

Development in J&K priority of Modi Govt: Kavinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday asserted that after removing all the bottlenecks in J&K Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP Government's key priority now is to focus on development.

Kavinder said this while inaugurating construction of five small bridges on Nallah in Qasim Nagar-Bahu Fort area falling in Ward No 47.

It is pertinent to mention that this Nallah worth over Rs 7 crore was constructed by Kavinder Gupta two years back.

He said that the BJP leadership in J&K is committed to all round development by rendering services



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta inaugurating development work at Ward No 47.

service.

The stalwart of the party asserted that BJP is winning the hearts of the people by providing them what other parties have failed to provide in last over 70 years. Corporator Sharda

Kumari, Ward President Dalbir Singh also accompanied the former deputy Chief Minister during the launch of development work.

Kavinder said the development works undertaken

during BJP's tenure are of top quality and have strength to endure for long times. "The development which took place in J&K under BJP government led by PM Narendra Modi is matchless and every road, street, nook and corner of the UT speaks itself about the remarkable progress which this region has made after BJP took over the rein", he maintained adding that people should not shirk to approach BJP leadership for mitigating their problems as the party is always ready to serve people for ameliorating their hardships.

"Smart City project in J&K is another milestone in the path of unprecedented development. People have already started observing

the change in Jammu as well as Srinagar City", he said and added that it is now a matter of few months when the populace will feel the difference of living in a Smart City.

He said that people must have got an idea by now that work is moving in full swing as smart billboards and green towers have changed the scenario besides vivacious wall paintings giving useful social messages and enhancing esthetics of the city. "Soon the people will start enjoying all the modern facilities without any extra effort", he assured, adding that the Modi government has given new dimensions to development with civic problems vanishing from the scene at the lightning speed.

Mayor distributes regularisation orders among Safaikarmcharis

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor, Chandher Mohan Gupta, in presence of Narinder Singh Jamwal, Chairman Public Health & Sanitation Committee, Dr. Akshay Kumar Sharma, Councillor of Ward 8, Neeraj (Lucky) Puri Councillor of Ward 54 on Tuesday distributed regularization orders to eleven Safaikarmcharis who have completed seven years continuous satisfactory service as SKCs in their respective wards. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor said that the Safaikarmcharis are the backbone of Jammu Municipal Corporation and are performing their duties with their entire satisfactory and hard work even in the hot/cold weather conditions even during the period of Corona Virus



Mayor, Chandher Mohan Gupta handing over regularization order to a Safaikarmchari.

pandemic. They are playing a major role in keeping Jammu City neat & clean and they are the real Corona warriors and the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to provide every possible help to these dedicated Safaikarmcharis, he said.

He also appealed to the general public to come forward & cooperate them during their duties in their respective wards

so that they can work with more dedication, zeal & enthusiastic and the aim of "Swachh Bharat Mission" can be achieved successfully.

Narinder Singh, Chairman Health & Sanitation Committee also extended congratulations to these newly regularized SKCs and hope that they will continue to work with the same dedication in near future also.

Appoint permanent VCs at CUJ, CUK: ABVP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) expressed deep concern over the vacant post of Vice-Chancellor in the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) as well in the Central University of Kashmir (CUC) for more than a year.

In a letter written to the President, "We deemed it fit to submit to you that considering the urgency and need of a full-time VC, necessary action may be initiated from your end. As the post of Vice-Chancellor is of great importance for the development and smooth functioning of the university and is the responsible authority for taking any university to new heights.

ABVP believes that appointment of new Vice Chancellor at Central University of Jammu and Central University of Kashmir will boost up long pending developmental works and shall impart a new lease of life to these Central Universities. ABVP has continuously raised their voice for various student issues related to the education, healthcare, transport facility and overall development of the university campus.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir State Secretary Mukesh Manhas said that no Permanent Vice-Chancellor has been appointed in both the institutions even after one year.

He further said not only the students are suffering but many developmental work were also stalled because of the vacant top post.

Corporator Rahul launches fogging drive

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing the sanitation drive launched in Ward 20, Corporator Rahul Kumar on Tuesday launched the fogging drive to augment the already in progress campaign especially in view of the season of mosquitoes having commenced and posing threat of diseases like Dengue and Malaria.

