

# Union MoS for External Affairs interacts with Police officers

➤ **DGP briefs Minister regarding security scenario, JKP's initiatives** ◀

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, who was on visit to Kashmir as part of outreach programme of Government of India, on Wednesday interacted with DGP J&K and others Police Officers at GOs Mess Humhama.

The visiting Minister, while interacting with the officers, said that she shared a special relationship with the UT of J&K and police as she comes from a family who served in the police department for three generations.

The Minister, while interacting with the lady officers, said that it is fascinating to see the women sharing spaces of public offices and responsibilities with the male counter parts in building of the nation.

She said that her Ministry will try to develop religious and heritage tourism in UT so that tourists in large numbers are attracted towards the religious and spiritual places here.



Union MoS External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi interacting with DGP J&K Dilbag Singh.

She said that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine is shining example of attracting religious tourists to the UT. She added that on the same lines some more tourist circuits can be developed and promoted.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of preservation of Culture and cultural symbols. She said that Kashmir had a rich cultural heritage of being a learning place in the Indian sub continent.

On the occasion the DGP gave an insight into the security scenario in J&K and said that from last

three years the peace and progress have been moving forward together and peaceful environment have brought dividends to the people who have contributed in a big way in our peace building efforts.

Law and Order and security situation has shown a marked improvement in all respects with least loss of

life and property,

There is no street violence and the favourite Bandh Call culture of separatists has ended almost completely, he added.

He informed that the changing environment has upset the Pak agencies and their proxies and recent innocent civilian killings is indicating of their frustra-

tion with people's partnership in peace and progress and communal harmony.

The DGP said that such elements shall not be spared and stringent measure shall be taken to defeat their nefarious designs. He said peace, harmony and brotherhood among the people living here shall be safeguarded and added that J&K Police along with the security forces are working in a well coordinated manner to foil these evil attempts.

He also briefed the Minister regarding various initiatives of Jammu and Kashmir Police in engaging the youth in positive activities.

The Minister paid her tribute to the uniformed persons who are working hard to protect our people and nation from evil eye under difficult circumstances.



## CS reviews implementation of Business Reform Action Plan, Ease of Doing Business in J&K



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

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan/ Ease of Doing Business reforms (EoDB) in Jammu and Kashmir:

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Finance, Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, General Administration, Labour & Employment, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Industries & Commerce, School Education, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs along with the concerned sectoral heads participated in the meeting.

It was informed that while in the BRAP ranking released by DPIIT for the fiscal 2018-19, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked 21st, the UT is striving towards being amongst first ten performers in the country in EoDB ranking during the fiscal 2021-22.

The department informed

that EoDB ranking for the fiscal year 2019-20 has not been released as yet and if and when it is released, the UT would be better placed corresponding to its rank in the fiscal year 2018-19.

It was informed that the department has made substantial progress on minimising regulatory compliance burden and that it is expecting a considerable jump in the MRCB ranking as and when it is announced.

It was further informed that J&K is amongst the leading 10 best MRCB complied States/UTs in the country on BRAP/EoDB, Dr Mehta stated that if the finalisation of vendor for carrying out IT related tasks for implementation of EoDB is holding up the progress in the matter, the department should immediately use the services of JKeGA/NIC for implementing the EoDB in the UT.

"Applications/software/IT solutions for implementation of the BRAP/EoDB reforms have been developed by a few progressive States. They can be simply replicated with need based/localised customisation in J&K," He stated

The Chief Secretary directed the I&C department to share the number of services /areas where full stack automation/reforms are pending and share the same with the concerned departments so that work on executing them is expedited.

"Consultant, I&C shall interact with the Nodal officers of all the departments and identify the areas where executive intervention on their end is required for urgent action," Dr Mehta added.

While announcing that another review of the progress made on his directions shall be taken in a week, the Chief Secretary directed the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department to coordinate with all the departments in expediting the implementation of BRAP/EoDB.

## Vigilance Awareness Week: Pledge ceremony held at Excise Deptt



Excise Department officials taking pledge.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of Excise Commissioner, UT of J&K, Kishore Singh Chib, an integrity pledge taking ceremony was held on Wednesday as a part of Vigilance Awareness Week under the guidance of Deputy Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu, Kusum Sharma.

