PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING COVID19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES DURING ANNUAL OPEN AUCTION OF VILLAGE SHAMLATS LANDS

The Rural Development and Panchayats the department officials to chalked out a plan for annual open auction of the village shamlat lands during lockdown taking care of all preventive measures issued by the health department to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Notably, the Punjab Panchayats department holds auction for 1.40 lakh acres of village shamlat land annually.

Only the auctioneers are allowed to participate in the proceedings and the Department officials were ensuring strict compliance of social distancing protocol and other preventive measures.

DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS AND PROMOTIONS DONE THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING
The Rural Development and Panchayats department continued its official work despite of curfew and lockdown. Departmental promotions and meetings were done through video conferencing.

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGES ACROSS THE STATE

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab has launched a comprehensive campaign to raise awareness among the people in the villages across the state. This is to ensure that more and more people are protected from exposure to virus-infected individuals and vulnerable individuals who may be

In addition, awareness campaign regarding Covid-19 is also being carried out by the department. WhatsApp groups of all sarpanchs have been created by the department under ICI activities in which awareness literature, videos and government orders are shared and most important to avoid any panic situation fake news and rumors are also countered. Other social media platforms facebook, twitter and Instagram are also being used by the department to aware people infected with the Covid-19.
SOCIAL DISTANCE CIRCLES WERE MARKED WITH COLOR AT A DISTANCE OF 2 METERS

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayats is working at the war-footed level to ensure that social distance is maintained. Gram Panchayats have been asked to identify the places where different ways can be used to maintain social distance. In the villages, the circles were being marked with color at a distance of 2 meters. People were being urged to maintain social distance through daily announcements from gurdwaras.

GRAM PANCHAYATS EMPOWERED TO SPEND RS. 50000 PER MONTH AND RS. 5000 PER DAY FOR PROVIDING FOOD TO POOR PEOPLE

The Pancaytas have been empowered to provide food and medicine to the poor using their resources. The Gram Panchayats have been authorized to spend a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per month and can spend Rs. 5000 per day for basic livelihood of the poor.

SARPANCHS AUTHORISED TO ISSUE CURFEW PASSES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Sarpanchs have been authorised to issue curfew passes in emergency situations. In the case of any medical emergency, the sarpanchs are authorized to issue a curfew pass during the night (7 pm to 6 am). Separate pass can also be issued to one of the companion with the patient. So far, 3910 passes have been issued by the gram Panchayats.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS DEPARTMENT MAKING MASKS THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS IN THE RURAL AREAS

About 5lac Another major initiative taken up by the department making masks through self help groups in the rural areas. The self help groups are also being motivated to make masks,which is also providing them opportunity to serve the people and earn money. The textile material for the mask can be easily obtained and masks can be easily made. These masks are very effective and can be reused. The Public is also being made aware how to use, store and wash these masks.

PUNJAB RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO CLEAN VILLAGE PONDS
The Punjab Rural Development and Panchayat Department has launched a campaign for the cleaning of village ponds in the state. The department has fixed a target to complete the work of cleaning of ponds by June 10 before the start of paddy season. The cleaning of ponds was closely related to the cleanliness of the villages and the health of the people, hence this work would be done on priority basis.

The MGNREGA workers would be given maximum employment through this work. At the same time, he said that minimum machines to be engaged for this work and no unnecessary expenditure to be incurred. This income would help them meet daily livelihood needs. The payment to the MGNREGA workers to be ensured without any delay.

Besides cleaning the ponds, silt would also be removed and wherever possible the cleaning and renovation of ponds would be done as per the Seechewal model approved by Thapar University.

**PRIME MINISTER INTERACTS WITH PUNJAB'S YOUNGEST FEMALE SARPANCH PALLVI THAKUR ON NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today interacted with the youngest woman Sarpanch of Punjab Pallavi Thakur through video conference on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. Pallavi Thakur is the Sarpanch of Hara village of block Dharkalan in district Pathankot.

Interacting with the Prime Minister Shri Modi, Sarpanch Pallavi Thakur said that the Punjab government has made adequate arrangements for harvest, procurement and transportation of wheat during the lockdown due to corona virus. Pallavi told that Punjab government has set up grain markets by forming clusters of four to five villages for smooth procurement of wheat during lockdown to check the spread of corona virus. Further to prevent people from gathering in the grain markets, a hologram slip is issued to the farmers with a date and only a farmer with a hologram slip can take the wheat to the grain market on the fixed date.

