

SWD verifies safety of all COVID orphans; CS reviews functioning of Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Departments and achievements under various schemes.

Commissioner/ Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department, along with Mission Director, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mission Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), and concerned HoDs participated in the meeting. It was informed that the Department has conducted a comprehensive verification drive and found the orphans of COVID victims (693) to be safe. The Chief Secretary directed the Department to get all eligible children registered for assistance from the Central Government.

It was further informed that



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

the ICPS has so far registered 102 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and is running a helpline number 1098 to ensure necessary assistance to minor children who are in need of care and protection.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department to ensure that all residential homes for minor children obtain required registrations before 31st December 2021 after which no such home will be allowed to function without complying with the Government norms and guidelines. Further, the Department was asked to undertake an extensive IEC campaign to

popularize the child helpline 1098 to facilitate reporting of cases of child neglect and cases of children in need of assistance.

The Department was also asked to evaluate the number of children in street situations and upload the survey details on the Bal Swaraj portal within 1 week; to be subsequently provided with assistance as per directions from the Supreme Court of India. Under Poshan Abhiyan being run by the ICDS, it was informed that growth monitoring devices have been given to all the Anganwari Centres and growth parameters of targeted children are being monitored through the

Poshan Tracker portal on a real-time basis. The Chief Secretary directed the Department to operationalize all non-functional Anganwadi Centres, besides opening new Centres, as per the sanction given by the Government of India, within one month. The Department was also asked to ensure that all Anganwadi have functional toilets, water connections, and Poshan Vatikas.

Moreover, the Department shall focus on providing Government accommodation to at least 4,300 Centres in the next financial year through convergence with MGNREGA, District CAPEX, and PM Adarsh Gram Yojana in consultation with the PRIs and develop these centres as hub of various activities. The Chief Secretary emphasized making important Government buildings accessible to the differently-abled persons and senior citizens under the Suganya Bharat Abhiyan by constructing ramps, hand grills, and lifts in a time-bound manner.

Dr. Mehta entrusted the Labour & Employment Department to encourage the private establishments with more than 50 workers with a special focus on brick kilns; to open up crèche facilities and provide proper facilities for drinking water and sanitation to the workers and employees.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to open at least one each of Child Care Institute, Nari Niketan, and Old Age Home at each district for providing required assistance to the targeted population. The Department was asked to saturate all individual beneficiary schemes including pension, scholarships, and PM Matru Vandana Yojana.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the preparatory works on the rollout of the Prevention of Child Rights Act, 1955; SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989; and State Action Plan for Senior Citizens, which are being implemented for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman ASSOCHAM calls on Atal Dulloo, submits Pre-budget suggestions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: ASSOCHAM J&K Council on Saturday submitted pre-budget suggestions to Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department J&K in a meeting at Civil Secretariat on Monday.

Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council briefed Additional Chief Secretary about the issues being faced by the trade and Industry of Jammu and Kashmir and shared some suggestion for the upcoming budg-



Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council, Manik Batra, calling on ACS Finance Department J&K, Atal Dulloo.

et. "J&K is a land locked union territory, most of the raw material is procured from outside the UT and finished goods are again sent out to different states this makes the cost of operations high. We request for a freight subsidy for all indus-

trial units in J&K to make operations more viable and competitive," said Manik Batra. "We also request the government to grant Free Hold Rights to the units in Industrial areas. This will help the unit holders to avail better credit facilities from financial institutions and will also be a good source of revenue for the Government as well," he added.

ASSOCHAM also discussed about GST refunds, Access to Finance, Reservation to locals in land allotments, Power tariff

and development of new industrial estate.

Additional Chief Secretary gave patient hearing to ASSOCHAM and assured that the suggestions given by ASSOCHAM will be considered in the upcoming budget.

He also praised the role and assistance of the Civil / Police Administration during the pandemic COVID-19. Smt. Nisha

Nathyal, IPS, I/C DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu highlighted the achievements of Civil Defence volunteers/wardens and Homeguard volunteers in J&K UT.

During the event, greeting messages of His Excellency President of India, Prime Minister, Home Minister, Lieutenant Governor J&K UT and senior dignitaries of GOI and UT administration were also read. Randhir Singh, Staff officer (Trg.), G.L. Sharma, Staff officer (Admn.), DySSP of Homeguards & Civil Defence alongwith wardens of Civil Defence and Voluntary Homeguards personnel partici-

pated in the function.

Officers and officials of SDRF were also present on the occasion. Annual Raising Day was also organized in Kashmir Srinagar by Haseeb-ur-Rehman, I/C Director CD & SDRF Kashmir Srinagar and Shri Firdous Iqbal, Divisional Commandant Homeguards Kashmir Srinagar.

