

# Altaf reviews implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Minister for Finance and Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today reviewed the implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations for the State Government employees and pensioners as per the announcement made earlier in the budget session.



Minister for Education & Finance Altaf Bukhari chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held for issuance of relevant SRO regarding implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations. Minister was informed that arrangements are being made for implementing the 7th Pay Commission for State Government employees and pensioners.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to make it effective in the next month as per the commitment made by the Government in budget 2018-19. "We will fulfil the promises

made by the Government with employees and pensioners and we are going to issue the relevant SRO for implementation of 7th Pay Commission in the next month," he added.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary Finance, Navin Kumar Choudhary, and other seniors officers of the Finance Department.

Earlier, the Minister convened a meeting to review the functioning of Excise Department, which was attended by Principal Secretary Finance, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Excise Commissioner, DC Excise and other officers of the

department.

During the meeting, the Minister was apprised about the working of the department and revenue collected at toll entries and also discussed the targets of the department set for the next financial year and the achievements made during the current financial year.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to work in a coordinated manner and to put maximum efforts to make the department more vibrant and effective and efficient.

Later, the Minister also chaired a meeting of J&K Bank officials to review the functioning of the J&K Bank and directed the concerned to make it a more profitable organisation and to streamline the operations and its workflow besides making it more adaptable and flexible.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary Finance, Chairman JK Bank, Parvez Ahmad and other officers of the JK Bank and Finance Department.

# Tassaduq for making Hari Parbat Fort cynosure of Srinagar city tourism

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Minister for Tourism, Tassaduq Hussain Mufti has stressed on making Hari Parbat Fort cynosure of Srinagar city to attract tourists from across the globe.

The Minister said while chairing a meeting of consultants regarding the implementation of light and sound show project at Hari Parbat Fort and Bagh-i-Sadiq in the city.

He issued instructions to the concerned authorities to initiate necessary measures for setting up light and sound show at these tourist places, besides maintaining its rich heritage. Mufti directed for creating projection shows, projection mapping, archival presentation and three dimensional (3D) projection mapping at the place to educate the audience about the pristine glory of the heritage.

The Minister was apprised that the measures are being taken to install high technology modern light equipment at these place as key tourist attraction. He directed the concerned to synergize their efforts so that the requisite results are achieved within the stipulated timeframe and also get necessary feedback about the status of work and implementation of these initiatives on the ground.

He also directed for ensuring quality staff service conditions on ground so that they could present the sound and light shows in a more professional manner, besides asking for coordination and cooperation among departments so that target achieving mechanism can be initiated.

Deputy Planning Tourism Jammu, Assistant Director Tourism Jammu (M&W) and various other officials of the concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Minister of State for Tourism Priya Sethi was also present in the meeting. The consultants presented a comprehensive Power Point Presentation in the regard. Tassaduq Mufti stressed preserving and promoting the pristine glory of the monument so that it emerges as an epitome of Kashmiri heritage magnificence. Firmly entrenched in the past, the fort can attract large number of domestic as

well as international tourists, he said.

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# Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Marg Charri Yatra flagged-off Revival of ancient route to connect people with cultural moorings: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

NAGROTA, Mar 24: Describing Nagrota as Yogabhoomi or the ancient gateway to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on Trikuta Hills, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today called for revival of the ancient route, blessed with most revered temples and worship places, to connect the posterity with their spiritual and cultural moorings.

"Treading the heritage route, passing through Jagdamba Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple - Jagti, Durga Mata Temple - Pangali, Shiv Temple - Thandapani - Drabi, Shiv Shakti Temple, Raja Mandalek Temple - and Raja Nowalgarh Temple - Marh, Drabi, Kali Mata Temple - Gundla Talab, Ram Darbar, Shiv Temple- Bamyal, Oli Temple Chhapanoo-Bamyal, the devout will be backing home after paying obeisance at the Durbar of the Mata with an enlightenment they have been searching all their life", Rana said while flagging off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Pavitar Charri Yatra from Kol Kandoli Mata from here this morning.

He highlighted the religious, spiritual and secular characteristics of the ancient route, saying while it takes off amid serene and spiritual ambience of the highly revered Kol Kandoli Mata Temple, the pilgrimage progresses via Nomin, where the Jyot (holy light) is carried by white turban bedecked Gujjars over their heads.

