

Elections allowed in Bengal in 8 phases, but Delimitation in J&K denied due to corona: Harsh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: While the Election Commission allowed the conduct of Assembly Elections in West Bengal in eight phases with permissions granted to hold massive road shows and rallies in spite of rampaging corona pandemic, a constituent of the very same commission has chosen to adopt altogether different yardsticks with regard to J&K UT. It was amusing to note that the Delimitation Commission constituted by the EC had kept the entire delimitation exercise on hold for the last around 14 months on the pretext of corona risk. If Elections affecting a population of 10 crore approx in West Bengal could be held and that too with a huge fanfare and a long drawn out poll schedule, how is it that a three member committee of the Delimitation Commission was finding it difficult to even visit J&K for ensuring a time bound completion of at least the Delimitation process", ques-



JKNPP Chairman, Harsh Dev Singh talking to reporters.

tioned Harsh Dev Singh, JKNPP Chairman while addressing a press conference. Reminiscing the tall pronouncements made by the central BJP leadership, post Art 370 abrogation, of early elections in J&K after a time bound delimitation of Assembly constituencies, Singh observed that the said assurances too, like all other slogans of BJP, have provide as mere 'Jumlas'. He pointed out that the Delimitation Commission which was constituted on 6th March, 2020 was initially required to complete the exercise within a period of one year. It however failed to

achieve anything substantial during the stipulated period thereby necessitating its extension after March 6 this year with further assurances of speedy completion of the entire exercise. Its shocking however that the process of delimitation continues to remain in limbo with hardly any initiative appearing to have been taken in this regard during the past 14 months except holding one meeting by the said commission with the Associate members in this regard. If this continues to be the approach of the concerned authorities, can the process of Delimitation be ever completed in J&K during

the next couple of years?" questioned Singh. "Elections recently held in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala witnessed huge public rallies organized by different political parties with leaders from all across the country thronging the poll bound states and the Election authorities with thousands of subordinate staff actively showing their presence in each and every constituency going through polls. What is it then that is stopping the three members Delimitation Commission from proceeding with its assigned task and fulfilling its constitutional obligations? Is it the corona factor or is it something else? Apprehensions are rife. It is being believed that the BJP govt does not want elections in J&K and is therefore resorting to dilly dally tactics by delaying the Delimitation process. And it infact has been trying to deflect the blame to some opposition parties by saying that their MPs did not

attend the meeting of Associate members convened by the Commission. What a ludicrous premise. It is nowhere obligatory for the Commission to secure the presence of all Associate members of various parties or to seek their opinion before taking any decision. Flimsy excuses are being invented and the process of Delimitation being delayed and denied at the behest of BJP which appears averse to the idea of restoring popular govt in J&K. With a desperate BJP hell bent to continue its proxy rule in J&K, the Election Commission needs to take a bold stand so as to ensure restoration of a legitimate, elected govt which alone can address the multifarious issues facing the erstwhile state", maintained Singh. Parshotam Parihar (State Secretary-JKNPP) and Rashpal Singh (Office Secretary-JKNPP) were also present in the press conference.

JMC conducts sanitisation drive in various Wards



JMC officials carrying out fogging drive in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the current situation regarding possible spread of COVID-19, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is taking measures to stop the spread of corona virus by giving special focus on sanitation of the entire city and spraying has been conducted to sanitize various areas especially in micro containment zones on war footing for which frontline workers are performing their duties round the clock

to stop the spreading of COVID-19 Virus. Besides, daily sanitization is also conducted in all the residential & commercial areas of Jammu City. JMC under overall supervision Dr. Sanjogita Soodan, Health Officer conducted sanitation, sanitization and fumigation in Upper Rood Nagar, Lower

Roop Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Gangyal Market, Shiv Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi, Sanjay Nagar, W.No.1, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 33, 42, 44, 46, 48,59, 67, 73 and also Cremation Grounds, Shastri Nagar, Jogi Gate, Airport, etc. JMC shall continue the sanitization drive by covering every nook and corner.

Commissioner, JMC also appealed to the general public at large to avoid major gatherings in public places and make use of alcohol based hand sanitizers and masks as preventive measure to do away with this menace and also to extend their full cooperation to Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Shiv Sena urges LG to improve deficiencies in COVID hospitals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena Bala Sahib Thackeray Jammu and Kashmir unit has expressed deep concern over the mismanagement in GMC's Covid wards besides the shortage of COVID related drugs and equipments in the market along with demanded the transparency to the availability of bed and oxygen in COVID hospitals.

Addressing a press conference held at the party's state office here today, party president UT J&K, Manish Sahni drew the attention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha towards the aforesaid issue and address it at the earliest.

