

## Justice Magrey reviews functioning of Juvenile, Observation Homes, Child Care Institutions

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Judge and Chairman Juvenile Justice Committee, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey today visited Observation Home, Harwan to take stock of facilities available to the inmates.

He was accompanied by Member Secretary Juvenile Justice Committee, Abdul Rashid Malik, Deputy Commissioner, Ajaz Asad, Joint Registrar Judicial, High Court, Abdul Bari, Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar Dr. Jameel Ahmad Mir, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board Srinagar, Touseef Ahmad Magrey, Administrative Officer ICPS, Dr. Malooqa and DCP O Srinagar, Ashraf Akhoun.

Justice Magrey on the occasion held interaction with the children to enquire about their well-being and the facilities available to them.

Referring to the directions and recommendations of Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India, Justice Magrey emphasized upon creating of helplines for Child Care Institutions as well as for general public to aid the children who have been orphaned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring of Institutions to access their needs for medicines, health-care, ensuring vaccination of the entire staff of Child Care Institutions, mapping of COVID-19 affected child, if any, and immediate measures to be taken by the Government and health authorities for his/her care and rehabilitation, mapping employees and staff working in Child Care Institutions who might be affected and the impact on the staff strength of Child Care Institutions and remedial action.

While interacting with the officers with regard to children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, Justice Magrey directed the Mission Directorate, ICPS to share the data of all CCIs, who are registered as well as unregistered with the Deputy Commissioners to enable the District Magistrates to monitor



Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey during visit to Observation Home at Harwan in Srinagar on Thursday.

these institutions to ensure proper coordination.

Justice Magrey highlighted various issues in the meeting regarding the welfare of children and the need to protect them from the ill-effects of the present pandemic and further directed proper screening/testing and medical care for the children in the institutional care, provision of emergency medicine, supplies, emergency access to hospitals and a roster of doctors available for tele-consultation, vaccination of all staff working in the Child Care Institutions and other frontline Child Protection Workers, nomination of Government and District Level Nodal Officers empowered to take decisions and constitute a task force for rapid emergency response for children during COVID-19, for orphaned children, setting up of Committee in each District comprising the Nodal Officer (including the DM or SDM) a representative of the

concerned CWC and the District Legal Service Authority representative, and secure all information/data relating to the deceased parent or parents of any child, measures to stop spread in child care institutions and the medical treatment and care of the children.

During the visit, Justice Magrey interacted with

Superintendent, Sameena Mir, Accountant, Sumaira Mushtaq, Tabassum Altaf Wani, Probationary Officer and other officials and reiterated that such institutions like Observation Home are rehabilitation centres set-up for the care, protection, restoration, and welfare of children, and shall have the facilities like education, health care, free legal aid, psycho social counseling, medical facility, etc.

Justice Magrey also directed the District Administration Srinagar and Superintendent Home to put all COVID-19 protocols in place in all CCIs to prevent the spread of the virus with special focus on the protection of children from COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination of staff of the child care institutions and periodical testing of inmates is mandatory and has to be given special preference.

## Jugal dedicates Oxygen Concentrators at COVID Care Center Treva

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: BJP MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma along with former Minister, Sham Lal Choudhary and Ex-MLA Bishnah, Ashwani Sharma visited border village Treva and dedicated Oxygen Concentrators to COVID Care Center established at village Treva, Arnia.

Speaking on the occasion the MP said that challenging situation has been aroused to fight with COVID-19 pandemic and villages are now also hit with the second wave of Coronavirus.

"Heavy rush has been observed in government hospitals by COVID-19 positive patients and people have to suffer sometimes due to non-availability of oxygen supportive beds," he said adding that under a nationwide programme 'Sewa

He Sangathan' by BJP, the COVID Care Center is established by workers of BJP at village Treva and today Oxygen Concentrators have been installed there to make beds oxygen supportive.

Jugal said that this Center will prove helpful to COVID-19 positive patients of border villages.

Balbir Kour, Sarpanch Treva, Chairman MC Arnia Ramesh Saini, District President BJP R.S Pura Harbajan Singh Pammy, Vice-President Bharat Bhushan, General Secretary BJP Sunil Dutt, Media Secretary BJP Ramesh Pella, Ex-Sarpanch Avtar Choudhary, Panch Roshan Lal, prominent citizens Subash Choudhary, Dr Swarn Singh, Sohan Singh and others were also present at the occasion.

## Rates of COVID biomarkers to be capped: Div Com

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: In order to ensure availability and affordability of basic tests and diagnostics used in the management of COVID-19 patients; the divisional administration has decided to put a cap on the rates of COVID biomarker tests.

Several references were being received regarding charging of exorbitant rates by some private pathological/biochemistry labs in this regard.

