



Minister for Rural Development, Ali Mohammad Sagar interacting with Sarpanchs and Panchs at Srinagar on Tuesday.

PRIs ensured democratic decentralization of power: Sagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 23: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ali Mohammad Sagar today said that the Government has already empowered the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with the powers of 14 vital departments besides putting in place a mechanism to ensure that these are fully implemented at ground level.

The Minister was interacting with a deputation of Panchs and Sarpanchs of Kulgam area led by MLC Abdul Majid Bhat.

Mr. Sagar said that by putting in place a vibrant Panchayati Raj System, the Government has ensured democratic decentralization of powers and the people at the grass root level are involved in policy formulation and implementation. He said that these pan-

chayats have also been fully empowered with the powers of different departments and a senior officer has been nominated as a nodal officer to oversee that the orders of empowerment are implemented in letter and spirit.

Orders have already been passed to the officers of the different departments to involve the Sarpanchs and Panchs of their particular areas in implementation and formulation of various welfare programmes so that need based development of these areas is ensured, the Minister maintained.

The Minister said that certain parties in a state of frustration are now trying to negate the achievements registered by the Government in different fields of development. He said that the developmental activities initiated by the Government have been responsible for changing

the socio-economic profile of the people of the State especially those living in rural and far-flung areas.

Mr. Sagar said that the people should not pay heed to the divisive propaganda of certain

forces who are trying to disrupt the peaceful environs of the State and defeat their nefarious designs.

Ensure regular water, power supply: Malhotra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: A number of deputations called on the Chairman, Legislative Council, Amrit Malhotra and apprised him about the problems they are facing in getting basic needs.

The Chairman gave patient hearing to them and assured to address their genuine problems. He said instructions would be issued to the divisional administration and concerned officers for ensuring regular water and power supply in Jammu.

Meanwhile, Mr Malhotra also instructed the authorities of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution Department (CA&PD) to make available adequate quantity of essentials including cooking gas and kerosene oil on the Government run depots and Fair Price shops in view of ensuing Holy month of Ramadhan and forthcoming Eid.

Work remains suspended in all courts

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: The work remained completely suspended in all the courts including High Court against the decision of the Commercial Taxes Department to impose service tax on advocates as consultants.

The decision to observe token strike was taken in a meeting of J&K High Court Bar Association held under the chairmanship of its president MK Bhardwaj.

Meanwhile, Tax Bar Association, Bar Associations of Samba, Udhampur, Reasi and Kathua districts including other associations in the Mufassil Courts also observed the strike.

Bhardwaj appealed the Government not to levy service tax on Advocates as they do not fall in the category of consultants.

DC reviews implementation of mid-day-meal scheme

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, July 23: District Development Commissioner, Samba, R.K. Varma on Tuesday reviewed the implementation of mid day meal scheme in a meeting with officers of Education Department.

The DDC directed the Chief Education Officer to ensure that proper hygiene is maintained in the school kitchen besides cleanliness of serving and cooking utensils. He also asked him to make sure that the food and other material used in the kitchen is not infested or contaminated.

It was informed in the meeting that, at present, there are 493 schools in the district where the Mid-Day Meal Programme is being implemented covering about 11759 students.

The DDC further instructed the Chief Education Officer and ZEOs to pay regular visits to these schools for effective and transparent implementation of this vital programme in the district.

SC upholds J&K HC decision on illegal admissions

*Pvt BEd College to pay Rs 1.46 cr compensation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Supreme Court Bench comprising Justice A K Patnaik and Justice FMI Kalifullah today upheld the order of Jammu and Kashmir High Court directing private BEd College to pay Rs 1.46 crore compensation to 292 students and decision of the Jammu University against regularizing illegal admissions.

Divya College of Education had sought regularization of 292 illegal admissions but the same was opposed by the University of Jammu on the grounds that admission to BEd course in private BEd colleges and allotment of students to various colleges were to be made in accordance with the University Statutes and that too through process of centralized counselling by Central Admission Committee of the University and Private BEd colleges have no authority in terms of University Statutes to make admission on their own.

Aggrieved over the decision of Jammu University, Divya College knocked the doors of the High Court against the decision of the University. However, High Court, in the landmark judgment, upheld the decision of University of Jammu not to regularize 292 illegal admissions made by Divya College of Education in violation of Statutes of the University and directed the college to consider payment of reasonable compensation of Rs 50,000 each to 292 students. The High Court also

advised the Jammu University and other varsities granting affiliation to Non-Government Colleges, to constitute high level committee to examine the matter and make recommendations for regulating distribution of selected students amongst the private BEd Colleges so as to ensure that they get fair share of admission made by Central Admission Committee having regard to their individual intake capacity so that a balance is struck between the total intake capacity and number of aspirants for the course.