Randhir Singh presented the vote of thanks.

59th Annual Raising Day of Homeguards/Civil Defence celebrated



ADGP Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, Danesh Rana posing with officers and volunteers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 59th Annual Raising Day of Homeguard/Civil Defence was organized at SDRF 2nd Bn Hqs, Gulshan Ground Jammu. Danesh Rana, (ADGP) Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K congratulated all on the occasion of Raising Day and highlighted the duties and responsibilities of Homeguard and Civil Defence volunteers as first responders during disasters and pandemic like situations.

He also praised the role and assistance of the Civil / Police Administration during the pandemic COVID-19. Smt. Nisha

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Court grants interim bail to JE in bribery case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge Anti-corruption (CBI Cases) Sanjeev Gupta granted interim bail to Junior Engineer, Sanjay Koul who was caught red-handed by CBI while accepting a bribe of Rs 3 lakh. As per reports filed, the case was registered on basis of a complaint made on November 29, 2021 by one Mohd Adiem Parihar alleging demand of bribe of Rs 3 lakh at the hands of accused Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, serving as Superintendent Engineer, PWD (R&B), Circle Udhampur-Reasi for processing the file related to technical sanction of a project awarded to the complainant through tender for construction of Medical Sub-Centre in District Reasi in 2017-2018, of which complainant had executed some part. However, during negotiation, accused Hilal Ahmad Sheikh agreed to accept Rs. 1.5 lakh as bribe to be paid to his Technical Officer and remaining

amount be paid later on after receipt of bill amount. The complainant told accused Hilal Ahmad Sheikh that he cannot arrange Rs 1.5 lakh in cash and stated that some cash and remaining amount by cheque will be arranged.

Reportedly CBI laid a trap at PWD Guest House at Udhampur on December 2, 2021 and graft amount of Rs 40,000 in cash and a cheque of Rs 1,10,000, total Rs 1.5 lakh, lying in an envelope which was kept in a bag by petitioner, was recovered, which was accepted by him from complainant on behalf of accused Hilal Ahmad Sheikh on instructions of accused Predhimen Krishan Koul.

Petitioner, having been arrested on spot on December 2, 2021 was remanded to custody by CBI for custodial interrogation. Presently, petitioner is on judicial remand.

Special Judge Anti-

corruption (CBI Cases) Sanjeev Gupta after hearing both the sides observed that

keeping in view medical

issues related to the peti-

tioner pointed above, but

without commenting on

merit of matter, I am of the

considered opinion that peti-

tioner has made out a case at

this stage for grant of

interim bail in his favour.

The petition is accordingly

allowed and the petitioner is

admitted to interim bail,

who shall be released from

custody on furnishing surety

and personal bonds in an

amount of Rs. 50,000 each,

subject to conditions that

petitioner shall report to

investigating officer for

being further associated

with investigation as and

when required, the petition-

er shall not try to influence

prosecution witnesses and

the petitioner shall not leave

the jurisdiction of the court

without prior permission

from IO. Court further

ordered that any breach of

either of the conditions shall

warrant cancellation of bail.

Shiv Sena activists raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena has questioning the opening of open air gymnasium by the Jammu Municipal Corporation in every ward of Jammu city without appointing trainers and caretakers and terming it as a sheer waste of public money.

In this regard dozens of Shiv Sainiks led by the Party State Unit President, Manish Sahni staged a strong protest outside the Jammu Municipal Corporation Office.

Sahni said opening an open gym without a trainer is a waste of public money. More than 50 gyms have been opened in Jammu and 25 more gyms are being opened.

Sahni said public wants to know under whose orders and under what strategy crores of rupees are being invested which is a sign of corruption and should be investigated.

Sahni said that setting up of a gym without the appointment of a trainer and caretaker is a

waste of public money, which

should be stopped immediately.

He said, "We had heard about

schools sans teachers or a

health center without a doctor;

but we are now hearing for the

first time about gyms without

trainers."

Moreover even Corona SOPs

and CAB are being openly violated in these open air gymnasiums and the same is quite dangerous in the prevailing scenario, he added. Manish Sahni made a fervent appeal to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to look up the matter besides ordering appointment

of trainers and caretakers for

all the JMC established open

air gyms. Meanwhile Shiv

Seniks also demanded that

the concerned authorities

should take strict action

against the concerned

authorities.

Shiv Sena demands appointment of trainers in open air gymnasiums

Restore old pension scheme: NOPRUF-JK

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Old

Pension Restoration United

Front Jammu and Kashmir

(NOPRUF-JK) on Monday

held a conference on the

awareness of pension at Brig.

Rajinder Singh Auditorium

University of Jammu, the

National President of the

organization (NOPRUF), B

P Singh Raw