

Designated Private hospitals to increase bed capacity for COVID patients: Div Com

► Hints towards capping of rates being charged

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Wednesday convened a meeting of Health and Medical Education Department regarding rationalization of Covid cases management in designated private health care institutions.

The meeting was attended by CEO Shrine Board, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anshul Garg; CEO Ayushman Bharat, Sagar Doifode; MD NHM, Yasin Choudhary; Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Principal Government Medical College Jammu, Director Health, besides Director ASCOMS, Jammu and management of Narayana Hospital and other concerned officers.

Keeping in view the surge in Covid-19 cases in recent times and to keep all possible facilities in place for treatment of Covid-19 positive cases; the Div Com directed the ASCOMS and Narayana Hospitals to increase their bed capacity for Covid-19 cases with all necessary facilities like ICU, Ventilators etc. The Div Com also directed both the institutions to share regular details of bed occupancy with MD NHM and Director Health Services.

The Divisional Commissioner asked both the private institutions to provide details of the tariff being



Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer chairing a meeting.

charged by them for management of covid positive cases under various packages. It was discussed during the meeting that in order to rationalize the expenditure being incurred by patients; many States/ UTs have ordered for a capping on the rates being charged by private hospitals under the provisions of Disaster Management Act. The CEO Ayushman Bharat, J&K apprised the Div Com that at present there is a huge gap between the reimbursement under covid management package of Ayushman Bharat and rates being actually charged by the private institutions; thereby leading to excessive out of pocket expenditure by the poor patients.

It is noteworthy that in order to prevent charging of exorbitant rates; many states have put a ceiling on the rates being charged by private covid

health care institutions for isolation beds, O2 supported high dependency unit, ICU with / without ventilators etc. with inclusions/ exclusions defined clearly. The Div Com also obtained comments of both private health care institutions for requisitioning certain no. of covid beds in their facilities for usage strictly based on referral by the Government.

"As the Covid-19 positive cases are increasing there may be more demand of Covid-19 hospitalization in near future so there is a need to enhance critical care capacity for treatment of Covid-19 cases", The Div Com said.

The Div Com also directed Deputy Commissioner, Jammu and MD NHM and other concerned officers to hold a meeting with private nursing home associations in this regard

and make a comprehensive plan for successful management of Covid-19 positive cases; based on the level of facilities available in some suitable private institutions for Covid management.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP, Jammu Mukesh Singh, also convened a meeting with Presidents of Market Associations of Jammu and asked them to comply with the Government orders and strictly follow Standard Operation Procedures to successfully combating Covid-19 spread.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli; Additional Commissioner Jammu, ADC Jammu besides President Chamber of Commerce, Presidents of Raghunath Bazar Association, President Residency Market, Apsra Market, Ware House Market Association and other representatives of market associations.

The Divisional Commissioner urged associations to comply with government orders and follow all preventive measures which are necessary to contain the spread of the virus. He also asked them to avoid gatherings in the markets.

Threadbare discussions were held on various preventive measures and the association members gave their valuable suggestions for containing further spread of virus.



Resolve genuine issues of transporters: Randhawa

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Transporters are the backbone of economy of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which provide livelihood to thousands of families and their genuine issues should be taken seriously and must be addressed on priority.

It was stated by the former Member Legislative Council (MLC), Ch. Vikram Randhawa, while interacting with a delegation of transporters.

A delegation of All J&K Motor Transport Companies Representatives Association (MTCRA) led by its president Gurdeep Singh on Wednesday called upon the former MLC, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, and apprised him about the various problems being faced by the transporters.

Randhawa gave a patient hearing to the demands put forth by the president of MTCRA and assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the appropriate authorities for early redressal.

While speaking on the occasion Randhawa said that transport in the backbone of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir as it provides livelihood to thousands of families.

"A large population in



Former MLC, Ch. Vikram Randhawa along with members of delegation of transporters after interaction.

Jammu and Kashmir is associated with the transport industry which provides jobs to thousands of youth who are feeding their families through this business and the interest of this sector should be taken seriously", Randhawa added.

He said that the decision of the authorities to transfer registration with the dealers have put more burdens on this industry as there are charging registration fee as per their Will. The decision has also snatched away jobs of many others who were employed by transporters to look after their businesses and other works pertaining to RTO Office. Similarly, Randhawa said that the decision of the transport department to ask drivers to pass driving test if he fails to get his licence renew for a period of one year is discriminatory and is pure harassment

as no one forgets driving skills even if he fails to get his licence renewed for some reasons.

