

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Delimitation Commission shares...

Once the associate members' suggestions have been considered , the reworked draft delimitation proposal will be placed in the public domain for objections. Public hearings may be held by the panel in Jammu and Srinagar, followed by the final delimitation award.

States/UTs cancel...

system under the food law rest with the state governments. The responsibilities include identification of eligible beneficiaries/ households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), issuance of ration cards to them as per eligibility and distribution of foodgrains to them from ration shops.

Under the NFSA, the state/UT governments periodically review their lists of ration card holders to weed out potentially ineligible, duplicate or bogus ration cards from their respective systems after proper verification.

"Accordingly, the State/UTs have reported cancellation of about 4.28 crore bogus ration cards during the period 2014 to 2021 so far," Choubey said.

As per the list, Uttar Pradesh has cancelled 1,70,75,301 bogus ration cards, followed by Maharashtra (41,65,552), West Bengal (41,09,873), Madhya Pradesh (23,53,760), Rajasthan (22,66,485) and Karnataka (21,54,193).

As many as 18,73,325 and 12,21,283 cards were deleted in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. Chhattisgarh deleted 13,57,677 cards during this period.

10 JKAS officers...

Administration Department.

As per order, Javid Ahmad Rather has been posted as District Mineral Officer at Srinagar, Hilal Ahmad Bhat at Pulwama, Salam Din at Udhampur, Peer Zahid Ahmad at Baramulla, Gulshan Kumar at Jammu, Showkat Ahmad Bhat at Anantnag, Shajhat Ahmad Qureshi at Kupwara, Rajinder Singh at Kathua, Mohammad Sayeed at Samba and Mohd Naseeb at Rajouri.

"It is further ordered that the officers presently working against the post(s) of District Mineral officer in the above districts shall report to the Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu/Kashmir, as the case may be."

AC approves action...

excellence by involving all the stakeholders and establishing inter-departmental synergies for composite development of sports.

The basic cannons of the Sports Policy are to 'Scout'- identify talent and catch them young; 'Engage'- ensure grassroot inclusive engagement in sports & games (Sports for All & Fitness for All); 'Facilitate'-provide sports infrastructure, facilities, know-how, and training; and 'Recognize'- acknowledge the achievements and contributions through awards and further employment.

The Policy incorporates various annual awards like Award for Excellence in Sports for10 sportsperson, J&K Khel Protshahana Award for Sports Association, and two veterans/ experienced sportspersons/ organizers or referees, Parshuram Award for 5 best Coaches in different disciplines.

To further motivate the UT's sporting talent, the Sports Policy announces special cash awards to the winners in Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Championship (Seniors/ Juniors), World Cup/ Championships, Youth Olympic Games, South Asian Games, and World University Games/ Championships; in the range of Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore.

Further, the winners in all recognized National competitions and National School Games in various sports disciplines will be granted specified scholarships from the Directorate of Youth Service & Sports.

Moreover, special emphasis has been laid to meet the sporting needs of the special-ly-abled sportspersons through sufficient infrastructure and training facilities to ensure their full participation in various events. The Department will also organize several para-games at District and UT levels.

Furthermore, the Policy provides for the annual recruitment of outstanding sportspersons achieving podium finish/ participation in recognized international and national competitions. The expertise of outstanding players will also be utilized to impart specialized training/ coaching to budding players and athletes across the UT. Through inter-departmental convergences, new vistas of employment will be opened for youth in the fields of Tourism, Education, and Adventure/Winter Sports.

J&K Macadamization, PWD...

J&K Macadamization Manual categorizes the road length in the Union territory as Inter-District Roads, Major Roads, District Roads, Rural Roads, Local roads, etc.

The Macadamization Manual further establishes a Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA) protocol to be strictly adhered to during macadamization works. In case of any breach in quality, the contractor will also be made equally responsible for technical divergences due to negligence or execution of poor-quality works. All Divisions will be mandated to review the performance of every macadamization work post-winter/monsoon season, so as to assess pavement distress and map the same for subsequent prerogatives under the Defect Liability Period (DLP).

