

Reviews functioning of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Dept

Omar directs NeVA operationalisation before budget session of J&K LA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Law Achal Sethi, Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita and other senior officials. During the review, the Chief Minister assessed the



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing review meeting of Law Department on Tuesday.

functioning of the High Court, subordinate courts, the Advocate General's Office, and the Legislative Assembly. He was briefed on the sanctioned strength of the judiciary and discussed key issues,

including ongoing litigations, e-stamping, e-courts, and e-court fee systems. The implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the J&K Legislative Assembly was a key point of discussion.

The Chief Minister directed officials to liaise with the Ministry of Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, to ensure NeVA is operationalized before the upcoming

budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly. Other components included the classification of laws, appointment of officers in charge of litigations, opinion and vetting of notifications, and the department's achievements in 2023-24.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Rs 908 crore New High Court Complex project in Srinagar, enquiring about progress, timelines, and phase-wise completion of the project. He emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines to ensure the timely delivery of this critical infrastructure.



Satish Sharma visits NABARD J&K Regional Office



Minister for ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday visited the Jammu & Kashmir Regional Office of NABARD.

Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; Deputy General Manager Urnil Lata; General Manager, Vikas Mittal and other officers were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Minister was apprised of the diverse initiatives being undertaken by NABARD to foster development of Jammu & Kashmir and uplift the lives of rural communities. The Minister also took detailed review of interventions of NABARD in terms of their sustainability and meeting the end objectives. The Minister expressed keen interest in NABARD's initiatives and lauded its efforts in transforming the socio-economic fabric of rural J&K. He emphasized

the need for scaling up interventions to ensure last-mile connectivity and advised NABARD to focus on outcome-based implementation of programs. Satish Sharma also assured full support from the Government in NABARD's endeavours to contribute to the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, a comprehensive Power Point Presentation detailing NABARD's various developmental activities and prospects for J&K was made by Assistant General Manager, Sonika Rana.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Information Commissioners' convention, cites instances of Modi Govt's transparent working

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The 16th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam here on Tuesday by Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Citing several instances of the Modi Govt's transparent working, the Minister said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mantra of Minimum Government Maximum Governance essentially implies furtherance of transparency". The theme of the Convention of the Central Information Commission was "Contribution of RTI in journey towards Viksit Bharat".

Dr. Jitendra, while addressing the Convention, emphasized the pivotal role of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance. The event brought together



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating 16th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Tuesday.

under one roof Chief Information Commissioners, State Information Commissioners, senior government officials, and representatives of civil society. Highlighting the significance of the RTI Act, Dr. Jitendra stated, "The RTI Act has empowered citizens by providing them with a robust mechanism to access information, bridging the gap between government and the people. It serves as a cor-

nerstone in the fight against corruption and in fostering a citizen-centric governance model." The Minister praised the Central and State Information Commissions for their innovative use of technology, particularly during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Central Information Commission's adoption of e-initiatives, including e-filing, e-hearings, and digitization

of records, has set new benchmarks for efficiency and transparency," he noted. Union Minister further stressed upon utilising technology in various domains of governance. He also talked about the SVAMITVA model, which helps in eroding the physical interface with authorities. The Union Minister also talked about imparting innovation in the Governance. Total of 1302 Public

Authorities have submitted their transparency audit reports for the year 2023-24. He urged all public authorities to enhance their proactive disclosure practices, underscoring the importance of Section 4 of the RTI Act in broadening the transparency regime. Union Minister, in this series stressed upon the importance of disposal of cases swiftly and thus, to the satisfaction of citizenry. Expressing his appreciation for the leadership of Chief Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya and his colleagues, Dr. Jitendra reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the RTI mechanism. "Transparency and accountability are essential for building trust in governance. We are dedicated to making the RTI process more responsive and citizen-friendly to reinforce the democratic fabric of the nation," he concluded.

Saurabh Bhagat chairs awareness camp-cum-seminar on 'Common & Rare Genetic Disorders'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Pediatrics, GMC Jammu in collaboration with Department of Zoology/Institute of Human Genetics, University of Jammu and Department of Science & Technology, organised an awareness camp cum seminar on the topic "Common and Rare Genetic Disorders" at SMGS Hospital, Jammu on Tuesday.

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, was the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Saurabh Bhagat talked about the collective role of medical science and non-medical science in conducting medical investigation



Comm Secy S&T, Saurabh Bhagat lighting a lamp.

and treatment of diseases in relevance to outcome of the investigations. The Commissioner Secretary mentioned about the role and impact of Artificial Intelligence on Optimizing Diagnosis and Treatment Plans for Rare Genetic Disorders. He said that the Department of Science and Technology is funding many research proj-

ects. He added that doctors must take initiative for entrepreneurship and start ups in the field of medical science. Principal & Dean, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, was the guest of honour on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the

Department of Pediatrics and Institute of Human Genetics, University of Jammu for organising the event. He stressed upon the need of establishment of a fully functional Genetic Laboratory in the institution. Head of Pediatrics Department, Professor Ghanshyam Saini, while delivering lecture on the subject, apprised the gathering about the Common and Rare Genetic Disorders and work being done in the department of paediatrics in this regard. Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Biology, Central University Jammu, Dr Swarkar Sharma was the guest faculty of this event. He delivered a detailed lecture on Common and Rare

Genetic Disorders and shared the data of various Common and Rare Genetic Disorders, their prevalence, affected population, especially in our region of Jammu & Kashmir. Other eminent personalities present on the occasion were Dr. Ashok Gupta, Former HOD Pediatrics, GMC Jammu; Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent SMGS Hospital, Jammu; Dr. N K Pargal, Dr. Mahesh Gupta, Dr. Pavinder Kumar Assistant Professor of Zoology/Institute of human genetics, University of Jammu, Professor Pediatrics: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Digra, Dr. Ashu Janwal, Dr. Mohammad Razaq; Associate Professors Pediatrics; Dr. Anuj Bhatti, Dr. Ravi Kumar Parihar and Dr. Koushal Kumar.

