

Cabinet Secretary reviews preparedness of States/UTs to deal with Coronavirus

JAMMU: Cabinet Secretary, Rajesh Gauba today held Video-Conference with Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries of States/UTs to review their preparedness to deal with the novel Coronavirus amid mounting global concern over increasing number of cases in China. The meeting was co-chaired by the Health Secretary, Foreign Secretary and other senior functionaries of Government of India.

Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Atal Dulloo along with concerned officers of Health Department attended the meeting on behalf of Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Cabinet Secretary while interacting with Chief Secretaries/Health secretaries of the states/UTs sought details from them with regard to the level of preparedness they have made for prevention and management of the disease.

The States/UTs have been asked to follow the guidelines issued by Union Health Ministry including surveillance and contact tracing, surveillance at entry points, sample collection, packaging and transport, clinical management protocol and infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities.

Cabinet Secretary asked for setting up of control rooms, appointing a nodal officer and giving due publicity to the helpline number as already advised by the Health Ministry.

Further, the States/UTs have been asked to disseminate need for putting travellers in home isolation at least for 14 days those who have history of travel to China especially Wuhan after January 15 so that these persons do not get mixed with the general population. Also, samples from of all such persons need to be collected and sent for testing at the designated laboratories, a list of which has been circulated by the Health Ministry. The States/UTs have been asked to review their preparedness on daily basis, identify gaps and strengthen hospital preparedness by having isolation and critical care facilities, linkages with VRDL network laboratories and adherence to infection prevention and control guidelines. The Health Secretaries were advised to make ready isolation wards at the major hospitals with all necessary support required for its operations.

Cabinet Secretary advised the State/UT Governments to review their preparations after every 2 days so that any gap if found is covered in time. He also asked them to be in regular touch with Union Health Ministry for any support and assistance.

A detailed presentation was made by the Health Ministry briefing about the steps that have been taken by Government of India and further what needs to be done by State/UT Governments. It was informed that screening of passengers has been initiated at 21 Airports having international flights, international seaports and border crossings with Nepal. NIV Pune is working as nodal laboratory while as testing of samples has been initiated in 10 other labs in the country including Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi, Nagpur, Secunderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chennai and Kolkata. The Health Ministry has also opened up a Control Room which is operating 24x7 at national level. Meanwhile, the State Level / Divisional Level / District Level control rooms along with Nodal Officers have been made functional in Jammu and Kashmir and medical teams have been deployed at both the Airports in Jammu and Srinagar along with other logistical arrangements at the health care facilities. Advisories have been issued to persons who have travel history to China or South Asia to report to the nearest health care facility in case of any symptoms. Isolation facilities have been identified in Divisional as well as the District Level and RRTs (Rapid Response Teams) have been nominated to face any eventuality.

53.26 hectares of forest land encroached by 314 influential persons at tourist resorts

SRINAGAR: Over 314 encroachers have grabbed 53.26 hectares of forest land at different tourist resorts in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said on Thursday.

The encroachers include top politicians and other influential persons as well. A Politician has grabbed a large chunk of land at tourist resort Pahalgam, sources told Kashmir News Trust.

Sources added that 4589.66 hectares encroached land has been retrieved from the encroachers from past couple of years but the land grabbed by influential politicians and government officers couldn't be retrieved owing to the pressure exerted by these fellows. Sources added that Forest Department has geared up to end this menace. Sources said that licenses have been granted and renewed only for saw-mills that satisfy the norms prescribed under J&K Wood Based Registration & Regulation Rules. "The department has seized over a dozen saw mills from last three years that were violating the rule." The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has 2023,000 sq Kms of forest land and all efforts are being made to preserve it. (KNT)



JK Cements suspends 13 employees for misconduct against MD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Cements Ltd. has suspended its 13 employees, for misconduct and taking the Managing Director of the company hostage, when he visited the factory premises last month.

While telling their side of the story, employees of Jammu and Kashmir Cements Ltd told CNS that notwithstanding the pressure of protests by its employees, demanding their one year long pending salaries, the company suspended its 13 employees, ac-

cluding them of misconduct. They said, "On 26TH December, 2109 the Managing Director of the company Mr. Drabu came to the factory after five or six months, when we were as usual sitting outside the entry gate. After he entered the factory, we followed him up-to the meeting hall and went inside to tell him about the difficulties, we are faced with, but his response was very rude." Subsequently the employees, who spoke to the MD, were handed over suspension orders

on 11th January, charging them of misconduct and holding the MD hostage in the factory premises. The charge sheet said, "Whereas instead of performing duties on the said day, you have unauthorizedly left the place of your duty and assembled at the main gate of the factory and entered into the conference hall, where MD was holding an important official meeting regarding the affairs of the plant." Alongside the disciplinary ac-

tion the administration has also registered an FIR with the police against the employees, accusing them of holding the MD hostage. Meanwhile employees while accusing the company of inflicting miseries on their families by withholding their salaries said, "Our pockets are dried up and we are unable to feed our families as we have no money to buy the essentials." "Not only have our salaries been withheld, but even our provident fund has not been deposited

Right-minded citizens should defeat ideology that killed Gandhi: Congress

JAMMU: Paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day, the Jammu and Kashmir Congress called on all right-minded citizens to fight and defeat the ideology which killed the Father of the Nation.

