

Danish Health Minister meets Dr Jitendra, discusses joint training programmes

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 14 : Danish Minister of Health, Magnus Heunicke called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed joint training programmes for health workers.

Magnus Heunik informed Dr Jitendra Singh that the Novo Nordisk Foundation of Denmark is preparing a US \$100 Million project for implementation in India, inspired by the success of the temporary hospitals project. This project will focus on research-guided training of health workers in cardio-metabolic diseases and the program will create a sustainable system for training health workers in non-pharma management of early stage diabetes and other such CMD diseases.

A delegation led by the Danish Minister of Health reviewed with their Indian counterparts the progress of bilateral cooperation particularly in areas like Green Strategic Partnership, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that during the second wave of the Covid pandemic, the Danish

Embassy in India facilitated a grant of Danish Kroner 10 million (almost Rs 12 crore) from the Novo Nordisk Foundation to support emergency hospitals in India. He said, six such hospitals are already functioning: two in Punjab, and one each in Haryana, Nagaland and Assam, and two more are under construction in Meghalaya and Nagaland. These hospitals were established within a very short period, through Innovative materials and processes, including by startups.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, these hospitals were established in the States with support from Indian organisations C-CAMP (Bengaluru) and Invest India and this entire exercise is an example of Foreign-Union-State-Private cooperation, with support from the Indian startup



A high level delegation led by Danish Minister of Health, Magnus Heunicke calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen, during the Joint S&T Committee meeting held in Delhi.

The Joint Committee discussed national strategic priorities and developments in Science, Technology, and Innovation of both countries with a special focus on green solutions of the future - strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation at the virtual meeting.

The committee emphasised on development of bilateral collaboration on mission-driven research, innovation, and technology development, including climate and green transition, energy, water, waste, food, and so on as agreed by the two Prime Ministers while adopting the Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025. They agreed to organise 3-4 webinars for partnership development and stressed on promoting call for proposals in green fuels, including green hydrogen.

The Joint Committee also reviewed the progress of the ongoing projects of last two joint calls being implemented in the areas of energy research, water, cyber-physical systems, and bioresources & secondary agriculture.

and corporate sector as well. The Minister said that such partnerships between Indian and Danish non-government and private sectors are a sign of the strong relationship between our two countries.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in January this year, India & Denmark agreed to initiate joint

Speed up digitization, switch to mobile governances: CS to Revenue Deptt

* Fard Intikhab/Mutation to be given online soon

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today said that the ongoing digital transformation of revenue administration will bring openness and speed in the decision making and improve the delivery of service in next three months.

He said that the issues of land demarcation and incorporation of new entries in the land records have always been the cause of concern and the ongoing digitization of land records will fully address these concerns.

Dr. Mehta said that adoption of digital technologies in revenue department will facilitate online provision of fard intikhab and mutations and also ensure that no transaction is done in the land records of the land owners without their knowledge.

He made these comments in the review meeting of UT Capex of the Revenue Department, which was attended, amongst others, by Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Shaleen Kabra, and Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, Vijay Kumar Biduri.

Earlier FCR, Revenue informed that all Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars will be provided laptops, while the officers down below will be provided tabs for automation of mutations etc. to help improve the overall working of the department at the cutting edge level.

He said switch to mobilize governance is also being contemplated and a mobile app will be developed shortly to support the land transactions on the smartphones.

Commissioner Secretary, Revenue informed that the digital hardware for revenue governance at the leading edge level will be in place by March, 2022, and for sustained momentum, necessary financial support for the purpose will be ensured during the next year as well.

The Chief Secretary directed

for ensuring that laptops/tabs are given to the identified revenue functionaries within scheduled time, while further adding that an appropriate mobile app should also be developed to facilitate mobile governance.

He directed the department to ensure that one room in patwar khana in each patwar halqa is reserved for patwaris for public meetings for at least two hours for four days in a week.