Interacting with the devotees and the locals, the MLA Nagrota said that restoration and promotion of ancient road link to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine will prove as a game-changer for bringing Nagrota at the central stage of Jammu's heritage landscape. He hoped this to eventually transform the entire constituency as an economic hub.

In this context, Rana referred to the relentless initiative of the people and said that their support enabled him to get the historic road link between Bamyal and Devi Mai via Oli-Mandir and construction of bridge sanctioned.

He said that he had all along



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana flagging off Charri Yatra from Nagrota on Saturday.

been wondering as to why this monumental heritage route has suffered neglect for decades even though the bliss of revered shrine on Trikuta Hills had transcended continents. "We have been envisioning restoration of this route and the firm resolve of the people have made it possible to undertake the pilgrimage through the Pracheen or ancient route", Rana said, hoping the effort will get momentum in years to come.

The MLA exuded confidence that Nagrota constituency will also be a major beneficiary of the world renowned pilgrimage, as the

ancient route offers spiritual enlightenment to the devotees, thronging from various parts of the country and even abroad.

Prominent among those present at the flag-off ceremony included Randeep Singh President Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pracheen Margh Pavitar Chhari Yatra, Ashok Kumar, Kartar Chand, Vice President, Jagdish Raj Secretary, Harbans Lal, Girdhari Lal, Uttam Singh, Dr. Manzoor Choudhary, Nazir Ahmed, Ram Singh, Sher Singh, Master Parshotam, Habib Hussain, Rajesh Kumar and Rattan Lal.

# Ex-Dy Chairman LC bereaved

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Pradesh Congress Committee has deeply condoled the sad demise of Sarbans Kour, mother of senior Congress leader, Arvinder Singh Micky - former Dy Chairman Legislative Council.

Family sources said that Kour was 90, suffered cardiac arrest at her residence and passed away during early hours today.

She survived by 4 daughters who are married and settled abroad and son, Micky Congress leader. Her elder son S. Balwinder Singh Bali was also senior Congress leader and had expired at young age.

PCC chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir and many senior leaders of the party have condoled the sad demise of late Sarbans Kour and conveyed their condolences to S. Arvinder Singh Micky and other family members. Prominent among others who condoled the sad demise included Sham Lal Sharma, CLP leader N. Rigzin Jora, Madan Lal Sharma (ExMP), Tara Chand (Ex-Dy CM), former ministers Mohd Sharief Niaz, Mula Ram, Raman Bhalla, RS Chib, Majid Wani, GN Monga (MLC), GM Saroori (MLA),

Ravinder Sharma-chief spokesman PCC; Rajnish Sharma, Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, Shabir Ahmed Khan, S. Manjit Singh, Shah Mohammad Choudhary, Vikram Malhotra, Manmohan Singh, Shah Nawaz Choudhary, Namrata Sharma, Faqir Nath, Hari Singh, Gh Haider Sheikh, Swam Lata, Prakash Sharma, Shiv Dev Singh, GL Chalotra, Ashok Sharma, Ch. Zaffarullah, Mohd Aslam Goni, Jahangir Mir, YV Sharma, Maheshwar Singh, KK Bhagat, Amolak Singh, MK Bhardwaj, Kuldeep Raj Verma, Subash Gupta, Pranav Shagotra, BS Sambhal, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Ashwani Puri, Gurdarshan Singh, HL Pandita, Neeraj Gupta, Shashi Sharma, Pawan Raina, Manjeet Singh Jatt, Narinder Sharma and Nadim Sharief Niaz.

Veteran Congress leaders Dharam Pal Sharma(Ex-MP), Amrit Malhotra(Ex-Chairman Legislative Council), S. Gurmukh Singh (Ex-Dy Chairman Legislative Council) also deeply condoled the death of Sardami Sarbans Kour and conveyed their heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

# Sat kick-starts development works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: BJP State president & MLA Sat Sharma kickstarted macadamization work in Pooran Nagar area of Bhagwati Nagar and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Canal Road, Jammu, falling under Jammu West Constituency.

While speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that the internal roads of a city work as the lifeline of the township. He termed the clean and clear roads as the hallmark of a progressive area. He said that the maintenance of the roads is the collaborative responsibility of the inhabitants as well as the administration. Roads serve not only as the means of providing an ease of access for the transportation and commuting but also as the parameter of well flourishing business for the region.

Sat Sharma, while giving the details of the present macadamization work, said that the present work at the Pooran Nagar, Ward No. 14, Bhagwati Nagar will be executed with the help of Public Works Department

(PWD). The road will be constructed with the cost of around Rs 11 lakh. The road will benefit not just the local masses but also the population of adjoining areas who daily use the route, he added.

Local prominent persons thanked the MLA for his concern towards the area. They said that this road has been laid after a gap of nearly 20 long years, which will surely make things easier for the inhabitants.

Sat Sharma also started the macadamization work in the Government Girls High School, Canal Road. The patch covered here is of 200 meters in length, which was a long pending demand of the concerned. The Principal of the school appreciated the concern of MLA which is evident from MLA's continued visits and works for various schools of the region.

Officers & officials of PWD, District president Ayodhya Gupta, Mandal President Jeet Angral, Puneet Mahajan, Deepak Kumar, Sahil Sharma, Asha Sharma and others were amongst the prominent persons who accompanied the MLA.

# IGNOU Regional Centre organizes Coordinators' meet

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Indira Gandhi National Open University, Regional Centre Jammu organized one-day annual meeting of Coordinators and Programme Incharges of all the Learner Support Centres under Jammu Region, here today at Jammu University.

The Coordinators and Programme Incharges from various Learner Support Centres, including Doda, Padder, Bhalessa, Rajouri, Poonch, Kharta (Kishenpur), Katra, Patnitop, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Gool, Mahore, Ramban, etc, participated in the meeting.

Regional Director I/C, Vikram Singh, informed on the occasion that the Regional Centre Jammu has achieved the benchmark of registering 50,000 students in the current financial year 2017-18. He elaborated about the number of initiatives that the University has taken for the benefit and welfare of students.

The Coordinators and Programme Incharges had an interactive session with the Regional Centre functionaries in which several issues related to the functioning of Learner Support Centres was discussed. Besides this, various issues pertaining to Student Support Services were discussed and necessary strategies were planned on the spot to improve the quality of support services being provided to the learners at the Study Centre level.

Some of the Coordinators projected their views and experi-



IGNOU RC Jammu Coordinators and staff who attended annual meet.

ences with the help of power point presentations. These included Prof. P K Rao, Coordinator SC 1206, Govt. Degree College, Kathua, Prof P L Suri, Coordinator SC 12119, Bhartiya College of Education, Udhampur, Prof Ved Kumar, Assistant Coordinator SC 1250, Govt Degree College (Boys), Udhampur.

Dr Sandeep Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, explained about various activities pertaining to student support services, admissions, examinations, empanelment of Academic Counsellors, etc.

Dr Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director, explained about the activities pertaining to the conduct of Counselling, Tutor Mark Assignments, monitoring of support services, etc.

Tejinder Pal Singh, Assistant Registrar, alongwith his team comprising of Dara Singh, Section Officer, Lakhbir Singh, Sweetey Gupta and Naveen Dutta, discussed about remuneration, renewal of part-time staff at LSCs, discrepancies in submission of bills, revision of payment norms and other issues related to accounts

and finance in an interactive session.

Rakesh Koul from the Regional Centre informed about various measures being taken to reduce the grievances related to despatch and distribution of study material to students directly from the New Delhi Headquarters.

Rupesh Pandita from the Regional Centre demonstrated about online services and Regional Centre website.

S Tejinder Pal Singh presented vote of thanks.

# Parihar takes stock of public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Doda Shakti Raj Parihar convened a public meeting at village Dulyoug in Udhyanpur panchayat today and listened demands of the people.

MLA was accompanied by ADC Doda Pawan Parihar, DFO Doda, CPO Doda, District Social

Welfare Officer Doda, SE PHE, DEPO Doda Exn PMGSY, PHE, Irrigation and FC, and other district and sectoral officers.

Speaking on the occasion ADC Doda Pawan Parihar highlighted various schemes and programs meant for the development and welfare of the rural communities and asked the people to take benefit of such schemes.