It is worthwhile to mention

that tests like serum IL-6/ Ferritin/D-Dimer/ABG/ Procalcitonin/CRP etc have an important role in the management of COVID-19 patients in clinical settings.

The committee constituted for this purpose includes Additional Commissioner in Div Com office, Director Health Services and HoD Biochemistry, Government Medical College Jammu; who have been instructed to recommend the genuine/benchmark rates of these tests by 21.05.2021.

## Army assists in restoration of oxygen generation plant in Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: The Army today assisted the civil administration in restoring an oxygen generation plant that was defunct from last five years in the summer capital, Srinagar.

Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Col Emron Musavi said that the Oxygen plant of Enn Dee Gases, which is located at Rangreth on city outskirts was lying out of action for last five years. "It has the capacity of filling 700 cylinders of oxygen per day. It was vital to make this plant serviceable to increase the oxygen production capacity in the Valley," he said.

Lt Col Musavi said on being requested by the Civil Administration, Chinar Corps mobilised its resources to transport the required spare parts from Mumbai. "The spares reached within just two days by an Indian Air Force plane," he said.

He said the moment necessary spares arrived at the plant, team of technicians from Chinar Corps Zone Workshop, Rangreth along with civil technicians worked tirelessly to make the plant serviceable within four days.

"As the plant was in a state of disuse for five years, it had multiple problems in all subsystems like the Heavy Duty Air Compressor, the Chiller and even the Columnar Air Separator, which are vital parts of the plant," he said.

He said once all the defects in the existing sub systems were



Army personnel at oxygen generation plant at Rangreth in city outskirts of Srinagar on Thursday.

rectified, the new Oxygen Filling Manifold was fitted by the technicians. "The plant has been tested thoroughly and has been found to work satisfactorily," he added. (UNI)

## Majority deaths occurring because of lack of beds, oxygen: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: Even after getting considerable time, the Government failed to enhance the healthcare system in the country.

This was stated by JKPC

but they expect people to understand everything along with their vague words as-considering, seriously considering or decided of doing something," he maintained urging LG administration to put special focus on rural areas after the COVID-19 cases surge in



JKPC Vice President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people in Jammu on Thursday.

Vice President and former Minister, Raman Bhalla today after visiting various areas to listen grievances of people amidst COVID-19 second wave.

He said that people know that majority of deaths these days occur because of lack of beds with oxygen or ICU facilities.

"People understand that real reason is the shortage of vaccines but the whole Government narrative is to show that it is doing everything to save life of the people. Concerns are never categorically stated in all dimensions

rural areas of J&K. "The Government claimed that aim is not to inoculate all those who want to get vaccinated. This shows that people are at Government's mercy," he claimed adding that Government's narrative puts all the blame on public that for not following the advisory on COVID appropriate behaviour, while in reality it was Government inaction and permission for gatherings without COVID appropriate behaviour that's really responsible.

## Rural areas witnessing unprecedented surge of COVID cases: Manjit Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

VIJAYPUR, May 20: Provincial President Jammu Manjit Singh today said there was an unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases and it has posed serious threat to the lives of people in the villages.

The situation is dangerous in rural areas and unnoticed deaths of COVID cases were on rise in absence of proper medical care from the Health Department, said Former Minister Manjit Singh in his statement to the press.

Manjit Singh said, "As the Health Department fails to reach out to the villagers, the people fear going to Government Hospitals as they are being told to get their COVID-19 test. Less awareness among the rural people has led to large numbers of deaths and increase in COVID-19 cases."

"Many people prefer treatment

at local level and they take medicines from the chemist shops on illness/symptoms instead of getting themselves COVID-19. This practice must be checked by the Drugs Department and medicine should be given by the chemists only after taking prescription of doctors from the customers with regard to the COVID positive patients to avoid its misuse," added Manjit Singh.

He said that the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha should intervene and direct the Health Department to constitute teams and depute them in the rural belt to check the COVID spread.

"Poor people have no knowledge about the gravity of the situation because the Health Department and the administration have failed to work in coordination with each to reach out to the rural population in the border and kandi areas," he added.



Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Dr Piyush Singla chairing a meeting on Thursday.

## Panchayat level centres vital for containment of virus: DC Anantnag

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, May 20: The Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla today said that the creation of COVID Isolation/Care Centres at the Panchayat level is vital for containment of virus in the rural areas. He said this while chairing a meeting of officers of Rural Development, Health and other concerned departments Dak Bangalou Khanabal.

The DC impressed upon the officers to create a 5-bedded COVID Care Centre with one oxygen supported bed and other basic minimum facilities in every Panchayat for isolation of COVID positive patients.

The DC directed the officers to establish the centres by utilising up to Rs one lakh from the funds available with the Panchayats under District Capex Budget in the Panchayat Ghar, schools and other government buildings in consultation with nearest Health Centre and the concerned Panchayat.

