

J&K to sensitize outside doctors on Amarnath Yatra Health Certificates: CS

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 26



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a crucial meeting with the Health Secretaries from 10 States and UTs, asking them to designate adequate number of doctors for issuance of 'Compulsory Health Certificates' (CHCs) in favour of pilgrims embarking on the sacred journey to Shri Amarnathji Shrine in J&K.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) was attended by Secretary, H&ME; Additional CEO, SASB; Director, SKIMS; Director, Health, Jammu/Kashmir; representative from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI.

The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to conduct the sensitization sessions with the doctors designated by the respective states for issuance of these CHCs in favour of the pilgrims intending to take on this holy journey. He said that such an exercise would help them in better understanding of the requirements to be met by a person for safe pilgrimage.

He also asked the participating Health Secretaries to further ensure rationalization of doctors across the health facilities commensurate to the number of pilgrims from that area. He declared that this would reciprocate into thorough clinical assessment of the applicants on part of the medics thereby ensuring safety of lives.

He emphasized that individuals with underlying comorbid conditions or physical weaknesses that render them unfit for high-altitude

travel must be thoroughly screened. Those deemed unfit should not be issued health certificates, as this would pose a significant risk to their lives during the pilgrimage. He maintained that the UT government is committed to provide best facilities to these pilgrims and wants the yatra to be fully safe, secure and enthralling for each of the devotees.

While pointing out some of the critical issues that have undermined the CHC process in previous years, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, who is also CEO of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), said in past doctors had issued CHCs to unfit pilgrims, including those with co-morbidities, to participate in the Yatra, resulting in tragic consequences.

He cited the 2012 Amarnath Yatra as a stark example, where over 100 pilgrims lost their lives due to health complications that were severely exacerbated by the extreme conditions of the pilgrimage like high altitude above 12,800 feet, low oxygen levels, snow-covered mountains and sudden temperature drops. These challenges underscored the urgent need for

rigorous health screening to prevent such incidents in future, therefore, making of CHC prerequisite for registration.

He also advised for nominating doctors by their official designation who are required to personally sign the CHCs, including their name, address and NMC registration number. This step will enhance accountability and check unauthorized certificate issuance in favour of unfit persons.

Furthermore, the States have been asked to submit their lists of nominated doctors to the Shrine Board by April 5, 2025, facilitating seamless coordination ahead of the Yatra's commencement. The registration for the Yatra, 2025, will begin on April 14, 2025, through banks, offering both online and offline options.

The participants were made aware that this is in compliance with a 2012 Supreme Court ruling which mandates that CHCs be issued only by designated medical officers in a prescribed format, based on a pre-requisite list, to ensure legal and procedural consistency.

It was revealed that since majority of the pilgrims belongs to these States/UTs, it has therefore become im-

perative to take-up the matter with the concerned health authorities. It was highlighted that this pilgrimage involves a long and arduous trek through high-altitude terrain with risks of serious conditions like High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE).

With registration set to begin in April 2025, the Shrine Board is poised to deliver a safer, more organized pilgrimage experience in the Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional DDG and Director (EMR), Ministry of H&FW, made out that about 1415 doctors would be deployed on rotation basis by the Ministry to the UT for assistance during the yatra period. He also assured the meeting that necessary instructions would be passed on to all for strict adherence to the guidelines besides participation of their nominated doctors in the online sessions to be held shortly by the Department of Health, Government of J&K.

The States and UTs participated in the meeting included Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Jammu rich legacy of kings, legends continues to inspire: Satish Sharma

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 26

Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today launched Dogri calendar "Sadda Labba Saddi Pachaan" 2025 at the Fountain Light and Sound Stage, Bagh-e-Bahu.

The launch event paid homage to the Dogra culture and celebrated the historic monuments of the Jammu district, renowned as the "Land of Maharajas."

