

Floriculture Deptt to promote commercial activities for enhancing farmers' income: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Floriculture Department.

Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department and other senior officers of the Department were present in the meeting.

Underscoring the need to reorient the priorities of the Floriculture Department, the Chief Secretary asked the Department to promote commercial floriculture in addition to its developmental and maintenance activities for the upkeep of various parks and gardens in the Union territory. It was advised to introduce suitable promotional schemes for the sector on the lines of schemes and programmes of the Agriculture and Horticulture depart-



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

ments while giving due consideration to the avenues of field-level convergence among the departments to enhance the farmers' income. "The Department must strive to make floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir the next big income source for farmers", Dr. Mehta

said.

The Department was further asked to prepare a proposal in collaboration with Agriculture Department and SKUAST to attract prospective growers for adopting Floriculture as an economic activity; and submit the same within 15 days.

Reviewing the ongoing developmental activities at Bagh-e-Bahu Garden, the Chief Secretary directed conversion of the guest house building the Garden in to a museum to boost the footfall of visitors.

The Chief Secretary further asked the Department to explore the possibilities of establishing Tulip Gardens at Sonamarg and Gulmarg to prolong the tourist season in the Union territory; besides identifying other flower crops suitable to the climatic conditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Department to develop thematic gardens at each tourist place.

The Department was asked to undertake a study of the asset based and corresponding proportion in the economic activity of J&K.



PGCIL donates 2 Ultrasound machines to Health Deptt



PGCIL officials during meeting with DHS Jammu Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) is going to donate 2 Ultrasound machines to Health department Jammu under Corporate Social Responsibility component.

In this regard, representatives from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited on Friday met DG Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman and expressed their desire to donate two Ultrasound machines for Health Department for

which the desired specifications were provided to them.

On further enquiry regarding the machinery and equipments to be donated in the next phase, DHS Jammu asked them to provide 3 Ultrasound machines, Hydraulic trolleys and Mannequins for CPR, Cricothyroidotomy and Intubation for health facilities and Simulation lab for benefit of patient care. This good will gesture was highly appreciated by DHS Jammu and he thanked the visiting delegation for their cooperation.

JK Govt formulates Rules for 'outstanding sportspersons': Farooq Khan

Rules stipulate appointment of sportspersons to gazetted, other jobs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued Jammu and Kashmir Appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons Rules, 2022 through a notification by the General Administration Department.

In a press conference held on Friday, Advisor and Vice Chairperson JK Sports Council, Farooq Khan formally announced the new Rules, which have been framed under the aegis of Lieutenant Governor and Chairperson JKSC, Manoj Sinha.

Under the Rules, outstanding sportspersons, holding domicile of J&K, would be eligible to be appointed against gazetted (Level 8) and other non gazetted posts. Detailed grading system has been mentioned in the notification which would help rank sportspersons applying under the quota.

Advisor informed that sportspersons from 44 recognized sports would be considered under the rules. Besides, 5 outstanding sportspersons would be appointed at gazetted posts, while another 25 would be appointed to non-gazetted posts every year, he added. All backlogs under this quota, since 2014,



Advisor, Farooq Khan briefing media persons on Friday.

would also be cleared, he clarified.

Moreover, the gazetted officers would be given one 'out of turn' promotion, while the non-gazetted officers would be given two 'out of turn promotions' throughout their service career.

They are also eligible for 5 special salary increments throughout their career.

It was informed by the Advisor that selection under the rules would be done by a high level committee headed by Chief Secretary and consisting of Home Secretary, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Secretary GAD and

Secretary Sports Council.

Advisor hailed the rules and said that through the rules, a framework has been established in which sports persons with outstanding achievements would be ranked objectively thereby eliminating chance of favouritism or prejudice.

Farooq Khan termed the rules as "incentive, not welfare" and added, "it is our way of acknowledging sports talent and their achievements".

'Sportspersons would be able to submit applications to the JK Sports Council which would forward the cases to the high level

committee. The committee is permanent in nature and would verify and approve the appropriate cases within a 3 months period, preferably around the month of March', informed the Advisor.

Olympics, Winter Olympics as well as Paralympics have been given the greatest weightage under the selection criteria. Such Olympians can score a maximum 60 marks, (including participation and winning medals). Mere one-time participation accounts for 46 marks under the rules. Maximum marks have been set as 100.

Similar marking system has been formulated for other national and international sports events like Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Cups, World University Games, International Cricket Matches, National Sports Championships, Inter-Zonal Championships, Senior National Championships etc under the rules.

For gazetted posts, minimum education qualification has been set as Graduation with only exception for Olympics medalists for whom the criteria has been set as class 12 or above.