He said that COVID patients have to go astray for admission to hospitals. There should be total transparency in the availability of bed and oxygen.

Sahni also alleged that the condition of the patients under treatment in hospitals is quite pathetic as senior doctors are not present on the spot most of the time, while the doctors and nurses on duty are not in a position to provide prompt service.

Event of an emergency they waste a lot of time in wearing the PPE kit besides taking other necessary precautions which directly affects the chances of critical patient's survival. Moreover, due to lack of medicines, the attendant is forced to go out again and again to the market, which makes him come in contact with other people thus increasing the chances of virus spread.

Sahni said that there is huge shortage of steamers, nebulizers, steroid injections, Oximeters and other necessary drugs in the markets on reasonable price.

At the same time, the claims of vaccination for the people of 18-44 years are also proved to be hollow. People are unable to get their registration schedule.

Appreciating the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for his concern about the sufferings of the people, he appealed to him to take stock of the Covid wards of all the hospitals at the earliest.

On this occasion President Mehila wing Meenakshi Chibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi were present.

Vaccination only weapon to defeat coronavirus: Yudhvir

Urges youth to get register for free vaccination

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP J&K Vice President & Convenor Sewa Hi Sangathan "Covid-2" Yudhvir Sethi today asserted that the BJP Government at the Centre is relentlessly working round the clock for containing the spread of deadly Corona virus by extending all possible facilities to the people of the nation with second largest population in the world.

While welcoming the decision of the Union Government to allow COVID-19 vaccination to all between the age of 18 and 45 years for which the government will be bearing the cost, Sethi expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for initiating free vaccination for this group which is most active in view of their age especially the youth.

The BJP leader said that it is only because of the Prime Minister's efforts that today



to augment his efforts in battle against COVID-19 pandemic more than 40 countries are extending help by supplying the necessary Covid vaccines and other related drugs and equipments to India to deal with this unprecedented situation. He asserted that this is the result of strong ties with the foreign countries for which full credit goes to PM Narendra Modi.

Yudhvir said that while the nation led by PM is engaged in crucial battle against the pandemic, it is most unfortunate that Congress is playing dirty politics in this time of National emergency. He said that the whole BJP cadre is presently working relentlessly on ground and providing all possible help to the people in distress.

Meanwhile the BJP leader

appealed to the youth to immediately avail the benefit of free vaccination by registering themselves on Cowin app at the earliest.

Asserting that vaccination is the only weapon to defeat Corona virus, Sethi impressed upon the people to show no laxity in getting themselves vaccinated at the earliest. He assured that the vaccine is fully safe and there is no need to suspect its efficacy.

Reiterating that this will surely help the nation to overcome the pandemic situation on account of the second deadly wave of the virus, he emphasized upon the need for the people at large to play their role positively in containing the spread of the virus by following all the announced SOPs and Covid norms not only while going for vaccination to their nearest vaccination Centres but even after receiving the second dose of the vaccine.

Journalists across J&K should be vaccinated against COVID-19: Raman

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said, journalists belonging to national, state, electronic, print or social media are all working tirelessly since past over one year covering the pandemic by putting their lives at risk and need to be vaccinated immediately. He said, many young girls and boys who are reporting from COVID-19 designated hospitals, congested places and are attending government briefings round the clock are very much prone to the pandemic and must be vaccinated. Extending wishes to all the journalists on 'World Press Freedom Day', Raman Suri said, seeing the commitment of working journalists towards their duties, the freedom of press and ethics in journalism, they must also be put on top priority list and vaccinated across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. He also remembered those who died on duty and said that this section of the society has always been staying alive to public issues, highlighting government's programmes and their shortcomings besides making commoners aware of their surroundings even in the toughest of times.

Urging journalists to curb fake news, Raman Suri said, the majority of those who are working hard to win over misinformation and harmful contents being posted on social media deserve huge appreciation. This is the reason that today we are urging Honble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to order vaccination of all the jour-

nalists on priority basis, so that they can continue to work safely. He added that several journalists, be it from print, electronic or social media, are regularly updating Jammu and Kashmir with their tireless coverage and are also bringing to the foreground advice of doctors and experts on pandemic.

Suri said, majority of them have already been vaccinated as per their age and criteria, and now the remaining ones must be vaccinated at some designated centres for their convenience. Busy with their production, distribution and reception of content to strengthen journalism in the most transparent manner; services of these young working journalists must be recognized in the larger interest of our Union Territory. He added that almost every district has a set of working journalists, majority of whom have been vaccinated as per their age groups, but the remaining ones should be given priority now.

