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the views of all persons. These apprehensions in the mind of any person, if at all, should go away," he said.

Chandra said the draft prepared by the commission will be put in public domain for objections and queries. They said the associate members of the commission will also be consulted when preparing the final draft.

He said the exercise to re-draw boundaries of Assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir is a very complex issue and not mere arithmetic.

On the demand of defreezing of 24 PoK seats, he said that it is clearly mentioned in the law that these constituencies should remain vacant and will be out of the pre-view of the Delimitation Commission.

A delegation of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Thursday met the Delimitation Commission and demanded the unfreezing of the 24 assembly seats falling in PoK to grant reservation to people displaced from PoK, Kashmir Pandits, SCs and STs.

The commission met different delegations in Kashmir on July 6 and July 7 and in Jammu on July 8 and July 9.

The commission met over 290 delegations comprising over 800 people.

Asked whether Jammu will get Justice this time as it has faced discrimination with regard to political empowerment, Chandra said that for the commission, Jammu and Kashmir is one union territory.

"We see it as one entity. We do not bifurcate between Kashmir and Jammu," he added.

He said the visit of the commission was to ascertain ground realities. It is not arithmetical exercise, it is not mathematical exercise, it was to know genuine concerns of the public, to know genuine difficulties of the people," he said.

Security situation in...



LG Manoj Sinha after inaugurating World Bank funded showroom cum Interpretation Centre at Govt. Woollen Mill, Bemina.

committed efforts and formulate a comprehensive strategy to promote local woolen products at the national and international market.

In the 1st Phase of the project, Showroom cum Interpretation Centre was completed at a cost of Rs 4.25 crores. The sub-project was undertaken as part of the Restoration & Strengthening of Livelihood component of the JTFRP project. In Phase II, upgradation of machinery and ancillary work - shall be completed by August, 2021 end at a cost of Rs 4.00 crores.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that the new Showroom cum Interpretation Centre will greatly impact the livelihood opportunities of people working in the mill, besides providing market opportunities for the thousands of wool-producing farmers in J&K. At the same time, the new facility will give a massive revamping to Woolen industry of the region, he added.

While ensuring the improved and better quality product range, the new centre will provide direct Market for 80,000 Kgs of locally produced wool annually, thus benefiting 1600 sheep rearing families, said the Lt Governor.

This will further improve the economic viability of Government Woolen Mills, Bemina, besides increasing annual fabric production from locally procured wool by 1,60,000 meters, he added.

J&K is the 2nd largest producer of wool in the country, producing approximately 70 lakh kgs of wool per annum. The reformative policies of the UT Government is providing economic growth opportunities to around 50,000 families associated with sheep rearing in J&K, the Lt Governor maintained.

The Lt Governor was informed that the J&K Industry has tie-up with e-commerce platform 'Amazon' through Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) as e-marketing channel.

Registration on GeM portal was completed. Trade name JKIL stands accepted with formal notification to be issued by Registrar by end of August, 2021. Professional catalogues and brochures were also developed. Reputed designers are being roped in to develop new product range in line with present market trends and fashions, it was informed.

The project is executed as part of the massive revamping of the Government Woolen Mill Bemina which was badly impacted during the floods of 2014 and had caused extensive damage to the building and equipment installed in the mill.

To reinvigorate the functioning of the Government Woolen Mill Bemina, a comprehensive revamping project was undertaken under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project which included the rehabilitation of the mill, as well as the providing of the latest textile weaving equipment to enhance the production of wool manufactured at the factory.

It was informed that the New Government Silk Factory, Rajbagh with state-of-the-art preparatory, weaving and finishing machinery will be completed soon, thus providing economic benefit to 3000 cocoon-rearing families.

Pertinently, Experience Centre cum Sales Outlet was already made operational at Jammu for promotion and marketing of JKI products.

Baseer Ahmad Khan, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor; Ranjan Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Abid Rasheed Shah; Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTFRP and other senior officers were during the inaugural ceremony.

LG e-launches...

of Jammu and Kashmir competitive, while effectively managing them, besides securing the livelihood of the people. The two new projects are the important steps taken in this direction, added the Lt Governor.

"I believe that we have to explore multiple factors for effectively managing our cities in the coming times so that we can move towards developing Quality Cities, People's Cities and bring Jammu and Srinagar in top 30 Non-Metro Cities of the country", said the Lt Governor.

Highlighting the key features of the newly inaugurated City Livelihood Centre, the Lt Governor observed that the new intervention is aimed at strengthening National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) Outcomes by unleashing the capabilities of marginalized sections of the society living in urban areas to generate meaningful and sustainable livelihood.

