

HM moots Centre or state bodies be empowered to regulate drugs, cosmetics manufacture

NEW DELHI, July 19:

The Union Health Ministry has mooted that either the Centre or state authorities be empowered to regulate the manufacture of drugs and cosmetics, changing its earlier proposal of allowing only the Central Drugs Standard Organisation (CDSCO) to do so.

As of now, all manufacturing activities relating to drugs and cosmetics are regulated by only the state governments through their drug control organisations, official sources told PTI.

The draft bill also mentions that the Central Government may regulate, restrict or prohibit selling, stocking, exhibiting or offering sale or distribution of any drug online by notification.

The latest draft of the New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023, which seeks to replace the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940, is yet to be approved by the Cabinet.

It, however, features among the 21 key bills that are on the agenda for the Monsoon session of Parliament.

The latest version of the draft bill states, "No person shall himself or by any other person on his behalf manufacture for sale or distribution any drug, except in accordance with a license issued by the Central Licensing Authority or the State Licensing Authority for such drugs, in such form and manner, as may be prescribed."

In the latest draft, it is not clear what type of drug licenses will be regulated by the state

and Centre.

"Once the bill is passed in Parliament, the Centre will formulate the rules for regulating drugs, clarifying how much power and what sort of power the states and the Centre would have," an official source said.

The Union Health Ministry has also proposed a separate chapter for regulating cosmetics. Besides, regulations for conducting clinical trials for new drugs and medical devices have been brought under the draft bill.

It also provides for regulation of clinical trials of new drugs and investigational new drugs.

"Notwithstanding, anything contained in this Act, the Central Licensing Authority or the Central Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Regulatory Authority may in public interest, abbreviate, defer or waive such pre-clinical and clinical data requirements for approval of new drug or investigational new drug or approval of medical device or clinical investigation of investigational medical device... Taking into account its severity, rarity, un-met medical need, emergency, extreme urgency," the draft bill read.

Currently, clinical trials for new drugs and medical devices as well as the provisions for compensation for injury or death on account of participation in such trials are governed by the New Drugs and Clinical

Trials Rules, 2019.

Also, medical devices are treated as drugs and there is no separate definition for those.

The draft New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023, has a separate chapter on AYUSH medicines, proposing for the first time to regulate Sowa Rigpa and homoeopathy.

The existing act regulates only Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha drugs and cosmetics.

The draft bill has introduced various definitions or provisions, such as bioequivalence study, bioavailability study, clinical trial, clinical investigation, controlling authority, manufacturer, medical device, new drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and adulterated cosmetics, for more clarity and smooth implementation, an official said.

The penalties for offences related to the import of drugs and cosmetics have been enhanced appropriately in the draft bill, another official said.

The draft New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill was placed in the public domain last year, seeking feedback from stakeholders.

The Union Health Ministry and the CDSCO received several comments from the stakeholders on the draft bill, which was revised accordingly by the Ministry and sent for inter-ministerial consultations in April. It has been revised again. (PTI)

intensified and membership drive to be completed on priority.

Moreover people will be made aware about four-day program of Mr Azad to various Panchayat Headquarters of all three blocks i.e Bhaderwah, Bhalala and Chirallia.

Jugal Kishore Sharma delivered the concluding address and highlighted the developmental works done during the Chief Ministership of Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Other senior leaders, who attended the meeting, included Ramesh Parihar, Zonal Vice President; Zafarulla Sheikh, Zonal Gen Secy; Khurshid Ahmad But, Zonal Org Secy; Asif Gattu, Dist Doda President; Krishan Manhas, Zonal Secy; Arif Najar, Block President Bhaderwah and organizer of the meeting; Mohd Shafi Rishu, Block President Bhalala and Gandharb Singh, Block President Chirallia.

Dr Surinder Kumar, Principal, Govt SPMR College of Commerce was the chief guest while Prof Lalit Mangotra and Khalid Hussain were guests of honour on the occasion.

At the outset, Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh said that Pt Vidya Ratan Aasi was a God gifted poet and remained master of Urdu Ghazal in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that in view of his tremendous and peerless contribution towards Urdu poetry and literature especially in Jammu and Kashmir, JKAACL was paying Musical tribute to this great soul of Jammu and Kashmir.

This was followed by presentation of paper on Pt Vidya Ratan Aasi, read by Khalid Hussain, in which he described his views about the poet.

Aasi was a towering poet of Jammu and Kashmir; his poetry is simple and attracts each and every one. He lived his life in a poor condition. Despite many obstacles, he wrote a poetry

which could be placed at a high level. Two books of Urdu poetry, penned down by Aasi and entitled- Dast-e-Talab and Zindagi Ke Maare Log, were published and got fame among the masses and Urdu lovers of the country.