He further directed to ensure that the names of tehsildars/naib-tehsildars/girdawars/patwaris and their mobile numbers are permanently displayed on the walls of these buildings along with helpline numbers to enable the visitor(s) to lodge their complaints on these help lines in case the revenue officials/patwaris are not available for public meetings.

Reiterating his earlier directions, Dr. Mehta asked the department to ensure that land passbooks are distributed to the land owners in two districts, Jammu and Srinagar, by 31st, March, 2022 and to all the land owners in the remaining district by 15th August, 2022.

Saying that the mechanism of addressing the complaints of the land owners has to be strengthened within the departments, the Chief Secretary directed for setting up dedicated 24x7 revenue helpline besides designating a whatsapp number of an officer at an appropriate level in the department exclusively for receiving the com-

plaints/suggestions/inputs from the land owners.

The Chief Secretary said that the department should re-align its spending focus on creating an enabling digital ecosystem instead of setting up physical infrastructure in the shape of buildings etc.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary chaired an online inaugural function of "Capacity Building Programme in Field Administration for Senior Officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service" which started today at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Massore, Uttarakhand.

Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JK IMPARD), Saurabh Bhagat, attended the inaugural ceremony virtually from Srinagar.

The present batch of JKAS senior officers is the 3rd of its kind. The deputation of these officers for mid career training is part of IMPARD response to the Kashmir Aelamia.

In his Inaugural address, Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of J&K IMPARD and DARPG in their efforts to get senior JKAS Officers deputed for Mid Career Capacity Building Training at LBSNAA. He had special words of appreciation for V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, who has been instrumental in the entire exercise of Mid-Career Training for JKAS Officers.

Dr Farooq raises issue of escalating airfares to Kashmir in LS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: National Conference president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday sought rationalization of airfare to all domestic tourist destinations in the country including Kashmir.

Escalation of airfare dampens the plans of those countrymen who can ill-afford to pay hefty amounts of pleasure trips across the country. "People across the country cannot afford to visit domestic destinations due to skyrocketing airfare. There, it is imperative for the Government to rationalize the airfare, so that country men can visit these domestic destinations, particularly Kashmir," he said.

He also urged the Ministry of Tourism to consider reducing charges on allied tourism activities including passes, boarding, lodging and food. Dr Farooq also impressed upon the concerned Ministry to resume direct flights from Kashmir to Sharjah as well.

Replying to the issues flagged by Dr Farooq, Minister Tourism G Kishan Reddy said that Government of India has given a thought to this issue. He said the Tourism department does out subsidies to the Civil Aviation Ministry under Udaan scheme to ensure that underprivileged people are able to board aeroplanes and visit tourist destinations. He also enumerated various steps taken by his ministry to ease the visa issuance for tourism purposes.

Saffron production reaches 15 MT after two decades

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: Saffron production surpassed 15 metric tonnes for the first time in nearly 25 years last season, thanks to timely rainfall that restored the declining crop yield and gave growers hope.

Saffron output has increased in recent years due to timely rainfall, according to officials, and the trend is expected to continue in the future since the sprinkle irrigation system adopted under the National Saffron Mission will be completely operational in the upcoming season. A Government official said that roughly 65 percent of the irrigation system is finished, and he believed the irrigation system would be finished this year.

According to the Agriculture Department, the production peaked at 15 metric tonnes in 1996 when the saffron land cover was around 5707 hectares. Over time, the land cover has dropped to about 3715 acres, and productivity has been declining, leading to many growers abandoning the crop.

However, crop yields have increased in recent years, with officials attributing the progress to the National Saffron Mission. Saffron production had dropped by 35% (10.40MT) and the area under cultivation had fallen to 3,715 hectares when the National Saffron Mission was launched in 2011. This is the first occasion; however, that

production has exceeded 15 metric tonnes, reaching 15.04 tonnes.

Suhail Ahmad, an official with the Agriculture Department, said that the reason for the good output was timely rainfall when the crop required it. "This crop needs moisture, and we got adequate rainfall for the crop to preserve moisture. Over the previous five years, production has increased," he said.

