

CS stresses calls for launching campaign to cover unimmunized children

► **Hospitals to have Quality Policy, referral mechanism**



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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Health & Medical Education Department and took stock of the physical and financial targets achieved this financial year.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Director, SKIMS, concerned HoDs, Principals of all Medical Colleges and other senior officers of the Department attended the meeting.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department gave a presentation drawing a picture of the functioning of the Department in general, and achievements under various sectors in particular viz. Health Institutions including Medical Colleges, NHM, Emergency Covid-19 Response Package (ECRP), National Ayush Mission, National AIDS Control Programme, healthcare infrastructure development and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

While discussing ECRP, Chief Secretary directed Principals of all Medical Colleges and Director,

Health Services to ensure that the status report with respect to medical equipment like ventilators, beds etc. human resource, oxygen plants, Liquid Medical Oxygen is made available to the concerned authorities within a day, so that any issue identified, is addressed, or an alternate arrangement is made in time, to cater to any emergent situation.

The Chief Secretary observed that Jammu & Kashmir has made significant progress towards achieving 100% coverage in immunization of children as per the National Immunization Schedule, and asked the department to launch a campaign reaching out to the people with an aim to cover all left out children within a period of 3-4 months. The Chief Secretary further observed that considering 94% of births in the Union territory are institutional births, the department

should explore to make the immunization record of each child digitally available, which can be extracted to an application like DigiLocker.

With respect to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Chief Secretary asked the concerned Directors of Health Services to ensure that the payments under all schemes are made directly into the Aadhar linked bank accounts of the end beneficiaries timely, without any delay and backlog if any, needs to be immediately addressed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned to ensure to ensure 100% saturation of Golden Cards under Universal Health Insurance.

While reviewing the status of the new Medical Colleges, the Chief Secretary directed that all Medical Colleges must be made fully functional by end March, 2022. He asked the Department to ensure that any issue related to infrastructure, equipment

or manpower is addressed by that time.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that the basic project of the Cancer Institute at SKIMS, Srinagar is complete, has been commissioned and is operational. It was also informed that the similar institute at GMC, Jammu will also be made functional by March, 2022.

With a view to improve the standards of healthcare at all institutions across the Union territory, the Chief Secretary said that the level of healthcare made available to the people should be at par with cities like Mumbai and Chandigarh so that any individual is not compelled to travel to cities outside J&K to avail specialized healthcare.

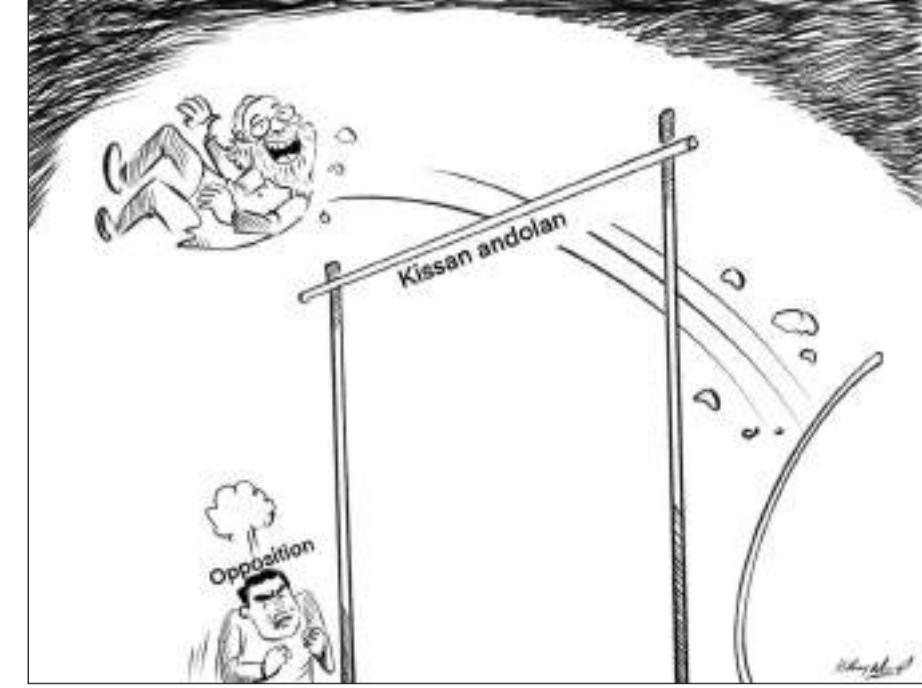
Dr. Mehta observed that the hospitals should come up with SOPs of an exchange programme or an excellence group wherein doctors can discuss medical cases and the line of treat-

ment cutting across different hospitals.