Mobilizing the requisite men and machinery of Jammu Municipal Corporation, the Corporator supervised the complete fogging operation himself to provide relief to the people of this ward from the mosquitoes.

It is pertinent to mention here that in view of the prevailing situation arising due to outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic, Corporator Rahul Kumar is continuously supervising sanitization drives in Ward No: 20.

He assured the people of the area to clear every area of the ward of garbage and other insanitary material and after thorough cleanliness of the ward subjecting all these areas to proper sanitization

with disinfectants besides fogging to get rid of mosquitoes.

Interacting with the people of the area, Corporator Rahul Kumar said that keeping in view the seriousness of the pandemic situation there is a dire need to ramp up the initiatives towards keeping the homes and surrounding environment clean. He stressed upon the need to intensify the sanitization drives as it would help in preventing the spread of the dreaded Virus.

Asserting that in the present situation there is a need for putting extra effort to keep the environs clean; he assured the people of the ward of full support and providing every required facility in this hour of crisis.

He also appealed to the people to proactively participate in the vaccination drive in large numbers at their nearest vaccination centres.

He urged them to adopt Covid appropriate behaviour as all the initiatives will cumulatively help in breaking the deadly infection chain at the earliest.

Farooq, Omar express grief over demise of Th Kashmiria Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the passing away of the party State Secretary and former Member Legislative Council (MLC) Th Kashmiria Singh.

In a condolence message, Dr Farooq Abdullah said in his demise, the National Conference has lost an experienced grass roots level leader, who had worked tirelessly for serving the people and strengthening the party at the grass roots level.

"Thakur Sahib was a dedicated, sincere and hardworking leader whose role in strengthening the bonds of amity and brotherhood between various segments of society will always be remembered," he added.

"Thakur Kashmiria Singh was a sober leader and a nice human being, whose death has created a void which is difficult to fill", Dr Abdullah said and conveyed his con-

lences to the bereaved family.

In his message, Omar Abdullah described Th Kashmiria Singh as a veteran leader who served his people well with a sense of commitment and missionary spirit.

Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah expressed solidarity with the bereaved members of the family at this hour of grief and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

General Secretary Ali Mohammed Sagar also expressed shock and grief over the death of Th Kashmiria Singh and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

Provincial President Devender Singh Rana described Th Kashmiria Singh as a seasoned political leader, who will be remembered for his qualities of head and heart and striving along with the welfare of the people.

Rana said he has lost a sen-

ior colleague and well wisher, who was very sensitive to the problems of the people and always endeavoured to get these resolved. He said Th Sahib's simplicity, resilience and political acumen will continue to inspire the younger generation of leaders and workers.

"In his death we have lost an affectionate colleague who kept public interest above everything", Rana said while conveying his condolences to the bereaved members of the family. He prayed for the departed soul to find eternal peace and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Senior National Conference leaders including Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Rattan Lal Gupta, Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Shah Bukhari, Sajjad Kichloo, Abdul Gani Malik and T S Wazir also conveyed condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed



Swadeshi Jagran Manch calls for liberal vaccine production mechanism

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the second wave of COVID-19 swatting the country, Swadeshi Jagran Manch on Tuesday urged upon the government to ensure the availability of various medical products including medicines and vaccines at affordable prices in the country.

It has also called for curbing corporate greed and invoke ceiling of the prices of medicines to prevent unreasonable profit for unreasoned profit for medicines and vaccines in the pandemic.

In this regard under the directions of Kashmiri Lal

Rashtrya Sanjyok SJM, Dr Ashwani Mahajan Rashtrya Seh-Sanjyok, Dr Ashutosh Prant Sanjyok J&K, memorandums have been submitted to the Deputy Commissioners through respective Zila Sanjyoks for onward submission to the Prime Minister.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch also called for the public health safeguards in the Patents Act and permit more companies to produce these medicines in the coming days.

It has called upon the countrymen to raise their voice against the global profiteers.