The BJP J&K Executive Member also urged working journalists to stay cautious against viruses and follow all protocols for their own safety as well as that of their family members. He said, their job in the present day crisis is like walking on razor's edge and they need to be extra cautious while reporting events from different areas. Avoiding crowds, following guidelines, wearing masks, sanitising hands and their equipment regularly besides avoiding infectious places should be on top priority though they are required to be reporting from ground zero.

Langar hails JK Admn for allowing wholesale trade

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shyam Langar, Convenor BJP Trade & Industries on Monday hailed J&K Administration for allowing wholesale trade of groceries and medicines along with permissible business activities between 6 AM to 10 AM during the time the curfew is imposed in Jammu to contain the coronavirus transmission. In a statement issued here, the senior BJP leader said that the government has taken a prudent step as the closure of aforesaid trade has broken the supply chain thus leading to shortage of commodities in the markets. He said that aforesaid traders approached him and sought early redressal of this problem.

"After considering the plight of these traders which by all means was genuine and emergent in nature, I took up the matter with administration and held threadbare discussion projecting the issue in a very lucid manner", he said, adding that the administration was convinced and had

assured to take appropriate action in the matter.

Langar however made it clear that with such a decision comes responsibility to ensure that these shops follow the COVID SOPs in letter and spirit and also encourage their customers to do whatever possible in breaking the chain of the coronavirus. He said that these are the testing times and all the citizens should cooperate with the administration to end this pandemic as soon as possible. He said that BJP government at the centre is at the forefront to help the people during the crisis emanating out of lethal virus corona. He also asked the people to go for the vaccination as soon as possible because it is the only viable measure to root out this deadly virus from the region.

He suggested the government that the warehouse should be allowed to function from 9 AM to 1 PM on daily basis as its not possible for the shopkeepers to go warehouse for purchasing during 6 to 10 AM.

Extend time slot for vegetable, flowers, fruit & milk sale: JKCC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a meeting of office bearers, members and farmers of J&K Kisan Council (JKCC) and members of farmers unions held under the chairmanship of its president Tejinder Singh Wazir through virtual mode, some of the acute and practical problems being faced in marketing of vegetables, flowers, fruits and milk by the producers, sellers as well as the consumers of J&K were discussed in the wake of current COVID-19 restrictions. The participants, while appreciating general restrictions imposed by the government for people's safety, appealed to the UT Government and Administration headed by Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to consider and grant some necessarily required extension in timings of work for marketing of vegetable, flower, fruit and milk by the producer farmers and sellers during restrains flowers fruit fresh milk and vegetables worth Rs

20 crore loss the farming community of entire UT is in trouble farmers face hardship. Likewise sellers and retailers/ vendors have not adequate time to dispose off these perishable commodities, especially during this hot summer season when these items, if leftover, lose their quality, value and marketability soon and can't be preserved for the next day, he said.

"We appeal to Navin Kumar Choudhery, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department to take up this matter with government and increase time slot atleast 8 hours a day. It was therefore profoundly appealed that the timings for opening and running of grocery shops, sale outlets and functioning of vendors of vegetables, flowers, fruits and milk be extended from the currently authorized brief time slot of 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM with full COVID 19 protocol.

'Hemophilic require comprehensive health care'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hemophilic required a comprehensive Hemophilia care but unfortunately that was not available in GMC, Jammu even after repeated requests made by the Society, even diagnosis of Hemophilia and allied bleeding disorders are not available in the GMC, Jammu and patients suffering a lot.

They are doing their tests from outside the state like CMC Ludhiana, AIIMS, Delhi as well as private labs. Interestingly Inhibitors tests are very important for life saving of a hemophilic patients but patients get tested from CMC Ludhiana or other states.

Keeping in view this prevailing situation. Society requested Principal GMC, Jammu on April 27, 2021 and asked them kindly issue the necessary directions to the in charges of both the IHTCs, GMC and SMGS Hospital that they will provide 3-4 doses of life saving medicines in

each PWH in this pandemic situation, so that they don't harass for treatment. The restrictions of public transport/ Corona Curfew etc. the PWHs are unable to reach in time particularly like, Doda, Kistwar, Bhaderwah, Ramban, Udampur, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Samba as well as for off areas of Jammu district and may be suffer a lot during bleeding disorders.

Our two PWH were also diagnosed as COVID 19 Positive and also suffering with bleeding disorder from their target joints. In these circumstances during any requirement they can take medicine at their home and save themselves from this deadly Pandemic.

Society also gave an undertaken that if IHTCs will issue the above mentioned doses of factor concentrates as per their requirement, only to the registered Person With Hemophilia.

The Society will ensure that after the use of these

vials they will submit the empty vials in their respective IHTCs (treatment centres).