Staging a silent sit-in in Jammu, the party on Thursday led by state president G A Mir along with hundreds of activists, former ministers and legislators wore black badges and carried placards of Save Constitution, Save India.

They hit out at anti-democratic and unconstitutional actions of the BJP led Central government that has disturbed the peace, social and religious harmony aside from weakening the Constitu-



tional and democratic institutions in the country.

They observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation and sang the National Anthem at the start and end of the demonstration.

Paying rich tributes to Gandhi, the Congress state president re-

ferred to the great contributions of the Father of the Nation for India and asked the people to imbibe his ideology and philosophy.

Mir said those glorifying Gandhi's assassin can never be the inheritors of the man's philosophy.

The nation can only remain united and strong by following

the philosophy of Gandhi, he said.

Mir further said that the Father of the Nation preached non-violence, religious brotherhood and truthfulness and to respect the diversity in our pluralistic society to keep the country united, strong, peaceful and maintain harmony.

India attained a place in the comity of nations as a messenger of peace with capabilities to maintain unity in diversity, the former minister added. Today, the ideals and philosophy of Gandhi are under threat in the country and it is time to follow and strengthen his philosophy to defeat the communal and divisive forces, Mir further said.

SHORT TAKES

Refugee leaders criticize BJP for not keeping promise

JAMMU: Several Senior Refugee leaders have lashed out at the BJP for betrayal with refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971 as regards the full amount of package including Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 25 Lakh per family recommended by Congress-NC Govt. to the Centre in the year 2014.

Extending full support to the various sections and organizations of refugees agitating for the implementation of full relief package as per recommendations of state Govt. and the report of Joint Parliamentary Committee in 2014, the senior refugee leaders lambasted the BJP leaders for their betrayal and refusal to fulfill their repeated promises to the refugees to give more than 25 Lac per family besides other components of the relief package. BJP exploited the refugees for their vote bank politics and sought votes in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections but now refuse to acknowledge their own commitment.

In a statement issued to KNS they said refugees and different organizations are justified in reminding the ruling BJP of its promises to them but BJP leaders are showing their indifference and arrogance, after getting huge mandate from them. Even the meagre amount of 5.5. Lac per family announced by the Centre has not been disbursed to large number of eligible displaced families so far. It is unfortunate that on one hand BJP fails to fulfill their own promises, while they oppose any genuine protest to seek genuine rights by the refugees. The custodian department has caused lot of harassment to the families in the process of release of initial amount of 5.5. Lac only and still hundreds of cases are pending for payment despite clearance for the last several months. They questioned the delay of years in disbursement of meager amount due to large scale hurdles in the process, causing lot of avoidable harassments to them. They asked BJP to get the entire amount of relief sanctioned for the Centre, as per recommendations of JPC, besides full implementation of the package including jobs reservations as per BJP's commitments with them (KNS).

Digital service under e-Courts Mission Mode Project benefiting citizens greatly

JAMMU: e-Courts Mission Mode Project has made great strides in UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh over the past one year or so.

Various digital initiatives have been taken during this period with an aim to provide citizen centric services to the various stakeholders of justice delivery system.

One such service, which is of huge utility for case status purposes is SMS delivery service, which is available in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the District and Subordinate Courts.

Through this service, case status at every step of its proceedings is forwarded to the litigant and lawyer, whose mobile number is registered with the court concerned through 'SMS Push Service'.

'SMS Pull Service' is also now available by which the intending party can also fetch the case status himself/herself by forwarding the CNR to the number 9766899899. However, this service is paid as the service provider charges for the SMS sent and received. In the year 2019 a total of 2,61,374 SMS were delivered in the High Court and 2,32,235 SMS in the District and Subordinate Courts. With each passing day the number is increasing as more and more stakeholders are getting their mobile numbers registered with the Courts. These services introduced by the High Court for litigants and lawyers are available through various platforms.



Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Nominations for Awards of Excellence in Management of Waqf Institutions - 2019

Nominations are invited from Mutawallis/Management Committees of Waqf Institutions for Awards of Excellence in Management of Waqf Institutions based on financial performance, innovative practices, use of technology etc.

Awards

- Total number of awards - 12, 1st prize - ₹1,00,000/-, 2nd prize - ₹75,000/- and 3rd prize - ₹50,000/- alongwith a citation and a memento.

Eligibility & Nominations

- Last date of submission of application for nominations by the Mutawalli/Management Committee to the respective State Waqf Boards is **15th February, 2020.**
- The last date of receipt of application by Central Waqf Council in prescribed proforma from State Waqf Boards is **15th March, 2020.**
- The details are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/centralwaqfcouncil.gov.in.

For more details Helpline No. - 1800-11-2001, visit our website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in