However, the judgement of Single Judge was challenged by Divya College in the Division Bench. But, Division Bench comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice Dheeraj Singh Thakur too upheld the judgement of Single Judge.

However, the Division Bench termed the direction issued by the Single Judge to take fresh look at the policy of the University at the absolute discretion given to the students to opt for admission in the college of their choice as unsustainable.

Aggrieved over the decision of Division Bench, Divya College knocked the doors of the Supreme Court, which today dismissed the SLP. Senior Advocate V Shekhar appeared for the Divya College while as Advocates Waseem Sadiq Nargal and R Shekhar Rao appeared on behalf of the University of Jammu before the Apex Court.



Pilgrims proceeding towards holy cave of Swami Amarnath from Baltal on Tuesday.

Yatra crosses 3 lakh mark, 7,000 perform darshan

Avtar Bhat

SRINAGAR/JAMMU July 23: Though lowest batch of 706 pilgrims left from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu base camp to holy cave this morning, 7,097 pilgrims performed darshan of Swami Amarnath today from Baltal and Chandanwari tracks.

According to an official spokesman, 7,097 pilgrims drawn from different parts of the country performed darshan at holy cave till late this evening. With this the total number of pilgrims who performed darshan in cave shrine situated at an altitude of 3880 metres in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag in last 26 days has reached 3,06,527. Till yesterday, 2,99,430 pilgrims had performed darshan in holy cave, he added.

The spokesman said that the yatra was proceeding smoothly and weather to holy cave from both Baltal and Chandanwari tracks was pleasant.

He said majority of yatis returned to their home states while others are on their way. He said the yatis who performed their darshan in cave shrine today have also started their return journey to Baltal base camp and Pahalgam.

Those who returned via Baltal will reach the base camp late in the night while those who

Maj Gen Verma takes over as ADG NCC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Major General, Neeraj Verma, took over as the Additional Director General, National Cadet Corps, Jammu and Kashmir.

The post was vacated due to retirement of Maj Gen N S Jamwal, on 30 June 2013 who bid farewell to arms after 36 years of distinguished service.

General Neeraj Verma was commissioned in the Regiment of Artillery in June 1981 and since then has held numerous command and staff appointments. He commanded his Regiment in Northern Sector and an Artillery Brigade in the central sector.

Apart from being a professional soldier, the General is also a seasoned aviator and has flown extensively in the northern sector. He was the Deputy Director General of Army Aviation at integrated headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army) before taking over the present appointment.

In a brief ceremony held at NCC Directorate J&K, the NCC cadets of the State presented a guard of honour to welcome their new ADG.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 706 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for holy cave under tight security arrangements this morning in a cavalcade of 25 vehicles. They included 550 male, 116 female, 3 children and 37 Sadhus. This was the lowest batch of pilgrims which left for holy cave from Jammu since the first batch of yatra was flagged off on June 27, he added.

He said all the yatis had crossed the Jawahar tunnel by the evening and they were on way to their next destinations in Kashmir Valley where from they will leave for holy cave early tomorrow morning.

PHQ orders 66 promotions

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 23: Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters (PHQ) today issued promotion orders of 66 officers in Ministerial Executive (General) and Telecom Cadres with immediate effect.

Among the promoted officers are 14 Assistant Sub-Inspectors as Sub-Inspectors and 52 Head Constables as Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

The Director General of Police (DGP), Ashok Prasad has congratulated the promoted officers and has stressed upon them to rededicate themselves for public service with more zeal and dedication.

The promoted Sub-Inspectors of Ministerial Executive Cadre (General) are Mahajabeen Akhtar, Gulam Hyder Malik, Narinder Kumar, Neelam Kumari, Seema Bakshi, Jagmeet Kour, Daljeet Singh Manhas, Gulam Mohammad Sheikh, Madan Singh, Mohammad Maqbool Shah, Noor Mohammad Mir, Nisar Ahmed Zargar, Peerzada Mashkooor and Zahoor Ahmed Rafter.

The promoted Assistant Sub-

Inspectors in Telecom Cadre are Mohammad Shafi, Manzoor Ahmad, Abdul Hamid, Mohammad Iqbal, Nazir Hussain, Mukhtar Hussain, Sheshap Raj, Swarn Lata, Lalit Kumar, Javed Ahmed, Mukhtar Ahmad, Sukhdev Singh, Riyaz Ahmed, Mohinder Singh, Mohammad Amin, Rajinder Kumar, Mohammad Iqbal, Daleep Kumar, Sonam Tsomo, Mustaq Ahmed, Raju Kumar, Shehraj Ahmad, Abdul Rashid, Naresh Kumar, Gulam Mohammad, Naresh Kumar, Ashiq Hussain, Showkat Ahmed, Javid Hussain, Riyaz Ahmed, Mohammad Amin, Azad Bilal, Nisar Ahmed, Bashir Ahmad, Abdul Majeed, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Younis, Reyaz Ahmed, Sareer-u-Zaman, Nazir Ahmad, Sanjeev Zutshi, Mohammad Amin, Mohammad Altaf, Arshad Hussain, Tariq Nisar, Tariq Hussain, Showkat Ahmad, Khurshid Ahmed and Tariq Rashid. The promoted Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Telecom Cadre belonging to different reserved categories are Raj Kumar, Abdul Hafiz and Bushan Singh.