The Administrative Council also noted the J&K PWD Bridge Manual 2022 which standardizes the engineering practices in bridge construction to bring uniformity, transparency, and accountability in project execution. Accordingly, the Department will be required to uniformly undertake Project Preparation, Feasibility Study, Preliminary Project Preparation, Detailed Project Preparation, Formwork and Staging, Quality Systems for Road Bridges, Project Scheduling and Monitoring of Works, Bridge Inspection and Maintenance, Bridge Numbering in light of IRC 7:2017, Structural Health Monitoring of Bridges; for proper maintenance the catalogued bridges in the Union territory.

It was also informed that PWD is also following the Standard Operating Procedure for optimal maintenance of roads during snow clearance activities. The SoP lays down the short-term measures to be taken by the PWD in snow clearance operations which include snow clearance with conventional attachments to be provided to all R&B Divisions, Town Area Committees, and Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

For long-term intervention, the SoP requires the Disaster Management Department to procure technically approved machinery as is being used in several developed countries for scientific clearance of snow causing minimal damage to the road surface.

Fresh snowfall, rain in Kashmir, mercury dips across Valley

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Many parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while others were lashed by rain, resulting in the drop in minimum temperatures across the valley, officials said on Friday.

Several places in the valley, especially in south Kashmir, received fresh overnight snowfall, the officials said.

They said Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded six inches of fresh snowfall, while Kokernag received around four inches of fresh snow and other parts of the Anantnag district received three to six inches of snow.

Other areas in south Kashmir also received snowfall during the night.

Some areas in Ganderbal district, in central Kashmir received three to four inches of snow, they said.

The officials said most other parts of the valley received rains. The weather is expected to remain wet on Friday and is likely to remain dry on Saturday, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature decreased at most places in Kashmir last night.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.6 degrees Celsius a degree up from the previous night, the officials said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 12.0 degrees Celsius six degrees down from the previous night. It was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

Pahalgam, which also serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius down from minus 1.7 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded the minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. Kashmir is currently under the influence of a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khur'd' (small cold) which began on Monday after the Chilla-i-Kalan -- the 40-day harshest winter period -- ended.

The snow clearance protocol recommends commencement of clearance operations only after 100mm of snowfall by 50mm vehicle blades to avoid damage to the road surface, besides sprinkling of salt over frosted surfaces to improve surface friction.

However, if the road damage after a snowfall is attributed to poor macadamization work rather than snow clearance operation, the contract DLP Clause will be enforced, and contracting agencies will be made responsible to rectify reported damages due to their negligence.

The SoP further allows for the empanelment of private players with appropriate machines for snow clearance operations through incentives like a long-term contract for 10-15 years. The rates for the snow clearance items will be based on an analysis of rates as per MoRTH/ BRO. Besides, the contracting agencies/ unemployed youth will also be incentivized under credit-linked schemes of the Industries & Commerce Department, Labour and Employment Department, and Tourism Department for procurement of suitable machinery under the technical supervision of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

The Administrative Council directed the Department to regularly update the manuals and guidelines and ensure optimal quality and cost efficiency consistent with the mandatory provisions of GFR and e-tendering.

Noose tightening around...

STATE TIMES, "We are seeking all details from CMOs as we have to proceed as per court orders."

To a question that despite knowing the matter being sub-judice the DHS keeps seeking the details and takes serious view of delay, the Director said "The delay in response from the CMOs for the last two years was because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He, however, added that "Only 133 appointments were found illegal during inquiry in 2013 and they approached the court." At present the department is collecting all the data related to these 2274 appointments of 2012

According to the latest 'most urgent and time bound' communication addressed to the Medical Superintendents and Chief Medical Officers, vide communication order No: Est 5th/NG/36/illegal/550-79, over 2,274 appointments had been reported to the DHS Kashmir

The illegal appointment of doctors and para medical staff was made in 2012. An inquiry was initiated by the government against 133 employees only, who moved the courts of law for relief. As the matter is sub-judice, the government initiated the process to get the details of 2,274 employees in the Health Services Kashmir.

As per the latest communication, 2274 illegal and fake appointments were reported to have been made in the Valley, with Bandipora, Budgam and Ganderbal topping the list.

"It is impressed upon you to ensure that the requisite information, complete in all respects in respect of 2274 illegal appointments as reported by the Audit and Inspection Department along with all other illegal appointments, especially reported from Block Beerwah of District Budgam, and Bandipora and Ganderbal districts as per the given format is furnished to this Directorate by February 4, 2022 at 2.00 PM positively through the concerned dealing assistants both in hard as well as soft copy," reads the communication.

