

# Zero tolerance against substandard drugs : DFO

**SRINAGAR, MAY 06 :** The Drugs and Food Control Organization (DFO) today rebutted the report, appearing in an English daily, 'Kashmiris alarmed by white labels concealing expiry dates on medicines', stating that regular surveillance is being maintained to check unethical trade practices.

In its statement, the DFO said that it has taken strong note of the news report while elaborately presenting an overview of drug sampling scenarios in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The enforcement staff is undertaking regular surveillance activities as mandated under the provisions of Drug & Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules there-under. Also, the empowered authorities appointed by the J&K government are following the directions of the Central Government issued under section 33 (P) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to deal with matters of drug samples declared non-conforming to the prescribed standards",

added the document.

It further said that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has adopted a zero tolerance policy in the matters related to reporting of substandard drugs.

"As many as 579 court matters are pending adjudication in various courts across the UT. The department has taken all steps to outreach consumers through toll free No.104 for expeditious disposal of grievances", the statement read.

It added that as on date, there is no record to suggest that any complaint of such nature has ever been referred to the department for regulatory intervention.

Moreover, the statement said, the department has deputed a team to establish / ascertain the genuineness/genesis of the news article published in the newspaper.

The rebuttal, issued by the department, has briefly summarized the activities undertaken by it as under:

a) Drug Alerts are being generated & addressed

to Sub-Ordinate offices of the respective divisions for immediate necessary action by the enforcement staff of the Organization. Drug Alerts are circulated via whatsapp groups / official email ID's of respective divisional heads for prompt action.

b) Public Notices in cases of "Not of Standard Quality Drugs - Grossly Sub Standard" are being published in the daily leading locals of the union territory of J&K.

c) Center - UT & Inter-state communications are being shared to check the further prevalence & effective seizure / recall of drugs declared to be "Not of Standard Quality".

d) Drug Alerts in case of drug samples procured by JKMSCL & declared to be "Not of Standard Quality" by the Govt. Analysts of Drug Testing Laboratories are shared at this end immediately with MD- Corporation for effective recall of such products from supply chain for effective seizure by the enforcement staff of this

organization at a single point. e) The Drug Alerts are also uploaded on official website of the Organization in the larger interest of general public.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder identifies following contraventions and provides penal clauses as mentioned below:

I. Adulterated under section 17-A.

II. Spurious under section 17-B.

III. Any drug, other than a drug referred to in clause (i) or (ii) stated above.

a) The punishment with respect to clause 1, ii and iii under section 27(a) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is "when a drug is used by any person for or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease or disorder is likely to cause his death or is likely to cause such harm on his body as would amount to grievous hurt within the meaning of section 320 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), as the case may be shall be pun-

ishable with imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than 10 lac rupees or three times value of the drugs confiscated, whichever is more".

b) When any drug is deemed to be adulterated under section 17A but not being a drug referred to in clause 27(a) the punishment shall be for a term which is not to be less than three years but which may extend to 05 years and with fine which shall be not less than 1 lac rupees or three times the value of the drugs confiscated, whichever is more".

Provided that the court may for any adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the Judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than three years and of fine of less than 1 lac rupees.

c) When any drug is deemed to be spurious under section 17B but not being a drug referred to in clause 27(a) the punishment shall be for a term which is not to be less than seven years but

which may extend to imprisonment for life and with fine which shall be not less than 3 lac rupees or three times the value of the drugs confiscated, whichever is more".

Provided that the court may for any adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the Judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than seven years and of fine of less than 1 lac rupees.

d) When any drug, other than a drug referred to in clause 27(a), 27(b) or 27(c) is manufactured in contravention to any other provision of chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 or any rule made there under, the punishment shall be imprisonment for a term which is not to be less than one year and with fine which shall be not less than twenty thousand rupees. Provided that the court may for any adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the Judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment for a term of less than one year.

## Pak's apex court suspends high court verdict denying Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats

Islamabad, : In a relief to jailed former premier Imran Khan's party, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday suspended a high court verdict denying the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies.

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) had rejected a petition of the SIC, which came to the fore after Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independently elected lawmakers joined it, regarding its claim on reserved seats.

PTI was forced to take the cover of SIC because reserved seats are allotted to parties having members in the national and provincial assemblies. Since the PTI was deprived of its bat symbol before the election due to failure to hold intra-party elections as per law, it was not allowed to contest the February 8 general election as a party.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in March ruled that the SIC was not entitled to the claim quota for reserved seats as none of its members contested the election from the party platform and it also failed to provide a mandatory party list for reserved seats.

The ECP in March also decided to distribute the seats among other parliamentary parties but the PTI rejected the verdict as unconstitutional and petitioned against it in the PHC, which rejected the plea.

The SIC finally filed a petition before the apex court against the PHC judgment in April.