Prof Lalit Mangotra, in his speech, praised the efforts of JKAACL for organising such programs. He said poetry of Vidya Ratan Aasi will be remembered for a long time, as he projected the realities of life in his poetry.

In his address, Dr Surinder Kumar, Principal, Govt SPMR College of Commerce, said that he was privileged to be part of this evening. He also appreciated the efforts of JKAACL for organizing a memorable program in the memory of Vidya Ratan Aasi.

This was followed by Musical tribute by the renowned singer of Jammu & Kashmir, Dharmesh Nargotra. He mesmerized the audience with his melodious voice. He was equally supported by Rakesh Jasotra on Flute, Chadan on Synth, Arav on Guitar and Rahul Bhardwaj on Tabla.

The programme was ably conducted by Rajkumar Beharipa. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shah Nawaz, Editor cum Cultural officer, Gojri, JKAACL.

Murmu accepts credentials from envoys of five nations

NEW DELHI, July 19:

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday accepted credentials from envoys of five nations, including Chad and Finland, at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Those who presented their credentials were Dillah Lucienne, Ambassador of the Republic of Chad; Brigadier General Aloys Bizindanyi, Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi; and Kimmo Lahdevirta, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Clemente Pedro Francisco Camenha, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola; and Demeke Atafu Ambulo, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, also presented their credentials to the president, it added. (PTI)

Modi scripted new history for deprived sections: Dr Manyal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Former Minister and general secretary, J&K BJP, Dr. Devinder Manyal, in a statement, said that a new chapter of progress and prosperity has been initiated for a number of discriminated and deprived sections in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A.

He said that after the division of the country into India and Pakistan, it was the Congress which ruled the country for about seven decades and NC was in power in J&K for maximum period. Unfortunately both these parties treated Valmikis, Gorkhas, refugees from West Pakistan and daughters of the soil as second class citizens. These sections suffered badly on account of the step motherly treatment meted out to them by Congress and NC.

Dr. Devinder Manyal said that the historic decision of the Narendra Modi Government to abrogate 370 and 35A has brought the deprived sections at



Renowned singer Dharmesh Nargotra and other artists paying musical tribute to Vidya Rattan Aasi during the programme by JKAACL.

JKAACL pays tribute to Pandit Vidya Rattan 'Aasi'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organised a musical evening to pay tributes to the legendary Urdu poet Pandit Vidya Rattan 'Aasi'.

Dr Surinder Kumar, Principal, Govt SPMR College of Commerce was the chief guest while Prof Lalit Mangotra and Khalid Hussain were guests of honour on the occasion.

At the outset, Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh said that Pt Vidya Ratan Aasi was a God gifted poet and remained master of Urdu Ghazal in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that in view of his tremendous and peerless contribution towards Urdu poetry and literature especially in Jammu and Kashmir, JKAACL was paying Musical tribute to this great soul of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Oppn making futile exercise to dethrone Modi Govt: Ritika

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Chief spokesperson, BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT, Ritika Trehan today claimed that biggest problem of the Congress is the success and stability of the first non-Congress Government under the leadership of PM Modi.

As the country is heading towards the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, opposition political parties making futile exercise who claim that they are coming together to dethrone the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre. These political parties are in collusion, contradiction, confusion, conflict to compete with the BJP, added Ritika.

Ritika said that this bundle of alliance knows very well that it cannot defeat Prime Minister, Modi, irrespective of the fact whether they fight alone or form an alliance. However, carrying forward the commotion of coalition is their compulsion. That's why their current attempt to forge an ideology-less and directionless alliance against Modi is nothing but an "old copy with new cover".

Ritika further said that it is for the first time after Independence

Senior BJP leaders from Sunderbani revolt against party leadership

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Revolting against the party some senior leaders of BJP from Sunderbani in Rajouri district today announced not to work on any party post and disassociate themselves from all its activities in protest against what they called the double standards of the party leadership. However they maintained that they will continue to be the members of the party and not resign from its basic membership.

Talking to reporters at Sunderani near here, today Capt (ret'd) Om Dutt Sharma BJP ex district president Nowshera, along with other senior leaders of the party said that the BJP leadership has totally betrayed them and never took them into consideration whenever any decision was taken regarding the area.

Sharma said that they had worked hard in motivating former MLC, Surinder Choudhary to join the BJP a year back and it was their intention that the ex MLC who had secured 28,000 votes in last Assembly elections as PDP candidate despite the BJP wave in the UT could help in strengthening the party further in the area, but unfortunately for personnel reasons he has been forced to quit the party within a year. This has disheartened the party men in the area as everything happened against their wishes.