Randhawa further said that the transport industry has already suffered a lot due to the ongoing pandemic and amid this the administration should take their demands positively so that those associated with this business are not forced to starve.

In the last Randhawa assured the delegation that their demands would be taken up with the transport authorities for early redressal.

Those present on the occasion include Girdhari Lal, Gurinder Singh Prince, Jagmohan Singh, Pankaj Sharma, CP Singh, Raju Jamal, Charanjit Singh, Devinder Baba, Jagjeet Kumar, Satwinder Kumar, Narinder Singh, Pawan Singh and Ravi Kumar.

J&K BJP entrusted senior leaders with important responsibilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP nominated new Vice-President, Secretary, SC Morcha

President, District President BJP Jammu & Kashmir President Ravinder Raina in consultation with party General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul and others senior leaders of the party entrusted its senior leaders with important responsibilities, said a handout released from party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sham Lal Choudhary (former Minister) is nominated as State Vice-President of J&K BJP, S. Varinderjit Singh as State Vice-President of J&K BJP, Ch. Vikram Randhawa as J&K BJP State Secretary, Tariq Ahmad Keen as J&K BJP State Secretary, S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa as J&K BJP Minority Morcha Co-ordinator and Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat (Former MLA R.S. Pura) as President of J&K BJP SC Morcha. Moreover, Jeevan Lal (former MLA Bani) is nominated as District President BJP, Pahari Zila which comprises of Billawar, Basholi and Bani.

Ravinder Raina, on the occasion congratulated the newly nominated leaders of the party and said that all these are the key positions and the party holds the firm view that these all senior leaders of the party will leave no stone unturned to repay the party with their dedicated and professional services in the services to the society.

Swarnim Vijay Mashaal reaches Balidan Stambh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Swarnim Vijay Mashaal, which was lit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi last year marking the beginning of the 50th anniversary celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in 1971, reached Martyr Memorial here on Wednesday.

The Shivalik Brigade received the Swarnim Vijay Mashaal at Balidan Stambh here, the defence spokesperson said.

India celebrates December 16 as Vijay Divas to commemorate its victory over Pakistan during the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

The prime minister, on December 16, 2020, lit the Swarnim Vijay Mashaal from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial in New Delhi, marking the



Army officers saluting Swarnim Vijay Mashaal at Balidan Stambh.

beginning of the 50th anniversary celebrations of India's victory in 1971. The celebrations commenced with the wreath laying ceremony at Balidan Stambh by Brig A P Singh, Commander, Shivalik Brigade, 1971 War Veterans and all ranks.

The victory flame was taken

from Balidan Stambh to Sunjuwan Military Station through the city, the spokesperson said. The celebrations at Sunjuwan Military Station commenced with reception of the flame by Brig Singh. The commander addressed the audience highlighting the valour displayed by Indian soldiers during the war and achieving a historic victory.

Then, the 1971 war veterans were felicitated, followed by a mesmerising Military Band Display and release of tricolour balloons. Screening of a 1971 war documentary will be organised on Thursday for all ranks, he said.

Sadhotra felicitates Maha Mandleshwar Mahant Nand Kishore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior National Conference leader and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Wednesday felicitated Nand Kishore of Narsingh Dev Ji Thakur Davara Gho Manhasan on getting title of Maha Mandleshwar from Mahant Krishan Dass Parmukh Akhil Bhartiya Shri Panch Digambar Ani Akhara in Kumbh Mela at Haridwar.

Sadhotra was accompanied with prominent persons of Gho Manhasan and NC workers.

Sadhotra congratulated and appealed to Mahant to pray to get rid of COVID-19 pandemic to save crores of lives globally.

He said spiritual and religious



Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra felicitating Maha Mandleshwar Mahant Nand Kishore at Narsingh Dev Ji Thakur Davara Gho Manhasan in Marh.

leaders have a major role at this crucial juncture when in whole of the world including the India people are fighting to defeat COVID-19 pandemic.

MahaMandleshwar Mahant reaffirmed that he will redouble his efforts for the cause he has been preaching throughout his life for the overall development of the mankind.

Others present were Ghar Singh Corporator, Rakesh Sharma, Hardeep Singh, Shamsher Singh, Harmam Singh, Ch. Keemat Lal, Ch. Nagar Mal, Happy Singh, Sodagar Saini, Madan Lal, Ankush Sharma, Mithun and Aman Singh.

Dharmarth Trust celebrates Ram Navami with religious fervour, gaiety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dharmarth Trust celebrated Ramnavami with religious fervour and gaiety here in the premises of Shri Raghunathji Temple on Wednesday.