Siddharth Dubey ETO, Ankit Gupta ETO, Raffie Naik ETO, Anurag Sharma ETO, Swati Gupta ETO and officials

of the Excise Department were present at large in the event.

During the event, officers and officials took a pledge to commit to good corporate governance based on transparency, accountability and fairness.

Kusum Sharma also directed the staff to adhere to relevant laws, rules and compliance mechanisms in the conduct of business and foster a culture of honesty and integrity.

## Dir I&C inaugurates 4-day Swayam Rozgar Mela at Jammu Haat

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Industries Centre, Jammu on Wednesday organised a four days "Swayam Rozgar Mela" from October 27 to 30, 2021 at 'Jammu Haat', Exhibition Ground, Jammu to facilitate the unemployed youths to avail loans under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to start their ventures under the Manufacturing and Service Sectors.

While inaugurating the Mela, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Anoo



Director I&C Jammu, Anoo Malhotra after inaugurating Mela.

Malhotra appreciated the initiatives taken by the DIC Jammu to facilitate the youths to start their ventures by get-

ting the finance from the Banks under the PMEGP where the prospective entrepreneurs can avail the loans

under the scheme i.e. upto Rs 10 lakh under service sector and up to Rs 25 lakh under manufacturing sector.

General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Jammu, Subah Mehta also highlighted the benefits of PMEGP. She informed that the eligible beneficiary can avail a loan of Rs 10.00 lakh and up to Rs 25.00 lakh under the service and manufacturing sector with a provision of 15% to 35% margin money (subsidy). The applicant with minimum 18 years age and minimum 8th standard pass can

apply under this scheme. Moreover, the beneficiary under this scheme becomes eligible for expansion of previous PMEGP units for up to Rs. 25 lakh in Service Sector and up to Rs. 1 Crore in Manufacturing Sector after adjustment of Margin Money claim (subsidy) and repayment of first loan within stipulated time.

Listing the requirements, she said that a minimum documents are required under the scheme i.e. Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Passport Size Photographs- 2 Nos., Detailed

Project Report (DPR), Highest education Qualification Certificate, Rural Area Certificate - attested by Sarpanch (in case of Rural Area Units) and Category Certificate- SC/ST/OBC/ Handicapped / Ex-serviceman (if any).

Later, General Manager also apprised that on the first day of the Mela more than 100 enquiries have been responded and 15 online unemployed youth registered on spot for extending the benefits under the scheme. She further informed that on the routine

days, the department has made provision of a helpdesk where the applicants can come during office hours where they will be extended full help in uploading the documents for registration.

Later, the Director also handed over the loan sanction letters to Alisha Sharma for Shuttering Material amounting to Rs. 10.00 Lakh and Anju Bala for Boutique amounting to Rs. 7.00 Lakh in addition to on spot registration granted to Raj Kumar for Rs. 10.00 Lakh and Bachan Lal for Rs. 03.00 lakh.

## Basmati growers rue crop damage due to hailstorm; seek adequate compensation

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The farmers of R S Pura, also known as the rice bowl of the Jammu region and the major grower of internationally acclaimed Basmati rice, are in distress after their standing crop was damaged in a massive hailstorm last week.

Three days have passed since the natural calamity struck, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has not yet announced the compensation for the damage as the revenue authorities are still working out the extent of damage caused to the paddy.

"The damage is 100 per cent and the farmers are distressed and on the verge of suicide," 24-year-old Ghara Singh said watching a group of labourers clearing his field of the damaged Basmati crop in Suchetgarh near the international border on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday.

Basmati is a variety of long, slender-grained aromatic rice which has famed R S Pura in the international markets.

Singh said he has not seen such a devastating hailstorm in his life as was witnessed on October 24, ruining the six-month long hard work of the farmers besides a huge investment. "We are concerned as the government is yet to take a call on the issue of compensation to the farmers whose standing crops were damaged," he said requesting the administration to speed up the process of the crop damage survey and

announce a minimum compensation of Rs 15,000 per kanal to each family. Sher Singh, another farmer, said they were hopeful of a better yield this time but the sudden hailstorm washed away their dreams. "We attended our crops this time without any fear of Pakistani shelling (in the aftermath of renewed ceasefire between the two countries in February) and were hopeful of a better yield. The hailstorm destroyed everything," he said complaining that many farmers whose crops were damaged by heavy rains in 2019 are yet to receive the money.

