

Itoo reviews performance, functioning of JKMSCL

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 09

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasized on stricter quality checks and greater accountability in the procurement and supply of medicines and medical equipments for Health facilities across Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that patient safety remains government's top priority.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the performance and functioning of Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL).

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), M Raju; MD NHM, Akriti Sagar; MD JKMSCL, Tariq Hussain Ganie; Director SKIMS, Prof M. Ashraf Ganie; Director Finance H&ME, Director Planning H&ME, Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Principals of all GMCs, Principal Dental College Srinagar/Jammu, State Drug Controller, Medical Superintendents of all Hospitals, Chief Medical Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister underlined the impact of corporation's responsibilities, stating that JKMSCL plays a vital role in public healthcare delivery



system by ensuring timely availability of medicines, surgical consumables and medical equipments in government health institutions. "Any compromise in quality, transparency or efficiency will not be tolerated, as it directly affects patient safety and credibility of the public health system", she maintained.

While reviewing quality control measures and other protocols, the Minister instructed the MD to maintain constant check on the quality of medicines and equipments procured by the Corporation.

"Tighten quality control protocols at every stage, from procurement and testing to storage and final distribution", she said.

The Minister further instructed the corporation to ensure that only certified, safe and standard-compliant medicines and equipment reach government hospitals, warning that any negligence in quality verification will invite strict action.

"Conduct regular quality audits, enhanced laboratory testing and strict vendor scrutiny so that suppliers adhere fully to prescribed standards and contractual obligations", the Minister maintained.

While reviewing procure-

ment procedures, supply chain management, inventory status, vendor performance and existing quality testing mechanisms of the corporation, the Minister directed the MD to take action against firms/vendors delaying supply of essential drugs or medical equipments. She also sought a detailed report from the Corporation on action taken since 2021 against ill-performing firms/vendors.

Emphasising on timely availability of life saving drugs, the Minister delved on the Corporation to follow protocol of prominent medical institutions regarding Cancer medicines. She directed all medical Superintendents and hospital administrators to submit life saving drug requirements as per that protocol.

Highlighting the challenges faced by healthcare institutions in far-flung and rural areas, the Minister instructed JKMSCL to improve supply chain coordination and maintain adequate buffer stocks of essential medicines and life-saving equipment so that hospital faces no shortages.

She also directed the corporation to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms and ensure immediate response to complaints from healthcare institutions

regarding supply delays or quality issues.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister said that accessibility, affordability and quality of medicines and medical equipments remain at the core priorities of present Omar Abdullah led Government.

During the meeting, MD JKMSCL gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of Corporation. Regarding quality testing, he informed the Minister that during year 2024-25, 3390 medicine samples were tested, out of which 32 were declared Not of Standard Quality (NoSQ). In 2025-26, he informed that out of 2806 tested samples, 65 were declared NoSQ with reports of 361 samples still pending.

The MD also apprised the Minister about the active rate contracts in JKMSCL and informed that 3478 rate contracts in categories like machinery and equipment, hospital furniture, drugs and vaccines, instruments and others are available. He also informed the Minister about the Drug and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) portal usage by health institutions across J&K.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank celebrates International Women's Day

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JAMMU, MAR 09

Jammu & Kashmir Bank celebrated International Women's Day with a special function at its Jammu Divisional Office, reaffirming its commitment to women's empowerment and financial independence.

The event was chaired by the Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and witnessed the participation of senior women officers including DGMs Aneeta Nehru, Virender Kaur and Hafeeza Rahim, along with AGMs and senior managers who joined from the Corporate Headquarters in Srinagar and Zonal Office Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, Amitava Chatterjee highlighted the Bank's efforts to promote gender equality and financial em-



powerment, stating that empowering women is both a social responsibility and a strategic imperative for inclusive economic growth.

He noted that nearly 42 percent of the Bank's clientele comprises women, reflecting their growing trust in the institution.

In her welcome address,

Hafeeza Rahim said the 2026 celebrations mark 115 years of International Women's Day, with the theme "Give to Gain", emphasizing collaboration and empowerment for sustainable growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Virender Kaur highlighted the achievements of women leaders such as Nirmala Sitharaman,

Arundhati Bhattacharya and Shikha Sharma as role models.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Aneeta Nehru, who reiterated the Bank's commitment to creating equal opportunities and supporting women entrepreneurs and professionals through focused financial solutions.

PDUNASS launches EPFO training program

NEW DELHI, MAR 09:

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS), the apex training institute of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), inaugurated a five-day training programme on "Exemption Management, Legal Framework & Valuation of Securities" in New Delhi.

Addressing the inaugural session, PDUNASS Director Kumar Rohit emphasized the importance of specialized training for officers dealing with exempted establishments managing large provident fund accumulations. He stressed the need for a



strong understanding of legal frameworks, investment practices and audit mechanisms to safeguard workers' social security.

The session also featured insights from Sanjay Ku-

mar, Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner (Exemption Division), and Rizwan Uddin, Chief Learning Officer, PDUNASS. <

The programme includes

expert sessions from professionals of Deloitte, CRISIL and Darashaw & Company on investment management, securities valuation and financial analysis.