The communication adds: The Administrative Department has taken serious note regarding non-submission of requisite information despite lapse of more than 02 years and accordingly this office has been instructed to submit the information immediately.

"Non-compliance of instructions shall be viewed seriously and disciplinary action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the defaulters/officers on their own risk and responsibility," it reads.

CS directs completion...

lakh in the Valley next year and an aggregate tourist influx of 2 crore in J&K.

He made these observations while reviewing the Capex of the department in which Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department and other senior officers of the department were present.

The Chief Secretary said that as much as the inherent beauty of the place, it is the overall experience of the places the visitors have during their stay that makes the tourist destinations the go to places for others.

Dr Mehta directed the department to involve the local people in and around the tourist destinations in the effort to improve the ambience of the tourist places while further adding that all tourist places need to be advertised on the aesthetically bright and colourful hoardings/billboards on the national highways and other important roads in the UT, especially on the national Highway, Jammu to Katra, Airports at Srinagar and Jammu, and railway stations.

Highlighting the importance of the Akhnoor town as a tourist place, the Chief Secretary directed the department to develop Akhnoor as a popular weekend getaway for the residents of Jammu city and surrounding places after the flyover on Jammu-Akhnoor road is constructed by year end and the travel time to Akhnoor is reduced to 25-30 minutes.

Dr Mehta highlighted the importance of Surinsar as a potentially attractive evening destination for the Jammuities and directed the department to develop the place complete with all recreational activities, improved surroundings and well laid internal roads.

Earlier, Sarmad Hafeez, Administrative Secretary, Tourism department in his presentation informed that during the period from September -December 2021, around 54 lakh tourists have visited J&K, which represents the highest tourist inflow for these months during the last 3 years.

He said that the tourist influx in Kashmir Valley has risen from around 5.65 lakh in 2019 to 6.66 lakh in the year 2021.

Hafeez informed that the tourists have kept visiting J&K in higher numbers despite ongoing Covid pandemic due to extremely good covid containment initiatives taken by the government.

It was further informed that while 224 works under UT Capex have been completed so far, out of 122 works under PMDP, 94 works have been completed and the remaining 28 works will be completed as per the set timelines.

Giving details of the various tourism activities initiated by the department, Hafeez informed that the snow scooters have been introduced in Sonmarg and ice skating rink has been made fully functional in Gulmarg.

He further said that city/ heritage tour campaigns have been launched in the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar in collaboration with SRTC and JKTDC.

While directing that all 582 works targeted for completion during the current fiscal year should be completed by the end of the current financial year, the Chief Secretary asked the department to put all unutilized assets to use by 31st March,

2022.

Saying that tourism has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind from the most specialized to the unskilled, Dr Mehta asked the department to look for complementarities/synergies with other departments to generate economic activity/create productive jobs in the sector.

He directed the department to synergise with Mission Youth for purchase of snow scooters/ATVs under the Scheme to the willing youth in Sonmarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam and other such like tourist areas to create self employment opportunities for them.

Dr Mehta asked the department to ensure that river cruise in Jehlum river is started by March end this year while further adding that the amphitheatre at Baghi-Bahu garden should be put to use by roping in local music groups, theatre groups, local artists etc. or by organizing activities like talent hunt programmes, singing competitions etc. for creating suitable recreational avenues for the interested people. Dr Mehta asked the department to explore the introduction of laser and sound shows at all the important tourist places, besides facilitating launch of water sports and other sports/adventure related activities on commercial basis in J&K.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure that TRC and cafeteria at Verinag are made to put to use by the department by 15th March 2022.

Govt constitutes panel...

committee will be headed by CEO, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) as its Chairperson while CEO, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Managing Director, JKSRTC, Director, J&K Motor Garages, Chief Accounts Officer, JMC and Law Officer, SMC will be its Members.

"The Committee shall finalize the RFP for e-buses and its related operations besides to look into the technical specifications of e-buses and all related machinery equipment and infrastructure etc and to examine the Financial Model of procurement of e-buses along with Legal aspect as per the terms and conditions of the contract," the order stated and added, "The Committee shall look into availability of spaces for Depots, Charging Stations and any other operational requirement as required and shall finalize and submit the RFP within a week's time from the date of issuance of this order."