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and comprising Justices Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Athar Minallah took up an SIC appeal against the PHC order.

After hearing arguments, the court suspended the decision by the PHC.

"We are accepting the case for hearing," Justice Shah said, adding that the PHC order upholding the

ECP decision was suspended to the extent of the remaining reserved seats given to other parties.

Later, the court adjourned the matter for hearing until June 3.

Earlier, the SIC in its petition said that the PTI candidates joined the SIC after their party lost its electoral symbol, adding that the ECP also raised no objections to the above independent returned candidates joining the SIC.

It contended that the fundamental premise of the proportional representation system for allocating reserved seats for women and non-Muslims, as outlined in Article 51(6)(d)(e) and Article 106(3)(c) of the Constitution, 1973, does not hinge on whether a political party submits candidate lists for reserved seats before the general election or whether the party contested the election.

Instead, the party asserted that the core constitutional basis for the right to reserved seats under the proportional representation system is determined by the "total number of general seats secured by each political party from the province concerned in the National Assembly" or the "total number of general seats secured by each political party in the provincial assembly."

PTI Chairman Gohar Khan welcomed the apex court's ruling, saying that his "party had been waiting for justice in the case".

Independent candidates - a majority backed by 71-year-old Khan's PTI party - won 93 seats in the 336-member National Assembly in the February 8 general elections. Former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won 75 seats while the Bilawal Zardari Bhutto-led Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) came third with 54 seats.

The PML-N struck a post-poll deal with Bhutto's PPP, the Pakistan Peoples Party, and four smaller parties to gain power at the federal level.

## Sketch of 2 Terrorists...

Top officers of police and army, including GOC 16 Corps and ADGP Jammu, also visited the site and took stock of the security arrangements yesterday. A group of 2-3 terrorists carried out the surprise attack on the IAF convoy near Shaistar Sanai in Surankote area on Saturday. Officials said that anyone who will give any fruitful and reliable information about the whereabouts of these terrorists, leading to their arrest will be rewarded and their identity will be kept a secret. As per a lookout notice, people have asked to share inform on these numbers 9541051982, 8082294375, 9541051982, 8082294375.

## Maxi Cab drivers involved...

Div Com reiterated that all vehicles have been given access permission to Srinagar Airport so they can directly ferry tourists to tourist spots. He directed the Tourism Department to publish notified rates on their website and install hoardings at all the prime locations. The meeting was attended by DC Anantnag; DC Ganderbal; ADC, Baramulla; CEOs of Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Pahalgam Development Authorities, RTO Kashmir, besides SSPs of all three districts, SSP Traffic Rural and Officers of Tourism Department.

## J&K Bank Reports Highest Profit In 85-Year History

**SRINAGAR, May 6 :** Jammu and Kashmir Bank has reported annual profit of Rs 1,767 crore for 2023-24, which is the highest in its 85 year history.

This was announced by Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Managing Director and CEO Baldev Prakash on Monday during a media briefing.

The highest ever annual profit was reported by the Bank, almost two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his government saved J&K Bank from bankruptcy. During his rally in Srinagar then, Modi had alleged that J&K Bank was a "big victim of nepotism and corruption" under previous governments.

Prakash said that there were some governance issues in the Bank in the past and the capital of Rs 1000 crore was granted by the union government to the J&K Bank.

"That (Rs 1000 crore capital amount) was very very critical because capital ade-

quacy ratio of the bank has to be upto minimum expectations as per the regulatory



guidelines," Prakash said when asked about PM's statement about the bank. He said there were some governance issues earlier and because of that it had come under the

scanner of Anti Corruption Bureau "We have taken very very concrete steps to ensure

the state of art technology and as well as the best policies, we will be able to handle all these issues in a more effective manner," the MD asserted.

Prakash said it is a moment of pride for the bank that achieved the highest net profit in the history of the bank.

"This is all because of my staff, stakeholders and our top management. It is because of their efforts and guidance that we have been able to achieve this feat this time," the MD said.

He added that the Bank board has recommended a handsome dividend.

"The board has recommended a dividend of Rs 2.15 per share," he said.

The MD said the other significant improvement has been in the asset quality of J&K Bank. "We had our biggest problem in asset quality and because of the efforts we have been able to improve by bringing the gross non-performing assets to 4.08 per cent, while the net non-performing assets to 0.79 per-

## Remove Fake Content Within 3 Hours: Election Commission Tells Political Parties

**NEW DELHI, May 6 :** The Election Commission on Monday directed political parties to remove fake content from their social media platforms within three hours of such content being brought to their notice.