Yasha Mudgal holds pre-budget discussion, reviews dev activities

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Tuesday chaired a pre-budget meeting at Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to discuss Revised Estimates (RE) 2024-25, Budget Estimates (BE) 2025-26 besides reviewing the ongoing development activities. Present in the meeting were senior officers of the Tourism Department, Director Tourism Development Authorities. During the discussion, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for optimal utilisation of allocated funds and

timely completion of ongoing works. She asked the agencies to ensure that projects scheduled for the current financial year are completed without delay. Savings under RE 2024-25, if any, should be proposed for reallocation to projects requiring additional funds to maximize financial efficiency, she added. The Commissioner Secretary also directed the agencies to prioritise repair and renovation of internal roads at tourist destinations under BE 2025-26. She emphasized addressing basic amenities for tourists, ensuring that pending power bill payments are cleared on priority. Further, she stressed the importance of

selecting projects with visible impacts that could enhance tourist attractions, proposing new initiatives to create fresh tourist experiences, and ensuring that existing non-functional assets are made operational instead of focusing on new constructions. The review included an assessment of works approved under the Capex Budget 2024-25. Agencies were asked to provide details of approved projects where funds have not yet been released. All agencies were instructed to submit revised RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26 proposals by tomorrow, incorporating the directives issued during the meeting.

SDMs to conduct surprise inspection of ultrasound, imaging centres DC Jammu mandates strict action against PCPNDT violators

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a meeting of the District Advisory Committee under the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday instructed Sub Divisional Magistrates to maintain rigorous surveillance against any potential sex determination activities within their jurisdictions and to conduct monthly surprise inspections of medical facilities, ensuring complete compliance with the

PCPNDT Act. The DC stressed the importance of proactive measures and warned of stringent legal action against violators and emphasised strict monitoring of ultrasound clinics and imaging centers across the district. The committee, chaired by the DC, also approved registration of 13 ultrasound clinics and imaging centers during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer, an NGO representative and other committee members.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Taxes Department (STD) has taken strict measures to curb the menace of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) by conducting inspections and enforcement drives across several districts of Jammu

division. The STD carried out these drives under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

The teams specifically targeted dealers who were found engaged in the recycling of B2C invoices into B2B invoices, thereby passing on ITC to other dealers and contractors. The ITC was being used to settle GST output tax instead of

being paid in cash. The teams visited various business premises to investigate the malpractices. The department urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or practices involv-

ing fake ITC. Furthermore, the department appealed all taxpayers to report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

Commissioner Secretary reviews implementation of Nirmaya Health Insurance Scheme in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee to review the implementation of the Nirmaya Health Insurance Scheme and progress in appointing legal guardians under the State Nodal Agency Centre for Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting emphasized the importance of expanding the reach of the Nirmaya Health Insurance Scheme, a flagship initiative aimed at providing health insurance coverage to persons with disabilities (PwDs). The scheme ensures financial assistance for medical care, hospitalization, and therapy through a hassle-free process. It also covers pre-existing conditions and provides Rs. 1 lakh annual coverage per beneficiary. Sheetal Nanda directed officers and stakeholders to intensify efforts to identify and appoint legal guardians for children



Commissioner Secretary SWD, Sheetal Nanda chairing a meeting.

and individuals with disabilities under the scheme, ensuring that their rights and welfare are safeguarded. She stressed the need to create awareness among communities and facilitate easier access to the initiative. She also appreciated the role of Chairperson Muskan Foundation Parveen Sangral in sensitizing communities and assisting in the of eligible beneficiaries. She urged the foundation to enhance its outreach activities and ensure that the maxi-

mum number of individuals benefit from the scheme. The meeting was attended by Director Social Welfare Department Jammu, Rupesh Kumar; Director Social Welfare Department Srinagar, Mohd Akbar Wani; District Social Welfare Officers; and other stakeholders. For further details or registration under the Nirmaya Health Insurance Scheme, beneficiaries can contact the Social Welfare Department or the nearest District Social Welfare Office.

Secy RDD conducts surprise inspections in Bishnah, Arnia; attaches 3 employees

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Tuesday conducted surprise inspections in Bishnah and Arnia blocks to assess their administrative functioning and ongoing developmental works. During the inspection, it was found that three Panchayat Account Assistant from Bishnah block and one from Arnia block were attached in violation of standing government instructions. Additionally, several ministerial staff members were irregularly deployed

in offices other than those of the Rural Development Department. The Secretary issued on-spot instructions directing block officials to immediately recall all staff deployed without approval of competent authority to their original places of posting. He expressed concern over these violations, emphasising the need for strict adherence to government guidelines to ensure transparency and efficiency in the functioning of rural administrative units. Aijaz Asad directed immediate corrective measures and warned against any further devia-

tions from standard protocols. During review of progress on various projects in Bishnah and Arnia blocks, the Secretary emphasised the importance of timely completion of all ongoing projects. He directed the officials to ensure that the works meet their deadlines and maintain high standards of execution. The Secretary highlighted the need for improved sanitation in both the blocks. Aijaz Asad also visited Panchayat Changia to review progress on a Badminton Court being constructed under the

Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Capex Budget. During the visit, the local ex-Sarpanchs, players and prominent citizens requested to expedite completion of the indoor stadium. They also demanded installation of floodlights and polyvinyl flooring to make the facility operational at night. The Secretary assured full support and directed block officials to ensure the project is completed within two months. The Secretary was accompanied by Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja and other senior officers.