He said that the National Saffron Mission's technological assistance resulted in an increase in production. "In saffron cultivation, the department provides services such as intercultural operations, land management, seed quality, supplement-integrated nutrition, and pest management all played a role," he said.

Saffron specialist Bashir Ahmad Elahi told Excelsior that growers should irrigate their land during the critical period of August 25th to September 5th. "The irrigating of crops for these 10 days can increase saffron output by 40 percent," he added.

He explained that the country's domestic demand is 100 metric tonnes, while Jammu and Kashmir only produces 15 metric tonnes, resulting in an 85-metric-tonne shortfall. "In order to minimize this, we must apply these interventions to satisfy that need, and irrigation is one such intervention where we can boost our output," he said.



House damaged in fire in Batamaloo. -Excelsior/Shakeel

8 houses gutted in Batamaloo

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: At least 8 houses were gutted in Batamaloo's Sheikh Hamza Colony during an overnight blaze that erupted out of one of the houses situated at a congested location.

As per the officials, the blaze has rendered over 24 family members homeless while the damage sustained in the incident has been said to be severe.

During the incident, officials

said that several firemen were also injured. They have been identified as Muhammad Ahsan Malla, Akshay Sehgal and Muhammad Altaf Rather.

The officials said that a call of fire was made around 11 pm during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday and soon after that the fire tenders rushed to the spot to douse down the flames.

However, the locals said that the fire tenders reached the spot after a much delay.

"Eight residential houses, all three-storied were involved in the fire while as the time of the call was 22:53," officials said, adding 10 fire stations were called in for the firefighting operation.

The fire stations that were on job include Headquarters

Srinagar, Gowkadal, S. H. Pora, M. R. Gunj, Rawalpura, Rainawari, Safakadal, Babademb, M. A. Road and L.D. The residents said that the fire spread so quickly that by the time they spotted the flames, the fire was already everywhere.

"We couldn't take anything out; the fire was everywhere; all we could do was to run for safety and now, we have been left with nothing," Javeed Ahmad Sheikh one of the residents said.

He said that at least 8 houses have been destroyed in the fire and around 35 members living in these houses have been affected.

The residents said that the fire tenders reached the spot late. "They reached here with a delay and due to the narrow lanes they could not get here in time, but then, they tried to do their best," the residents said.

When this report was being filed, the affected families were not provided with any sort of help by the administration.

"We spent a night on the road, but the administration has not done anything for us so far; we had nothing to eat; not to talk of shelter, some people came and wrote down the names, nothing else," the residents said.

While the residents said that the fire was caused due to a short circuit, the police have registered a case in this regard and the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

HC takes serious note of poor investigation in NDPSA case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohan Lal while dismissing acquittal appeal in NDPS Act, has observed that it is the duty of the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone to ensure that the enquiry ordered by him is taken to the logical conclusion and the delinquent officials are made accountable.

"This will be necessary to send signal to the Investigating Officers, particularly those, investigating cases under NDPS Act to remain vigilant in future and perform their duties diligently so that people who indulge in drug trafficking are brought to book", the DB added.

The significant judgment has been passed in an application by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir seeking condonation of delay of 327 days in filing leave to appeal application to assail the judgment of acquittal dated September 6, 2019 recorded by the court of Principal Sessions Judge, Reasi in case titled State Versus Partap Singh whereby the trial court has acquitted the respondent-accused in FIR No.54/2013 of Police Station, Katra for offences under Section 8/20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

After hearing AAG Ravinder Gupta for the UT, the DB dismissed the appeal filed by UT and observed, "before we part with this judgment, we deem it appropriate to notice that this court vide order dated

09.12.2020 had directed the applicant to apprise the court as to whether action has been taken or proposed to be taken against the Investigating Officer, who did not appear as a witness in the case as also the Public Prosecutor, who failed to take requisite steps for examination of the Investigating Officer and other relevant witnesses".