In the directives for responsible and ethical use of social media, the commission also asked the parties not to impersonate another person or post content that is derogatory towards women or publish or circulate deepfake videos. "Whenever such deepfake audios/videos come to the notice of political parties, they shall immediately take down the post but maximum within a period of three

hours and also identify and warn the responsible person within the party," the poll body said. Recently, deepfake videos featuring Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and actors Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh posted on certain social media handles were taken down and criminal complaints filed. The commission also warned the parties against the misuse of artificial intelligence-based tools to create deepfakes that distort information or propagate misinformation and emphasised the need to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. "Taking cognisance

of certain violations of MCC (model code of conduct) and the extant legal provisions by political parties/their representatives while using social media for election campaigning, the commission today has issued directions to political parties for responsible and ethical use of social media in election campaigning to ensure level playing field among all stakeholders," an Election Commission statement said.

In view of the existing legal provisions, among other directions, the parties have been specifically directed to refrain from publishing and circulating deepfake audios/videos, disseminating

any misinformation or information that is patently false, untrue or misleading in nature, to refrain from posting derogatory content towards women, abstain from using children in campaigns, avoid depicting violence or harm to animals, the statement said.

The commission said the parties have been directed to report unlawful information and fake user accounts to the respective platforms and escalate persistent issues to the Grievance Appellate Committee under Rule 3A of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

## The UN nuclear watchdog chief travels to Iran as its monitoring remains hampered

**JERUSALEM, :** The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog travelled on Monday to Iran, where his agency faces increasing difficulty in monitoring the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing nuclear programme as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war.

Rafael Mariano Grossi already has warned Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the agency can't guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges may have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment.

Those challenges now find themselves entangled in attacks between Israel and Iran, with the city of Isfahan apparently coming under Israeli fire in recent weeks despite it being surrounded by sensitive nuclear sites. Grossi is likely to attend an Iranian nuclear conference there while on his two-day trip to Iran.

"Problems will not disappear," Grossi told an International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors'

meeting in March. "They will only get worse. So, we need to address this in a serious way."

Iranian media said Grossi arrived to Tehran would meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Monday afternoon. Grossi will travel to Isfahan on Tuesday before heading back to Vienna, where he plans to give an update to journalists there.

Tensions have grown between Iran and the IAEA since then-President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Since then, Iran has abandoned all limits the deal put on its programme and enriches uranium to 60 per cent purity - near weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

IAEA surveillance cameras have been disrupted, while Iran has barred some of the agency's most experienced inspectors.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials have increasingly threatened they could pursue atomic weapons.

"For us, making the atomic bomb is easier than not building atomic bomb," said Mahmoud Reza Aghamiri,

the chancellor of Tehran Shahid Beheshti University and a specialist in nuclear physics.

Iranian media quoted Aghamiri acknowledging Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had previously said making an atomic bomb is forbidden.

"But if his fatwa and viewpoint is changed, we have ability to build atomic bomb, too," Aghamiri added. Aghamiri's comments follow a drumroll of others by Iranian lawmakers, those in its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and a former head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran suggesting Tehran could build the bomb.

Iranian diplomats for years have pointed to Khamenei's preachings as a binding fatwa, or religious edict, that Iran wouldn't build an atomic bomb.

"We do not need nuclear bombs. We have no intention of using a nuclear bomb," Khamenei said in a November 2006 speech, according to a transcript from his office. "We do not claim to dominate the world, like the Americans, we do not want to dominate the

world by force and need a nuclear bomb. Our nuclear bomb and explosive power is our faith."

But such edicts aren't written in stone. Khamenei's predecessor, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued fatwas that revised his own earlier pronouncements after he took power following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. And anyone who would follow the 85-year-old Khamenei as the country's supreme leader could make his own fatwas revising those previously issued.

Meanwhile, tensions between Iran and Israel have hit a new high. Tehran launched an unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel after years of a shadow war between the two countries reached a climax with Israel's apparent attack on an Iranian consular building in Syria killed two Iranian generals and others.

Israel's own nuclear weapons program, widely known by experts though never acknowledged by the country, didn't deter Iran's assault. And now experts increasingly suggest Iran could pursue the bomb itself after a major attack on it.