The farmers are faced with another problem of clearing their fields of the damaged Basmati crop as they do not have money to prepare the land for the next crop.

District Development Council (DDC) member Suetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration to follow the Delhi government model of compensation to the farmers who suffered losses because of the crop damage this year. The Delhi government recently announced Rs 50,000 per hectare to the farmers who lost their crops this year. "We have not seen such a hailstorm in over six decades which broke the backbone of the farmers. Basmati is the cash crop and a hope for the farmers to meet their annual requirements," said Tony urging the administration to waive off loan

on Kisan Credit Cards and the rent on water pumps.

He also said the standing crops in the entire R S Pura belt were completely damaged and added that the farmers need a hand-holding at this crucial juncture to help them stand on their feet again.

Tony said deputy commissioner of Jammu, Anshul Garg, is personally visiting the areas to review the crop damage and it is hopeful that the government will announce an adequate compensation to the affected farmers without any further delay.

Besides Jammu, the hailstorm has also damaged the standing crops in Samba and Kathua districts.

Meanwhile, dozens of Congress activists, led by former minister Manohar Lal Sharma, on Wednesday staged a demonstration outside the office of deputy commissioner of Kathua and demanded immediate compensation to the affected farmers.

"It is unfortunate that the government is not paying any heed to the problems being faced by the farmers whose standing crops were damaged by heavy rains and hailstorm across the Jammu region," according to a Congress spokesperson.

## OPD facility commences in 500-bedded Pediatric Hospital Bemina

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: After missing more than 4 deadlines consecutively during last eight years, the 500-bedded Pediatric hospital in Bemina, Srinagar has at last started functioning with OPD services launched for people on October 26. This hospital was one of the most awaited and much-needed development projects in Kashmir and has come up at an estimated cost of Rs 115 crore.

Earlier designated as Mother & Childcare Institute, the hospital was declared to be established as a full-fledged pediatric hospital with 500 bed capacity in 2019. Work on the hospital, earlier proposed to be a 200-bedded maternity care facility, started in 2013 during National Conference (NC) regime. However, former Chief Minister, Late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on October 17, 2015 gave it an extension and laid

Foundation Stone for the 500-bedded Mother-Child Hospital. Later in 2019, Government accorded sanction to conversion of 200-bedded Maternity Hospital and 300-bedded Pediatric Hospital at Bemina, Srinagar into a full-fledged 500-bedded Children's Hospital.

However, R&B officials, several times, claimed that due to change in plan there was delay in completion of project, but now majority portion has been completed while remaining work is under progress. September-2014 floods caused major damage to the under-construction building, and that was also one of the major causes for the delay, the officials added.

Meanwhile, Department of Pediatrics at GB Pant Hospital said that GB Pant will function from two locations till GB Pant is completely vacated and patients are independent to choose loca-

tion wherever they want to go. "We have made arrangements for basic diagnostics at new location also, however, it will take us a while to become operational in a full-fledged manner," officials asserted.

It is believed that once the hospital is fully operational, it will lessen the burden on GB Pant Hospital which often remains overcrowded due to huge patient rush. Officials expressed confidence that hospital would not only provide relief to patients from North and central Kashmir, but would also act as a main referral institution for other patients.

Meanwhile, Health & Medical Education Department has also confirmed the development and said the OPD services in pediatric hospital at Bemina has started from October 26 and process of shifting GB Pant hospital will be done in a phased manner. In a tweet by Health & Medical

Education Department J&K, it was stated that with formal inauguration of 500-bedded pediatric hospital phase 1 in Bemina Srinagar, its OPD services will start from October 26. According to the officials, the new pediatric health facility will further reduce the newborn mortality rate as facility is equipped with all latest equipment for addressing high-risk pediatric illnesses. As per an official release issued earlier, the new facility would act as Kashmir division's pediatric care centre of excellence.

Earlier, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, who was on a visit to Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, virtually inaugurated 500-bedded-pediatric hospital in Bemina from SKICC, Srinagar. Notably, this was Shah's first visit to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.