To date nothing is happened and the person with Hemophilia (PWH) as well as persons with other bleeding disorders, like

suffering with F.X, Inhibitors Positive and VW Factor Deficiency on the mercy of God.

WHO/WFH kept Blood disorder medicines as Life Saving Medicines and urgently required during life threatening bleedings.

Pregnant women should get COVID-19 vaccine: DAK

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday said pregnant women should get Covid-19 vaccine.

"Expecting mothers are now considered a high risk group and we should extend vaccine to them on priority basis," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Quoting a new study published in American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he said Covid-19 vaccine has been found to be safe for both mother and the baby.

Dr Hassan said the study showed that the vaccine generates a robust immune response in pregnant women, equivalent to the general population,

"Additionally, protective antibodies were also isolated in umbilical cord and breast milk, implying protection to the unborn and the newborn," he said.

Dr Hassan said CDC recommendations that vaccine should be given to pregnant women.

"While the Union health ministry is not recommending vaccine to pregnant women at this time as there was no data available to ensure safety in pregnancy," he said.

"But, now we have evidence. And, we should offer vaccines to them," he added. The DAK President said pregnant women are experiencing more severe illness in the second wave than was observed in the first wave.

"We are seeing increase in the number of pregnant women requiring intensive care and ending up on ventilators," he said.

"While previous reports had concluded that pregnant women were not at increased risk of severe disease, recent evidence suggests that they are more vulnerable to severe Covid," Dr Nisar said.

"As per a recent study by Oxford University, Pregnant women infected with Covid-19 face a higher risk of complications than previously known." He said the medical literature indicates that maternal Covid-19 infection affects pregnancy outcomes, with increased evidence of iatrogenic preterm births and cesarean section births due to maternal or fetal compromise or both.

"Additionally, convincing evidence suggests now that vertical transmission of Covid-19 occurs and is a relatively common route of transmission to those neonates diagnosed with the infection immediately after birth."

"The higher risk of severe Covid-19 suggests that pregnancy should be now considered a high risk condition and we should prioritize immunization in pregnant women," said Dr Nisar.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To execute branch cutting work, the power supply to Akhnoor Road, Bharat Nagar, Kamla Palace, Poonch House, Part of Talab Tillo and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 04 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Meanwhile, to execute various development works, the power supply to Jagti, Nagrota, PHEE, Migrant Colony, Bamyal, Kattal Batal, Sainik School and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 04 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Bantalab, Radio Station, CRPF, Lakshimpuram, Chinore, Exchange, AYUSH Hospital, Keran, Rajinder Nagar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 04 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

AM. Likewise, the power supply to Pargval, Channi Tanna, Rajpura, Bhalwal Bharat, Bhalwal Mairpur, NS Pura Rajpurs, Najwal Kanachak, Dhunmi, Sobka, Sua No. 1b, Dumu, Thathi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 04 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial Area Gangyal, Greater Jammu, Preet Nagar and other adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 04 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Likewise, the power supply to Malhori Jagri, Baqzalta, Mazalta and adjoining areas and Kupar, Tute ki Khui, Khana Shargal shall remain affected on May 04 from 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Govt must stop anti-employees' policy, reinstate terminated teacher: Vakil

Release political prisoners on humanitarian grounds'

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Minister and Senior Vice President J&K People's Conference Abdul Gani Vakil on Monday slammed the Lt Governor led administration over its Kashmir policy which is to disenfranchise Kashmiris from jobs.

Terminating the termination of a teacher of Kupwara from Govt services as injustice and uncalled for, Vakil said the government on one side appeals Kashmiri youth to join mainstream and to shun gun but on the other side continues to harass those who joined the mainstream and are doing their jobs peacefully. "What kind of a policy is this? The UT administration should immediately roll back this anti-employee order and reinstate the terminated teacher of Kupwara. It's anti people move. It's a complete harassment. Upon a simple FIR registered how can a govt come to a conclusion whether the person has done any crime or not when there is no any kind of conviction by any court till today, a person is to be deemed innocent unless guilty is proved against him, Vakil added.

Vakil said when the govt is rolling out rehabilitation policy for surrendered Naxals in

other states then why it has adopted a different yardstick when it comes to J&K. "For surrendered Naxals you are rolling out job policies and for the youth of J&K who has a thrown a stone in anger, which is even not proved in the court of law, is labelled as anti national and thrown out of job," Vakil said.

"There are a large number of political prisoners lodged in different jails of India. They must be released or shifted to Kashmir valley given the massive outbreak of Corona Virus in India," so that their families can have a sigh of relief. Vakil added.