

J&K, Ladakh to receive supplies through Air Cargo flights: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: On the same pattern as for the North East, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will also receive supplies, including



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing about the Air Cargo facility for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, at New Delhi on Monday.

essential items to these areas, the Indian Air Force and Air India will work in tandem to supplement and leverage each other's strength.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that the Ministry of Civil Aviation has designated a Joint Secretary level officer, Usha Padhee as Nodal Officer, for exclusive coordination with the respective State and Union Territory governments. He said, he had suggested to the Union Territory governments of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh also to designate one Nodal Officer each to coordinate with the Nodal Officer designated by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

Meanwhile, the first Cargo flight by Air India landed at Guwahati late last night carrying all essential goods, including medical equipment, for distribution across North East. Thereafter today, a C-130 Super Hercules Aircraft of Indian Air Force landed at Dimapur with a consignment of medical equipment and disaster management equipment.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian Air Force will respond to the requests from Jammu & Ladakh also to designate one Nodal Officer each to coordinate with the Nodal Officer designated by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

In order to accomplish smooth and timely supply of

Kashmir and Ladakh governments, as and when required, and the Air Cargo flight will be arranged accordingly, depending upon the nature and quantum of the consignment.

Dr Jitendra Singh also clarified that there is no dearth of ration and other essential goods in Jammu & Kashmir and assured that arrangements have been made for replenishment of every essential commodity, well in advance before it gets exhausted. While the road transport of essential goods was allowed inter - State movement from yesterday, now the Air cargo facility is also in place, he added.

essential commodities and medical equipment, through special Air Cargo Flights, during the Lockdown period.

This was disclosed here today in a brief by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, after he took up the issue with the Minister of State (IC) Civil Aviation, Hardip Singh Puri. He said, under the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and also the Islands territories will be given highest priority for this purpose.

Police personnel seek Rs 50 lakh insurance at par with doctors

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Police is also the frontline force in fighting Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir and its officers and officials especially those who were directly dealing with people should be covered under Rs 50 lakh insurance cover like health staff including doctors, paramedics and nurses.

This demand was raised by number of police officers and officers who are directly dealing with the people in fighting Coronavirus.

"Undoubtedly, the doctors and para-medical staff is doing excellent job and they deserved risk cover of Rs 50 lakh as announced by the

Central Government. At the same time, police is not lagging behind and many of its personnel are engaged in dealing with Coronavirus patients, those under quarantine etc and they too should be provided with Rs 50 lakh insurance cover," they said, adding the Central as well as the Union Territory Governments of Jammu and Kashmir should pay due heed towards the police officers and also bring them at par with health staff in insurance cover.

"As we can't float association, we have no medium to raise our demand except to get it projected through media," the police officials said.



JK Police distributes ration among needy people in Srinagar.

-Excelsior/Shakeel



Concertina wire laid by police in Jammu City to block vehicular movement on Monday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh



Police personnel patrol Bhandarwah town during lockdown on Monday.

-Excelsior/Tilak Raj

Amid coronavirus scare, migrant workers asked to leave Valley

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: Over 22-migrant workers who are living in rented accommodation in Budgam village of Chadoora in Central Kashmir's Budgam district have been allegedly asked by locals to leave the area in view of COVID 19 outbreak.

The workers told Excelsior that the locals who see them as the potential carriers of COVID 19 infection asked them to leave the village. "They did not threaten or abuse us but have been repeatedly asking us to leave. We are scared to step out of our accommodation," Shahabuddin, a migrant worker said.

They said that their stock of essentials would last only for a few

days as shopkeepers have shut doors for them owing to the mounting debt. "We owe around Rs 8000 to the local shopkeepers for the material that we bought on our arrival. Since we are out of work they think we won't be able to clear our debt. So they have stopped selling anything to us," Mohammad Ibarat, another worker told Excelsior.

They are being harassed despite the fact that they had undergone the necessary screening before entering into the Valley on 12th March. "All of us were screened at Lakhanpur checkpoint. Despite that, the locals would inquire whether we have been screened or not. They are right on their part," Sadam other migrant workers said, adding to put the apprehensions of the locals to rest they also got themselves screened at a local health centre.

They lamented their problems mounted with the announcement of 21-day lockdown in the country as it came hardly a week after their arrival. "We had just started to work when the announcement came. We were yet to earn anything and had taken a loan to meet

the expenses of the first month," he said.

The workers said that they even tried to visit the local police station to apprise them about their situation but were stopped by the security forces deployed on a local bridge. "They disallow us to proceed towards the police station. They shoved us away. I even lost my slippers and walked three kilometers bare feet," another migrant worker said.

Aijaz Yousef, their landlord said he is unaware about the issue and has lent the workers money to survive. "I lent them money out of my own pocket and arranged some rice for them as well. They must be worried as they have no work and everything is also shut. I try to help them in every possible way," he said.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam, Hafsa Qayoom, told Excelsior that she would look into the matter and follow a standard procedure to deal with it. "The workers are in distress and I will first contact them. They will be provided every possible help," she said.

IGP Ladakh visits Kargil, takes stock of arrangements

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Mar 30: To review the preparedness and police arrangements in view of COVID-19, the Inspector General of Police, UT Ladakh, Satish Khandare accompanied by Deepam Seth-IGP, ITBP visited district Kargil today.

On reaching Kargil, Satish Khandare visited Sankoo where he was briefed by Dr. Vinod Kumar, SSP Kargil regarding the security arrangements in place for the Containment Zone. BMO Sankoo and Tehsildar Sankoo also briefed the IGP regarding the availability of medicines, medical facilities and medical teams and also the availability of essential supplies and their delivery in the Containment Zone.

