

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 Abhiyaan 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 Anganwadis 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 Sugnya 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.

Reacting to inter-faith marriage in Zanskar, LBA-LGA demand girl be taken to Zanskar for investigation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Executive members and many members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) Central Working Committee (CWC) held a meeting under the chairmanship of senior vice President Chhering Dorje at the LBA Headquarter on Monday to discuss about the current situation arisen out of the recent incidence of alleged conversion case in Zanskar.

The meeting accused the Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh for allegedly failing to produce the girl at Zanskar as demanded by the LBA and the people of Zanskar.

"LBA strongly feels that the UT administration should play a positive role to diffuse the situation and should also create a conducive atmosphere to return the girl to her parents and community in the best interest of



LBA Senior Vice President Chhering Dorje addressing media.

maintaining communal harmony in Ladakh," LBA said in an official handout, adding that it also expects that the Muslim community to play a genuine role in order to maintain the harmonious relations existing between communities in Ladakh.

Later, addressing media at LBA, Chhering Dorje, on behalf of the Ladakh Buddhist

Association and the Ladakh Gonpa Association, urged concerned authorities that the girl and the boy be taken back to Zanskar as the incident had happened in Zanskar for investigation. "If the administration feels that it will create law and order issue in Zanskar; then they should be brought to Leh, the headquarter of the UT administration," Dorje added.

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 budget.

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



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

Shiv Sena demands appointment of trainers in open air gymnasia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena has questioned the opening of open air gymnasia 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 that 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



Shiv Sena activists raising slogans during a protest.

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 gymnasia 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

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 Hqrs. 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

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 (Tggs.), G.L Sharma, Staff officer (Admn.), Dy:SSP 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 Hasceb-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.

Central Zone of JKNC pays tributes to Dr. Ambedkar on death anniversary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Central Zone of Jammu Kashmir National Conference today paid rich tributes to the architect of Constitution of India, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his 66th death anniversary.

Babu Ram Paul, former minister and President Central Zone (Jammu, Samba, Kathua) of National Conference along-

with other office bearers of the zone paid floral tributes to Dr. B.R Ambedkar on his death anniversary also known as 'Mahaparinirvan Diwas'.

While speaking on the occasion Ram Paul said that Dr. B.R Ambedkar fought for economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country and is fondly remembered as Babasaheb. He said that Baba Sahed was also among the seven members of the "drafting committee" who prepared a draft of the Constitution of the inde-

pendent India and is known as the architect of the Constitution.

Known for his great influence in India in eradicating the social scourge of untouchability, Ambedkar also served as the Minister of Law and Justice in the first cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru from 1947 to 1951, Paul added. He said that Babasaheb Ambedkar dedicated most of his life to empowering and voicing concerns for the downtrodden. He also played a crucial role in promoting gender equality. Ram Paul said

that apart from drafting the Constitution, Babasaheb played a significant role in the formation of the Reserve Bank of India. The Central bank was formed on the concept presented by Babasaheb to the Hilton Young Commission.

He said that Baba Saheb converted to Buddhism in 1956 at a ceremony held in Nagpur. Ambedkar's admirers consider him as influential as Lord Buddha, which is why his death anniversary is celebrated as Mahaparinirvana Divas.

Ravinder questions Govt for failure to hold elections to left-out structure of BDCs, DDCs 'Set-up anti corruption mechanism for PRIs as per 73rd amendment'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma has questioned the government, why it has failed to hold elections to the complete structure of the DDCs and BDCs even after lapse of more than one year and two years respectively, to the heads of these bodies.

Ravinder said that the important committees of the DDCs, as provided in the Panchayat Raj Act, could not be constituted even after around one year of DDC elections while the offices of BDC vice chairpersons were not filled up through elections after over two years of BDCs elections.

"The structure of DDCs

and BDCs are incomplete without the filling up of these important offices, as a result their functioning is lop sided and deprives the elected DDC members especially opposition to be part of the planning, development, implementation and especially monitoring process," he said adding that the Act provides for the Constitution of various committees of DDCs from amongst members of the DDCs to be elected to these committees, to perform the assigned functions.

