

# 500 Atal Tinkering Labs likely to be set-up in J&K

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: UT Government on Friday held an interaction with NITI Aayog on improving expenditure outcomes and governance efficiencies in J&K.

Chief Secretary J&K, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta along with the senior Administrative Secretaries of various departments participated in the interaction.

While laying out the priorities of the government, the Chief Secretary stated that although the UT has moved to more transparent financial systems and has the right fundamentals in place for qualitative transformation, however, in areas like expenditure outcomes, contract management; capacity building of the district officers etc. there is a need to urgently reform for more efficient and sustained growth.

Dr Mehta observed that despite 1 to 10 teacher-pupil ratio, which is amongst the best in the world, there are serious issues of learning outcomes even as the enrolment ratio in schools is less than optimal and the gender parity continues to be a concern.

## ADGP Armed issues promotion orders of 600 police personnel

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: ADGP Armed J&K S.J.M. Gillani on Friday issued promotion orders of 606 Police Personnel of various ranks in J&K Armed Police.

Among the promotees, one Asst. Sub-Inspector has been promoted as Sub-Inspector; 107 Head Constables have been promoted to the rank of Asst. Sub-Inspectors; 145 SGTs have been promoted to the rank of Head-Constables and 353 Constables have been promoted to the rank of SGTs.

Promotion orders of the aforesaid Police personnel have been issued after the DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) headed by S.J.M. Gillani ADGP Armed J&K as its Chairman found them fit for their next promotions.

The ADGP Armed congratulated the promotees and their families and hoped that the promoted officials shall perform their respective duties with utmost responsibility and honesty and come up to the expectations of the people of the UT of J&K.

The ADGP Armed appreciated the efforts of his Staff Officer, DPC Members and associated staff of APHQ for accomplishing the promotion process of the aforesaid police personnel in a time bound manner.



Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, UT Government officials holding interaction with NITI Aayog on improving expenditure outcomes and governance efficiencies.

Dr Mehta stated that the time has come to make a switch towards measuring outcomes and quantifying outputs and linking it to the allocation of resource allocation.

In his presentation, Dr Shekhar Bono, Director General Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog outlined the shift in focus that has happened in the central government from tracking inputs to monitoring outputs and measuring outcomes.

He informed that the central ministries and departments are required to identify and target specific outcomes and the resource allocation is linked to clear outlining of these objectives in the budget proposals.

Dr Bono stated that this reimagining of the whole paradigm of planning and execution of the projects has improved efficiencies in the system.

He informed that Aayog is planning to set up 500 Atal Tinkering labs in J&K.

Earlier, participating in

the interaction, Navin K Choudhary, Administrative Secretary Agriculture, J&K outlined the data deficiencies as one of the concerns for planning.

He laid emphasis on conducting a manpower audit in J&K government in the context of the changed realities of the present times where considerable automation has happened; leading to redundancies at multiple levels across the government.

While stating that there is a need to ascertain the customer satisfaction levels in J&K, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education department, Vivek Bhardawaj observed that NITI Aayog can help the department in preparing a framework to enable the department to identify the medically unserved areas so that establishment of sub centres/health centres/medical facilities is done based on an objective criteria.

A d m i n i s t r a t i v e Secretary, Urban Development, Dheeraj Gupta, requested the Aayog to assist the department in the preparation of transaction advisory services and drafting a model concessionaire agreement for leasing out the assets on PPP mode.

DG, IMPA, Saurabh Bhagat stated that his organisation is working on case studies on B2V, universal health coverage, transparency of financial systems etc. and would

Aayog to assist the department in the preparation of transaction advisory services in the case of city buses, e-buses, real estate and housing.

Commissioner Secretary, Mining Manoj Dwivedi observed that the output outcome monitoring framework of the Aayog can be replicated by the UT government as it fits in with requirements, besides stating that Aayog's dashboard can also be adopted by the J&K government with minor customisations.

Tourism Secretary, Sarmad Hafeez informed that a list of 12 assets of JKTDC has been forwarded to Aayog for assisting the department in the matter of transaction advisory services and drafting a model concessionaire agreement for leasing out the assets on PPP mode.