Country needs nearly 195 crores of doses of vaccine to cover at least 70% of the population. It calls for bringing more local manufactures to start the production.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch urged the Government of India to issue either government use license under Section 100 or compulsory license under section 92 to scale up production of medicines and facilitate technology transfer of vaccines including the trade secrets to all potential manufacturers to scale up the production of vaccines.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To carry out various upgradation/repair works, the power supply to Gajansoo, Galwade, Lale Ki Kile, Kripalpur, Budhu Chowk and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05 and 10 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Dream City, Majahan Mohalla, Barnal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05, 09, 11 and 13 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Likewise, the power supply to Chinore and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 06 and 08 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Meanwhile, the power supply to Vikas Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 06 and 08 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Similarly, MES, Malpur, Dummy, Suka No-1, Gref Rajpura, Garkhal and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Likewise, the power supply to Industrial area Bari-Brahmana and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05 and 06 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Meanwhile, the power supply to SIDCO Industrial Area,

Seora, Kanal, Greater Kailash, PHE Company Bagh, Canal, Jewel, Priya Darshani Lane, Top Paloura, Part of Top Paloura, Part of Muthi, Barnai, Neter Kothe, Paloura BSEF, MES Domana, PHE Muthi, MES Janipur, Thatri, Lehan, Palwan, Sunjal, GREFF, Sua NO. 1, Ghadkhal, Manyal Brahmana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Jahjjar Kotli, Dansal, Jindhrhah, Battal Manwal, Surinsar, Kishenpur; Mansar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 05 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Shooting prices of APIs: ASSOCHAM seeks government's intervention

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: At the difficult times, when the country is fighting with the second wave of COVID-19, The Pharma sector is facing shooting prices and shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), as 85% of API comes from China.

ASSOCHAM sought government intervention in clearing the bottleneck in import from China. ASSOCHAM Northern Region organized an online meeting to discuss the issue which was chaired by Vivek Atray, Chairman ASSOCHAM Regional council on Policy Advocacy Initiatives and attended by the chairman of all state development councils of Northern states.

"Such practices are not acceptable during these challenging times when the whole country is fighting a battle against the pandemic. We urge an immediate intervention from authorities to take necessary action against this practice," said A S Mittal, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council.

"The need for balancing the pricing of APIs as an essential ingredient for the pharma sector is vital and an immediate requirement," Atray said.

The drugs for which the raw material cost has gone up manifold also includes paracetamol (Price Rs 350 to Rs790 per kg), Propylene Glycol (Rs 140 to Rs 400 per kg) Ivermectin (Rs 18,000 to Rs 52,000 per kg) Doxycycline (Rs 6000 to Rs 12,000 per kg) and Azithromycin (Rs 8,000 to Rs 12,000 per kg).

Jitender Sodhi, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Himachal Pradesh State Development Council & Chairman and Managing Director, Ayush Group of Companies India said "The economic impact of the Covid-19 second wave has started taking a toll on pharma sector as well. Pharma grade raw materials should be supplied to manufacturers uninterrupted through provision of special passes and green passes can help in curbing the problem of shortage of raw material."

Call on action for mandatory fixing of base prices on per km basis for transportation vehicles and ambulances indulged in the services of COVID-19 should be taken by Govt, which can help in cost cutting of raw material, he added. Asia's biggest pharmaceutical hub, Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN), producing several primary life-saving, anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, and Covid-19 drugs, is facing problem in

procuring active pharmaceutical ingredients, 85% of which comes from China.

"This industrial belt is the backbone of India in the current COVID war. The unprecedented price hike and shortage of raw material due to various reasons has resulted in a huge demand and supply gap for these drugs. The Government should intervene to streamline the availability and the transportation of raw material as most of the active pharmaceutical ingredients are imported from outside India," said Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Development Council and Director, Batra Group.

The Chinese state-owned Sichuan Airlines has also suspended its cargo services to India for 15 days following the second wave of Covid-19. This, many industrial units in the BBN, fear will add to the problems. "The entire country is facing a difficult time, when we cannot afford price hike in Pharmaceuticals. Government should intervene and control the rising cost of raw materials of Pharmaceuticals. Subsidies in raw material and transport can be a big help," Vijay Sharma, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Haryana State Development Council & Director, Jindal Stainless.

Apni Party aghast over mishandling of COVID second wave in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir on Tuesday conveyed his somber concerns over the soaring spikes in COVID-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, Mir said that the government has utterly failed to effectively tackle the current wave of pandemic and the requisite pre-emptive measures for further impeding the spread of this contagion have also proved to be a fiasco.