Addressing the gathering MLA said that the Coalition Government is committed to safeguard the integrity and diverse culture of the State. He asked the people to rise above the party politics and shun all types of prejudice so as to ensure

the active participation in the proper implementation of various projects and schemes meant for the development and welfare of general public. "The timely completion of various developmental works is not possible without the active participation of the locals", he added.

In response to various issues and problems being highlighted by the people, Parihar said that



MLA Doda Shakti Raj Parihar addressing public meeting at village Dulyoug in Udhyanpur Panchayat.

all the genuine issues and demands of the people will be redressed and fulfilled at the earliest possible. He asked the concerned executing agencies to complete all the ongoing construction works in a time bound manner and also directed the DEPO Doda to expedite measures to overcome the shortage of teaching staff in Government schools in the area.

Vipan Sharma General Secretary Organization, Ikhlq Wani District President Minority Morcha, Bachan Sharma Mandal Pardhan, Kashmir Singh, Majeed Bhandari and various others were present on the occasion.

While addressing the media persons at Party office Udhampur today, former MLA expressed his gratitude to the people who par-

ticipated in the 36th Foundation Day of the Party at Jammu and also informed that he called on Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti a day before and submitted a memorandum highlighting various urgent issues related to general public for early redressal.

Mankotia said he asked Chief Minister to provide the necessary security to the Panthers Party leaders and also withdraw the fake FIR's registered against them and specially the party chairman.

He highlighted the issue of Saddal villagers who are worst sufferers of natural calamity in 2014 and district administration

# Mankotia demands CBI probe into Rasana case

\*Distt status to Ramnagar, Nowshera, Billawar

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: NPP president and former MLA from Udhampur, Balwant Singh Mankotia has demanded a CBI probe into Rasana case and also urged upon the Chief Minister to create new districts for Ramnagar, Nowshera, Billawar, Basohli, R S Pura and Akhnoor.

While addressing the media persons at Party office Udhampur today, former MLA expressed his gratitude to the people who par-

has not allotted land to the migrants of Saddal village of district Udhampur who were affected in September 2014 flash flood. NPP president demanded transfer of Rasana murder case to CBI, as the ongoing investigation is not satisfactory and it will be favourable for both the communities.

The NPP president strongly demanded creation of new district for Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote, Billawar, Ramnagar, Basohli, RS Pura, Akhnoor and Surankote which is the need of hour to address the grievances of the people.

Mankotia asked CM to take cognizance & take necessary action soon in favour of long pending genuine demands of Anganwari workers / helpers and SPOs to release the pending wages and also enhance their honorarium. He also demanded to fulfill the long pending demands of contractual lectures.

He urged the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to take up the matter to the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India to bring back the dead body of Shamsheer Singh, son of Mohan Singh, resident of Panchayat Kernal Danga, Udhampur who died on March 16, 2018 in Malaysia.

Mankotia demanded early constitution of the Delimitation Commission for rotation/re-adjustment/enhancement of the Assembly seats of Jammu region as mentioned in Agenda of Alliance.



NPP president B S Mankotia addressing a press conference in Udhampur on Saturday.

# First convocation of IIM Jammu held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Indian Institute of Management Jammu conducted its first convocation here today, wherein 47 pass out students were awarded the Post Graduate Diploma in Management.

Shakti Sinha, Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library New Delhi was the chief guest while Sriram Dandekar, Chairman, Board of Governors, Prof Ajit Prasad, (Mentoring Director, Prof Anadi Pande, Convener, faculty members, staff and others were present on the occasions.

Along with the diplomas, few medals were also awarded to the students for securing the top ranks in academic and scholastic performance. Chairman's Gold

Medal was awarded to Supriya while Director's Medal for securing 2nd rank was given to Diya Malikarjun Chittee and PGP Chairman's Medal for securing 3rd rank was awarded to Modi Surabhi Chandrakant.

On this occasion, chief guest, and other speakers guided the students to apply ethical principles in their professional journey. They also emphasised that nation building is an important task wherein students of premiere management institutions like IIM Jammu can significantly contribute.

The convocation was closed with the view that we all should contribute for betterment of society, economy and business sustainability with the purpose which transcends the self-interests.

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