"In response to the interim order passed by this court, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi has filed a status report and has also placed on record a copy of order No.164 of 2021 dated 10.02.2021. A perusal of the order indicates that the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone has ordered an enquiry to be conducted by Imtiyaz Ahmed, DySP, SO to DIG, UR Range against Inspector Sanjeev Gupta, the then SHO, Police Station, Katra, Constable, Sudesh Kumar No.201/CR and Constable Gurcharan Singh No.532/U", the DB said, adding "we are, however, not aware as to whether the enquiry ordered by the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone has been taken to its logical end or not".

High Court said, "it is the duty of the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone to ensure that the enquiry ordered by him is taken to the logical conclusion and the delinquent officials are made accountable. This will be necessary to send a signal to the Investigating Officers, particularly those, investigating cases under NDPS Act to remain vigilant in future and perform their duties diligently so that people who indulge in drug trafficking are brought to book".

ACB arrests VLW in bribery case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today trapped and arrested a Village Level Worker (VLW) in Ganderbal for demanding and accepting a bribe for issuance of the information under the RTI Act.

The ACB said that it received a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that in lieu of providing information in respect of developmental works at village Anderwan, RDD Block Lar, Ganderbal under RTI Act in favour of the complainant, Mohammad Yaqoob Kambay, Village Level Worker, Anderwan, RDD, Block Lar, Ganderbal while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 3,000/- from the complainant.

"The accused was arrested and taken into custody by the ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," the ACB said, adding further investigation into the case is on.

On receipt of the complaint a case (FIR No. 10/2022 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 r/w 120-B IPC) was registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation took up, the ACB said.

During the investigation, ACB said that a trap team was constituted which then laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Mohammad Yaqoob Kambay, Village Level Worker, Anderwan, RDD, Block Lar, Ganderbal while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 3,000/- from the complainant.

"The accused was arrested and taken into custody by the ACB Team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," the ACB said, adding further investigation into the case is on.



Strong police contingent trying to stop PHE workers during protest rally at Indira Chowk in Jammu on Monday.

-Excelsior/ Rakesh

Police foils protest march of PHE workers to Civil Secretariat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, March 14: The police foiled the protest march of daily wagers and casual labourers of PHE/ Jal Shakti department when they were advancing towards Civil Secretariat here today.

Official sources said that a large number of PHE daily wagers led by Ravi Hans and other Union leaders, assembled in the office complex of Chief Engineer at BC Road in the morning and started protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans in support of their demands.

Carrying banners and placards in hands, the protesting workers were demanding their regularization and release of pending wages. They alleged that the workers are facing exploitation. They are not being paid regularly while their families are facing starvation. Despite, assurance by the Lt Governor in presence of MP Jagal Kishore and BJP president Ravinder Raina last year, their issue was not resolved even after the passage of one year,

despite the fact that they had sought three months time.

The protesting PHE workers from various areas of Jammu region after staging protest at BC Road complex, started moving towards Civil Secretariat. When they reached at Indira Chowk, a strong contingent of police stopped them. The workers

showed some resistance but they were not allowed to move ahead. They started raising loud slogans against the LG's Administration and BJP besides its leaders. After showing resistance the PHE workers were made to disperse by police.

Earlier, several trade union leaders also addressed the gathering and strongly criticized the BJP Govt at the Centre, Jammu based leaders and LG's Administration for ignoring the working class and their sheer exploitation. They alleged that LG's administration was trying to suppress the voice of Trade unions and employees in J&K.

Govt to use NFSA database for implementation of AB PMJAY, SEHAT

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: The Jammu and Kashmir government would use National Food Security Act (NFSA) database for implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and AB PMJAY SEHAT to address the beneficiary identification challenges and other data fidelity issues in Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

As per an order issued here today in this regard by the State Health Agency (SHA), the migration from SECC 2011 to NFSA database will start from 00:00 hours of 15th March 2022. As per the changes made in the identification process, Ration Card Number will be considered as a unique ID. Also, the Aadhaar card will be considered a mandatory ID as well as an individual ID.