Sharma said the another grave issue which has disheartened the party men is that the people of Sunderbani feel totally betrayed after the Sunderbani was not declared a separate Assembly segment in the recent reorganization of the Assembly constituencies in the UT.

He said earlier Wazir Commission and Billowria Commission in their reports had recommended that Sunderbani be given a status of separate Assembly segment. He said instead of granting the separate Assembly constituency to Sunderbani the present Government included its seven Panchayats with Kalakote while others were kept as part of the Nowshera constituency. This way they divided the constituency and its people putting them to hardships and problems.

Sharma said this way the people of Sunderbani feel totally cheated as they had not met such kind of discrimination during the Congress and NC

SSP Baramulla reviews Muharram preparedness

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 19: To ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram processions in Baramulla and to assess the overall facilities provided to the people, SSP Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nagapure, reviewed the preparedness today.

He was accompanied by SDM Pattan, Faheem Bihauqi, and SDPO Pattan, Mohammad Nawaz, during their visit to various Imambaras where Muharram processions are expected to take place.

During the visits, SSP Baramulla also engaged with prominent citizens and Intiziya committees to ensure the hassle-free conduct of Majlis and processions.

Special attention was given to crowd management, ensuring the smooth flow of processions, and maintaining public order throughout the period.

In response to the suggestions and issues raised by the community representatives, the visiting officers assured them that all genuine demands would be addressed as a priority.

rule. Though the people of the constituency had high hopes that party president belonged to



Senior BJP leaders addressing a press conference at Sunderbani on Wednesday.

Sharma said when the party men from Sunderbani and Nowshera took up this issue with UT leaders they said it was the decision of Sangathan. He said even a Samarak on the name of the martyrs was not considered despite it being a long pending demand of the people of the area. Dr Mohan Parashar, Bodh Raj, Om Parakash, Krishan Lal, Adarsh Bharti, Shyam Mehra, Giyan Ji and Ashok Kumar all senior party activists were present in the press conference.

Sharma said likewise in the selection of candidates for last DDC elections, the views of party leadership from the area were not considered by the president and when the official candidate lost the elections, the rebel candidate was brought in the party fold within 24 hours.

But later fingers were also raised on him after he leveled allegations on party leadership and he too was harassed and humiliated, Sharma added.

Moreover, in selection of

a traffic policeman in Srinagar has won praise for managing the movement of vehicles on a busy road here barefoot amid torrential rains.

A video, being widely shared on social media, showed the policeman

man on duty at the Gupkar Road intersection managing the traffic barefoot as he took out his shoes and socks due to the waterlogging in the area as heavy rains lashed many parts of the Valley.

The video was posted on Twitter by a user and an independent weather forecaster, 'Kashmir Weather'.

"Amidst challenging conditions of waterlogged roads and heavy

downpour in Srinagar, a traffic cop goes above and beyond, performing his duty barefoot," the Kashmir Weather wrote.

The short video clip is winning over the internet and has garnered over 32,000 views on Twitter so far.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah also shared the video post, but took a dig at the administration, saying it was a pity that the basic drainage was not improved in Srinagar city when it was beautified under the smart city project ahead of the G20 meeting in May.

"This chowk was just 'beautified' under the 'Smart City' programme a month ago to impress the participants of the G20 tamasha. It's a pity the basic drainage wasn't improved when that metallic thing was put in the middle of the road," Abdullah said in a tweet. (PTI)

guidance of CMO Poonch Dr Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Anis and Medical Superintendent Dr Zulfaqar.

Dr Sourav Sharma (Senior Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon) did TMJoint Arthrocentesis on an

18-year-old female who was suffering for last 1 year with difficulty in mouth opening and eating.

Another 16-year-old girl with cyst in upper jaw close to floor of the nose was operated and bony defect was filled with PRF, which

helps in bone regeneration. It is important to mention here that PRF is the latest advancement in Medical field and is done at very few institutes.

Dr Sourav Sharma had earlier done various cancer biopsies and facial trauma cases at Poonch. All this was done under the

guidance of CMO Poonch Dr Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Anis and Medical Superintendent Dr Zulfaqar.

crimes or violence against them.

"The squad will conduct regular patrols in areas frequented by women, such as schools, colleges, shopping malls, and market places," police said.

The police have urged female citizens to come forward with any grievances, assuring them that their safety and security will be ensured at all costs.

For assistance, female citizens have been asked to contact the phone numbers of SHO PS Women's +919596767722; SHO PS Baramulla +919596767710; PCR Baramulla +919596767768.

