

# L&E Deptt to adopt digitised registration processes within month: CS

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Labour and Employment Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Chief Executive Officer, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Labour Commissioner, and other officers of the Department attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary observed that as per the CMIE data, the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir has decreased to 15% in December 2021, and impressed upon the Department to further improve employment avenues in the Union territory.

It was informed that the Labour Department, upon formal registration, provides benefits to building workers, factory workers, migrant contractors, migrant labour, contract labour, shop workers, and boiler workers. The Department also adjudicates cases under the Workmen Compensation Act, Payment of Wages Act, Industrial Dispute Act, Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Gratuity Act; and provides relief to the aggrieved labour.

The Department was asked to boost registrations under various categories of workers by shifting to complete digital mode within a period of one month. Taking note of pendency in cases filed before District Labour Courts, the Chief Secretary directed the immediate implementation of digital court proceedings for early resolution of conflicts.

Further, the Department was asked to collaborate with other stakeholders



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

including government departments to identify and register sector-wise eligible workers in a mission mode.

It was informed that the Department has so far registered 10,95,404 workers with 41.50% female and 58.49% male workers engaged in the unorganized sector. The agriculture, construction, household worker, apparel, healthcare, transport, and handicraft sectors continue to see high registration rates followed by tourism, retail, education, and manufacturing.

Under the Employees State Insurance scheme, the workers are being provided medical-cum-accidental insurance, in addition to privileged access to the Department's worker-dedicated hospital and dispensaries at Rangreth, Khanmoh, BAM Khan and Zainakot in Kashmir province, and Talab Tillo, Kathua, Bari-Brahmana, and Digiana in Jammu province. So far, an amount of Rs. 6.05 crore has been disbursed as medical reimbursement in favour of the registered workers.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department to develop the hospital and dispensaries as model healthcare

institutions and further link the registered beneficiaries with benefits under other insurance schemes as well, including Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana to ensure maximum health benefits and accidental cover to workers. He further directed the rollout of an extensive IEC campaign to generate awareness on these schemes and benefits to further boost registrations.

Moreover, the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board is also providing assistance in cases of temporary and permanent injury, chronic disease, maternity benefits, death/funeral assistance, and educational assistance to all registered workers.

The Chief Secretary observed that the coverage of beneficiaries is not adequate as of now and directed the Department to scale up the distribution of benefits under these schemes. It was asked to ensure the extension of educational assistance to cover approximately 4 lakh children of the registered workers, besides ensuring time-bound disbursement of funeral assistance to the registered workers,

preferably within a week.

During COVID-19, the Board provided financial assistance of Rs. 50.03 crore to 1,56,876 registered active Building and Other Construction Workers in four installments of Rs. 1,000 each during 2020-21, and Rs. 70.55 crore to 3,43,405 registered workers during 2021-22.

While reviewing the functioning of the Employment Department, the Chief Secretary directed greater technological interventions along with deeper inter-departmental convergence and consultations for systemized registration, skilling, and employment of the youth. The Department was advised to tie up with Mission Youth and Skill Development Department for this purpose.

In a bid to move towards evolving a model career scheme, the Department was also asked to develop standardized career counseling modules in consultation with the field experts and other stakeholders and explore facilities for online mentor programmes to provide wide-scale guidance and assistance, especially during the COVID times. It was directed to emphasize automation of services and conduct regular job fairs to streamline employment generation.

Regarding the ease of access to benefits under various social security schemes for construction workers, it was informed that through departmental convergence under the e-Shram portal, the registration information is being accessed by multiple departments and agencies for ensuring timely disbursement of benefits to the verified beneficiaries.



## 70 ha land in Gulmarg, Sonamarg declared 'strategic areas', Army can take control of patch

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared nearly 70 hectares of land in Gulmarg and Sonamarg tourist resorts of the valley as "strategic areas", paving the way for the armed forces to take control of these land patches. The armed forces can undertake infrastructure development even in ecologically fragile areas which are declared "strategic areas" by the government. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti criticised the government move, saying the allocation of huge tracts of land to armed forces in tourist areas of Jammu and Kashmir confirmed the intention of the Centre to "convert J&K into a military garrison". According to an order issued in Jammu on 31 December 2021 by the Tourism Department of Jammu and Kashmir, 1,034 kanals (approximately 52 hectares) of land at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district and 354 (approximately 18 hectares) kanals in Sonmarg, another popular destination in

Ganderbal district, were declared as "strategic areas" for the use of armed forces in the region.