Stressing on effective community triaging, Dr. Singla called for proper linkage of these centres with the nearest health care facilities besides equipping them with necessary medical kit for smooth monitoring, treatment and referral of COVID patients.

The DC said the isolation centres will strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in rural areas and would also be linked with the tele-medicine facilities.

Reiterating the importance of Health Clubs and PRIs for COVID mitigation, the DC enjoined upon the officers to sensitize them about the situation and COVID containment measures so their services can be utilised for isolation of covid persons in active coordination with ASHAs and healthcare workers.

Dr. Singla also passed directions for aggressive testing and sampling especially in containment zones besides utilising mobile testing vans for testing in rural areas with the help of PRIs and volunteers.

The DC exhorted for ensuring smooth referral linkage with dedicated COVID Health Centres and dedicated COVID Hospitals and using on call ambulance services in village areas in this regard.

Later, the DC briefly reviewed the functioning of Pukaar Helpline and District COVID Control Room which are operating together at Dak Bangalou Khanabal. He directed the officials for prompt monitoring and action on all COVID/Non COVID grievances which are being received.

## Balwant Thakur demands financial support for artists, supporting staff

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: Eminent Theatre Director, Balwant Thakur, also Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, J&K here today pleaded for financial assistance to the community of artists who are in extreme indigent circumstances.

Forwarding his communication to J&K Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, Balwant Thakur submitted that artists, particularly the performing artists who have no other source of income are in a very bad shape at present due to the COVID-19 crises followed by continued lockdown in J&K.

Thakur stated that livelihood of such artists depend on small cultural assignments offered by various cultural organizations and agencies including J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Song and Drama Division, Zonal Cultural Centres, Doordarshan, ICCR and Radio. A handout stated that being a nominee of Government of J&K to the General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, he has already taken-up

the matter with the authorities of National Academy of Music and Drama and Ministry of Culture, Government of India to find out means and ways to support the community of performing artists in a dignified manner. Thakur particularly referred to the traditional performers of both Jammu and Kashmir divisions who totally rely on their artistic assignments.

"The community of artists is so sensitive that they will shy away from seeking assistance and will continue to suffer in these hours of crises," he maintained.

Balwant Thakur urged upon the Lt. Governor to assign a Government agency to identify such artists who are in urgent need of financial assistance and support for their survival and involve a larger body of senior people from the community to ensure fairness and transparency in such distributions.

"The selection list should not limit to the performers but should also include technicians, anchors and other off-stage workers," Thakur further stated.

## Tawi Diagnostic Lab gets NABL Approval

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: Tawi Diagnostic and Imaging Centre has been granted NABL accreditation in just 18 months from its opening by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in the field of medical testing in the discipline of molecular testing.

The Lab is located near Gurudwara Sahib, Bakshi Nagar. As per handout issued here, the Centre has also got ICMR approval for conducting COVID-19 test through RT-PCR TrueNat method (Closed System). The lab is now conducting COVID-19 Real Time PCR and COVID-19 antibody.

During the ongoing pandemic crisis, Team Tawi is standing firmly to serve the people of J&K by providing quality service with accurate and quick reporting.

The Centre provides complete diagnostic and imaging facilities under one roof which includes fully computerized and automated specialized laboratory with the state-of-the-art equipments, modern digital X-ray, 3D/4D ultrasound, ECHO and ECG facilities.

Chairman J R Gupta and Managing Director Lachman Dass Sharma while highlighting this achievement expressed their gratitude to the clientele and further said that the NABL Accreditation is a benchmark in laboratory testing which authenticates the accuracy and reliability of reports of a laboratory with universal acceptability of test results.

The NABL in molecular Testing Department is a remarkable milestone for Tawi Laboratory and it will continue to authenticate the trust and confidence of the masses.

## Vaccinating children key to avert third wave: DAK

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) today said vaccinating children holds the key to avert the third COVID-19 wave which is predicted to happen sometime in the fall of this year.

In a statement issued here, DAK President Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said that getting children vaccinated against COVID could prevent the third wave which is expected to affect kids the most.

The first wave of the pandemic affected the elderly, the second wave is affecting the youth more and the third wave is expected to attack children," he said.

Dr Nisar said if we vaccinate our children now, the third wave may not happen.

"Pfizer vaccine has been approved for use in children between 12 and 15 years of age. The vaccine is already given to people as young as 16. The vaccine is safe and 100 per cent effective in preventing COVID-

19 in children," he said. He said that we should import this vaccine and start vaccinating children. "While Bharat Biotech has been permitted to test Covaxin in children, it has yet to start trials," he said.

The DAK President said it is hard to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic without vaccinating children. "We won't be able to achieve herd immunity until children are vaccinated," he said.

