

# Div Com reviews progress under Distt Capex Budget 2021-22 in Jammu Division

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Sunday chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved in districts of Jammu division under District Capex 2021-22, including UT components, Central Sponsored schemes, Loan components, Area Development Fund Plan, NABARD and B2V3 works.

The meeting was attended in person by Director Tourism, Director Urban Local Bodies, Chief Engineers of PWD (R&B), Irrigation & Flood Control, Jal Shakti, JPCL besides Officers of FCS&CA, School Education, ICDS, Rural Development, Health and other concerned while Deputy Commissioners alongwith Chief Planning Officers, officers of Line departments participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Div Com took a comprehensive



Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer chairing a meeting.

review of district Capex budget works being executed under different sectors.

The Deputy Commissioners briefed the Div Com about the physical and financial status of work projects and expenditure incurred.

## DoPT guidelines revised, full office attendance resumed: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Minister Incharge Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), announced this evening that a review of the pandemic situation was done today and in view of the decline in the number of COVID cases as well as decline in positivity rate, the DoPT guidelines issued earlier have been revised and it has been decided that full office attendance shall be resumed from tomorrow and employees at all levels, without any exemption, shall attend office on regular basis with effect from February 7, 2022.

The Minister further informed that the Head of Departments shall, however, ensure that employees wear face masks at all times and continue to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

This is in supersession of the earlier DoPT Circular according to which the 50% office attendance rule had been extended till 15th of February.

But, after obtaining inputs from the relevant quarters and review of the situation, a fresh OM (Office Memorandum) is being issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) informing that all the employees at all levels, without any exemption, will report to office from tomorrow, that is, 7th of February 2022. There will no more be "work from home" option for any employee.

Pertinent to mention that DoPT had issued certain guidelines through an Office Memorandum (OM) dated 3rd January 2022

and the same were being reviewed from time to time depending upon the pandemic situation.

In a subsequent review, it was considered appropriate to extend the same guidelines up to 15th February. The physical attendance of government servants below the level of the Under Secretary was restricted to 50 percent of the actual strength and the remaining 50 percent were asked to work from home. In addition to this, the persons with disability and pregnant women employees were exempted from attending office. The officers and staff working from home were asked to remain available on telephone and other means of communication at all times.

Meanwhile, last month, Dr Jitendra Singh held a video conference and spoke to the employees working from home as well as those who had tested positive for COVID. He had enquired about their well being and also sought their inputs and views.

However, now, in supersession of the earlier Circular, according to which the 50% office attendance rule had been extended till 15th of February, a fresh OM (Office Memorandum) is issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) informing that all the employees at all levels, without any exemption, will report to office from tomorrow, that is, 7th of February 2022. There will no more be "work from home" option for any employee.

Heads of Departments have been advised to ensure non-crowding in corridors, canteens, etc, of the office complexes.

## LG Mathur visits polycarbonate greenhouses & cold storage facility

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, on Sunday visited several places, including the Polycarbonate greenhouses at Thiksey. He was accompanied by Secretary, Agriculture/Horticulture, Ravinder Kumar.

LG Mathur visited DIHAR's Potato Storage Technology Demonstration at Kharu and interacted with Director, DIHAR, Dr OP Chaurasia; Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh, Tashi Tsetan; Scientist, DIHAR, Dr Dorje Angchuk and members of Cooperative Society, Kharu. LG Mathur appreciated DIHAR for the experiment of the stocking of organic potatoes for the Army during the winter.

He later visited the Polycarbonate greenhouses constructed by DIHAR in collaboration with the Agriculture Department at Thiksey. Agriculture Department has constructed more than 100 polycarbonate greenhouses in Leh and is planning to construct around 1,000 more polycarbonate greenhouses in the next



LG Ladakh, RK Mathur interacting with locals.

financial year.

During his interaction with the farmers and members of Ama Tsogspa, LG Mathur was apprised of the issues faced by the farmers in producing green vegetables during the winter, including the availability of water for irrigation.

LG Mathur appreciated the farmers and members of Ama Tsogspa for producing green vegetables in the winters as people of Ladakh suffer from a lack of micro-nutrients in the winter due to the shortage of vegetables. He also assessed the vermicompost unit in the village.

LG Mathur also visited the 1000 MT Cooperative cold storage unit at

Agling to take stock of the items stored in the facility. The concerned officials of the Cooperative Department, Leh, briefed LG Mathur of the operation and stocking of vegetables and other essential commodities at the cold storage facility.

Later, LG Mathur visited the Nursery-cum-Demonstration site and Agriculture Rural Technology Centre of GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE). Head, Ladakh Regional Centre, GB Pant NIHE, Dr Subrat Sharma briefed LG Mathur about the simple, low-cost portable polyhouse and other plants and vegetables grown at the site.