"Corp Commander shall ensure that the orders, if any, passed by an honble court/tribunal in this regard, are strictly adhered to," the order reads. This was the first notification issued by the administration of the union territory after the amendment to Jammu and Kashmir Development Act 1970 by the Union Home Ministry in October 2020 through an executive order. The Administrative Council headed by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir gave its nod to the amendment to the Control of Building Operations Act 1988 and the J&K Development Act, 1970 to provide for special dispensation for carrying out construction activities in strategic areas.

As per the amendments, the armed forces can undertake infrastructure development even in ecologically fragile areas which are declared as strategic areas by the government.

## PM cancelled rally not due to security lapse but due to lack of supporters: Sawhney



Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney chairing Congress Party workers meeting.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress conducted a meeting with district leaders of Jammu East at party office to discuss important issues on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney, General Secretary PCC Incharge District President Jammu (U). Apart from discussing upcoming and ongoing programmes of party and their implementa-

tion in Jammu East constituency, the District Congress leaders also condemned the recent remarks of Prime Minister and other BJP leaders regarding Punjab Chief Minister, Charanjit Singh Channi. The senior leaders who attended the meeting included Dr Ramakant Khajuria, Ritu Choudhary, Pawan Dev Singh, Atul Sharma, Chander Shekhar,

## J&K witnesses minor improvement in unemployment rate of Dec '21

### SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has shown a bit improvement in its monthly unemployment rate percentage as December 2021 recorded 15 per cent of unemployment against 21.2 per cent recorded in November last year.

According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, the month of December 2021 has recorded 15 per cent of unemployment while percentage was quite higher in November 2021. As per data, unemployment rate in country rose to 7.9 per cent in December 2021 while it was 7 per cent in November. Just a year ago, in December 2020, the unemployment rate was higher at 9.1 per cent. In each of last three months, the unemployment rate remained at 7 per cent or more. The unemployment rate during quarter ended December 2021 was 7.6 per cent while it was just 7.3 per cent in preceding quarter, which ended in September 2021. According to CMIE data, 2021's annual unemployment rate was recorded 15.69 percent, while year 2020 recorded 15.77 per cent. According to Mahesh Vyas, Managing Director CMIE, eighteen months after the Indian economy was battered by COVID-19-induced lockdown, employment has not recovered to its pre-pandemic levels. In 2019-20, 408.9 million were employed but after that, country has briefly employed just 406 million. "Data from many

places show that most people are crossing age to get a government job or have given up their plan to get so," Mahesh Vyas said in an interview. "Unemployment rate in Uttar Pradesh is just 4 per cent but it does not mean that the State Government has provided jobs to all job seekers, but reality remains that many educated youth who were looking for jobs earlier, have now changed their minds and many others have crossed age-limit to get a government job," he asserted, adding that these are just statistics about young people looking for job whereas hundreds of millions are there who are no longer looking for a job because they are now tired of the search for a job.

According to experts, it is not clear about Jammu and Kashmir that either 6 to 7 per cent people have got jobs or have given up the idea of employment or crossed the age-limit, as administration has not yet launched any mega employment drive for the last three years.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Kishitwar Y P Kotwal has rejected bail application of one Abdul Rashid, who was facing trial in rape case.

As per case, on January 17, 2020, when prosecutrix had gone to fetch water from a spring situated at a distance of about 1 Km from her house, accused Mohd Ishaq and Abdul Rashid came there, covered mouth of the prosecutrix with their hand, dragged her; took her to road, made her to board a vehicle, and kidnapped her. Accused Abdul Rashid accompanied accused Mohd Ishaq and prosecutrix upto Doda and thereafter came back, however accused Mohd Ishaq

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) took out a Mashaal rally to protest against Congress over PM Modi's Security Breach.

A large number of BJYM activists led by Arun Prabhat, President BJYM Jammu and Kashmir assembled in front of Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan at Kachhi Chawni and took out a Mashaal rally towards Congress Head Office at Shaheedi Chowk amidst vociferous slogans against Congress and the Punjab Govt for the major breach of PM's security.

Senior BJP leaders Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM, Yudhvir Sethi J&K BJP Vice President and Vinay Gupta, District President Jammu also joined the protest.

Talking to reporters, Arun Prabhat said that

## BJYM takes out Mashaal rally against Congress-led Punjab Govt



BJYM leaders taking out Mashaal Rally against Congress in Jammu.

Congress Party is wholly and solely responsible for this unfortunate incident which exposes the misuse and misgovernance by the Congress Govt in Punjab.