If the family has already generated Golden Cards through SECC 2011, the same will be linked with NFSA database and shall continue to remain functional. Besides, missing family members shall be added as per

NHA's add member rules and documents required for add-member included birth certificate and marriage certificate.

Pertinently, "AB-PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT have been implemented in J&K with an aim to reduce the out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures and to improve access of all the residents of J&K," further reads the order. "In order to address the beneficiary identification challenges and other data fidelity issues in SECC 2011, the Government of J&K decided to migrate from SECC-2011 to National Food Security Act (NFSA) database," the order added.



Anganwadi workers and helpers staging protest at Mandi in Poonch on Monday.

Anganwadi workers, helpers stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 14: Threatening to lock down centres for 10 to 15 days, Anganwadi workers and helpers staged protest in Tehsil Complex Mandi and put forth their long pending demands before the Administration.

A large number of ICDS workers gathered outside Tehsildar's office at Mandi town and raised slogans against Government for not treating them equally as in other states and UTs of the country.

Putting forth demands before Government, president Anganwadi workers, Naseem Aan said that our monthly wages are pending for the last 8 months and must be released immediately. The Government must pro-

vide salary at par with other States and UTs of India.

Alleging harassment by officers, she said that Anganwadi workers and helpers are being engaged with many other departments without giving extra benefits/charges which is sheer injustice and their exploitation. Extra wages must be provided if employees are engaged with other departments for some additional assignments.

Talking about promotion, the agitating workers said that we are having high qualifications and Government must consider our promotion keeping our higher education in view. All workers and helpers urged Government to fulfill their demands at the earliest.

On receipt of the complaint a

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today trapped and arrested a Village Level Worker (VLW) in Ganderbal for demanding and accepting a bribe for issuance of the information under the RTI Act.

The ACB said that it received a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that in lieu of providing information in respect of developmental works at village Anderwan, RDD Block Lar, Ganderbal under RTI Act in favour of the complainant, Mohammad Yaqoob Kambay, Village Level Worker of village Anderwan, Block Lar, Ganderbal is demanding a bribe of Rs. 3000.



Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Directorate General of Training (DGT)
 Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (J&K, Ladakh Region)
 National Skill Training Institute, Srinagar
 Women Polytechnic Campus, Bemina, Srinagar - 190 018 (J&K)
 Email: rdsde-jk-msde@gov.in Ph. No. 0191 - 2263777/0194 - 2493199

No.RDSDE/JKD-110111/2019/ADMIN/1754 Dated : 13.03.2022

WANTED OFFICE CUM NATIONAL SKILL TRAINING INSTITUTE BUILDING ON LEASE

Government of India, MSDE, DGT, intends to hire Office cum Training Institute Premises from the individual/firms on lease basis measuring approx. 2000 sq. feet to 3000 sq. feet carpet area (+5% variation in areas is acceptable) which are in ready to occupy condition preferably on ground or ground and first floor or any other floor with lift facility at Srinagar. "Advertisement for requirement of Office cum National Skill Training Institute on Lease". The tender documents will be issued from 15th March, 2022 to 12th April, 2022 (excluding holidays, Saturday & Sunday). The "Technical Bids" will be opened on 12th April, 2022 at 04.00 pm in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative who may wish to be present. For more details, tender documents and other necessary details, visit and download from RDSDE/NSTI, Websites: <https://rdsdejamukashmir.dgt.gov.in> and <https://nstijammu.dgt.gov.in> The tender documents along with the enclosures must reach the Regional Director, RDSDE, J&K, Bhour Camp, Chatha Road, Near Reen Palace, P/O, Bhour Camp, Teh. and Distt., Jammu - 181 101 (J&K) on or before 12th April, 2022 upto 03.00 pm.

Government of India reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in full/part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Regional Director