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like Aayog to act as an enabler to improve the quality of the reports, besides helping them with newer/best practices/parameters that can be incorporated in the District Governance Index being prepared by IMPA for better outcomes.

The Chief Secretary advised the NITI Aayog to formulate a short term plan of execution in respect of the activities in which it has shown interest as well as in the areas where requests for domain based assistance have been made by the departments in J&K and move towards executing them.



Fast track investigations demanded

## Wazir murder case: Bereaved family expresses surprise over presence of suspect in HM's function



Family members of T S Wazir briefing media in Jammu.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: The family of former MLC Late Tarlochan Singh Wazir, Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Gurdwara Prabandhak Board and Chairman, All J&K Transport Association was surprised to see conspirator and suspect in murder case, registered under FIR No-0557 dated September 9, 2021, welcoming and addressing Union Home Minister, Amit Shah from the stage of Gurdwara, Digiana Ashram, Jammu on October 24, 2021.

The entire family led by Karan Singh, son of Late T S Wazir, while addressing a press conference held on Friday, said that according to earlier programme, the Home Minister had to visit Gurdwara Yadgaar Guru Digiana Ashram.

Immediately on receipt of information regarding change in plan, we went there to meet the Home Minister but to our utter surprise, conspirator of murder, against whom family had to meet Home Minister for seeking justice, was holding the fort, welcoming and addressing Home Minister and intentionally whiled away

the available time giving no chance to other speakers. As such, the family members, eminent citizens and representatives could not get chance to meet the Home Minister," he alleged.

Karan further said that besides accused Harpreet Singh and Harmeet Singh, names of Sudershan Singh Wazir and Surinder Singh Kala were also included in FIR registered at Police Station Moti Nagar, Delhi against No 0557 dated September 9, 2021 under sections 302, 201 & 34 of IPC but they have not been arrested till date. The bereaved family members urged the Government for providing them justice by booking all culprits involved in the brutal killing of Late Tarlochan Singh Wazir.

## All arrangements finalised for smooth conduct of class XII exams from Nov 9

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

Srinagar: The annual exams of class XII, for Regular session 2021 of Kashmir Division will begin from November 9 and 83,000 students have been registered for the same. Presently, Board authorities have nominated 741 examination centres for smooth conduct of the examinations in various Government as well as private educational institutions across the Valley. The number of examination centres has been increased as board authorities have directed for ensuring proper social distancing between candidates in examination halls.

"Only 50 per cent seating capacity will be occupied in an examination hall in order to maintain proper social distancing," an official informed. Further, this year J&K Board has announced 30 percent relaxation in syllabus for classes 10th to 12th in annual regular-2021 examinations in view of prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. The relaxation is also applicable for the students in Ladakh UT.

Meanwhile, the decision to conduct class 10th and 12th annual regular (2021) examination of COVID-19 positive students would be taken later, an official of J&K Board of School Examination

(JKBOSE) told. He further said that students who would be tested positive during exams or few days before commencement of exams, need not to approach examination centres. "All such students have to produce a proper certificate to prove that they have been tested positive," official added. The authorities further cleared that if a student will be tested positive during exam days, as notified in date sheet, they need not to approach exam centres. "We are looking for an option for all those students, whose any family-member is COVID positive, to allow him/her appear in the exams as per scheduled date-sheet by providing them an isolated space to write examination," they added.

Notably the State Executive Committee of J&K Department of Disaster Management has ordered that students appearing in the upcoming class 10th and 12th class annual regular (2021) examination should carry parents' consent along on each day of examinations. "We have taken care of all guidelines and have notified date-sheet for class 12th. We have uploaded the format of the consent letter on our official website and informed all students about adherence to COVID-19

guidelines as well," the officials said.

The Directorate School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has also issued instructions to the Chief Education Officers and Principals of District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) for making all necessary arrangements for holding examinations in adherence to COVID guidelines. "All necessary arrangements are to be put in place well before the conduct of class XII and X examinations," the circular reads.

