

CS directs H&ME Deptt to open 1000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2022

**Advises expeditious end to digitization of all social sector schemes*

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the flagship schemes of the Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare departments.



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting on Thursday.

Financial Commissioner (ACS), Health & Medical Education Department, Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department along with Mission Director National Health Mission and concerned Sectoral Heads participated in the meeting.

It was informed that around 16 lakh beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) and nearly 38 lakh beneficiaries under AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Schemes have been given golden cards.

It was further informed that 239 hospitals have been empanelled by the Government for providing free of cost and cashless health cover to the beneficiaries. To boost enrollment under both the schemes, a special Gaon Ayushman campaign has been launched by the Department.

While terming the AB-PMJAY/AB-PMJAY-SEHAT an attractive insurance product, the Chief Secretary advised the department to ensure 100% coverage under these schemes by issuing golden cards to all the households in Jammu and Kashmir.

While emphasizing the availability of affordable and quality generic medicines across all the health care institutions in the Union territory as an important public health objective, the Chief Secretary directed the opening up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all 3500 government hospitals in a time bound manner by utilizing the services of existing pharmacists in the government health sector.

"Special emphasis must be given to promote awareness on the prices, availability and quality of generic medicines through dedicated IEC campaigns", Dr

Mehta added. The Chief Secretary further directed the department to open 1000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras before March, 2022 through respective Block Medical Officers.

"It is important that our health care facilities meet the national quality benchmarks," Dr Mehta observed.

He directed the department to strive towards achieving NQAP accreditation of all premier hospitals in J&K. The Chief Secretary also directed the department to upscale School Health Program in all the districts of the Union Territory in association with the School Education Department to train school teachers as health ambassadors aimed at safeguarding both the physical and mental health of school-going children.

To ensure the smooth functioning of Health Helpline Number -104, the Health Department was asked to launch intensive IEC campaigns to educate people about the outreach facility, besides strengthening the ambulance fleet to reduce the response time in cases of medical emergencies.

Dr Mehta also underscored the need to promote tele-consultations and periodic screening for non-communicable diseases for early detection and timely expert medical intervention in cases of serious/life-consuming diseases.

The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon the department to do comparative analysis with other States/UTs as regards the performance vis-a-vis the health indicators like NMR, IMR and MMR, besides taking measures to ascertain whether the desired outcomes under schemes like

JSY, JSSK, SUMAN and PMSMA have been achieved. "J&K needs to be amongst the first five States/UTs on all health indicators as well as in regard to the implementation of NHM in the country", Dr Mehta advised.

While reviewing the flagship schemes of the Social Welfare Department, it was informed that the department has achieved the enrolment targets under the PMMVJ during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

It was further informed that in the current financial year, the department has provided benefit to 26348 beneficiaries against an annual target of 58000. The department further informed that all the enrolled beneficiaries shall be covered under the Scheme by the end of the financial year.

While stating that the enrolment target should not be fixed arbitrarily, the Chief Secretary directed the department to ascertain the number of first pregnancies in the UT in conjunction with Health and Medical Education department so that all such women are targeted under the Scheme.

Under Poshan Abhiyaan, it was informed that growth monitoring devices have been given to all the Anganwari Centres and that Anganwari Workers have started measuring weight and height of all the children on their watch and also started uploading the same on the Poshan Tracker.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to expeditiously achieve end to end digitization of all schemes for better outcomes, besides advising to ascertain the state of malnutrition amongst the children and adults in UT of J&K so that the same is effectively addressed.

Dr Karan Singh visits Raghunath temple, announces Diwali Bonanza for employees

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Chairman Trustee, Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh visited Raghunath Mandir this morning and paid obeisance in the temple complex. He also performed the Puranhauti of the Yagya being held in the memory of Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji on his birth anniversary.

On the occasion, he announced that the Trustees have decided to give 20 percent Diwali bonus to Dharmarth Trust employees.

