

Educational institutions should build on experience of online classes: CS



Chief Secretary A K Mehta chairing a virtual meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary A K Mehta on Monday said the educational institutions should build on the experience of online classes and adopt an ideal blend of IT-based offline teaching curriculum to boost students' learning.

Students resumed offline classes on Monday in many districts of the Jammu region after authorities ordered a phased reopening of educational institutions across the Union Territory.

Mehta, who chaired a meeting to take stock of the arrangements for the reopening of educational institutions and resuming of the offline mode of teaching in the UT, said the academic session 2022-23 shall be the year of educational transformation for Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is a need for the institutions to build on the experience of online classes and adopt an ideal blend of IT-based offline teaching curriculum to boost students' learning outcomes and successfully train them for national-level examinations," he said. He emphasised that heads of the institutions will be personally responsible for Covid management and a healthy teaching environment. "There should be no tolerance for unhealthy activities in places of learning."

The chief secretary said the COVID-19 positivity rate in the UT has been contained to 0.7 percent and impressed upon the heads of all educational institutions to remain vigilant to any signs of infection, especially among unvaccinated students, besides ensuring adherence to Covid management protocol.

Mehta asked vice chancellors of universities, principals of colleges and heads of schools to submit Covid prevention and mitigation plans taking into account capacity of classrooms, staggered teaching plan, Covid protocol, vaccination, screening, and emergency SoP within two days, an official statement said.

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JAMMU: Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI) cases J&K, R K Wattal while disposing of different applications, dismissed bail applications of Patwari, Junior Engineer and Assistant Garrison Engineers in trap cases.

According to CBI, FIR No RC0042022A0002 dated January 15, 2022 was registered by CBI, ACB, Jammu under section 7 of PC Act, 1988 on basis of a complaint dated January 13, 2022 lodged by one Harbinder Pal Singh, son of Ajit Singh, resident of village Koti Arjun Singh, Tehsil R S Pura, alleging demand of bribe of Rs 50,000 by an accused namely Ashok Kumar, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Jassore was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 35,000 from complainant in presence of independent witness.

While rejecting the bail application of Ashok Kumar Patwari, Special Judge CBI R K Wattal observed that when there are possibilities that accused will use his influence in shutting mouth of persons who are likely to depose against him in investigation for further disclosures in support of crime, it seems unfit to grant bail.

"Considering bail only on the premises that accused is behind bars for three to four weeks is not justified. As per prosecution, the witnesses, verifying officials are yet to be examined and persons in the organisation of accused acquainted with facts relating to crime are yet to be recorded, besides some more documents are required to be collected the accused in case released on bail may use his connections and influence which may hamper the remaining investigation and compel witnesses not to depose against him. These circumstances have to be weighed while considering bail in trap cases," the Court observed.

In another case, as per CBI, FIR No RC0042022A0001 dated January 6, 2022, was registered by CBI, ACB, Jammu under section 120-B of IPC read with section 7 of PC Act 1988 on basis of complaint dated January 5, 2022 lodged by one Sameer Ajrawat, son of Romesh Kumar, resident of 208, Sector-4, Channi Himmat, alleging demand of bribe of Rs. 25,000 by accused Mahesh Chandra Gangwar JE and Mohd Imran Ullah, Assistant Garrison Engineer (AGE) both offi-



CBI Court rejects bail pleas of Patwari; JE, AGE in bribery cases

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one of the biggest road blocks in the development and progress of society and the nation. It is true that often in a system sometimes the biggest crocodiles escape with impunity and small fries are entrapped. But the authority of law is required to be imposed without making a distinction between big and small offenders when the nature of criminality of corruption in public servants largely affects public with whom they deal particularly when such cases are on rise and the public dealing with the authorities of the government are the victim of this evil. It is in this context that matter of bail has also to be considered in the background of the abovementioned factors and prima facie consideration of these factors for limited purposes cannot be said to be a comment prejudicial to the rights and interests of the accused," the Court directed.

'One-Time Age Relaxation' announced for candidates who had earlier applied for withdrawn posts

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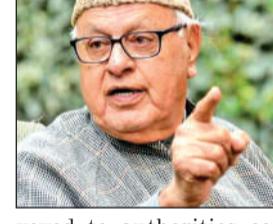
JAMMU: In respect of the posts withdrawn by virtue of recent decision of Administrative Council, J&K Government on Monday ordered one-time age relaxation for candidates who had earlier applied for these posts and were eligible in terms of age but have in the meantime crossed the upper age limit. The Government also states that subject to the fulfilment of other conditions of eligibility, a candidate shall be deemed to be eligible in terms of upper age limit, if he/she applies for the said post(s) in pursuance to fresh advertisement, as and when issued by JKPSC/SSB.

No proposal to re-appoint retiring CE as ED in PDD: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As some associations of Power Engineers have expressed their apprehension over the alleged re-appointment of a retiring Chief Engineer (CE) on the post of Executive Director (ED) in Power Development Department (PDD). The department in this context clarifies that there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Farooq prevented from leaving residence in Srinagar



SRINAGAR: Former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah was on Monday prevented from leaving his residence here in view of security concerns on the anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack, prompting him to lodge a strong protest.

Sources in the National Conference, of which Abdullah is the president, said that he was scheduled to travel to Jammu by road, a stretch of nearly 300 kilometers. The information about the programme had been con-

veyed to authorities concerned five days ago, but to his dismay, Abdullah found that the exits from his house were barred.

Abdullah, a former three-time chief minister and a sitting Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, managed to walk out of his house in the afternoon and is said to have hitched a ride from a passerby for a short distance before the security team persuaded him to return home in a police vehicle.

Police officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that no VIP movement is advised on the day of the Pulwama attack anniversary.

On this day in 2019, 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives when a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist rammed an explosive-laden car into a bus carrying security personnel.

Students of classes 9 to 12, dressed in uniforms and carrying vaccination certificates, were seen thronging their institutions in Jammu and other districts of the region on

Monday morning, officials said.

In an order issued on Sunday, the state executive committee had said all universities, colleges, polytechnic institutes and ITIs, and classes from 9 to 12 can commence their routine offline teaching by following Covid Appropriate Behaviour and standard operating procedures from February 14.

However, most of the educational institutions, including universities and colleges, remained closed and are likely to resume activities in a day or two after making necessary arrangements. The officials said the attendance in both private and government high and higher secondary schools on Monday was low, but it was expected to pick up in the coming days. A Jammu University official said since the order was issued on Sunday evening, they were finalizing the arrangements.

In summer zone schools, the offline mode of teaching for the remaining junior classes shall begin from February 21, allowing the students to attend school after over two years.

Offline teaching at all schools

in the winter zone will commence after February 28.

The schools situated in the winter zone of Kashmir and snow-bound parts of Jammu region are currently on winter vacation.

Welcoming the decision of the

administration to open educational institutions, principal of Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School, Rajeev Nagar, Rameshwar Mengi said,

..it is a happy moment for all of us that the students are back in their classrooms.

Ladakh has reported 77 new Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 27,477, officials said.

The total number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 537, including 403 in Leh and 134 in Kargil district, they said. The Union Territory has recorded 226 Covid-related deaths -- 167 in Leh and 59 in Kargil, they said. No death was reported from Ladakh on Sunday, they said. As many as 110 patients -- 90 in Leh and 20 in Kargil -- were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the overall recoveries to 26,714, they said. Of the 77 fresh cases, 60 were from Leh district and 17 from Kargil district, they said, adding that a total of 1,042 sample reports were found negative in Ladakh, officials added.

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