"It is a deep-rooted conspiracy in which the life of the country's Prime Minister was at stake. Channi and Sidhu are dancing to the tune of Pakistan ISI. Time has come for Punjab to wake up to nefarious designs of

the two," he demanded. Arun Prabhat Punjab based Congress leader has brought down the head of Punjab which has been known for hospitality.

Holding the Congress and its Govt in Punjab wholly responsible for yesterday's incident, senior BJP leaders demanded an apology by the Congress to the people of the nation for its Govt's utter failure in perform-

ing the duty due to which there was breach in PM's security.

Meanwhile, Spokesperson of BJP UT, Y V Sharma condemned the security lapse during the visit of PM to Punjab yesterday and demanded that a thorough probe should be conducted in the matter and the culprit should be brought to the book.

"It is a very serious matter and anybody

responsible who should not be spared at any cost because threat to the life of the PM is threat to the Country," said Sharma.

Former MLC Vikramaditya Singh, while condemning the major security breach, termed it as deplorable and completely unacceptable.

The former MLC sought action against the officers responsible for the lapse. "Those responsible for the major security breach must be taken to task including the State Administration," he demanded.

Vikramaditya said, "The Prime Minister of the country, irrespective of the political party, this kind of lapse in his security was astonishing, which the Punjab Government should immediately investigate and strong action be taken against defaulters".

## DSS urges all organisations to get united for saving J&K from '5th' blunder

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) termed the whole gamut of J&K as the most badly-handled affair in independent India. The premature ceasefire short of retrieving PoJK; reference of Pak aggression to UNO; returning 92,000 Pakistani PoW without claiming PoJK and not crushing terrorism with iron hands in 1988-89 were four biggest historical blunders. It was stated by Th Gulchain Singh Charak, President DSS J&K, while addressing a press conference.

While addressing media, Charak said that Jammu region and its Dogra population across communal, religious and caste lines have been subjected to persistent discrimination since the centre of power was treacherously manipulated to remain Kashmir-dominated for seven decades since 1947. He said that at the moment when Delimitation Commission of



President DSS J&K, G.S Charak talking to reporters.

India is in the process of carrying out major exercise of delimitation of Assembly Constituencies, it is painful to see that outcome of the exercise is sure to perpetuate another political blow to people of Jammu because of adoption of the most infamous, discredited and fudged figures of census 2011, as the base. "It appears from draft recommendations that the Delimitation Commission has adopted balanced criteria which envisage casting of constituencies for

J&K based on four basic considerations of population, geographical area, terrain and connectivity. The allocation of 47 seats to Kashmir and 43 seats to Jammu is therefore not acceptable as it is based on false premises," said Charak, adding that it appears that Government of India is hell bent to repeat a historical blunder for fifth time by not undertaking delimitation on census 2021 conducted in a fair and transparent manner. He asserted that if this was done

then out of 90 seats, share of Jammu would actually be 50 and Kashmir Division would get only 40 seats.

Charak reiterated DSS's offer urging all political and social organisations of Jammu region to come together on issue of getting a fair census conducted, which should be used as base for first Delimitation Commission of UT and appealed to leaders from different walks of life, who have interests of Jammu people at heart, to come forward and respond positively to the offer of Sabha.

Prominent among others present on the occasion included Col Karan Singh Jamwal (Retd), Prem Sagar Gupta, Brig M S Jamwal (Retd), Col Dr Virendra K Sahi (Retd), Chander Mohan Sharma, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Amanat Ali Shah, Janak Khajuria, Balwinder Singh, Kulbir Singh and Dr V S Sharma.

## Court rejects bail plea in rape case

forcibly took prosecutrix to Amritsar (Punjab) to marry her, where he raped her for about 1 year, after which a female baby was born to the prosecutrix, who is now of 7-8 months old. Accused Mohd Ishaq also tried to sell prosecutrix to one Kuldeep, however, as he fled to pay fixed amount, accused refused to sell her and kept prosecutrix with him. After investigation, offences under Sections 376/366/498/346 of IPC were established against accused Mohd Ishaq, whereas offence under Section 109 of IPC was established against accused Abdul Rashid, applicant herein.

Principal Sessions Judge Kishitwar Y P Kotwal, while rejecting the bail application, observed that

accused cannot be released on bail in case there are reasonable grounds to believe that he has been guilty of an offence of kidnapping and rape. Gravity of offence involved in a case has the power to induce a person accused of offence to avoid trial and to crown it all. "In the present case, as referred above, accused has committed a heinous offence and the charge has not yet been framed against accused including the applicant herein, as such witnesses cited by the prosecution in the Challan are yet to be examined in the case, and who knows in what direction the prosecution case will land after their statements are recorded," the Court observed and rejected the bail plea.

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