

CS approves UT Action Plan under NCAP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired the Apex Committee meeting and approved the action plan for implementing the National Clean Air Programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Commissioner Secretary, Transport Department, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department along with Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Chairman and Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board (PCB) and concerned HoDs participated in the meeting.

It was informed that no industrial cluster in J&K falls under the critically polluted area. The approved plan aims at eliminating the use of pet coke and furnace oil in red and orange category industries within one and two years, respectively; and simultaneously promoting the usage of alternate energy sources like CNG, PNG, and electricity.

Moreover, all 17 categories of highly polluting industries in J&K have



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing Apex Committee meeting.

installed online emission monitoring systems (OCEMS) linked with CPCB Server to help track the discharges of pollutants, emissions, effluents there across all districts for real time assessment of PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NOx, NH3, CO, O3, and benzene in the Union territory.

Regarding the functioning of brick kilns, the Pollution Control Board has prescribed the use of adequate height of stacks, use of zig-zag technology or vertical shaft, and use of coal/piped natural gas as fuel instead of charcoal and firewood; to check the air pollution associated with this sector.

The approved plan also includes a policy to set up e-waste and recycling units in industrial areas in compliance with the e-waste management rules. Accordingly, the Department of

Industry and Commerce is assisting establishment of e-waste dismantling and recycling units in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estates and industrial clusters.

To assist the efforts towards curbing air pollution, a policy for phasing out old commercial and private vehicles in 10 years and 15 years respectively, has also been notified. Under the policy, the Transport Department is providing a subsidy of Rs.5.00 lakh per bus to encourage replacement with fuel efficient and eco-friendly alternatives.

The Chief Secretary asked the concerned agencies to tighten the inspection drives and ensure compliance to the PUC norms by the private and commercial vehicles.

Besides, the enforcement agencies were also directed to sternly deal with the construction debris and abandoned material as per the policy norms.

Dr. Mehta also impressed upon the Housing and Urban Development Department to ensure 100% door-to-door waste collection throughout Jammu and Kashmir, and expedite solid waste segregation for scientific disposal, in addition to strict implementation of single-use plastic ban.



BJP intensifies public outreach drive; asks cadre to gear-up for big challenge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday intensified its public outreach campaign and urged the cadre to gear up for a big challenge in Jammu and Kashmir.



Senior BJP leaders at public outreach programme at Nagrota.

As part of the drive, senior leaders Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament, Devender Singh Rana, and the Pradesh Vice President Sham Lal Sharma addressed meeting of party workers of Nagrota, Mathwar and Bhalwal Mandals of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency at Nagrota and interacted with the functionaries, emphasizing the need for further strengthening the party and galvanizing it at the grass roots level.

Jammu and Kashmir is at the threshold of transformation with large scale investments pouring in various sectors", said Jugal Kishore Sharma adding that this will open up vistas of opportunities in terms of jobs and economic upliftment across the Union Territory. He said rapid industrialization and infrastructure upgradation is the preamble for Naya Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Senior officials of IIPA including SN Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA were also present on the occasion.

Addressing party functionaries, Devender Singh Rana said BJP is a mass movement, standing for empowerment of the people and support from all sections of the society is the biggest strength that enables it to fight for the just cause of the people and stand steadfast in resolving issues confronting them. As a result of sustained efforts, the BJP has emerged as a force to reckon with, he added.

Rana said the BJP's focus would be to usher Jammu and Kashmir in a new phase of progress and development with restoration of complete normalcy and peace remaining a focal point. The BJP is committed to address the issues of the youth, the marginalized and weaker sec-

tions besides women, he said while asserting that the party will ensure to remove the disparity between region and sub-regions with regard to allocation of funds for development and opportunities to flourish.

Addressing the functionaries, Sham Lal Sharma said the BJP has paved the way for the people to have access to all the privileges, rights and facilities available to their fellow citizens across the country. This is something not known in this part of the country due to wrong policies adopted over the decades, he said adding that continued support of the people to the BJP will help in expediting the development and making Jammu and Kashmir part of the country's growth story, he added.

Besides District President BJP Jammu Rural Rajinder Singh Chib, Mandal Presidents and prominent party functionaries participated in the meeting.

SMVDSB advises pilgrims against fraudsters selling fake helicopter tickets

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has taken serious note of complaints regarding booking of fake helicopter tickets by some unscrupulous elements to the pilgrims by adopting modus operandi of using their websites/Travel portals and Travel Agencies etc., despite of issuance of advisory through the medium of print media and display in shape of flex at prominent locations by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The Chief Executive Officer informed that the complaint regarding fleecing of pilgrims by these fraudulent elements has already been filed with the Crime Branch and Cyber Branch of J&K Police who are investigating the matter.