## JAMMU CONTACTS

AIR LINES	
INDIAN AIRLINES CITY OFFICE	2542735
INDIAN AIRLINES AIRPORT	2431433
JET AIRWAYS CITY OFFICE	2574312
JET AIRWAYS AIR PORT	2453999
SPICE JET CITY OFFICE	2457154
SPICE JET AIRPORT	2431887
GO AIRLINES	2435668
PAWAN HANS CHOPPER	9419796280
ALL INDIA RADIO-JAMMU	
STATION DIRECTOR	2547936
INCHARGE NEWS	2546658
COOKING LPG GAS	
ADARSH GAS	2578014
APEX GAS	2474561
CHENAB GAS	2547633
GUL MOHAR GAS	2430835
JAGAT RAM & SONS	2505371
JAKFEED	2579343
JAY KAY GAS	2578299
KAMES WAR GAS	2580855
MAA VAISHNO DEVI GAS	2461270
RAVI NATH & BROTHERS	2450006
SACHDEVA BROTHERS	2578456
SHIVA GAS	2454679
SHIVANGI GAS	2577020
TAWI GAS	2548455
ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT	
BARI BRAHAMANA	220712
CANAL ROAD	2554147
GANDHI NAGAR	2430180
JANIPUR	2533828
NANAK NAGAR	2430776
PARADE	2542289
SATWARI CANTT	2432183
Chief Engineer PHE Jammu-	94191-29424
Executive Engineer PHE City Div. Jammu-	94191-88937
JE PHE Rehari/ Sarwal -	9086539524
FIRE STATION CONTROL ROOM 101	
CANAL ROAD	2554064
CITY	2544263
GANDHI NAGAR	2435283
GANGYAL	480026
JAMMU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
JUNCTION LINES	2474367
VICE CHAIRMAN	2474370
SECRETARY	2474371
TOWN PLANNER	2475402
DIRECT LAND ENGAGEMENT	2475137
S.E	2474370
CHIEF A/O	2474366
DIVISIONAL ARCHITECT	2474367
JAMMU MUNICIPALITY	
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER	2542192
JOINT COMMISSIONER	2546252
HEALTH OFFICER	2547440
HELP LINE	2571308, 2578503
MAYOR	2565028
DEPUTY MAYOR	2565027
EXECUTIVE ENGR	2549188
CUSTOMER CARE (MOBILE SERVICES)	
BSNL	9419024365
AIRTEL	99060-99060
AIRCEL	98580-12345
TATA INDICOM	92050-12345
RELIANCE	90180-90180
VODAFONE	97960-97960
POLICE-STATION	
PCR	100
PCR DODA	233530
PCR KATHUA	234311
PCR POONCH	220258
PCR RAJOURI	262515
PCR RAMBAN	266384
PCR REASI	245076
PCR SAMBA	246333
PCR UDHAMPUR	276915
AKHNOOR	252225
BAKSHI NAGAR	2580102
BARI BRAHAMANA	220240
BISHNAH	236021
JAJARKOTLI	2668008
CHANNI HIMMAT	2465164
CITY POLICE STATION	2543688
BUS STAND	2566499
BAHU FORT	2459777
BAKSHI NAGAR	2580102
BATHANDI	9419196270
DOMANA	2604214
GANDHI NAGAR	2430528
GANGYAL	2481204
JANIPUR	2624319
KATRA	2597344
GHAROTA	232010
KANACHACK	2615244
NAGROTA	2673025
NARWAL	2475444
NAWABAD	2565274
PACCA DANGA	2548610
PEER MITHA	2560100
R.S.PURA	250221
RAILWAY STATION	2474946
RESIDENCY ROAD	2543688
ROOP NAGAR	2597344
SATWARI	2430364
SAINIK COLONY	2668666
SIDHRA	2662094
TRIKUTA NAGAR	2475133
WOMEN CELL	2501537
POLITICAL PARTIES	
ABVP	2546441
BJP	2565596, 577036
CONGRESS	2578085
J&K PDF	9906308423
JANATA PARTY	2475888
NATIONAL CONFERENCE	2578010
PDP	2451228
PANTHA PARTY	2458488
SMAJWADI PARTY	2554145
PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA	
A.N.I	2457497
AAJ TAK	2435625
AMAR UJALA	2437102
BBC	2430909
CNN-IBN	2488099
DAILY EXCELSIOR	2537901
DANIK JAGRAN	2431172
DIRECTOR INFORMATION	2544076
GREATER KASHMIR	2459800
J.K CHANNEL	2430813
KASHMIR TIMES	2543676
N.D.TV	2548103
PRESS CLUB	2540397
PUNJAB KESARI	2432489
STATE TIMES	2573691
TAKE ONE	2462017
TRULY TIMES	2566745
THE LATEST	2560975
U.N.I	2549091
ZEE NEWS	2461959
RAILWAY ENQUIRY	
JAMMU	2471309
UDHAMPUR	270197
SRINAGAR	2457303
ROAD WAYS	
BUS STAND	2577078
TAXI STAND	
TAXI STAND (TRC)	2546266
RTO	2473464
TOURISM DEPARTMENT	
DIRECTOR	2520409
JOINT DIRECTOR	2520432
DY. DIRECTOR	2548172
TOURIST RECEPTIONS CENTERS	
TOURIST RECEPTIONS JAMMU	2579554
TOURIST RECEPTIONS CENTER SRINAGAR	2452890
TOURIST AIR PORT	2431917
TOURIST RAILWAYS	2476078
T.R.C BATOTE	0198244243
T.R.C.GULMARG	
01954254439	T.R.C SRINAGAR
T.R.C KOKARANG	0194242690
01991232005	T.R.C TANG MARG