The Advisor said that the government is trying to incentivize

and promote sports culture in J&K through such measures. 'A number of sports infrastructure projects have been completed and many others are nearing completion here. Every district has at least one indoor sports stadium for encouraging participation in sports, he added.

The government is establishing state of the art sports stadia all over J&K. The football stadium at Parade Ground Jammu is also about to complete, informed the Advisor.

While answering questions by the mediapersons, the Advisor informed that the government is working to inculcate sports culture at village level and has already ensured that each panchayat has one sports ground and minimum possible equipment. Besides, a grant of Rs 25,000 per panchayat has already been given in this regard, he said. He also assured of setting up an indoor sports facility at Jagti and other sports facilities at Purkhoo and Muthi camps at Jammu.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, was also present in the press conference.

J&K gets top awards at 24th National Conference on e-Governance

District Srinagar awarded for COVID-19 management, Bandipora for developing 'Panchayat Development Index'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant achievement, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir got national level awards for Covid-19 Management and Panchayat Development Index at the 24th National Conference on e-Governance held at Hyderabad on Friday.

The awards were presented by Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO and Ministry of Personnel in presence of K T Rama Rao, Telangana's Minister for Urban Development, Industries & IT; Ajay Prakash, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt of India, Somesh Prakash, Chief Secretary,



Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary TAD receiving award on Friday.

Telangana and V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, Government of India. District Srinagar got first

position in the category of Covid-19 management with effective use of technology. The award was received by

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs and then Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar under whose guidance several innovative and effective initiatives were taken by district administration for Covid-19 management.

Similarly, Bandipora district was conferred the award for innovative digital product 'Panchayat Development Index (PDI)' launched by the district administration.

The award was received by Dr Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad, Joint Director Planning Bandipora and Mala Ram DIO Bandipora at the Conference.

DGP sanctions welfare relief of Rs 70 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbag Singh has sanctioned Rs 67 lakh special welfare relief, financial assistance in favour of NoKs of martyr/deceased Police personnel. He also sanctioned a welfare loan of Rs 3 lakh in favour of serving police personnel for his treatment. Vide PHQ order No.s. Special welfare relief of Rs 22 lakh each has been sanctioned in favour of legal heirs of three deceased police personnel including SI Mohammad Zafarulla, ASI Nissar Ahmad Qureshi, and HC(Tel) Pawan Sharma who have passed

away due to illness. Rs 1 lakh each in advance was provided to the NoKs of these deceased personnel for performing the last rites as immediate relief through their concerned DDOs. Vide another order financial assistance of Rs one lakh has been sanctioned out of J&K Police Pariwar fund in favour of a widow of martyr in connection with treatment of her son. Welfare loan of Rs 03 lakh has been sanctioned out of the Central Police Welfare fund in favour of one serving Police personnel to meet the expenses in connection with his treatment, who is suffering from chronic disease.

VC SKUAST-J awarded prestigious NAAS Fellowship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu has been conferred with prestigious National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (NAAS) fellowship for his immense contribution in developing innovative extension models for speedy transfer of improved technologies and entrepreneurship development for livelihood security of farmers.

Prof. J.P. Sharma also held an Additional Charge of Vice-Chancellor; SKUAST Kashmir for about nine months.

Previously he worked as Joint Director (Extension) and as Head, Division of Agricultural Extension and Director, Centre for Advanced Faculty Training (Extension) at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

He has vast experience of about 35 years conducting strategic research, guiding, teaching postgraduate students, conducting national/ international training programmes and carrying out agricultural development interventions at the national level.



Push for systematically improving indices of teaching-learning process, effective implementation of NEP-2020: Advisor Bhatnagar



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chairing meeting of School Education Department.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Friday asked the officers of the School Education Department to work in the direction of systematically improving the different indices in teaching-learning process besides effective implementation of National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) across the schools of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Advisor made these remarks while reviewing the performance of the Department in a meeting at Civil Secretariat here which was attended by Directors of both the provinces, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Chairperson JKBOSE and other concerned officials of the department both in person and through video conferencing.

Speaking during the meet, the Advisor emphasised on the officers that there are set parameters devised by different national and international bodies to assess the teaching-learning outcomes. They should not restrict their activities to surveys only but work for improving the overall outcomes using the finding of these surveys.

Highlighting the need of holding training sessions for teachers, Advisor Bhatnagar said that teachers need retraining and upskilling. He asked the department to hold specific training sessions for each group of teachers as per their ability and requirements. He advised them to set a target of pushing each of them to a certain standard of quality for better learning outcomes among pupils they teach. The Advisor also asked the officers to assess

the fruitfulness of training sessions by assessing the capacity building of each trainee.

Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers to factor out the reasons for drop-outs at upper primary/middle level. He also remarked that the department will be held responsible and accountable for learning outcomes and timely creation and maintenance of infrastructure. It was further revealed in the meeting that the drop-out rate of J&K stands at 3.91 for Primary, 3.2 for upper primary and 16.7 for High school students which is lower than the national average of 4.6, 4.8 and 18.6 respectively for above categories of classes.

It was also informed that the net enrollment ratio for J&K is 81.73, 47.12, 29.32, 29.00 at Primary, upper primary, high and higher secondary level respectively.

■ PROF HARI OM

Now that the Gupkar gang as a group and its constituents, including Farooq Abdullah's NC, Mehbooba Mufti's PDP and MY Tarigami's CPIM; Sonia Gandhi Congress' leaders like GN Azad and Saif-ud-Din Soz; and Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari, have again and again opposed the Delimitation Commission's proposal that allots 43 seats to Jammu province, including six out of seven additional seats, in the 90-member assembly with some even urging the Commission to allot at least three seats to Kashmir out of the seven reserved seats for the SCs in Jammu province, it's time for the Jammu-based supporters of the all these Kashmiri parties to tell the people of Jammu province if they stand with them or if they stand with their masters in Kashmir.

The Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based outfits have to decide if they are with the suffering people of Jammu province or if they are with those in Kashmir who destroyed Jammu province and treated its citizens as their slaves for 72-long years and who continue to taunt, abuse and oppose

them in a most brazen manner telling them that they have no other option but to groan under their oppressive misrule. They have to tell the people of Jammu province if and why they support the December 29, 2021 and January 01, 2022 anti-Jammu protests held by the Apni Party and Gupkar gang in Srinagar.

The Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based parties have to tell the people of Jammu province if they support the allotment of six additional seats to Jammu province, reservation of seven seats for the SC communities in Jammu province and reservation of nine seats for the STs, including Gujjars and Bakervals (all Muslims) and Gaddis (all Hindus). If they support these reservations and endorse the loud clamour in Jammu province for at least 50 seats in the 90-member assembly, they must pass unambiguously resolutions to this effect and submit the same to the Delimitation Commission and hold press conferences in Jammu to tell the Gupkar gang, Azad, Soz, Bukhari, Tarigami and ilk in Kashmir, including the author of "Achievable Nationhood" and chief of the Peoples

Conference Sajad Lone, that they rejected with contempt their senseless and communally-motivated opposition to the delimitation proposal.

The Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based anti-Jammu parties have to admit in public print that they committed a sin against the Jammu province and the people it houses by not dissociating themselves from what the Bukharis said and did in Srinagar on December 29, what the Gupkaris said in Jammu on December 21 and wrote to the Delimitation on December 31 and what they did in Srinagar on the new year's day in Srinagar and what Soz and Azad said on December 30.

The Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based parties have to make a solemn commitment and that too in writing that they shall work for the disempowered Jammu province, defend and promote further its legitimate cause and oppose tooth and nail those in Kashmir who talk pluralism, secularism, democracy, brotherhood and peaceful co-existence in Jammu but do exactly the opposite in Kashmir. It would hardly matter if the Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based parties oper-

ate from different platforms like their masters in Kashmir operate but speak for Jammu in one voice like all the Kashmir-based parties and groups speak.

It is a matter of grave concern that the Jammu-based supporters of the anti-Jammu Kashmir-based parties have maintain a stoic silence even after December 21, despite grave provocations and despite the no-holds-barred campaign unleashed by their masters in Kashmir against the discriminated against people of Jammu province, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs included. It must also remain a matter of regret that these Jammu-based supporters of the Kashmir-based anti-Jammu parties, which also demand a semi-independent status for the UT of J&K and seek to force down the throat of Jammu province their separatist will and ideology, continue to talk secularism and democracy in Jammu even after December 20, 2021, when the erstwhile Kashmiri ruling class openly and in a most shameless manner attacked, abused and opposed the people of Jammu province.

This will not do. The Jammu-based supporters of

the Kashmir-based parties will have to make a choice between the two: The suffering people of Jammu province and the arrogant, communal, radicalized, discriminatory and essentially separatist Kashmiri leadership. The Jammu-based followers of the Kashmir-based outfits cannot talk nation, secularism and democracy in Jammu and, at the same time, remain part of the Kashmiri parties, which have been subverting the polity both from within and outside and ruthlessly violating the cardinal principles of state, sovereignty, nation, nationality, secularism, democracy, humanity, brotherhood, governance, administration and justice since 1947.

It's hoped that Jammu-based followers of the Kashmir-based anti-Jammu parties will read the writing on the wall, rise to the occasion and work for the neglected, ignored, humiliated, looked down upon, abused and taunted people of Jammu province with a renewed zeal. This is the only option available to them. Not to exercise this option or to continue to tread the same old path will only hurt them and jeopardize their own socio-political interests.