## MHA, LG Admn continue to be vindictive & discriminatory towards opposition over security: JKPCC

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress has charged that MHA and the LG administration has failed to stop and review the vindictive and discriminatory actions towards opposition in the matter of security whereas the privileged political class continue to avail more than required security cover and

termed it as arbitrary and undemocratic, in the wake of upcoming elections.

JK Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has charged that the security of its senior leaders and former ministers/legislators continues to be further downgraded despite raising the issue at the highest levels which is totally arbitrary, authoritarian, discriminatory, biased and vindictive approach of the security apparatus towards Congress and other opposition, with a view to dissuade them from reaching out to the people, in view of upcoming assembly elections.

On the other hand, more than required security cover as well as security vehicles too have been allotted to former legislators and even non legislators as well as other lower rung leaders of ruling party and pro government outfits. It is clear favouritism, arbitrary, vindictive and biased approach towards established opposition leader-

ship by the security agencies and the present dispensation, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

The party said that the

MHA and LG administration should take a holistic view of the entire situation in the larger interests of democracy and provide a level playing field to all mainstream nationalist forces to strengthen the Democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

However as the process of

elections draw near, the security agencies and bureaucracy are active in depriving and withdrawing the already minimum security cover to the opposition, to please their bosses.

## 400 health Infra projects worth Rs 7,177 Cr initiated in J&K

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As the whole world as well as Jammu and Kashmir is facing an unprecedented challenge due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Jammu and Kashmir Administration has amplified the medical infrastructure across the Union Territory to safeguard the lives of people and also to provide them best possible medical care facilities.

In order to strengthen the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, more than 400 Health Infrastructure Projects/works worth Rs. 7177 Crores are being initiated here. Two new AIIMS with the project Cost of Rs 4000 Cr (Rs. 2000 Cr each) one each at Jammu Division & Kashmir Division, seven new Government Medical Colleges being established with total Outlay of Rs. 1595 Cr. Ten new Nursing Colleges being set up with an approximate cost of Rs. 60 Crore. Two State Cancer Institutes coming up worth Rs. 240 Cr, one each at Jammu and Kashmir Division.

Jammu and Kashmir has also received Rs 881 crore for 140 health projects under PMDP out of which 75 projects have been completed and 26 projects will soon be completed. World Bank is providing financial assistance of Rs 367 crore to Jammu and Kashmir, thereby further strengthening the health care institutions here.

In a series of steps towards addressing the issue of shortage of doctors in Jammu and Kashmir, various initiatives like establishment of five new medical colleges in addition to two new more Medical Colleges at Udhampur and Handwara, 500 additional MBBS seats

in Government Medical College, out of which 85 seats are reserved for financially weaker sections, have been taken. The new medical colleges have been upgraded by attaching them to the District Hospitals with all required facilities while as the existing 300 bedded hospitals will be developed into 500 bedded hospitals

To overcome the shortage of post-graduate doctors and to prepare specialists at that level, the Health Department has also started Diploma of National Board Courses in the Government medical colleges and District Hospitals of the districts, which will increase at least 250 seats. To promote AYUSH care services, two AYUSH colleges - Unani and an Ayurvedic college have been established. Facilities of AYUSH are also being provided to 571 Stand Alone Dispensaries, 11 Auxiliary Nurse & Midwife (ANM)/ General Nursing & Midwifery (GNM) Schools have been made functional with the central assistance and 10 more schools are in the process of being operational. Introduction of B.Sc. Paramedical Courses.

All these developmental initiatives have resulted in incremental improvements and positive changes in the Health Index of J&K. In the last three years, the neonatal mortality rate in Jammu and Kashmir has come down from 23.1 to 13.3 per 1000. The infant mortality rate has come down from 32.4 to 16.3 per 1000. Sex Ratio at birth has increased from 923 to 976 per 1000. Institutional deliveries have increased from 7% to 92.4%.

In another remarkable initiative for



upgradation of health care infrastructure, the J&K Administration is going to set up two Medi-Cities; one each at Jammu and Kashmir divisions. The MediCity in Kashmin Division will be established in Sempora, Pampore as the place will act as a focal point for the whole population of the Valley for specialised health services. Similarly, MediCity in Jammu division will be established at Miransahib, Jammu as the land is ideally located close to the main city and can cater to the medical service requirements of the entire division.

The Medi-cities will include medical colleges and hospitals, super specialty centres of excellence, nursing, pharmaceuticals, hospital management, and dental colleges, Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals and medical education hubs, AYUSH centers, research centers with residential areas, staff quarters, and guest houses.