The Chief Secretary observed that all hospitals need to maintain a high level of hygiene and cleanliness and should have a quality policy in place immediately. He asked the department to develop an online healthcare feedback system so that the satisfaction level amongst the people can be gauged and improvements can be made. Dr. Mehta noted that the hospitals need to have a proper referral system in place, indicating the name of the doctor referring the case, to curb avoidable referrals. He also directed the concerned to evolve a system in line with CAB for patient waiting-areas in the hospitals, adding that the hospitals should also put a check on the number of attendants that accompany a patient.

With respect to under-utilized medical equipment, Dr. Mehta asked the concerned Directors to furnish a report to the Administrative Department within a week indicating any kind of hospital equipment that is lying un-utilized. He further directed the concerned to ensure that the list of medicines that are available free of cost is conspicuously displayed in the hospitals, for public awareness.

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Complete 'Ladakh Bandh' observed to demand Statehood, Constitutional Safeguards



Deserted view of Leh town.

■ TSEWANG RICZIN

LEH: Despite attempts made by few adversaries to sabotage the 'Ladakh Bandh' call given by Apex Body of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the 'Chakka Jam' was a successful one in both Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Monday.

Ladakh observed a complete 'Chakka Jam' to press for the demand of full-fledged Statehood for Ladakh, Constitutional safeguards on the lines of 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts along with a seat of Rajya Sabha and immediate recruitments in different departments in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The Bandh call was given by Apex Body of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) in protest against the Government of India failing to invite representatives of Ladakh on time to start a dialogue regarding Ladakh's demands.

On Sunday night a letter faked and photoshopped in the name of Apex Body made rounds on social media claiming that the Bandh Call had been postponed.

This led to senior member Apex Body and former Minister Chering Dorjay to intervene and made an immediate statement.

"A fake letter was circulated on social media by an anti-Ladakh element tonight around 9:00 PM on social media. This disgrun-

ted soul attempts to sabotage the Bandh called by Apex Body and KDA by producing fake photoshopped letterhead of the apex body with the soul intention to trigger law and order problem in Ladakh," the statement read, repeating that complete Bandh shall be enforced through stringent monitoring by volunteers of the People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh.

On the success of the Bandh call in both districts, Chering Dorjay thanked everyone, especially business establishments, for supporting the Bandh. Talking about the fake and forged letter in the name of Apex Body, he condemned the act and called those indulged in doing it as standing against Ladakh's cause.

"We will lodge a complaint and have it investigated," Dorjay said.

Chief Coordinator, Ladakh Students' Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) Lobsang Spalden also thanked everyone for making the bandh a success and added students also supported the demand since there has not been any recruitment in the last two years.

In Leh the Chakka Jam

was supported by business establishments including Merchant Association Leh, All Ladakh Tourist and Travel Trade Alliance, All Ladakh Transport Association, Ladakh Taxi operator Co-operative Ltd, All Ladakh Tour Operator Association, All Ladakh Guest House and Hotel Association, Ladakh Tempo Traveler Operator, Mazda Union Leh, 407 Union Leh, 207 Union Leh, Biker Association Leh, Ladakh Bus Operator Union Leh and Truck Union Leh.

Co-Chairman Kargil Democratic Alliance Haji Asgar Ali Karbalai called it a historic day as the entire Ladakh from Matayen to Chushul observed complete bandh on the call given by Apex Body of Leh and KDA.

"We have no words to express our gratitude to the people of Ladakh for making it a great success. This shows that people of Ladakh are ready for any sacrifice to get their demands and issues fulfilled. Against all odds and propaganda to sabotage the demands, people of Ladakh succeeded to make it a success," he added.

He also thanked Merchant Association Kargil, All Kargil Transport Association, All Kargil Sabzi Fruits Association, All Kargil Trade Travel Association, All Kargil Automobile Workshop Association, Merchant and Business Association of Drass, Shakar-Chiktan, Wakh-Mulbeg, Shargole, Sankoo, Taisuru, Zanskar and different sub-divisions and blocks of Kargil, Panchayat Coordination Committee, Bar Association, student organizations and all others involved to make the Bandh a success.