In the absence of elections and constitution of these committees, he said, their role is mainly played by the government officials and DDCs are not able to

perform their functions.

Sharma said that the anti corruption mechanism and structure as provided in the JK law as per the 73rd amendment is too missing, which is very unfortunate as the complaints against misuse of powers and misutilization of huge funds need to be investigated on regular basis.

In the absence of proper and independent mechanism at present executors are the investigators, he added.

He demanded that the government should hold elections to the left out structure of DDCs and BDCs without further delay and set up anti corruption mechanism at each levels.

RMPS bags overall trophy of 4th District-level Kick-Boxing C'ship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Students of RM Public School (RMPS) brought laurels to the institution at recently concluded 4th District level Kick-Boxing championship.

The competition, which was organized by Jammu District Kick-Boxing Association under the ages of Kickboxing Association J&K recognized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, saw more than 200 participants from various schools and clubs of the district.

The school team, which consisted of around 50 students, bagged the overall trophy under the guidance of coach Nardeep Singh whose training and guidance helped them to win a



Students of RMPS lifting 4th District level Kick-Boxing championship overall trophy.

total of 46 medals which include 16 gold, 12 silver and 18 bronze.

Ajay Verma MD Nee Gem, Chief Guest and Gaurav Chopra, Corporator Ward no 28, Special Guest presented the medals and trophy to the school team.

The Director of the School, Rakshan Mengi

congratulated the students saying that "The sports are important part of the curriculum as they help shape the character of the students. The school is elated at the excellent performance of its students."

The Vice Principal Kaajal Bhasin also applauded the performance of the students.

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 Rawat graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The conference was organised by NOPRUF-JK under the leadership of it's UT President Gulzabair Daing and UT General Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sharma.

Hundreds of government employees, falling under New Pension Scheme (NPS) from different government departments of Jammu and Kashmir attended the conference. It is pertinent to mention in January 2004 a new

privatised pension scheme (NPS) was introduced by government in Center for government employees and likewise in Jammu and Kashmir it was introduced in January 2010.

"However employees are completely unhappy with NPS because it is totally not at par with OPS in terms of it's benefits", as claimed by NOPRUF leaders.

"The NOPRUF a national level organization of NPS employees under the leadership of its National President, B P Singh Rawat is running a countrywide campaign for the demand of restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for the government employees in all states and UTs of the country, because they claim that NPS is full of flaws and not suitable for post-retirement life of an

employee", reads the press statement issued by NOPRUF-JK. The leaders raised their voice against the New Pension Scheme and appealed the authorities at national level as well as the authorities at UT level to restore old pension scheme. "If it wasn't restored in near future, the organization will gear up its agitation all across the country to mount the pressure on government for the same, claimed the leaders".

The leaders who spoke on the occasion are Mrignayani Slathia (National Vice-President NOPRUF Female Wing), Dr. Nirmala (National Advisor), Sampath Kumar Swamy (National Advisor), Dr. Purushotham (State President Telangana), Gulzabir Daing (President JKNOPRUF), Dr. Rakesh

Chib (Chief Convenor JKNOPRUF), Sanjeev Kumar (Vice-President JKNOPRUF), Rajesh Kumar Sharma (General Secretary JKNOPRUF), Azad Hussain (Social Media & IT Incharge JKNOPRUF), Er. Umar Farooq (Publicity Secretary JKNOPRUF), Sh. Sakoon Manir (Secretary JKNOPRUF), Omkar Singh Parihar (Chief Organiser JKNOPRUF), Upasana Singh (Chief Advisor JKNOPRUF), Smt. Jyoti Bandral (Jammu Province President NOPRUF), Ranjeet Somriya (Jammu Province Social Media & IT Incharge NOPRUF), Raman Sharma (District Jammu President NOPRUF), Leaders of different departments of J&K UT and NPS Employees of J&K UT.