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downpour in Srinagar, a traffic cop goes above and beyond, performing his duty barefoot," the Kashmir Weather wrote.

10 vehicles seized, 2 smugglers held for illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, July 19: Acting tough against theft of mining mineral, District Reasi Police seized ten vehicles and arrested two persons for their involvement in smuggling small minerals.

Acting on a complaint that some Dumpers are involved in theft of mining material in Anji Khad area, Block No. 06, Police party from P/S Reasi reached the spot and nabbed two persons who was involved in theft of mining material from that area.

The police also seized one Dumper bearing registration number JK20 B- 1837 loaded with stolen mining material. In this regard case FIR number 146/2023 U/S 379 IPC and 34 PDPP Act has been registered at P/S Reasi.

The arrest was made by SHO Reasi Vijay Sharma under the supervision of Dy SP Hqs Reasi Neeraj Padyar.

In another success, team of P/S Katra seized five Dumpers (JK14H-1155, JK14T-1155, JK14C-9367, JK14H-9755 and JK20B-8989) for violating mining norms, while a team of P/S Mahore seized two dumpers (JK20B-4106 & JK11F-3351) which were carrying illegal mining material.

Team of Police Post Dera Baba also seized one trolley bearing Registration number JK02CX-7263, loaded with illegal mining material at Balini Nallah while team of P/S Armas seized a tractor trolley without registration number with illegal mining material near the bank of River Chenab.

Thieves arrested from Bhawan, stolen items recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, July 19: Acting swiftly, Bhawan Police arrested two thieves and recovered stolen items worth more than Rs one lakh within hours of the crime.

According to Police, a pilgrim namely Milan Kumar, son of Rakesh Kumar, resident of Thandi Khassi, Rajouri, approached Police Station Bhawan and lodged a written complaint stating that his belongings were stolen from the locker at locker room when he had gone for the darshan.

After registering a case in this regard, Police zeroes in few suspected and by using technical assistance, the stolen items worth more than Rs 1,20,000 were recovered from the accused, identified as Balvinder Singh, son of Harmek and Saroj, wife of Jagdish, both resident of Anupgarh, Ganganagar, Rajasthan. The recovered items included six Mobile phones.

The recovery and arrest were made by the police team, led by SHO Khyatimaan, accompanied by PSI Raghav Chalotra, under the supervision of SDPO Bhawan Bhisam Dubey and SP Katra Vipin Chandran.

27 eye patients operated free of cost at Sood Eye Centre

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: The Care Welfare Society (WCWS) and Sood Eye Care Centre, Trikuta Nagar (Jammu) jointly organised a programme for conducting eye surgeries of cataract patients belonging to downtrodden and BPL families.

The surgeries were conducted in pursuance of the medical camp held at Chowki Chaura on July 16, wherein patients were screened for eye operations. Out of 157 checked for eye ailments, 34 patients were screened for cataract and other eye complications.

After proper examination, 27 patients were operated upon with latest PHACO- LASIK technique at Sood Eye Care Centre. Free

UHC Trikuta Nagar in shambles: TNWC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWC) today alleged that Urban Health Centre (UHC), Trikuta Nagar Colony (Jammu) is in shambles and needs renovation, besides other facilities.

This was observed by a team of TNWC which visited UHC Trikuta Nagar and have healthy interaction with Dr Pawan, Demonstrator (PSM) and Incharge of the UHC, Dr Vanita Kotwal (MO) and Prithipal Singh (Pharmacist).

The TNWC team comprising Rajinder Parshad Kakkar (president), S N Kaul, Vijay Gupta,

transport arrangement was made for to and fro journey of the patients and their attendants from their home town.

The management committee members of WCWS were present in the Hospital for their support to the patients. The patients were provided with medicines and spectacles free of cost and they didn't have to bear any expenses for their surgery/treatment. The operations of the remaining patients will be undertaken in next phase.

WCWS management committee members present in the Hospital were chairman Prof M Sadiq Nargal, president Dr RK Gupta, vice president (women) Sudershan Gupta, general secretary Rajinder Gupta and treasurer Kuldeep Uppal.

Sandeep Sharma, Varinder Kumar Suri and Dr Arun Gandotra stressed for upgradation and renovation of the UHC, as cracks were seen on the walls of every room.

They observed that the UHC is centre of pollution and generation centre of viruses like dengue and malaria and demanded that all rooms and bathrooms be cleaned on daily basis. They also emphasized on availability of a physician specialist as well as diagnostic facilities like Lab, ECG, X-ray, etc in the Centre. They also observed that the availability of a Gynecologist will improve the working of this UHC in a much better way.