"Cities need to be structured and developed in such a way that it should provide an ecosystem to facilitate the marginalized to channelize their skills, support their livelihoods and enable them to lead a dignified life in the society", the Lt Governor asserted.

Formation and functioning of CLC, a specialized skill centre is the extension of Government's efforts for reaching out to the people in need providing sustainable source of income through vocational training and business development support under single roof, the Lt Governor added.

Underscoring a host of features of the City Livelihood Centre and how it will extend handholding to the targeted beneficiaries, the Lt Governor said that the new

centre will help in finding a viable market for goods produces by the members of Self Help Groups; providing business information and support services to the poor as and when needed by them, besides creating an understanding of the market by studying the needs of demand and supply chain of the market.

It will also act as information dissemination centre with respect to skill training, bank credit, social security benefits, besides providing space and other necessary facilities to the institutions imparting skill trainings through designing skill training programmes/conducting seminars/ holding meetings with training providers and training seekers, he added.

The chair was informed that the CLC shall be set up as permanent service providing centre offering a gamut of services to all residents of the area by engaging local urban poor for generating sustainable livelihood.

The Centre, initiated by Jammu Urban Development Agency and Housing (JUDA) of Urban Development Department (H&UDD) will also extend support assistance required to access bank loans; preparation of project proposals, registration of business units and legal help etc.; providing market linked information to prospective and existing micro enterprises; assistance to new micro enterprises for obtaining license and registration; Supply of skilled manpower to city dwellers as per their demand.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor also laid the e-foundation of Rs 80 Crore worth Integrated Solid Waste Management facility at Kot-Bhalwal, in collaboration with NAFED.

The project will be very useful for the city of Jammu and will contribute significantly towards achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission of the UT, said the Lt Governor.

Waste Management Plan is key component for developing sustainable cities. There is a need to implement waste management plan, sewage treatment, and biogas as a mandatory rule in all upcoming colonies. Expansion of cities while taking care of the ecology needs to be an integral part of our development process, maintained the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to explore all possibilities to establish a similar Integrated Solid Waste Management facility in Srinagar also.

He also instructed the JMC functionaries to conduct a 15 day long campaign 'Plastic Free Jammu; Say No to Plastic' to curb the use of single-use plastic.

The Lt Governor also asked MD NAFED, Sh. SK Chadha and officials to ensure 100% recycling of inert waste, besides ensuring that all the objectives of the projects that have been planned to be implemented on ground for visible impact.

The upcoming Integrated Solid Waste Management Project shall have a Capacity of 350 TPD including major components viz. Segregation of mixed waste that will be done by machine scientifically in dry and wet stream; Segregation of dry waste at Material Recovery Facility to recover any useful material; a Bio-CNG plant that will produce Bio CNG gas through the wet waste, besides a Sanitary Landfill, where final rejects including sanitation waste will be scientifically dumped.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Deepika Rana, CEO JUDA; senior officers of Housing and Urban Development Department(H&UDD) were present on the occasion at Civil Secretariat.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Avny Lavasa, Commissioner JMC attended the launching ceremony through virtual mode.

OPD services, surgeries...

for emergency purposes including gynaecology/obstetrics and paediatrics.

In addition, the officials said, the standard operating procedures and guidelines laid down by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time must be adhered to in letter and spirit.

The OPD and other routine services in the hospital across the valley were stopped when the second wave of COVID-19 hit the Union territory and cases spiked.

J&K terror funding...

They were also charged for the offence of raising funds and distributing it for terrorist acts (section 17 and 40 of UAPA), being a member of proscribed terrorist organization (section 20 of UAPA) and other offences.

The court said that the fact that JKART is a frontal organization of HM is established prima facie by the testimonies of protected witnesses. The witnesses have further stated that overall control i.e. administrative and operational control (of JKART) is with Syed Salahuddin.

The objectives were to raise funds in the garb of relief for 'affectedes' of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. Though, it is an irony that these 'affectedes' were either terrorists or their family members.

The witnesses have further stated that these funds were raised by different individuals, organizations and countries including ISI of Pakistan, the court observed.

It noted that the funds that were raised were utilized for terrorist activities of HM. The funds were also used for injured, arrested terrorists and for families of killed terrorists. These funds were also used for incurring expenditure on general establishment, procurement of arms and ammunition, ration, clothing, training camps etc., the court noted.

It said that a larger conspiracy to wage war against government of India and to commit terrorist activities and funding of those terrorist activities was prima facie established by evidence.

The court observed that HM was a proscribed terrorist organization which has been waging war against Indian State for a very-very long time.