Apart from this, one major initiative of J&K government was preparation of health investment policy document for boosting private investment in the health sector to minimize the burden on the overburdened public health sector in J&K. J&K has received investment proposals of over Rs 3,000 crore in the health-care and medical education sectors. The policy offers various incentives to private investors and entrepreneurs to set up health-care facilities that aim at improving peoples access to quality health services, the spokesperson said. It also aims to promote medical tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the Administrative Council (AC) of J&K Government has also accorded the approval to construction of an additional block of Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 44.46 crore. The construction of the new block will cater to the increased patient load by

creating infrastructure for several clinical departments including hospital administration, emergency section, operation theatre, wards, prosthodontics & dental material department, pedodontics department, oral pathology, dental histology department, and community dentistry department. The decision is aimed at providing quality dental services to the public and introducing post-graduate courses in dental care. It will also support the up-gradation of vital dental care services on modern grounds.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir will offer support (by) providing land, financial aid and assistance subject to the State Health Care Investment Policy, 2019. The project proposals will be cleared speedily through a Web-based single window, absolving the investors of the need for any physical touch point with the approving/licensing authorities.

Apart from these quality initiatives for upgradation of health infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, several health institutions have achieved national recognition under various schemes.

Under National Quality Assurance Programme, through which National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification is granted to hospitals for maintaining high standards in public health system, District Hospital, Udhampur became first hospital of J&K to be granted NQAS certification. Govt Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu was also awarded NQAS certification. CHC Katra is the first CHC in the UT of J&K to be awarded NQAS certifica-



## Empowered Jammu, inclusive J&K to make Nation stronger: Rana

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Sunday observed that politically empowered pluralistic Jammu would finally lead to a strong, vibrant and more inclusive Jammu and Kashmir:

"Eventually inclusive J&K will make the nation stronger", Rana said while interacting with inhabitants of Mathwar and Bhalaw Blocks during his day-long visit.

He said despite being marginalized and ignored for decades, the inclusive Jammu never allowed its well-nurtured flame of amity and brotherhood to lose sheen and in fact it served as a beacon light, especially three decades ago, when the people found themselves in the dark tunnel during most difficult times. It was the most testing period when Jammu opened up its arms for the people in distress, irrespective of caste or religion, and proved beyond any doubt its assimilative character, he said.

Describing empowerment of Jammu province as a mission, Devender Rana exhorted the people to work with the same mission and sincerity of purpose to achieve the objective of political, social and economic empowerment.

He said Jammu has to grow as an equal player in the political and developmental path with the feeling of fair play ending the era of despondency, deprivation and dejection among the people. Everyone, irrespective of region, religion, caste or creed must have equal rights on



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana during visit to Mathwar in Nagrota.

the resources and role in the decision making and governance, he added.

During the visit, Rana was accompanied with District President BJP; Jammu Rural Rajinder Singh Chib, General Secretaries, Jammu Rural Kasturi Lal Sharma, Babu Ram Bhagat, District Secretary Jammu Rural Rakesh Singh, District President Minority Morecha Gurbachan Singh, State Secretary Mahila Morecha Vaishno Devi, Baba Chaneil, Mandal President Raipur Domana, Ashok Kurni, Mandal President Yuva Morecha and Ravinder Singh.

"Let us remember that fair play in equitable empowerment will help in strengthening trust between the people of the two regions and sub-regions, thus paving the way for harmonious growth of this part of the country. Need for such a proposition is all the more important to preserve and sustain the idea of Jammu and Kashmir; known for unity in diversity", Rana said, adding that speaking for the rights of Jammu does not mean usurping the legitimate interests of any other region or sub-region. But, giving Jammu its due will mean an end to the decades-old disparity, he said.

Responding to the issues raised by the unemployed educated youth, Rana said the present administration is alive to the problem and various measures are underway in respect of employment and employability. He referred to his recent meeting with the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha wherein, among other things, he had flagged the overwhelming demand of the aspirants to Class IV posts advertised by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board, saying the Lieutenant Governor was favourably inclined to consider filling up 3,400 more such posts.

"I express my gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for responding to genuine issues being raised by the people", he added.

mainstream nationalist forces to strengthen the Democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

However as the process of elections draw near, the security agencies and bureaucracy are active in depriving and withdrawing the already minimum security cover to the opposition, to please their bosses.

In Kashmir, Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Sheer, J&K, received the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) certification, making it the first public health institution in Kashmir Division to achieve the feat.

Similarly, under the Kayakalp scheme which was started to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public healthcare facilities, District hospital Reasi of Jammu & Kashmir has been awarded the first prize of Rs. 50 lakh for maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in and around the hospital premises.

Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir government declared awards under "Kayakalp 2020-21", an initiative for awarding public health facilities for excellence in cleanliness and hygiene in which District Hospital Udhampur clinched first place in the category of District Hospitals winning an award money of Rs 50 lakh while commendation award of Rs 3 lakh was given to District Hospital Reasi.

In brief, the developments in public health infrastructure is proving to be the necessary foundation for all public health services in Jammu and Kashmir. The sincere and concerted efforts of government of Jammu and Kashmir with the help of central government has resulted in developing a strong public health infrastructure here besides the process of establishing the world class health care facilities is going on with full pace which will change the face of health care system across Union Territory in coming years.