Court grants bail...

same are not punishable either with death sentence or imprisonment for life and, therefore, the embargo laid in Section 497 of J&K CrPC, is not attracted in present case. "Taking into account the fact that investigation of the case stands completed and the chargesheet against the accused persons is already instituted as also the facts and circumstances of the case, the applicants-accused are admitted to bail subject to the conditions that they furnish personal bonds in the sum of Rs. 1 lakh each and one surety each of an equal amount," the Court directed.

COVID CONTAINMENT IN...

Sehat Golden health cards across the UT. The Lt Governor directed the Health & Immunization Department to focus on booster doses to senior citizens, frontline workers and vaccination among the 15-18 age group, adding that, continued adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour is paramount.

Underlining that J&K is a front runner in SDG's 'Good Health and Well-Being' goal, the Lt Governor directed the Health Department to ensure 100% coverage of Sehat Golden Card.

"Our aim is to provide the best treatment to people from village to city. We will continue to strengthen critical healthcare network", he added.

While interacting with DCs and SSsP, the Lt Governor complimented their tireless efforts for effective management of the third wave of Covid-19.

Emphasizing on the significance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, the Lt Governor said that we need to continue following CAB until the pre-Covid normalcy is restored. He directed the SSsP for proper enforcement of CAB.

The Lt Governor also passed specific directions to the DCs to monitor and ensure proper functioning of all online services in their respective districts providing best and hassle-free public services.

Earlier, Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the analysis of Covid-19 situation, active positive cases, testing, contact tracing and vaccination across the UT, CAB enforcements, and percentage achieved in weekly and overall BIS Registrations, progress under AB PM-JAY & AB PM-JAY SEHAT.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sh Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners and SSsP, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

J&K reports 1,429...

have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir so far.

There are 24,080 active Covid cases in the union territory as of now, while the number of recovered patients was 4,15,109, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 160 new coronavirus cases, taking the overall caseload in the Union Territory to 26,560, while the active cases rose to 1,174, officials said. The union territory has recorded 226 Covid-related deaths -- 167 in Leh and 59 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

There was no death reported from union territory on Thursday, they said.

As many as 153 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. Of these, 88 were discharged in Leh and 65 in Kargil, they said.

With these, the total number of cured patients is 25,188 they said.

Of the 160 fresh cases, 95 were reported from Leh district and 65 from Kargil district, they said. A total of 1,081 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh is 1,147 including 705 cases in Leh and 442 cases in Kargil district.

Dir Fin, ARI...

further orders, relieving Rashmi Deepika, FA/CAO Science a Technology Deputed department, of the charge of post," read an order issued by Atal Dulloo, (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department.

Div Com visits acid attack survivor, assures all support in hospital treatment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Friday morning visited SHMS Hospital to enquire about the treatment and wellbeing of the Acid attack survivor of Srinagar. On behalf of Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, the Div Com assured her parents that all the hospital expenses will be borne by the govt. Besides, the government will strive to get strict punishment awarded to criminals in the shortest possible period. Pole said that the government will ensure that those involved in the heinous crime of acid attack will be given stringent punishment and maintained that there is no space for such monstrous people in a civilized society. Div com also met Medical Superintendent and ophthalmologist, Dr Junaid who is treating the victim and enquired about her wellbeing. Div Com was informed that the victim has suffered damage to eyes and the team of ophthalmologists is trying their best to save her eyes. He was also informed that damage to the skin is minimal and whatever scars remain, it can be cured in plastic surgery after 4 weeks.

Meanwhile, Div com said that the sale of Acid will be regulated so that no one can misuse it for heinous crimes.

Asstt Comm (R) to issue Legal Heirship Certificate to NoKs of COVID victims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: The Government on Friday nominated Competent Authority for issuance of Legal Heirship Certificate to the next of kin of the deceased by COVID-19 for getting the Ex-gratia assistance.

"It is ordered that Assistant Commissioner (Relief) in Relief Organization, (M) J&K is nominated as Competent Authority (for the purpose of COVID deaths only) for issuance of Legal Heirship Certificate to the next of kin of the deceased by COVID-19 who are registered with the Relief Organization (M), Jammu as Kashmiri Migrants for getting/availing the Ex-gratia assistance,' reads an order issued by Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction.