DAK President said that to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19, more than 70 per cent of people need to be vaccinated. "That is unlikely to be achieved if children who constitute a huge proportion of the population are unvaccinated," he said.

Giving out estimates, Dr Nisar said that there are around 4.8 million kids in Jammu and Kashmir who are unimmunized. "And, if we leave a large number of the population unimmunized, we will continue to have fresh waves and pandemic will linger on," Dr Nisar said.

## Oppn indulging in cheap politics even during COVID: Balbir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan today rued that the opposition parties have crossed all limits of inhumanity and indulging in cheap politics when the nation is passing through tough times due to COVID-19.

In a handout, Balbir said that politics should not be above nation and every citizen, irrespective of his or her political affiliation, should come forward and support the Government in its initiatives in times of crisis but the present situation has seen total negative role of political parties.

He said that besides volun-

teers of some social and non political organizations, only BJP cadre is seen on ground. The BJP leaders, along with their local cadre, are providing masks, sanitizers, food items, donating blood and plasma, establishing COVID care centres and visiting hospitals to enquire about the facilities given to the infected people, regularly.

"BJP has always worked on the principle of Nation First, Party Second and Self Last", Balbir said and added that whenever it comes on the nation and the welfare of the people, every activist comes out to contribute in best possible way without caring for own safety.

## Ware House Traders start War Rooms for oxygen, ration, medicine

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: In these days of crisis triggered by the deadly COVID pandemic, Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market has come forward to help the needy people of Jammu.

The Federation in its office has established War Rooms for ration, medicine and oxygen where anyone in need can contact office bearers of Federation for help.

This was informed by Deepak Gupta, Federation president during a press conference here today.

Gupta regretted that despite suffering from a higher mortality rate, Jammu hospitals are facing shortage of beds, oxygen and ventilators.

He claimed biased and prejudicial treatment to Jammu region as out of 46 Oxygen Generation Plants (OGPs) in J&K government sector, 34 were in Kashmir and merely 12 in Jammu.

Questioning scarcity of facilities, the Federation president said, there are no hospital beds

available in Jammu and medicines are running short while crematoriums are full and front-line workers exhausted.

"Taking serious note of these problems and to help the people, Federation decided to establish War Rooms for such supplies to the people of Jammu," he maintained adding that they have more than 100 oxygen cylinders, 5 Bipap Machines, 5 oxygen concentrators and sufficient number of oxygen flow meters

for which anyone in need can contact them.

He informed that for those who lost livelihood, the Federation has established Ration War Room and Medicine War Room to provide free ration and medicines to the poor and needy.

Munish Mahajan, senior vice president, Abhimanyu Gupta, general secretary, Vishal Gupta, secretary and Amit Gupta, cashier of the Federation were also present on the occasion.

## Augment health infra at village level: Lal Singh to LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 20: Chairman Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan Party (DSSP) and former MP Choudhary Lal Singh while expressing his anguish over rising COVID deaths urged the Lt Governor to augment health infrastructure at village level.

In a separate letter to LG Manoj Sinha, Lal Singh said that it's the time to make health infrastructure available at local level in rural areas and make all PHCs, SDHs, CHCs and dispensaries equipped with oxygen and a Medical officer in each unit.

He expressed surprised on the Government announcement for

the recruitment of health workers and Medical officers conditionally on temporary basis for only COVID crisis. He said the Government must assure security to these health workers and their families in case of any untoward happens, and also regularized their service after the crisis.

Singh lamented that daily arising number of casualties in Jammu region speak volumes of the mismanagement and actually the utter failure of those at helm of affairs. He asked all the party rank and file to reach out to the families in the distress and provide them the best possible support.

## SKICC hosts open-air conference amid COVID-19

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: The Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) today hosted an open-air conference on the jetty of its back lawns which narrow down in the waters of world-famous Dal Lake.

The meeting chaired by the Advisor to the LG Baseer Ahmad Khan about the COVID response mechanism in place for the UT J&K. The meeting was attended by the stakeholders, allied departments, trade body representatives, civil society members and the tourism trade bodies.

The participants of the meeting while appreciating the efforts of the Govt's COVID response management raised issues and gave suggestions for the improvement and effectiveness of the measures taken by the Government on the ground.

Director SKICC, Bakhshi Humayun Javed termed the conduct of the meeting as an experiential conference tourism initiative and assured to make it more facilitating and delegate friendly with foolproof COVID protocol.

"We at SKICC keep an eye on the changing situation and try to provide the best of the available conferencing infrastructure and safety gears," he said.

Manager Marketing SKICC, Shah Nawaz A Shah added that they have endeavoured to understand the dynamics in the MICE Tourism market and cater to the contemporary needs and requirements of the delegates and conference organisers.

SKICC had earlier also set a benchmark when it hosted the first post-pandemic conference by adhering to the perfect COVID protocol norms.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)