The CEO has informed and appealed the pilgrims at large that the sale of helicopter tickets for pilgrims travelling from Katra to

Sanjehhat and back is the sole prerogative of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and the Board has not authorized any agent, agency or person to use the Shrine Board's name to sell or undertake online bookings for any services which are being provided by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra. All the online services offered by Shrine Board are offered through the Official Website of Shrine Board: www.maavaishnodevi.org and Maavaishno Devi APP, only.

Ramesh Kumar further stressed that any misrepresentation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board by any person or agency whatsoever shall be dealt strictly as per law.

He again advised all the pilgrims to use only the official website of the SMVDSB Shrine Board for booking services such as helicopter tickets and not to fall prey to the fraudulent advertisements issued by unauthorized websites offering confirmed Helicopter tickets, sale of Prasad etc.

J&K people suffering without Consumer Courts

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: People across J&K are suffering a lot as Consumer courts were closed since Consumer Protection Act 1986 became invalid in Jammu & Kashmir long time back, while establishment of courts under new Central Laws applicable to the region is still under process. Hundreds of consumers are facing difficulties in summer capital as consumer courts are yet to be notified under Consumer Protection Act 2019 in J&K. Consumers often complained that they are unable to file fresh complaints while already submitted filed are also awaiting settlement. The Consumer Protection Act 2019 came into effect on July 20, 2019, which replaced Consumer Protection Act 1986.

"Complaints of nearly 2.50 lakh consumers are pending before courts across J&K. With implementation of the new Act, the existing

consumer courts of the time became inactive," it was revealed by an advocate, who were once associated with consumer courts. He further added that authorities must notify Consumer Courts under new Act. "A large number of clients are calling their counsels, asking if Consumer Courts have been made functional. However, they get disappointed to know that notification in this regard is yet to come," he asserted, adding that currently consumers are unable to file their complaints related to various disputes and claims, due to non-functionality of Consumer Courts. Expressing similar views, several consumers urged authorities to make Consumer Courts functional in J&K at the earliest.

"New Act enables a consumer to lodge a complaint from both places, where he resides or from where he works. It is more consumer-friendly and will help a lot in

Pakistan students using Indian flags for safe passage in Ukraine: Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Flag came to the rescue of not only Indians stranded in Ukraine but also helped Pakistani students flee the war-torn country.

This was stated by former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta after interacting with a student who came from Ukraine here on Friday.

"Pakistani students were using the Indian Flag in the war-torn country. The Indian Flag was of great help to them as well. We were told in Ukraine that if we carry an Indian Flag with us, we won't have any problems," a student who arrived from Ukraine briefed Kavinder Gupta about his journey from Ukraine to India amidst the war crisis.

Kavinder Gupta today spoke to more than 10 fami-



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta during meeting with a student who came from Ukraine in Jammu.

lies of students stranded in Ukraine amidst the Modi Government's ongoing Ganga Operation to evacuate Indian citizens from war zones.

The former Deputy Chief Minister asserted that the Indian Flag helped the Indian as well as some Pakistani and students of other foreign countries residing in Ukraine in safely crossing the various check-

PM himself is committed for safe evacuation of Indians from Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta started development work of laying water pipes at Satwari Bazaar. He asked people of the area that BJP is committed to provide basic amenities as the party is committed for the overall development of the Union Territory. Kavinder Gupta also visited Guru Nanak Mission Hospital, Guru Nanak Nagar and reviewed medical facilities being provided to the people.

Gagandeep Singh, In-charge of the Hospital and also the J&K In-charge of Khalsa Aid, briefed Kavinder about the facilities being provided to the patients. Kavinder also appreciated the work done by Khalsa Aid in the country as well as in war torn areas

in Ukraine. He said that Khsalsa Aid's contribution in helping the people in war-torn Ukraine is significant and is giving inspiration to others to come forward and help the people in distress wherever there is a conflict or similar situation in the world.

The senior BJP leader said that Indian culture has this unique feature to help out the people in pain as saints and seers in the country since times immemorial had taught this virtue and guided the population to remain helpful towards the needy and destitute.

He said that Khalsa Aid has set an example for others not only in India but across the world along with a message to work for humanity without discriminating in the name of region, religion or race.