Heads of the institutions, where examination centres have been set up, have been directed to follow all guidelines issued by the SEC of the Disaster Management Department. "The sanitisation of the examination hall, furniture and toilets should be carried out daily before and after exams," it reads.

The DSEK has further instructed the CEOs to engage only fully vaccinated staff for examination duty. "It shall be the responsibility of the Board authorities and heads of the schools to ensure that prescribed COVID protocols are strictly adhered to and all COVID related SoPs are followed in letter & spirit," the DSEK circular reads.

# DB quashes selection list of Drug Inspector after 12 years

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mital and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul quashed the selection list of Drug Inspector published by the Board on 8th September 2009.

While quashing the selection list, Division Bench ordered that respondent-Board is at liberty to constitute a Selection Committee to conduct a fresh interview of all the candidates who have appeared before it in accordance with law for selection against the posts advertised. It is made clear that no post or vacancy which had not been advertised by the aforesaid advertisement will be filled up by the said selection process. The said exercise if undertaken shall be completed within a period of six months as directed and till such time, the selected candidates appointed may be permitted to continue to avoid any administrative problem.

DB observed that as is discernible from perusal of the file, Advertisement Notice no.03 of 2008 dated 5th May 2008 was issued by J&K Services Selection Board, inviting applications, amongst others, for selection to the 72 posts of Drug Inspectors. In terms thereof cut-off date was 26th May 2008. Select List published on 8th September 2009, recommending 64 candidates for appointment as Drug Inspectors, came to be challenged in a number of writ petitions, diarized and registered as SWP nos.1356/2009, 1535/2009 and 1846/2009. The Learned Writ Court decided those writ petitions vide impugned judgment, with the following orders/directions that the private respondents selected and appointed in the year 2008, have been serving the respondent Department as Drug Inspectors for last seven years and there is no dispute as

regards their eligibility to the advertised post. The official respondents therefore may retain private respondents and their other selected/appointed colleagues and shall accord consideration to appointment of petitioners in three writ petitions admittedly satisfying the eligibility criteria, against available clear vacancies of Drug Inspectors in the grade of 9300-34800, in the respondent Department and complete such exercise within four weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this Judgment. In case, the consideration to appointment of petitioners as directed is not possible, because of non-availability of the posts, the select list published by respondent Board on 8th September 2009, and appointment made pursuant thereto shall stand quashed and set aside. The respondent Board shall constitute Selection Committee to conduct fresh interview of all the candidates who earlier appeared before it. The members of the Selection Committee as per prescribed procedure shall individually assess and evaluate the candidates, prepare individual award rolls reflecting such assessment and hand over individual award rolls under sealed cover to the Convener of the Selection Committee. The Convener of the Selection Committee, shall compute total marks awarded in viva-voice test and adding the marks so obtained to the marks awarded to the candidates on the basis of merit in eligibility qualification and higher qualification, if any, on pro date basis, prepare final merit list duly signed by all the members of the Selection Committee. Respondent Board on the basis of the final merit list shall make recommendation to the respondents 1 and 2, i.e., indenting department and respondents 1 and 2 shall act on the recommendation so made, and issue appointment order in favour of

the selected candidates, of course after verification of the certificates and completion of other procedural formalities. This exercise shall be completed within six months from the date of receipt of copy of this judgment. iii) In the event, the respondents decide to carry out direction No. II (supra), it may allow the selected/appointed candidates including private respondents to continue till the exercise undertaken in compliance of direction No. II, is completed and appointment orders issued, as their en-bloc exit/ouster may result in administrative problems, risk to public health and lead to collapse of the entire machinery set up to achieve the objective of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

DB further observed that the grounds of challenge in LPA no.277/2015 are: that learned Writ Court erred in law in not appreciating that selection and appointment of appellants against advertised posts of Drug Inspectors is well deserved having been earned by them on the basis of their superior academic merit and qualification, besides other achievements possessed by them, answering all imperative of special attributes of vital importance and bearings on the spheres of the duties being performed by a Drug Inspector; assessed and evaluated by respondent-Board; that the learned Writ Court has not appreciated the fact that writ petitioner/contesting respondent having participated in selection process and on taking calculated chance having failed to make grade, is stopped and precluded in law to question selection process and/or voicing any grievance against non-selection, that it was demonstrably shown before the learned Writ Court that the assertions and allegations levelled by writ petitioner in his writ petition was all bogus and contrary to the position obtaining under relevant

records resorted to with a malevolent intent to prejudice the mind of the Court.