Farooq Abdullah changes colour everyday: Abhijeet



just to add fuel in the fire of already ongoing agitation. On April 6, 2017, Farooq defended stone-pelters and glorified their agitation by saying that they are fighting for their country. On November 20, 2017, Farooq questioned hyper nationalistic posturing of BJP. Let me tell Farooq that there is no word like hyper or hypno-nationalism. Nationalism is nationalism and it has no religion and no language. On November 25, 2017, Farooq asked his workers to be prepared for Panchayat & BDC polls which he boycotted himself in no time just to make his son publicly apologize for not participating in elections. On November 28, 2017, Farooq dared his own country to raise flag in Lal Chowk. All these instances show that his remarks were never less than Mehbooba Mufti's remarks, who defamed the flag of her own country. On December 11, 2017, he took a dig at Modi Government by saying that he is PM of all and not one section," said Jaspotia, adding, "Farooq, you can be Chief Minister of one section but Prime Minister Narendra Modi cares for everyone. He doesn't need to prove it to you as whatever schemes or funding, which are coming from centre, are meant for everyone, all sections, all religions, as Modi strongly believes in 'Sab Ka Saath, Sabka Vikas Aur Sabka Vishwas' unlike your hypocrisy of 'Sabka Saath Aur Mera Vikas'.

Pointing out some facts, Abhijeet Jaspotia, said that in 1987, when Buta Singh was the Union Home Minister and Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, the elections were rigged. "MUF was made to lose & people lost faith in democracy, which started bloodshed in Kashmir. Farooq made then Congress Govt to murder democracy here. Frozen turbulence written by the then Governor says that Dr Farooq even appealed his workers to go to Pakistan and get training for arms. This shows that when out of power, Farooq loses his mind & starts finding ways to regain power and for that he can go to any extent," he asserted.

Jaspotia further said, "On December 6, 2016, Farooq extended support to Hurriyat

PIL regarding de-congesting/ widening of Amphalla-Janipur road

DB directs ASGI to file affidavit regarding time-frame for completion of Metrolite project for Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Citizen Forum through its President R K Chadha regarding fly-over project from Shakuntala-Janipur proposed in 2008, abandoned for some extraneous reasons and regarding -congesting/ widening of Amphalla-Janipur road and Janipur-High Court road.

A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani after hearing Adv. Aditya Sharma for PIL whereas AG D C Raina with AAG Ravinder Gupta for UT, directed Assistant Solicitor General of India

(ASGI), Vishal Sharma to seek instructions if Metrolite Project for Jammu city has been approved and time-frame within which the Government proposes to complete the same and also directed to file an affidavit before December 23, 2021 in this regard. This significant direction has been passed when respondents came out with a stand that there is no such proposal for construction of the flyover and that now the city of Jammu is under Smart City Project and there is a Metrolite Project for Jammu city so as to ease out the flow of traffic. The aforesaid projects have to be funded by Central Government.

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In Leh the Chakka Jam

94 officials in Tourism Deptt promoted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As many as 94 employees of different cadres in Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir were on Monday promoted/cleared to higher grades by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) held under the chairmanship of Director, Tourism, Kashmir; Dr. G N Ito.

The said committee held its meeting here after a gap of four years. Besides, Director, Tourism, Kashmir as chairman, the DPC comprised Joint Director, Tourism; Deputy Director, Tourism, Kashmir and Chief Executive Officers of concerned Tourism Development Authorities as members.

The officials cleared for promotions in the DPC meeting include three Head Assistants as Section Officers, four Senior Receptionists as Assistant Tourist Officers, one Receptionist as Senior Receptionist, five Senior Assistants as Head Assistants, three Junior Assistants as Senior Assistants, six class-IV officials as Junior Assistants, five Grade-I drivers as Chauffeurs, 12 Grade-II drivers as Grade-I drivers, nine Bearers as Junior Khansaman besides other officials in Class-IV category.

41 officials of different cadres were also accorded in situ promotions based on their completion of requisite qualifying service in feeding cadres.

The DPC also decided to hold regular meetings in future to clear promotion cases of employees so that they get their service benefits well in time.