Satish Khandare while appreciating the civil and police officials performing their duties in the Containment Zone exerted them to take good care of themselves and take all precautionary measures.

He also met the GOC 08 Mountain Div Major General, Satish Dogra at Khumbathang where the GOC apprised the officers regarding the Army preparedness at Kargil district regarding COVID-19.

On way back, the Inspector General of Police Ladakh visited

Family quarantined, burglars strike patient's home

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: The house of a coronavirus positive patient in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir was allegedly robbed during the night as the entire family was in quarantine, police said on Monday.

Burglars struck at a house in Saderkoot Bala area in Hajin area of the north Kashmir district during the night and decamped with some valuable including jewellery, a police official said.

The COVID-19 patient from the family has been admitted at a Government hospital, while other members are at a quarantine centre.

He said the house belonged to the family of a COVID-19 positive patient. "The whole family is in quarantine and as such there was no one in the house. The burglars took advantage and robbed the house. They were looking for valuables like jewellery and took away a few suitcases which they then opened about 100 metres away from the house. Rest of the items in the house are intact," the official said.

He said police have registered a case and investigations have been taken up.

The official said a forensics team will be assisted by a medical team to collect the evidence at the house.

Dr RK Gupta appointed IGGDC Principal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Government has assigned charge of post of Principal, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu to Dr Rakesh Krishen Gupta, Professor (Pedodontics).

According to the Government order, Dr Rakesh Krishen Gupta, Professor (Pedodontics), shall look after the charge of the post of Principal, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu, in addition to his own duties, upon retirement on superannuation of Dr Romesh Singh, Incharge, Principal, on 31-03-2020.

Dedicated COVID-19 hospitals made functional in Leh and Kargil

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Mar 30: Dedicated COVID-19 hospitals in both Leh and Kargil have been made functional from today.

Dr Tashi Motup and Dr Abdul Jalil would be in-charge of the dedicated COVID-19 Hospitals



in Leh and Kargil respectively, stated Commissioner/Secretary Health UT Ladakh Rigzin Samphel while addressing press conference.

Com/Sec informed about the Rapid Reaction Team, Delhi officials who visited Leh to review the COVID-19 preparations in Ladakh. During their survey, the officials visited the containment area of Chuchot Gongma, interacted with the family members of the patients, reviewed the arrangements of police and other departments.

They also met the three patients under hospital quarantine who had recovered from COVID-19. The officials' report appreciates the documentation and overall preparation in regards to COVID-19 with special men-

tion of Block Medical Officer Chuchot Gongma Dr Diskit, he stated.

Stocking of medical equipments to carry on for up-to three months bettering the medical facilities in regards to COVID-19 has begun, added Com/Sec.

Nodal Officer for Ladakhi students outside UT Ladakh Sumera Shafi had received about 127 calls and about 16 mails from students studying in Aligarh, Bangalore, Delhi, J&K, Punjab & Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Nagpur, Roorkee and Dehradun and patients with their grievances. The students are advised to remain in their respective hostels/rental spaces and to first contact the nodal officer or the designated Liaison Officer of their regions for any query.

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Samphel said. He further added that they can contact Shafi at contact number #8447523725.

Responding to a query on wrong information on total count of 16 positive cases in UT Ladakh, Samphel reaffirm that Ladakh initially had 13 positive cases out of which 3 patients are recovered and are under hospital quarantine, and now there are 10 active positive cases in Ladakh.

Commissioner/Secretary sought cooperation from all sections of the region to make the lock-down successful.

Ali Muhammad Matoo passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 30: Dr Ali Muhammad Matoo, brother-in-law of National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, passed away after prolonged illness, here today. Meanwhile, many prominent personalities, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, condoled his death and prayed for the departed soul.

"My uncle Dr Mohd Ali Mattoo passed away earlier tonight after a brief illness," former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah, wrote on twitter.

He said at this difficult time, the family appeals to everyone to respect the guidelines to not gather either at his residence or the graveyard. "Your prayers from your homes will give peace to his soul," he added.

"Condolences to you and the entire family, @OmarAbdullah. May his soul rest in peace. In this hour of grief, your call to avoid any large gathering is appreciable and will strengthen India's fight against COVID-19," PM Modi tweeted.

A statement issued by NC today said that the party expressed profound grief over the demise of renowned doctor, who passed away here after a prolonged illness.

Dr Matoo was the son of Kwaja Muhammad Abdullah Mattoo, a renowned businessman of his times and a close associate of former chief minister Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah.

Dr Matoo served as Medical Superintendent at SMHS hospital and at SKIMS. A man of knowledge, he was known for his humble disposition and cheerful nature.

The NC spokesperson said that

the party rank and file is in unison with the grief stricken family in particular with the wife of deceased Prof Suriya Matoo Abdullah, and his daughter Dr Nyla Ali Khan.

Party's senior leaders and Members of Parliament, Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi have also expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Dr Matoo.

The leaders who condole were Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah, Vice President Omar Abdullah, Additional General Secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal and Matoo's family in particular his wife Prof Suriya Matoo Abdullah and daughter, Dr Nyla Ali Khan.

The incarcerated leadership of the party including General Secretary Haji Muhammad Sagar, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson, Aga Syed Rahullah Mehdi and other senior leaders have also extended unison with the family.

Advisor Bhatnagar bereaved

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 30: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has expressed grief over the sad demise of mother of Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed his deepest sympathies with the bereaved family.



A worker sprays to sanitise area in Jammu on Monday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh



A milk woman walks on city road during lockdown in Jammu on Monday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh