

Several delegations call on Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: A delegation of persons with disabilities led by Girdhari Lal Raina, MLC, met Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan today.

Raina apprised Governor about the various serious difficulties which are being faced by specially abled persons and requested that an effective mechanism should be put in place for issuing disability certificates; reservation in jobs for disabled Kashmiri migrants; the existing Co-ordination Committee on Disability, constituted under the J&K Person's With Disability Act 1998, should be renamed as the State Advisory Board under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016; provision of disability friendly infrastructure in all public places, transport and educational institutes; early passage of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016; formulation of a policy on Disability Rights; census of persons with Disabilities; renewal of State Welfare Trust Act 2015 for benefit of people with Autism, Mental Disability, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disability; persons with Disability should be issued unique disability identity proof under Swavlamban Scheme of

Govt. of India; appointment of full time Director for Composite Regional Centre; reservation for disabled in Legislative Council; implementation of job reservation for disabled in Universities; paralympic committee in J&K should be headed by persons with disabilities only and cover all districts in J&K under Special Olympics Bharat and Khelo India schemes; and enhancement in social security pensions.

Governor observed that he would address the Social Welfare Minister about the demands of the delegation.

A 16 member delegation of the Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIS), led by its President Pt. R.K. Bhat also met Governor.

The members of the delegation requested Governor's intervention to expedite filling of 6000 posts reserved for Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Government departments as per Prime Minister's Employment Package; reservation of 2-4 % in Central Government jobs and educational institutes for displaced KP youth; one time compensation in favour of KP Migrants who have crossed the upper age limit; treating all Valley Posted Migrant Employees at par with the other Kashmiri migrants till full

proof security arrangements by Central Security Forces are made at every transit Camp, relocation of transit Camps at Hawl and Nutunsoo; establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas/ State run Government schools manned by migrant teachers; provision of scholarships to wards of such employees and provision of risk allowance for migrant employee posted in the Valley; creation of a separate district for KPs till their return to Valley; grant of minority status to KPs; political reservation for KPs in State Assembly and Central Parliament.

Governor assured the delegation that their demands will be taken up with Union Home Minister.

Among others delegation included Padam Shri K.N. Pandita; P.L. Koul Badgami; Retd. Justice B.L. Saraf; A.K. Diwani and Pran Pandita.

A delegation of International Human Rights Protection Council, led by its President A.N. Bharadwaj apprised Governor about the activities undertaken by the Council, which included projecting issues relating to the minorities, negating Pakistan's propaganda to cause communal tension in J&K etc.

They demanded thorough probe against the individuals and organisations who are involved in anti State propaganda.

Governor appreciated the Council's continuing efforts to highlight important issues of public interest and urged Bharadwaj and his colleagues to continue their ground work.

Prof. R.R. Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu also called on Governor and discussed several important issues relating to the challenges which are presently facing the higher education sector in J&K and the possible steps which could enhance the standard of teaching.

Governor also sought Prof. Sharma's views about the manner in which the Universities could beneficially utilise the graded autonomies granted to them by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Kashmiris want to carry forward Modi's mission of peace: Khanna

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 16: Huge gathering of youth attended the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) convention here today.

The convention was addressed by national vice president of BJP incharge J&K, State general secretary (Org), Ashok Koul and State general secretary, incharge Kashmir, Dr Narinder Singh and Sofi Yousuf senior party leader and

Koul said. Koul also said that it is our duty to carry forward the youth of Kashmir. "We joined hands, our hearts are also open to support Kashmiri,"

Dr Narinder Singh, while addressing the gathering said "BJP has led the country as well as J&K State on peace and prosperity in its short duration, which proved right in present times,". Singh said the huge gathering



BJP leaders at a convention of BJYM at Srinagar on Monday.

MLC.

Addressing the convention, Avinash Rai Khanna said the massive gathering here indicates the youth of Kashmiris want to carry the mission of peace and prosperity initiated by the present Government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

He said the three years rule of BJP Government in the State led to the prosperity and the present gathering indicates Kashmir is limping to prosperity. "Some elements want to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere created by BJP for their vested interests," Khanna said. He expressed his happiness by saying the lotus is in full bloom in Kashmir.

Ashok Koul also said BJYM wants to carry the mission of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. "India's future is sitting here", he said while pointing towards the gathering. "Despite hardships and tough circumstances Kashmiri youth didn't lose hope and want to live with India for prosperity,"

attending BJP convention is the outcome of present peaceful situation in Valley.

In his address MLC Sofi Yousuf said that ever since National Democratic Alliance (NDA) took over the reigns of Union Government, it is working towards India's transformation to make it a strong nation. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is writing a different story of India's strength wherein resilience of the Indian growth story has also been acknowledged world over.

Avinash Rai Khanna also took the meeting of Vistaraks and expressed happiness over their activities, he said "I am happy to see our party people are dedicated to strength party at gross root level". Khanna said Vistaraks teams will spread the awareness of different Government schemes meant for the welfare of general public.

Union Cabinet Secy reviews progress on rural electrification

*CS assures coverage of remaining villages by Apr 25

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Union Cabinet Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Sinha today reviewed the status of implementation of the rural electrification programme with the Chief Secretaries of various States.

Chief Secretary J&K, B B Vyas also attended the meeting through video conferencing. Commissioner Secretary, Power Development Department, Hirdesh Kumar was also present on the occasion.

Giving details of the progress made so far under the programme to electrify the un-electrified villages in the State, the Chief Secretary informed that works are underway for their timely completion as desired by the Prime Minister.

He informed the Cabinet Secretary that to take the material to the hilly areas of Kishtwar district, Indian Air Force was requested who conducted 29 sorties to dump the material to the required places.

The Cabinet Secretary urged the States including J&K to complete the electrification of all remaining villages by or before ending April 2018.

B B Vyas ensured the



DyCM Dr Nirmal Singh chairing Board of Directors meeting of JDA on Monday.

DyCM for time bound completion of Jammu development projects

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today directed the officers to ensure time bound completion and strictly adhere to the set time lines for various prestigious projects being undertaken in Jammu by the JDA.

Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at the 80th Board of Directors meeting of the Jammu Development Authority here today.

The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner Hous-ing and Urban Development, KB Agarwal, Principal Secretary Finance, Navin Chowdhary, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Hemant Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Vice Chairman JDA, Commissioner Jammu Municipality and other senior officers.

Dr. Singh, while reviewing the progress on projects, said that regular meetings should be held in order to remove bottlenecks, if any, to speed up the pace of work so that people can see development taking place at ground level. He directed for making an inventory of assets of the authority especially records of total land holdings and that which has been retrieved from un-author-

ized occupants in the recent past. He said that it would ensure that the encroachment of the land of JDA is checked and controlled.

Deputy Chief Minister also directed for coming up with a holistic policy by virtue of which the housing needs of the burgeoning population can be addressed.

While reviewing the development of Tawi River Front Project, Dr Singh asked the officers to ensure its speedy completion as it is one of the most important beautification projects of the city besides ensuring that the river embankments are properly strengthened. He said that feasibility report and a detailed project report have been formulated for the project and officers should work in close coordination with the concerned for ensuring its timely completion.

Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the modernization/development of general bus-stand/multi level car parking complex coming up at the general bus-stand and directed the officers to ensure its time bound completion. He said the shopkeepers, who are getting displaced on account of the project, should be adequately rehabilitated.

The meeting also discussed various other issues like construction of flatted accommodation at Muthi, development of housing colony at Pargalta, (Bajalta) under PPP mode, construction of 1008 EWS houses/flats at Muthi, Udheywala, Nagrota and Majeen under Pradhan Mantri Awas Mission

Yojana, development of Jammu city alongwith river downstream of 4th Tawi bridge upto Bhagatpur Kukriyan, preparation of zonal plans of Jammu area, regularization of the services of employees working in the organization, providing of police contingent to the JDA for anti encroachment drives, strengthening and reorganization of JDA.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister attended a mega event Duggar-dey-Rang season-II organized by group 'The Performers' at Kala Kendra.

Minister of State for Education and Culture, Priya Sethi was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government is doing its bit in ensuring proper projection and propagation of rich heritage as well as cultural traditions, adding that now the onus lies on the people, several cultural organizations to supplement the efforts. He said that several cultural programmes and festivals of international repute have also been organized in the recent past, which provide much needed platform to our upcoming talent to perform alongside several prominent and legendary artists of the globe.

The traditional Dogra marriage and related functions were showcased in the programme besides a photo exhibition of S. K. Soi was also organized on the occasion.

Deputy Chief Minister later distributed mementos among the participating artists as well as the artists.

Lawyers to resume work in all courts

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu has decided to resume work but will continue agitation with various ways and means.

The decision to resume work was taken in the meeting of general house held under the presidency of Senior Advocate B S Slathia.

The general house decided that work shall be resumed temporarily by the lawyers in all the courts in due deference of the notice dated 13-04-2018 issued by the Supreme Court and also the request made by the Bar Council of India and Registrar General of the High Court of J&K.

However, it was declared that

Moti Lal Kemmu passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Padamshri, Moti Lal Kemmu a doyen of the theatre in Jammu and Kashmir and former Additional Secretary J&K Academy breathed his last here yesterday after a prolonged illness. He was cremated this afternoon at Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground near, here.

A large number of people including art lovers, scholars and theatre personalities attended his last rites and gave a touching adieu to him.

Kemmu, 85 is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter. He is the grand father of Kunal Kemmu a Bollywood actor.

Kemmu, recipient of many

the agitation would be intensified in furtherance of general house resolution dated 04-04-2018 and with the latest mandate of the civil society group on 15-04-2018, with new ways and means for which an Action Committee would be constituted.

While addressing the general house, B S Slathia criticized the role of the national media in portraying the agitation in favour of the accused in the Kassana rape and murder case. "Jammu region is facing a serious existential crisis which is under a threat of demographic change for which not only the members of the Association but all the civil society have to be united", he said while highlighting many other issues which are a challenge to the society of Jammu.

national and State awards has bagged the prestigious Shahtya Akademi Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Communal Harmony Award, Senior Citizens Award etc. He got four awards from four different presidents of India for his contribution to theatre and art.

Kemmu an author of many books on theatre gained popularity after bringing Kashmiri folk theatre Band Pather and Gosani Pather to limelight. He remained associated with theatre up to last and only gave it up one year back after his health broke down completely.

Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has condoned the demise of Kemmu whom she described a well known theatre activist and playwright.

The Chief Minister who also is the president of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages said the contribution of late Kemmu to Kashmiri theatre would always be remembered. She has conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

The Kashmiri Department of University of Kashmir also held a condolence meeting under the chairmanship of HoD Kashmiri, Prof Majroo Rashid in which the services of Kemmu to theatre were recalled. The gathering paid glowing tributes to departed soul.

WEATHER

JAMMU :
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 23.9 Degree C
Min: 21.9 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 44.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 61.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 07.02 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday: 06.00 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 17.4 Degree C
Min: 11.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 90.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 72.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 18.3 Degree C
Min: 2.6 Degree C

PCC discusses present political, security scenario in State

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 16: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) today discussed the present political and security scenario in the State.

A meeting of senior leaders and functionaries of PCC was held in this connection under the chairmanship of PCC president GA Mir here today.

The senior leaders of the party including vice-presidents, general secretaries, Legislators of Jammu province and heads of party's frontal organisations attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the organizational affairs and current political and security scenario in the State.

PCC chief briefed the meeting about the ongoing and future programmes as per AICC directions to gear up the party activities in different parts of the State keeping in view the preparations of the party for the political and other challenges. He said that certain communal and divisive forces are posing great danger to the social and secular fabric of the State especially Jammu region for the vested interests.

Certain opportunist political

forces in the State are also trying to add fuel to the fire. He cautioned the party cadres to be aware of these conspiracies and defeat their designs in order to maintain the secular fabric and strengthen the unity and integrity of the State. The meeting also chalked out programmes for the party activities for coming days.

The meeting was attended by Sham Lal Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma (Ex-MP), Tara Chand (Ex-DyCM), Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, GM Saroori, Kanta Bhan, RS Chib, Ravinder Sharma, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Rajnish Sharma, Thakur Balwan Singh, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Vikram Malhotra, S Manjeet Singh, Th. Manmohan Singh, Shah Mohammad Choudhary, Namrata Sharma, Faqir Nath, Ch Mohd Akram (MLA), MLCs Th Balbir Singh, Rani Gargi Baloria, Indu Pawar (Mahila Congress chief), KK Pangotra (Legal Cell head), Shiv Kumar Sharma (INTUC), Pranav Shagotra (PYC), Hira Lal Pandita (KP), Balwinder Singh Sambyal (Seva Dal), Raqueeb Ahmad Khan (NSUI) and S Gurdarshan Singh (Minority Cell).

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