All celebrations were held under strict observation of SOPs and coronavirus guidelines with social distancing remaining the top priority.

The celebrations commenced with the Hawan performed by the President Dharmarth Trust Sh. Ajay Gandotra and Secretary Dr Gopal Parthasarthi Sharma followed by the Aarti of Sh Raghunath ji which was performed by the President in presence of Pujaris



Dharmarth Trust members performing Puja at Raghunath Temple.

and employees of Dharmarth Trust.

As per the rituals, the idols of Shri Ram ji, Laxman ji and Mata Sita were taken from the sanctum of Holy Raghunath Mandir and Parikarma was performed inside the temple premises due to the government

restrictions in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing the devotees and employees of the Trust who were made to sit in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, President Dharmarth Trust Sh. Ajay Gandotra said that Lord Rama will bail out the people of

J&K and the entire world from this crisis called coronavirus.

Extending greetings to people, he said that hopefully soon we will get rid of this disease and normalcy will return with schools, offices, shops and other activities once again bustling with cheerful people and no fear of disease. He said that until mankind overpowers this disease there is dire need to follow the SOPs and guidelines to keep at bay this virus which has wreaked havoc in the UT and the entire country as well as in the world. He asked the devotees to adhere to new norms set in due to corona as these are vital in containing the transmission of virus.

COVID surge: Jammu Admn launches drive to enforce fresh containment guidelines

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A massive drive was on Wednesday launched by the District Administration Jammu for effective implementation of guidelines and SOPs issued for containment of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The District Administration Jammu, through the ADMs, SDMs, Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars of the respective areas, in association with their Police counterparts at the Police Post, Police stations and Sub-Division level, launched a massive drive across the entire District for effective implementation of latest Guidelines and SOPs issued by the State Disaster Management Committee and District Magistrate, Jammu on ground.

During the drive across the length and breadth of the District, the teams of



ADC (Law & Order) during visit to main market Jammu.

officers from Revenue and Police Departments visited different areas and conducted intensified Physical checking of the areas, besides creating awareness among the general public through Public announcements and to ensure that fresh guidelines and SOPs for Covid-19 Pandemic are strictly adhered to by the General public as also the Shopkeepers.

Besides in major Market areas of Jammu Khas (Old city), Jammu North, Jammu South, Bahu and Jammu West, the drive was also launched in suburban areas of Jammu District viz., R.S.Pura, Arnia, Suchetgarh, Khour, Mandal, Chowki-Choura, Jourian, Maira - Mandrian, Pargwal, Dansal, Bishnah, Akhnoor, Marh, Bhalwal, Nagrota by the concerned

SDMs and Tehsildars.

In old city of Jammu khas, a team of the officers led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Law & order), accompanied by SDPO, East, SHOs of PS Nowabad, P.S Pacea Danga, P S Jammu City visited Market areas in Gumat Bazaar, Residency Road, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Kanak Mandi, Raj Tilak Road, Pacea Danga, Kacchi Chawni, Parade Ground, Panjirthi, Sabzi Mandi, Amphalla and New Plot areas during which the Shopkeepers, Traders and General public of the area were sensitized about the latest Guidelines and SOPs for dealing with Covid-19 Pandemic as also the opening of 50 % of the shops on alternate basis through a rotation System within Municipal Limits as per the order of District Magistrate Jammu.

Salon owners, would-be brides appeal DC Jammu for relaxation

■ MALU SHARMA

In view of the consistent surge in the coronavirus cases in Jammu, JUT administration announced night curfew in all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and ordered only 50% of shops to remain open on alternate days.

Only 50% shops in Market complexes / Bazaars / Malls within the Municipal limits / urban local body limits shall be open on an alternate basis through a rotation system and according to this Salons and Parlours will open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only.

This order raised stress among the would be brides of Jammu. With the marriage season on in Jammu and Kashmir and with the booking done for the makeup, the would-be brides in Jammu are in great tension and are worried what would happen on their big day.

The order to open shops on alternate day has raised resentment among the salon owners. Priyanka Gupta, owner of a Salon in Jammu while talking to STATE TIMES said, "As the wedding season is on and we have



done the booking of Pre bridal and bridal makeup's; we are feeling bad that without having any discussion with the makeup industry association, the administration has issued this order. Our clients are worried and we are facing problems due to this alternate day opening order. I request the government to give relaxation in this order keeping in view the ongoing

marriage season."

Sugandha Mehta, a would-be bride shared, "My marriage is on Tuesday and according to order Salon will be closed on that day. What would I do? How would I get ready? I request administration to kindly pay attention towards our issues and allow Salons to open all days following SOPs of COVID."