The judgment written by Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul for the Division Bench while modifying the judgment of writ Court ordered that the select list published by respondent Board on 8th September 2009 and appointments made pursuant thereto shall stand quashed and set aside. The respondent Board shall constitute Selection Committee to conduct fresh interview of all the candidates who earlier appeared before it. The members of the Selection Committee as per prescribed procedure shall individually assess and evaluate the candidates, prepare individual award rolls reflecting such assessment and hand over individual award rolls under sealed cover to the Convener of the Selection Committee. The Convener of the Selection Committee, shall compute total marks awarded in viva-voice test and adding the marks so obtained to the marks awarded to the candidates on the basis of merit in eligibility qualification and higher qualification, if any, on pro date basis, prepare final merit list duly signed by all the members of the Selection Committee. Respondent Board on the basis of the final merit list shall make recommendation to the respondents 1 and 2, i.e., indenting department and respondents 1 and 2 shall act on the recommendation so made and issue appointment order in favour of the selected candidates, of course after verification of the certificates and completion of other procedural formalities. Thus, no further appointments could be given on the basis of the said selection against the clear vacancies that may have occurred subsequently. All subsequent vacancies are to be filled up from open market afresh and in case they are allowed to be filled up by the candidates of the earlier selection, it would certainly infringe

the select list was not properly drawn as there was nothing on record to indicate that the members of the selection committee had made the assessment of the candidates individually. The final award roll reflecting the performance of the candidates in viva voce and points secured on the basis of the merit in eligibility qualification as well as extra weight-age granted for additional qualification is also not in accordance with the norms. Therefore, the selection process does not conform to the prescribed procedure. Having noted the above finding and that some of the candidates have been arbitrarily awarded extra weight-age without there being on record any material to show that they possessed post graduate degree for grant of such extra marks, the writ court could not have saved the selection of the candidates merely for the reason that they have been serving in the department for last seven years and they are qualified to hold the post. The writ court at the same time was not even justified in directing the official respondents to retain them in service and to accord consideration to the appointment of the writ petitioners if they satisfy the eligibility criteria and consider them for appointment against the available clear vacancies of the Drug Inspectors.

CJ further said that the selection process pursuant to the Advertisement Notice No. 03 of 2008 dated 5th May 2008 was completed with the publication of the select list and the joining of the selected candidates. Thus, no further appointments could be given on the basis of the said selection against the clear vacancies that may have occurred subsequently. All subsequent vacancies are to be filled up from open market afresh and in case they are allowed to be filled up by the candidates of the earlier selection, it would certainly infringe

upon the rights of the candidates who would have applied against the said vacancies if they were advertised afresh. In view of the above, once the selection was not found to be a valid one, the writ court could not have issued any direction as contained in direction (i) of the impugned judgment.

Chief Justice further observed that though the petitioners have participated in the selection process and, as such, were not entitled to challenge it nonetheless as one of the grounds for challenge of the selection is arbitrariness in the award of marks in viva voce during the selection process, the petitioners could not have been debarred from filing the writ petition. The candidates appearing in the selection process with open eyes.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the select list published by the Board on 8th September 2009 stands quashed. The respondent-Board is at liberty to constitute a Selection Committee to conduct a fresh interview of all the candidates who have appeared before it in accordance with law for selection against the posts advertised. It is made clear that no post or vacancy which had not been advertised by the aforesaid advertisement will be filled up by the said selection process. The said exercise if undertaken shall be completed within a period of six months as directed and till such time, the selected candidates appointed may be permitted to continue to avoid any administrative problem. With these observations, Division Bench disposed of the petitions.