

!! 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 (NFS), issuance of ration cards to them as per eligibility and distribution of foodgrains to them from ration shops.

Under the NFS, 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, Shahzad 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 for 10 sportsperson, J&K Khel Protsahan 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 specially-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 of 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.

Technology-based governance no longer option but necessity now: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said that technology-based governance is no longer an option but a necessity.

He said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, technological innovation has become a hallmark of the governance system.

The minister was speaking after inaugurating 'Innovations in Public Administration' program of Capacity Building Commission (CBC) under Mission Karmayogi to identify successful innovations in public service pioneered by civil servants.

He said, these will serve as case studies for capacity building of present and future civil servants, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

A CBC knowledge repository will be created to be accessed by all to scale up successful innovations in the whole country, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

The event marked the launch of the portal, which would be open from February 4 to March 5 for government employees to share innovations undertaken by them.

Capacity Building Commission invites all government employees to share their successful innovations at <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/be-inviting-innovations>, the statement said.

Selected Innovators will have the opportunity to showcase their leadership, creativity and initiatives to enhance governance and public service delivery in the Annual Health of Civil Services Report, it said.

Lauding the role of CBC for successfully taking forward the vision of Prime Minister for genuine empowerment of civil servants within a short span of six months, Singh called upon them to set up global benchmarks to face global challenges head on.

Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a special penchant for governance reforms and in the last seven-and-a-half-years several out of box ideas were implemented for scaling up the administrative output.

He said, in 2016 a path breaking decision was taken making it mandatory for civil servants to undergo a three-month stint as Assistant Secretaries at the Centre before going to their respective cadre.

Similarly, the minister said, the entire concept and format of the PM's Excellence Award has undergone a revolutionary change since 2014 as the focus shifted from individual performance to competition among districts for excellence achieved in implementation of flagship schemes.

Singh said that India's governance model has become a Jan Andolan with people responding to the Prime Minister's call for Jan Bhagidari in major schemes.

He said the training is also undergoing a sea-change in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNSA) Mussoorie and other central training institutes with a renewed focus on modern curriculum and integrated approach.

Singh said, through Mission Karmayogi, the ultimate objective of the

governance is to bring Ease of Living" for the common man of India.

Chairman of Capacity Building Commission Adil Zainulbhai in his address said that innovation portal will be open for about 3.1 million civil servants to capture the innovations that will have huge bearing on efficiency of governance.

He said, innovators will be rewarded suitably and the unique projects will be scaled up.

Member (HR) CBC, Ramaswamy Balasubramaniam said that for the 1st time after 75 years of Independence, an Annual Health of Civil Services Report will be released.

He also added that India can become a global repository of case studies of civil servants for successful innovations.

Member (Administration) Praveen Pardeshi, Secretary, CBC, Hemang Jani and over 100 top bureaucrats across the country joined the launch event on Friday.

During the event, the Commission invited three innovators from different states to share their experiences of driving innovation projects.

Dr Rajendra Bharad, Commissioner, TRTI presented a soak pit model for gutter free villages of Maharashtra, the statement said. Dr Rakesh Gupta, Joint Commissioner Ministry of Women and Child Development, talked about an Antyodaya Saral project implemented in Haryana to improve citizen service delivery; and Kshirsagar Agre, Deputy Collector, Valsad talked about an Early flood warning system implemented in Valsad, Gujarat, it said.

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.

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 contractor 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 Jammuites 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 JKTC.

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 Jhelum river is started by March end this year while further adding that the amphitheatre at Bagh-i-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.