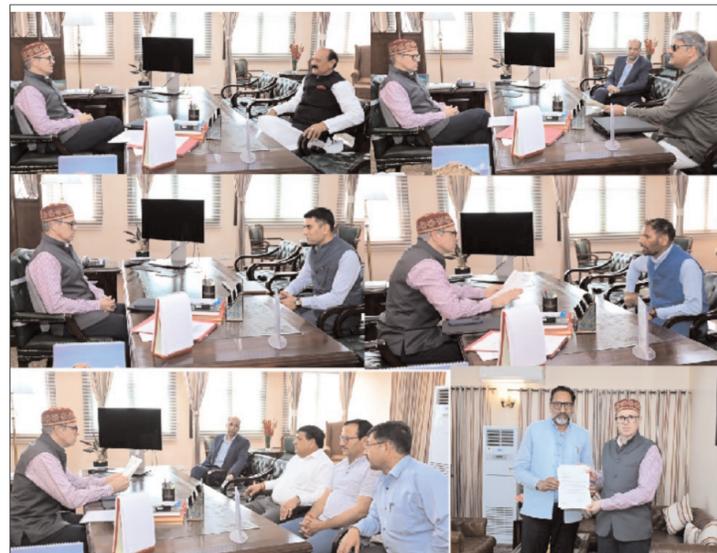
MLAs call on CM Omar, raise constituency issues

JAMMU, MARCH 09:

Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and discussed issues concerning development works and public welfare in their respective constituencies.

MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia, MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar, MLA Gulabgarh Er Khurshid Ahmed, and MLA Anantnag West Abdul Majeed Bhat Laram met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and assured them that all genuine issues



raised by them would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

He reiterated that his government remains committed to resolving people's

concerns and ensuring timely relief and development across all regions.

Capacity building in focus: 2-day specialised training programme inaugurated at Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 09

A two-day training programme on "Intelligence Generation" commenced today at the Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ), Jammu. The training aims at strengthening the analytical and intelligence-gathering capabilities of police personnel.

The programme has been organised by ZPHQ Jammu for officers and officials from different districts of the Zone. The programme was inaugurated by the Staff Officer to IGP Jammu, Shamsheer Husain, who highlighted the importance of strengthening intelligence capabilities at the field level to effectively deal with emerging security challenges.

During the 2-day training programme, the ex-



perts from different security and intelligence organisations shall deliver 8 sessions covering the fundamentals of intelligence in policing, sources of information and basic intelligence tradecraft. The resource persons would include officers from the IB, MI, RAW, BSF (G Branch) and CID. The sessions are designed to familiarise trainees with the role of in-

telligence in supporting investigation, prevention of crime and operational decision-making.

The training will also broadly focus on development and handling of information sources, intelligence collection methods and an overview of technical and digital aspects of modern policing. The trainees would further be introduced to basic analyti-

cal techniques used in intelligence assessment, threat evaluation and inter-agency coordination, particularly in the context of security and counter-terrorism related challenges.

The programme forms part of the capacity-building initiatives of Jammu Police, aimed at enhancing the professional skills of its personnel in intelligence collection and analysis.

Floriculture Department organises one day training programme at KVK Bhaderwah

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JAMMU, MAR 09

The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens on Monday organised one-day training for farmers in commercial floriculture cultivation. The programme was held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bhaderwah under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

A group of 45 farmers including women farmers from different parts of District Doda participated in the programme and received practical as well as technical guidance in commercial floriculture. The training aimed to promote scientific cultivation of flower crops and encourage farmers to adopt floriculture as a viable source of income.

Scientists Dr Neeraj Kotwal and Dr Arvind Raina delivered detailed lectures on the modern practices in the cultivation of different flower crops. They shared



field experiences with the farmers to enable them to enhance productivity and improve the quality of flowers.

Assistant Floriculture Officer, Arjun Singh Parihar also addressed the farmers

and informed them about the government schemes being implemented by the department for the promotion and development of commercial floriculture in the district.

Later, the participating

farmers were taken on a field visit to the Aromatic Plants Nursery at Seeri, where they were provided practical exposure related to nursery establishment and management.

MVD Kishtwar disqualifies 16 driving licences

KISHTWAR, MARCH 09:

To curb traffic violations and enhance road safety, the Motor Vehicle Department Kishtwar led by ARTO Tasleem Wani has disqualified 16 driving licences of motorists found involved in serious violations of traffic rules.

The action was carried out under the overall supervision and directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and in compliance with the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan to strengthen enforcement of road safety regulations across the district.

The offenders were found involved in violations such as Fatal road accidents, dangerous driving, overloading, reckless driving, using mobile phones while driving, not wearing seat belt and helmet while driving and other

breaches of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Those whose Driving Licenses have been disqualified includes Musharaf Ahmed DL no JK1720190000675, Akhter Hussain JK1720150028483, Jarnail Singh JK1720150029077, Ajaz Hussain JK1720150028499, Mohammad Imran JK1720220002582, Mudassir Ahmed JK1720210000216, Zahid Hussain JK172020000606, Muzamil Hussain Shah JK1720220001237, Danish Ahmed JK172020000622, Rajinder Kumar JK1720220000282, Khalid Hussain JK1720210001378, Nadim Raja JK 0620090000313, Saqib Ahmed Mir JK0620200001194, Nasir Hussain JK1720210000161, Rinku Kumar JK2020180001173 and Mohd Mirza JK1720180002030.