Admiring the event, the Minister praised the organizers for showcasing Jammu's unique heritage in such a captivating manner. "This calendar is not only a beautiful representation of our Dogra culture but also an important reminder of the rich history that our region holds."

Jammu is a land of kings, of legends and of a proud legacy that continues to inspire," Sharma said. "It is our responsibility to preserve and promote this heritage for future generations and initiatives like this play



a crucial role in that mission", he added.

The Minister also spoke about the importance of preserving Jammu's historic monuments, which serve as cultural treasures that define the identity of the region. "These monuments are more than just stones; they are living symbols of our history, our struggles, and our triumphs. This calendar, with its stunning visuals, will serve as a reminder to all of us about the importance of safeguarding these land-

marks," the Minister maintained.

The 2025 calendar is dedicated to showcase the timeless beauty and grandeur of Jammu's historic sites such as the Akhnoor Fort, Pandav Gufa and other iconic landmarks that bear witness to the region's royal history. Male and female models, dressed in traditional Dogra attire, added a vivid visual element, highlighting the craftsmanship and elegance of the region's costumes, which have been an

integral part of Dogra culture for centuries.

The event concluded with a stunning cultural performance, showcasing local music and dance, which added an extra layer of tradition and festivity to the evening.

Urja Singh, Chairman of the event, said that Dogri calendar is now available to the public, allowing people to take home a piece of Jammu's glorious past while contributing towards promotion of the region's heritage.

Students should focus on skill rather than marks, says Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 26

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, FCS & CA, Transport, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today visited the Sri Ranbir Multi Lateral (SRML) Model Higher Secondary School.

While speaking on the occasion, the Minister lauded the valued contributions of over a century old SRML Model School for promoting education in J&K which was established in 1872 by Maharaja Ranbir Singhji.

The institution has stood the test of time, nurturing generations of students who have made their mark in various fields.

The Minister observed that education is of vital



importance and good school education lays a strong foundation for establishment of a sound, wholesome and productive society. He stressed the importance of students being imbued with ethical and moral values and also gaining skills which would help them in gaining employment after finishing School.

Satish Sharma advised the student to focus on

skills rather than marks. He asked them to opt for professional courses instead of traditional studies. He also assured the Principal SRML to look into the genuine demands raised by him including renovation of open gym, transport facility etc.

The Minister also unveiled the school prospectus and planted a Rudraksh sapling, marking the commitment to a

greener future.

CEO Jammu, Jagdeep Kumar Padha, District Education Planning Officer Jammu, Bhagwan Dass Sharma, Principal, Dr. Kishore Sharma, Principal GBS Gandhi Nagar, Adesh Bala, Principal GHSS Shastri Nagar, Anu Bhardwaj, Principal GHSS Rehari, Dr. Jyoti Parkash besides teachers and other staff members were present on the occasion.

Satish reviews functioning of Legal Metrology Deptt

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today paid surprise visit to the office of the Legal Metrology department at Narwal and conducted an in-depth review of the departmental functioning.

Controller Legal Metrology, Anuradha Gupta, presented a detailed overview of the departmental activities, emphasizing upon its critical role in consumer protection, fair trade practices and enforcement of standard weights and measures in commercial transactions.

In a PowerPoint Presentation, she highlighted the contribution of the department towards safeguarding consumer rights by enforcing the provisions of Legal Metrology Act and rules. She also elaborated that all



ten services being provided by the department are available online on the J&K Single Window.

She apprised the Minister that during this financial year the department conducted 59000 inspections throughout J&K and booked 2876 cases under various sections of the Legal Metrology Act and rules. Besides, the department conducted 301 verification camps and 562 traders awareness camps.

For making consumers aware about the legal provisions and remedies available under the Legal Metrology Act and the Consumer Protection Act, the

department also organized 453 consumer awareness camps.