Sheltered, armed, trained and funded in our neighbourhood, it has left a long trail of blood and deaths in the State of J&K, the judge said.

While ordering the framing of charges, the court noted that the accused Mohd Shafi Shah was then terrorist commander of HM and used to receive money from HM and JKART and used to distribute them to the terrorist cadres as their stipend, for funding of arms and shelter etc. and to the families of the terrorists who had been killed.

He used to receive money from Pakistan and distribute monthly remunerations to active terrorists of North Kashmir, the court noted.

The court said there is sufficient evidence which raises grave suspicion against accused persons .

The court noted that prima facie accused Talib Lali had been raising, collecting and distributing funds for terrorist acts and terrorist organization HM.

The court noted that there was a direct witness who has stated that this accused had recruited him for HM and then trained in the forests of Bazipora, J&K.

Regarding accused Muzafar Ahmad Dar, the court noted that he has been a high ranking operative of HM and is continuing its activities as its member is prima facie established by documents and oral evidence and thus, there is evidence raising grave suspicion against this accused of being a part of the larger conspiracy of waging war against Government of India and conspiring to commit terrorist activities.

The court said there are testimonies of witnesses who have collected money directly from Lone and who were provided list of family members of terrorists to whom these amounts were to be distributed.

Alert sounded on...

shoulders. When they asked them to stop, they ignored them".

The police official said that soon after Ravinder Kumar informed them, security forces launched a massive cordon and search operation (COSA) in border district Samba.

Defence sources said, "an alert has been sounded in border areas of Samba and Kathua districts with the deployment of additional forces on both sides of the 'vulnerable' Jammu-Pathankot national highway."

Police immediately came into action, sealed whole area under the overall supervision of DySP G.R Bhardwaj. SHO Ghagwal inspector Rakesh Sharma, SOG, CRPF and police personnel jointly conducted the search operation but nothing suspicious was found even after 16 hours of search . Police is vigilant and has increased the strictness and checking of vehicles.

J&K reports 261...

the officials said. The death toll in the UT due to the pandemic rose to 4,354 as one patient died in the past 24 hours in the Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 31 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the UT as no fresh case was reported since last evening.

Commission would be a futile exercise.

He said that one side government is claiming the PoK is the part of India on the other hand the government is not executing election on the assembly segments meant for people of PoK that too when legitimate voter are available here in our Country as PoJK DP.

He said that one-third population had been migrated to this side and it is mandatory to defreeze at least 8 assembly seats so that the assembly elections might be executed on 8 seats.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation led by former MLA Udhampur, Balwant Singh Mankotia met members of Delimitation Commission in Jammu and submitted a memorandum, demanding increase in assembly seats of Jammu region.

Speaking after meeting delimitation commission,

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 318284 positive cases, 3300 are Active Positive, 310630 have recovered and 4354 have died; 2125 in Jammu division and 2229 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 10501931 test results available, 10183647 samples have been tested as negative till today.

Till date 2528982 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7152 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 3300 in isolation and 266506 in home surveillance. Besides, 2247670 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Over 1,500 PSA...

the earliest and to work closely with the state governments for the same. Officers apprised the PM that they are in regular touch with officers from state governments regarding fast-tracking the oxygen plants.

PM asked officials to ensure there is adequate training of hospital staff on operation and maintenance of oxygen plants. He also directed officials to ensure that each district has trained personnel available. Officials informed him that there is a training module prepared by experts and they are targeting training of around 8000 people across the country.

PM also said that we should deploy advanced technology like IoT to track performance and functioning of these oxygen plants at a local and national level. Officials apprised the PM about a pilot being done using IoT for monitoring the performance of the oxygen plants.

Principal Secretary to PM, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary Health, Secretary MoHUA and other important officials were present in the meeting.

Delhi HC backs...

was charged with the duty of securing UCC for the citizens of the country.

The high court observed that the need for UCC was reiterated from time to time by the Supreme Court, however, it is unclear as to what steps have been taken in this regard till date.

It directed that a copy of the order be communicated to the secretary, ministry of law & justice, government of India, for necessary action as deemed appropriate.

The court was dealing as to whether the marriage between the parties who belonged to the Meena community were excluded from the ambit of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA).

When the husband sought divorce, the wife contended that HMA did not apply to them as Meena community was a notified Scheduled Tribe in Rajasthan.

The court rejected the wife's stand and said that cases like the present one highlight the need for such a Code - 'common to all', which would enable uniform principles being applied in respect of aspects such as marriage, divorce, succession etc.