In the evening a function was held at Amar Mahal where the annual Maharaja Gulab Singh Award was presented by Dr Karan Singh to the renowned sculptor Ravinder Jamwal who has made numerous statues of historic Dogra personalities including Maharaja Hari Singh in Jammu. He is now working on a sculpture of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

The award carries a sum of Rs two lakh and a plaque. Dr Karan Singh also released book of articles on Maharaja Hari Singh to which he has written the foreword based on the proceedings of a seminar held by the Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Institute, Jammu, which has published the

book. He also released a book written by Gen. (ret'd) G S Jamwal for which he has written the foreword which recounts the important role played by the J&K State Forces in the crucial months after Accession and before the arrival of the Indian Army.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Karan Singh said that the Dogras in general and the rulers in particular have received their due place in history. Recalling that it was Maharaja Gulab Singh and his Dogra troops from Jammu and Himachal Pradesh, who conquered Gilgit and Ladakh at great cost sacrificing thousands of lives thus founding the State of Jammu and Kashmir which, at 84,000 sq miles was the largest Indian State during the British period.

He lamented that it lost huge area such as Gigit -Balistan and PoJK in 1947, Aksai Chin 1952 and now in 2019 it has been reduced to a small Union territory of a few thousand square miles. Despite this the Dogras will continue to make their contribution towards defending the nation in various army formations, such as the JAK Regiment, Dogra Regiment and other formations. He stressed the necessity of maintaining the long tradition of Inter-faith harmony in entire Jammu region.



CCI members during meeting at Chamber House in Jammu on Thursday.

Eviction notices under garb of Smart City project unwarranted: CCI

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu today said that eviction notices to people/traders under garb of Smart City project is unwarranted and unjustified move.

An emergent meeting of CCI, Jammu, was held at Chamber House under the chairmanship of its president Arun Gupta along with the office bearers in which various issues related to traders were discussed.

The Chamber president applauded the LG Govt for considering various demands of the Chamber including grant of rights to Mahajans, Khatris, Sikhs and Jain to purchase and sale of agriculture land in the UT which earlier was denied to the aforesaid communities by a particular clause in the J&K Land Act and requested the Govt to include Ziver, Nai, Kamyar (Kashap Rajput and Other OBC communities) in the same preview. He also expressed gratitude for allowing cinemas and banquets to function with certain necessary restrictions.

Gupta appreciated the Government for taking adequate measure in addressing the long pending demand of continuous ban on mining in Jammu region. He welcomed the move of Government for constituting committees to in this regard.

JKSAC appeals LG to take up PoK DPs settlement issue with HM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Jammu Kashmir Sharmarthi Action Committee (JKSAC) an organisation of DPs of 1947 from PoK made an appeal to the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to take up the DPs final settlement issues as assured in Dec 19, 2020 meeting with Amit Shah, Home Minister of India on his ensuing visit on Oct 22, 2021.

JKSAC also requested both the MPs, Jugal Kishore Sharma and Dr Jitendra Singh as well as Ravinder Raina and other BJP leaders to impress upon, Amit Shah to accept and implement the JPC Report No. 183 which has recommended Rs 30 lakhs ex-gratia to each DP family besides reservation for their wards and other components till the GoI takes the final call to resolve the PoK issue which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan.

While addressing a meeting at RS Pura, Gurdev Singh, president JKSAC along with Dwarka Nath Khajuria, Capt Purn Singh, Joginder Lal and Bagwan Singh complimented, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister for providing a relief package which certainly gave some respite to DPs and added that it cannot be accepted as final settlement as this package is nowhere near the loss of lives and properties the DPs have suffered.

Gupta said that there are more demands of the CCI like issues pertaining to single wine shop owners, to stop the opening of huge number of Reliance store in the region.

Jammu Chamber also appealed to the Government to withdraw the order issued by the department asking residents of Gandhi Nagar to vacate front 10 feet area from their premises which is not quite possible.