The Minister commended the proactive approach of the Legal Metrology team, noting their achievement of targets ahead of schedule. He stressed upon the importance of accuracy in trade transactions, from verifying the correct dispensing of fuel at petrol pumps to ensuring the precise measurement of packaged commodities.

The Minister also reiterated the vital role of Legal Metrology department in everyday consumer safety. He took a round of the Legal

Metrology complex and inspected the Secondary Standards Lab.

The Minister was briefed by the concerned officer about the role and importance of laboratory equipment in ensuring accuracy in weights and measures.

The Minister interacted with the officers present during the visit including Assistant Controllers, Accounts officer and other staff members. He appreciated the efforts of the department and urged them to continue working diligently for upholding compliance with legal standards and protecting the interests of the consumers.

DC B'la chairs awareness programme on menstrual hygiene at Aspirational

BARAMULLA, MARCH 26: In a step towards improving menstrual hygiene among girls, a distribution cum orientation programme on the usage of incinerators and vending machines was held today at Higher Secondary School, Gund Khawja Qasim in the Aspirational Block Singhpora Pattan.

from the Vatsalya Foundation distributed incinerators among the 50 school heads of various schools for the convenience of girl students in their respective institutions.

Earlier, DC inaugurated the sanitary napkin manufacturing unit at Nehalpora Pattan, donated by the Vatsalya Foundation Vado-dara, which will be run solely by the Women Self Help Group under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, thereby providing employment opportunities

and financial independence.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the importance of menstrual hygiene for the well-being of young girls and expressed his gratitude to the Vatsalya Foundation for this collaborative initiative towards setting up this automated unit for manufacturing sanitary napkins.

The DC further stated that these sanitary napkins would be supplied to all government institutions to ensure convenience for fe-

male students.

Meanwhile, DC instructed the Chief Education Officer to ensure proper utilization and maintenance of the vending machines and incinerators in all designated institutions.

During the event, DC also engaged with women from Self-Help Groups, reaffirming the administration's commitment to creating new employment opportunities to support their financial independence.

DC inaugurates Rozgaar Mela at Srinagar

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JAMMU, MAR 26

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inaugurated mega Job fair at Sri Pratap College, Srinagar.

The Job Fair, organised by District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with District Employment and Counseling Center (DECC) Srinagar, aimed at bridging the gap between Employers and job seekers.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of such initiatives in enhancing employment prospects and supporting the career aspirations of the unemployed educated youth of the District.

He also extended gratitude to all participating companies for their active involvement in this critical event.

The event brought together about 20 Companies from diverse sectors,



including Insurance, Health, Education, Skill training, Banking and Electric sector.

These companies showcased their vacancy positions and engaged directly with unemployed youth, providing insights into the job opportunities available, skill sets required, and the type of human resources required.

During the job fair many

young job seekers were shortlisted for the second round of interviews, marking a significant step towards employment.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of adjoining Colleges and pass-out graduates, highlighting its impact in connecting the youth with potential employers.

The District Administra-

tion and DECC Srinagar continues its commitment to facilitating employment opportunities and skill development for the region's youth through such initiatives.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat; Principal of SP College, Prof. Mohammad Farooq Mir and other participants were present

DIC organizes awareness program on PM Vishwakarma

KULGAM, MARCH 26: An awareness programme on the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme was today held at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Kulgam, organized by District Industries Centre Kulgam. The event was attended by officials from the District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam, including the Principal of ITI

Kulgam, and featured key presentations by Waseem Zehgir, Deputy Manager, and Arshi Aarif, Assistant Manager from the State Level Programme Management Unit-PM Vishwakarma, Kashmir.

The session commenced with a presentation by DIC Kulgam officials, outlining the objectives and benefits of the

PM Vishwakarma Scheme, which aims to support traditional artisans and craftspeople by enhancing their skills and providing financial assistance. A significant portion of the event was dedicated to a detailed explanation of the e-commerce onboarding process for beneficiaries, delivered by Waseem Zehgir and Arshi Aarif.