Protest in Jourian against Edu Deptt; road blocked

Excelsior Correspondent

AKHNOOR, July 23: Villagers from Bamaal area near Jourian held strong protest demonstration on Akhnoor-Jourian-Khour road, against the Education authorities and disrupted movement of traffic for over an hour today.

Reports said the villagers including Panchayat members put a lock on the local Primary School at Bamaal today and came out on the road to hold protest demonstration against the Zonal Education Officer concerned (Akhnoor) and Chief Education Officer, Director School Education and the Dy Chief Minister Tara Chand.

They raised barricades on the road and disrupted movement of traffic. The vehicular movement came to grind halt on this busy road. Panchs Roop Lal and Sunita Devi were leading the protest. The villagers alleged that local girl Nisha Devi, who was engaged as ReT teacher in

the Govt Primary School Bamaal about three and half years back, was asked by ZEO not to continue further as another girl had been engaged on her place. She was also asked not to put attendance in the register. She took up the matter with the Panchayat members, who took serious note of the issue. They pointed out that how a girl with high merit engaged as teacher under ReT by the Government panel and working for the last over three years can be disengaged with verbal directions by ZEO.

They placed a lock on the school, blocked the road and started raising slogans against ZEO and CEO Jammu besides DyCM Tara Chand and the DSE Jammu. Naib Tehsildar and SHO rushed to the spot and assured the people to take up the matter with the concerned authorities. The agitating people then lifted dharna at around 12.15 pm and allowed movement of traffic.

JK Bank appoints 1050 officers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 23: In its largest recruitment drive for officers, J&K Bank today appointed 1050 candidates for the post of Relationship Executive in the Bank.

Congratulating the successful candidates Chairman and CEO, Mushtaq Ahmad, said, "In this Platinum Jubilee year, I feel delighted to welcome the brightest of the young and energetic lot within the family fold of this great institution of the State. I believe these 1050 boys and girls would further enrich our talent pool and help us build our excellence in operations across the country."

The appointment of more than 1000 officers synchro-

nises well with the Bank's expanding footprint across the country while consolidating its processes of growth. The Bank's annual business has already passed Rs one lakh crore besides yearly profit of more than Rs 1000 crore.

Over 30,000 candidates had appeared for the examination held under the auspices of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) for the said posts while 35,000 aspirants had applied for the posts.

Notably, J&K Bank is the largest employer in J&K after the State Government. It has been generating enormous employment opportunities for the people through direct as well as indirect means.

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JCB engaged to raze infrastructure at illegal colony in Vijaypur area on Tuesday.

Bid to raise illegal colony foiled, infrastructure razed

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, July 23: The District Administration today foiled the attempt of M/s Dutta Builders of Paloura, Jammu to construct an 'illegal' colony near Gurha Slatia on Utterbehni Road in Vijaypur area of district Samba and razed the infrastructure and boards raised at the site.

The action was taken against the owner of the Dutta Builders after he did not respond to several warnings by the District and Tehsil Administration. On the orders of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, R K Varma, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Samba Ashwani Khajuria, Tehsildar Vijaypur Avtar Singh, Naib Tehsildar concerned, SHO Vijaypur Iqbal Choudhary along with some force and other Revenue officials reached at the site and smashed the infrastructure raised at nearly 80 kanal of land (colony), situated about 7 kms from National Highway on Utterbehni Road today. Using JCB and bulldozer, the team also razed the poles and other infrastructure. Some people of the builders escaped when the raid was conducted at the site.

A senior officer in the District Administration Samba said that builder, Rajan Dutta had raised boards and poles at his own without taking any permission from the concerned authorities. The markings had been raised and he had stated selling plots by making wide publicity through electronic and print media. He had not taken permission from concerned Revenue, PHE, PDD and allied agencies and moreover, the status of the land can not be changed even if the land belonged to a private party. Proper permission is needed from the competent authority.

A Naib Tehsildar along with staff had been sent to the site to stop the work about a week back. On some earlier occasions, the builder was asked not to indulge in unlawful/illegal activity but he did not bother and ultimately, Administration had to act in this regard. He also warned the people who are in the process of purchasing these plots or intend to purchase the same to be careful before making any deal. He said the legal action is also being initiated against the builder who was doing this all using some political influence.

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