She further apprised the Prime Minister that the Panchayats were playing a vital role in ensuring compliance of the guidelines issued for the farmers, labour and commission agents by the Punjab Government for the prevention of Corona virus spread. She also apprised the Prime Minister that the Panchayats had also launched a campaign to aware people about the instructions issued by the Punjab Government such as maintaining social distance of two meters during harvesting.
wheat, washing hands frequently, cover nose and mouth during working in the fields and grain markets and not to use each other's utensils etc. The Panchayats are also ensuring strict compliance of these instructions.

Pallavi further apprised the Prime Minister that from the very first day of the announcement of the lockdown, the Panchayats in the villages of Punjab had put barricades on the outskirts of the villages to protect the villagers from corona as no outsider is allowed to enter the village and no one from the village is allowed to go outside without any valid reason or emergency.

During the video conference, the Prime Minister said that the farmers of the country especially Punjab had selflessly worked hard to fill the foodgrains of the country. He lauded the efforts of the farmers to provide food, milk and fruits to the people of the country during the present situation caused by the corona virus. At the same time, the Prime Minister appealed to the farmers to reduce the consumption of urea by 50 percent to save Mother Earth.

VAN MITTRAS TO LOOK AFTER 73 LAKH SAPLINGS PLANTED ACROSS STATE ON THE OCCASION OF 550TH PARKASH PRUB OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

The Rural Development and Panchayats department has initiated the process of taking over of 73 Lakh samplings planted across state on the occasion of the 550th Prakash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji and have engaged 21000 MNREGA workers as 'Van Mittars' which would be now looking after them.

This has been primarily done to engage MNREGA workers constructively in these pressing times thereby ensuring a fixed remuneration to them. 550 saplings were planted in each village of the state to commemorate the auspicious occasion of first Guru Sahib's 550th Prakash Purb.

Since April 1, as many as 21000 Van Mittras have already been identified to look after plants across all 22 districts of state as two Mittras are deputed in each of 13266 state villages.

In District Sangrur 493, Ludhiana 508, Jalandhar 648, Nawan Shahr 527, Patiala 455, Ferozepur 576, Gurdaspur 394, Fatehgarh Sahib 401, Fazilka 356, Kapurthala 332, Amritsar 339, Tarn Taran 321, Muktsar 495, Faridkot 423, Hoshiarpur 301, Mansa 244, Moga 274, Pathankot 224, SAS Nagar 285, Bathinda 376, Barnala 191 and Roopnagar 242 muster rolls have been issued for Van Mittras so that they can start the process of maintenance of the plants.
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS DEPARTMENT COMPLETED THREE ROUNDS OF SANITIZATION CAMPAIGN IN THE VILLAGES

The Punjab rural development and panchayats Department has completed the 3rd round of sanitization campaign in villages and the next round of the spray of disinfectant in villages would be scheduled after the consultation and advisory from with the Health Department.

Under the campaign to eradicate all the corona virus infections in the state, sanitisation medicine has been sprayed in 12584 villages by the Rural Development and Panchayat Departments. Under this campaign, as per guidelines of the Health Department the sodium hypochlorite medicine was sprayed in all the villages across the state to prevent further spread of the corona virus infection.

WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP EMERGE AS COMMUNITY WARRIORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The members of women self help groups (SHGs) in villages have emerged as warriors in the fight against the Corona virus in big way. The Self help groups through the department of Rural Development, Punjab are producing Masks, Aprons and Gloves for the civil administration, police and also for the Panchayats.

About 5 lakh face masks produced by members of SHGs under the Rural Development's National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), have already been delivered.

3711 members of Self help groups from 22 districts of the state are engaged in producing masks, aprons and gloves. These SHGs have received new order for making 50000 thousand masks. All new orders for masks are being delivered without any delay.

RURAL DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS PERFORMING FRONTLINE DUTIES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE FROM CORONA VIRUS

The doctors and pharmacists of Rural Development Department were performing frontline duties to save the lives of people from Corona Virus. They are performing duties in the isolation centres, flu corners, rapid response teams and at Medical Helpline-104. Besides this they are also performing emergency duties.