Poppy, Police in Awantipora have launched a special drive and a huge area of Poppy spread over a large area was destroyed at Patalbagh area of Pampore. The action was led under the supervision of SDPO Pampore Shri Krishan Rattan along with

SHO Pampore and officer from Revenue Department. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pampore and investigation has been initiated. Police reassure the community members to avoid the illegal activity especially the drug peddling which led to the cause of any lawful action.

## Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal chairs UTRC meeting

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority conducted quarterly meeting of the Un-

der-Trial Review Committee (UTRC) in District Ganderbal today, for the quarter of April-June, 2024. The meeting was convened in order to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible

to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/Prisoners. The meeting was chaired by Chairman, District Legal

Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey with the members of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC). In the meeting, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted

by the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal for consideration. The committee recommended 03 cases of UTPs/Prisoners and directed Legal Aid Defense Counsels to take necessary steps and file applications/bail applications.