He said that Jammu Chamber is not against the Smart City project but what is the fun of making Jammu a smart city when its people will have to lose earning avenues. He said that shopkeepers who have got the notices from the Jammu Municipal Corporation to vacate their shops in Gole Market, near Sai Temple as these traders are running their shops for the last more than 50 years. Similarly, the traders running their establishments at Eidgah Road for the last 40 years, have also issued notice by J&K Tourism Development Corporation to vacate the same. He said that these shopkeepers will be ruined if the Government will not rescind these orders as they are dependent on their businesses which existed there since half century back.

Chamber president asked the LG Administration to take a lenient view in the matter and find out a solution to save these traders from getting shattered.

Failing in holding DPC, SED assigns look-after ZEO charges to Headmasters

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: As the School Education Department (SED) has failed in filling up the posts of Zonal Education Officers (ZEO) which are lying vacant in Kashmir as well as in Jammu, and its failure on conducting the DPC well in time, it has now assigned the charge of the ZEO and equivalent to the Headmasters on a look-after basis across the UT.

As per officials, there are around 34 such Headmasters across the Union Territory, who have been given the charge of ZEO and equivalent purely on a look-after basis and the same has been carried out based on seniority.

In Jammu Division, such appointments have been made in 8 districts which include Doda, Kathua, Udhampur, Samba, Jammu, Ramban, Reasi and Rajouri. In Kashmir Division, such appointments have been made in 4 districts which include Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam and Bandipora.

A Government order that has been issued in this regard, clearly states that the ZEO and equivalent are lying vacant in UT of J&K and the

same is adversely affecting the monitoring, supervision of academics and accountability of staff in Institutions especially at the elementary level and also on the implementation of the various Govt schemes.

It is also to be noted here that the DPCs for the promotion of Headmasters as ZEOs have been witnessing undue delay and is expected to see more of it as the department is taking eternity in updating the seniority of the cadre due to which the entire process is witnessing delay.

The officials said keeping in view the overall situation, the department has deemed assigning the look-after charge fit and has taken a decision in this regard keeping in view the effects of posts of ZEO lying vacant and also the time that the conduct of DPC is going to take further.

"Until that is done, it has been decided to fill up these posts by assigning the charge from the feeding service as per seniority, eligibility," officials said.

The order that has been issued states that because of administrative exigency and in order to infuse accountability to grass root level, the decision has been taken to assign the look-after charge for the next 6 months, "or till these posts are filled up on regular basis, whichever is earlier."

FFRC pulls up schools for violations, directs adherence to norms

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: The Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) today pulled up private schools for asking parents to comply with the 'illegal demands', and resorting to other violations which it said are being reported by the committee on a daily basis.

In an order issued here, the FFRC said that it is flooded with the information and reports that some of the Private School Managements in violation of the Supreme Court judgements and breach of the statute are asking the parents to comply with "illegal demands" such as deposit huge/small amounts as refundable deposits, payment of advance tuition fee either for 6 months or for a whole year.

"Parents are being called to schools and are being asked to clear the pending fee and are being threatened that in case the pending fee is not cleared, then their wards will be deprived of all the schooling facilities," it said.

The FFRC said that no school management shall demand, charge or collect any amount whether small or big in the name of refundable deposit/fee and security deposit/fee or any other name as mandated by Section - 20 E (1) of the Jammu & Kashmir School Education Act 2002.

It went on to state in the order that no school management shall demand, charge or collect advance tuition fee beyond the period of one month, "except where the parent/guardian volunteers to pay advance tuition fee."

"School Managements are directed not to cause impediments in the pursuit of academics/education of children, only for the reason of non-payment of fee dues; the school managements, however, will be within their rights to seek recovery of the unpaid fees, but in accordance with the law," the FFRC said.