"The example of Delhi and Maharashtra should have already put the JK administration on guard wherein due to the mulishness of the system many precious lives have been lost. But ironically the lackadaisical approach of the administration is further aggravating the crisis-like condition in the Union Territory," he remarked.

He said that the government announcements about the availability of life saving drugs and oxygen supplies in sufficient quantities across J&K appears to be a flimsy pretension as people are suffering on ground for a shot of Remdesivir. "The claims made by the

administration in regards to an ample supply of medical facilities in J&K remains in contrast to the realities at ground zero. The government must collect reliable data and corroborate their claims with facts rather than fancies," he said.

He said that people above 45 years of age have to wait for their second dosage appointment while the age group above 18 is being given a time slot of 10-15 days from the day of registration.

"These delayed appointments for vaccine shots are just a masquerade used to hide the stark reality that the UT of J&K is witnessing an immense vaccine scarcity while keeping people busy in false hopes," he asserted.

He also said that the claims made by the advisor to Lt. Governor Baseer Khan about Covid-19 crises in J&K must be substantiated with facts and unless the ground reality is accepted the people will continue to suffer and the situation may go from bad to worse.

"May it be the five-member Covid Crisis Management Committee formed by the Lt. Governor or the recent announcement

made by advisor to LG Baseer Khan, the administration has no idea how to handle this crisis. The workers from other states continue to pour in while evading the necessary Covid-19 testing, people are being pushed from pillar to post for procurement of life saving drugs and the vaccination registrations are making people to wait for even more time. The current Covid situation has revealed the loopholes in the administration and people have been pushed into a disastrous situation," he observed.

Commenting on the availability of COVID-19 testing facility in J&K, Mir lambasted the administration over the dearth of Covid-19 RT PCR test kits which has kept patients in limbo for days.

"The duration for Covid-19 RT PCR test reports has also shot up to 4-7 days now. The sufferings of such patients is excruciating as many of these patients develop advanced stage problems while eagerly waiting for their reports to come. This implies that besides an undersupply of lifesaving drugs and vaccine shots, we are also facing a dire shortage of testing kits as well. How much worse

can it get further?" he said. Mir said that the government has a moral incumbency towards people to reveal official figures about the availability of vaccine shots in J&K so that people are not misled while keeping them unnecessarily on wait.

"Today 51 precious lives have lost their battle with their dreaded disease and the spike continues to increase. The administration must take this crisis seriously and take necessary measures on priority basis for breaking the chain. The only way to avert this tsunami of death is to get inoculated. The government must release data on the current availability of vaccine stocks in JK and try to procure ample quantities from the Centre to make JK population inoculated in totality," Mir urged.

He also demanded that the private hospitals and nursing homes must be supplied with lifesaving drugs like Remdesivir and Dexamethasone so that the people can easily procure these drugs in case of any emergency, which will also help to lower the load on government health centres as well.

ICAI holds webinar on 'Promotion of Investments in J&K'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, through its Committee for Members in Industry & Business and Jammu & Kashmir Branch of NIRC of ICAI organized a Live Webinar today for promoting investments in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The top brass of ICAI led by its President CA. Nihar N. Jambusaria, its Vice President, CA. (Dr) Debashis Mitra, the Chairman of CMI&B, CA Hans Raj Chugh and Vice Chairman of CMI&B, CA Durgesh Kabra addressed the large number of Chartered Accountants who were invited to witness the Live Webinar.

The Webinar was coordinated by CA Vinay Jamwal, Chairman, J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI.

The Chief Guest at the webinar, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K Government outlined the sincerity of the government in making J&K an industrially advanced region.

He mentioned the various steps taken for ease of business investments in J&K focussing more on the hospitality and hospital sectors besides environment friendly industries.

Anoo Malhotra, Director, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K Government explained the finer points of the new industrial policy and mentioned about the various incentives and subsidies offered under the policy.

Pawan Goswami, Functional Manager, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K Government explained the nitty gritty of the industrial policy and also ably answered the questions received from live audience.

The ICAI's top leadership pledged its support to all the endeavors of the Government in making J&K prosperous and enabling it to compete with other advanced States of the country by attracting investment to foster growth, generate employment opportunities in addition to professional opportunities.