Congratulating the employees, Dr G N Ito hoped that they would work with renewed real and zest and contribute their best to the Department and the Government. He assured the employees to look into their other service matters like revision of recruitment rules, fixing of seniority in some cadres etc. and get these resolved at the earliest.

DB directs respondents to file comprehensive counter-affidavit within six weeks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a petition filed by Ghulam Mohammad and others filed a petition seeking quashment of the Govt. Order No. 102-JK(PFT) of 2020 dated 20-11-2020 pertaining to extent of forest land transferred to High Court for development of judicial infrastructure, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Dhar after hearing Adv. Shah Mohammad Choudhary for the petitioners, directed all the

respondents to file comprehensive counter affidavit/objections to the averments made in writ petition within a period of six weeks from today.

During the course of hearing Adv. Shah Mohammad Choudhary appearing for the petitioners submitted that under provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, rights in the property have accrued to petitioners who claim to be the Tribals living on the forest land and, therefore the land occupied by them cannot be used for any other purpose.

Dr Jitendra hails high disposal rate of Jammu, Srinagar CAT Benches



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviewing the functioning of newly created Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Benches of Jammu and Srinagar with Chairman CAT Manjula Das at North Block, New Delhi on Monday.

while the Jammu Bench was inaugurated by him in June last year. The two CAT Benches in J&K deal exclusively with service matters of government employees.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Jammu & Kashmir is the only Union Territory in the country to have two CAT Benches and this signifies the impetus that the Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives to the Union Territory of J&K and the well-being of its Government Officers/Staff so

as to keep them a motivated force which would ultimately accelerate the development of the UT. The Minister said, two Benches for J&K will go a long way in not only reducing the burden of various Courts, but would also provide to the persons covered by the Administrative Tribunals, speedy relief in respect of their grievances and service matters. It is worth highlighting that both the buildings of CAT at Jammu and Srinagar respectively have been allotted by the

UT Government. Dr Jitendra informed that the Jurisdiction of Jammu Bench of CAT extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and one district Leh from UT of Ladakh, while the jurisdiction of Srinagar Bench extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and one district Kargil from UT of Ladakh. Dr Singh remarked that the Modi Government is committed to transparency and "justice for all". The people - friendly reforms undertaken in the last seven years have benefited the entire country including the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He said that more than 800 Central laws, which were not applicable to J&K earlier, have been made applicable after 5th August 2019 for the benefit of people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, so that they can enjoy the same rights as people in the rest of India.

According to sources, the purpose of the order is to improve the quality education in Government institutions, but who will take the responsibility for implementation of order in letter & spirit as it the fourth consecutive order issued by the Department. Earlier, it has been seen that DSEK completely ignored all orders and

did not implement the same on ground, which were issued by Secretary Education or Divisional Administration or Director General of Accounts and Treasurers.

The deployment of teachers in other departments remained a never-ending debate as the orders for detachment of these teachers do not see proper implementation on ground. Even if, administrative department orders for canceling all attachments, the teachers are again deputed to these offices for manning non-academic assignments. While Government has canceled attachment of teachers from other departments of various districts, dozens of teachers are manning clerical jobs in numerous offices at zonal and district level.

The Principal Secretary, School Education Department, B K Singh, in

his order has directed the teaching staff to report to their actual place of posting from where they are getting the salary. "In case of non-joining, serious action will be taken under rules," the order reads.

The administrative department has also instructed Director of School Education of Jammu and Kashmir divisions to focus on training of teaching staff to raise the learning outcomes of students of Government schools.

Deputy Commissioners (DCs) have also been asked to immediately relieve all teaching staff of School Education Department deployed in their offices for different nature of duties. While Administrative Department has woken up to the attachment of teachers in other departments, there has been no implementation of previous

orders and circular instructions issued repeatedly for detachment of teachers from CEO and ZEO offices. Dozens of teachers continue to remain deputed in different sections of Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) who have never attended their schools for years. The department has never followed any criteria for deployment of teachers and lecturers in DIETs and SCERT. "There should be a review by Department to assess the performance of teachers who are deployed in these DIETs and SCERT for years together," an Expert said. "The teachers in Government schools are not accountable at any level but sort of alertness is being shown by authorities every year only after deceleration of class 10th and 12th results in case of poor performance of students," a parent added.

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