It said that the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act 2002 has specifically prescribed that private schools shall not charge any fee from students or guardians, except tuition fee, annual fee, transport fee and voluntary special-purpose fee such as; picnic, tour and excursions, or any other fee as may be approved by the Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools.

"It is further provided that private schools shall not charge in any manner, any other fee including admission fee or any amount by whatever name called than the fee mentioned in the said provision of law," it said, while adding that refundable fee/deposit is not a legally permissible fee, so can neither be demanded nor collected.

It noted that the demand of some of the school managements to the parents to clear the pending fee dues failing which academic pursuit of the child will be adversely impacted, besides being violative of the judgements of the Supreme Court, "is also unethical and immoral."

BJP felicitates Corona warriors

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: J&K BJP celebrated the milestone of reaching 100 crore COVID-19 vaccination doses in India, in which BJP J&K leaders felicitated "Corona Warriors" especially medical and para-medical staff in Jammu & Kashmir to further raise their morale.

J&K BJP State President, Ravinder Raina accompanied by former Dy. CM, Kavinder Gupta, general secretary (Org.), Ashok Kaul, general secretaries, Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Manyal, BJP vaccination incharge and secretary, Arvind Gupta, media secretary, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, district president, Vinay Gupta, co-office secretary, Naresh Singh, Mandal president, Lucky Puri, district general secretary, Ankush Mahajan, councillor, Ajay Gupta, BJYM office secretary, Gaurav Pargal and others felicitated the medical and para-medical staff at Urban Primary Health Centre, Trikuta Nagar, here.

that the world is hopeful to see the humanity blooming again. He also complimented Prime Minister, Narendra Modi who extraordinarily steered India out of this mayhem and at the same time guided the world establishing Bharat as "Vishav Guru".

Kavinder Gupta said that with the spirit of providing the citizens of India with a safe, efficacious, affordable and accessible COVID-19 Vaccine, at the earliest, Modi Government ensured every possi-

ble step. Ashok Kaul praising all COVID warriors said that BJP activists also served the people risking their own health. BJP activists distributed ration, medicines, essential items, organized langars, organized blood camps etc, he added.

Vibodh Gupta said that medical and paramedical staff worked as warriors to save the lives of many. Dr. Manyal said that with the free vaccination provided to all, PM Modi saved the lives of poor and downtrodden.

Dr. Shahid complimented BJP leaders for their appreciation and informed about 100% vaccination in J&K for first dose administered

ing 9454540 doses and also administered 4540648 second doses ensuring 1 crore 40 lakh doses approx in J&K. He also informed that vaccination average of J&K is higher than the National average.

Ravinder Raina, Ashok Kaul, Sat Sharma and others also felicitated the Corona Warriors at SD Sabha School, New Rehari.

Jugal Kishore Sharma and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at Gandhi Nagar Hospital.

Kavinder Gupta, Vinay Gupta and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at PHC Digiana, Bharat Mata Mandir, GB Pant Hospital.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at SD Sabha School Talab Tillo.

Yudhvir Sethi felicitated the Corona Warriors at Vaccination Centre at Shalamar Hospital.

Priya Sethi felicitated the Corona Warriors at CHC, Talab Khatika.

Sat Sharma, Munish Khajuria, Karan Singh and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at PHC Centre, Ward 35 Janipur.

Rekha Mahajan, Jagdish Bhagat, Suraj Singh and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at PHC, Pargwal.

Rajinder Singh Chib, Shailja Gupta and others felicitated the Corona Warriors at PHC Marh, CHC Suhanjama and PHC Gho Manasan.

Internet shutdown nothing to do with HM visit: IGP Excelsior Correspondent SRINAGAR, Oct 21: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar today said that seizing some bikes or shutting down internet of some towers is purely related to militancy related incidents.

Kashmir Zone Police while quoting IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar tweeted: "Seizing some bikes and shutting down the internet of some towers is purely related to militancy violence. It has nothing to do with the visit of the Hon'ble HM."

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