It recorded that since inception of the litigation, both parties have pleaded that their marriage was solemnised according to Hindu rites and ceremonies and they follow Hindu customs.

The same, the court noted, as reflected in several documents including the marriage invitation and complaint filed under domestic violence act.

The court said that although there was no definition of Hindu, the Supreme Court has held that if members of Tribes are Hinduised, HMA would be applicable to them.

Codified statutes and laws provide for various protections to parties against any unregulated practices from being adopted. In this day and age, relegating parties to customary courts when they themselves admit that they are following Hindu customs and traditions would be antithetical to the purpose behind enacting a statute like the HMA, 1955, the court opined.

The court also stated that there nothing was placed before it to show that the Meena community Tribe has a specialised Court with proper procedures to deal with these issues.

Don't lower your...

to meet the targets. The Lt Governor said that with continuous augmentation of health infrastructure and decentralization of health system with accelerated vaccination drive, better management of patients and other crucial timely interventions, J&K Government has created a greater covid clinical management capacity reforming healthcare delivery system.

To further ease the process of availing healthcare benefits of SEHAT scheme, the Lt Governor directed the senior officers to develop an institutional mechanism so that the empanelled health institutions can directly avail the claims of patients treated under the scheme.

The Lt Governor passed strict direction for increasing and saturation of the coverage of SEHAT Scheme.

Meanwhile, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on scientific data-driven analysis and other important aspects of the Covid management.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

Attempts being made...

party district units besides social organizations from across the region to assess the present situation. She received a warm reception on her arrival at the party headquarters.

Vice President Choudhary Abdul Hameed, General Secretary Amreek Singh Reen, Additional General Secretary Abdul Rasheed Malik, State Secretaries Rajinder Manhas, Ashok Jogi, Satpaul Singh Charak, Provincial President Women Wing Surjit Kour, Dr Ramesh Salathia, Media Coordinator, Choudhary Parvez Waffa, Choudhary Chuni, E Peter, Sunil Bhat, Rajat Gupta, Sachin Bhagat, Neeraj Chandel, Swran Singh, Majid Shah, Nadeem Khan, Zulfikar Malik were among those present.

Various deputations called on her at the party office to apprise the former chief minister about the problems being faced by different sections of the society.

Interacting with the deputations the former chief minister said that Jammu faced the worst brunt due to abrogation of special status on August 5, 2019 and now the very identity of this region was at stake. "Jammu is the receiving end of all the measures taken by the present dispensation post abrogation of Article 370. Most of the orders issued in last two years have crippled the economy of this city, once known as the economic capital of Jammu and Kashmir", she said.

She said that her party has always put interests of this region ahead of the organizational politics and it was due to this reason that respecting the mandate of Jammu, PDP took the most unpopular decision of entering into an alliance with BJP after 2014 elections. "However, the region was betrayed by the very people, who were elected to power by Jammu. Even today those people and organizations, who claim to represent Jammu, are compromising with every relevant issue of the region to please their masters in New Delhi".

A deputation of J&K Transporters Association apprised the former chief minister about the problems being faced by the people in trade. "The entire sector is at the brink of collapse due to the policies being implemented by the present dispensation", the deputations informed, adding increase in toll tax, registration fee, insurance beside steep hike in petrol/diesel prices is forcing the transporters to wind up their businesses. A separate delegation of the Wine Traders Association also called on her and requested her intervention to safeguard interests of hundreds of families who have been left at the mercy of God in view of the new policy. "People in the trade were being victimized in order to give benefit to the people who are politically associated with particular political organization", they claimed adding, "Resources of Jammu and Kashmir were being sold to the non-locals in the name of increased revenue".

A deputation of Differently Abled persons apprised her about the delay in release of pension besides reluctance of the administration to sanction new cases. They also demanded an increase in the quota of reservation in various government services.

Various delegations of the party units, including Youth wing, led by Varinder Singh Sonu, Women Wing led by Surjeet Kour; Jammu Urban led by Rajinder Manhas, Samba district unit led by Harmaish Singh Salathia and ST unit deputation led by Shafi Chachi also called on her.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Mankotia said that he demanded holding the same on basis of 2021 census.

"All hilly districts of Jammu, including Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda, Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi, Poonch, Rajouri etc should be made on lines of special Pahari Assembly areas on pattern of Gurez Pahadi Assembly in Kashmir. Similarly, out of

24 seats reserved for PoK, 8 seats should be given to the refugees," he asserted.

Mankotia told the commission that if team comes out of AC rooms and meet people on block level, it can see the situation itself. Only then, there can be a right Delimitation and people can get justice on ground level, he added.

