

Anganwadi workers hold protest, oppose 6-hr duty

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: Strongly opposing the recently issued order of 6-hour duty by the State Social Welfare Department, Anganwadi workers and helpers held strong protest demonstration outside the Directorate at Roopnagar here today.



Anganwadi workers staging protest dharna at Jammu on Friday.

A large number of Anganwadi workers and helpers from various districts, under the banner of Anganwadi Workers Welfare Association, (a unit of Bhatiya Mazdoor Sangh), assembled in the office complex of Director Social Welfare Jammu here in the morning and started protest demonstration. They were opposing the order issued recently by the Directorate, regarding 6-hour duty instead of 4-hours as already prescribed under Central guidelines.

They alleged that these directions were against the spirit of ICDS scheme.

They shouted slogans in favour of their demands regarding roll back on the controversial order, release of pending salary and also providing salary in time, enhancement of wages of the workers and helpers. They staged strong dharna and protest for two-three hours.

Several speakers while addressing demanded that order be reviewed and only 4-hour duty be retained for the workers and if the Government wants 6-hour duty it should provide minimum Rs 11,000 wages to the Anganwadi workers. They said the ICDS scheme was launched on October 2, 1976, as Centrally sponsored scheme implemented through State Government with 100 per cent Central assistance. These workers are not holding any civil post or nor Minimum Wages Act is applicable to them and they perform average 4-5 hour duty per day but they are paid a meager wages. They threatened to hold protests at district and tehsil level.

Senior trade unionist from BMS Lakshman Ravinder Singh, Kamal Chand, Harbans Choudhary, Ashok Choudhary, association president Swarna Choudhary and Neelam Sharma (gen secy) addressed the gathering. They also submitted a memorandum to the Government seeking review of the order.

Mr. Kumar called for synergising Police-Public partnership groups and directed the territorial officers to conduct regular meetings with the general public in their area of responsibility. He stressed upon the District Officers to reach out to the common people particularly in the remote areas and seek their cooperation and assistance in curbing the menace of infiltration and checking the movement of terrorists besides maintenance of communal harmony and brotherhood.

He also asked the officers and jawans to keep their eyes and ears open against any threat from militants and other anti social elements in view of the forthcoming Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra.

On the occasion, detailed interaction was held with officers and jawans about their problems and other welfare measures. Individual and common issues concerning the welfare of officers and jawans were heard.

He advised the police officers to ensure humane approach while dealing with public and stressed upon the jawans that they should wear proper uniform and their turn-out must be standard while performing their duties.

He directed the officers to promptly respond to the public complaints and be friendly with the people. He also stressed them to avoid any human rights violations.

IGP was accompanied by DIG Udampur-Reasi Range Gareeb Dass and SSP Reasi, Raghuveer Singh.

Div Com tours Amarnath shrine route, reviews arrangements

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 31: Urging officers to adhere to the timeline for the conduct of smooth and successful Amarnathji Yatra this year, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Shalender Kumar today directed the concerned officers to expedite the clearance of routes via Pahalgam-Chandanwari, Chandanwari-Sheeshnag, Sheeshnag-Panjtarni and Panjtarni to holy cave.

Mr. Kumar alongwith senior officers of divisional administration besides Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board undertook a day long tour to inspect the pilgrimage route and the camp stations via Pahalgam route. He directed to put effective refractory mechanism in place to ensure that only those yatries who possessed valid yatra permits were allowed to undertake the yatra on the date and by the route for which they have procured yatra permits.

He also stressed upon the concerned officers for adequate facilities besides infrastructure and un-interrupted power and water supply, sanitation, medicare, Telecom facilities and transport facilities.

It was given out in the meeting that 100-mi buses and 450-Tata Sumos will be put in the service for the transport facilities available to the yatries from Pahalgam to Chandanwari.

District Development Commissioner, Anantnag, Dr. Farooq Ahmed Lone informed the meeting that adequate stocks of essentials including 950 quintals of rice, 800 quintals of aata, 450 quintals of sugar, 420 quintals of bran and 7000 cylinders of LPG besides 85800 litres of K. oil will be made available to the yatries. He also gave out that 13 medical aid centres besides 6

emergency medical centres will be established for the medicare facilities of the yatries.

Dr. Lone also informed that Municipal Committees of Qazigund, Anantnag, Pahalgam and Pahalgam Development Authority will ensure sanitation at the halting stations as well as on the track upto holy cave. As many as 7 camp officers have been deployed who will function as Duty Magistrates within their territorial jurisdiction during the yatra period.

Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board, Navin Kumar Chowdhary exhorted upon the officers to maintain discipline and put in coordinated efforts for

the conduct of smooth and incident free yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner directed officers of CA&PD to submit daily stock position of essentials during the yatra period and also asked for expediting the registration of ponies and labourers. He also directed the officials of Metrological Department to announce weather forecast after every three hours and the weather alerts will be communicated to the concerned officers instantly.

IGP, Kashmir, A. G. Mir, Directors and Chief Engineers of various departments besides divisional level officers of civil, police and para military forces attended the meeting.

Make anti-corruption institutions autonomous: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 31: Chief spokesperson, J&K BJP and National Executive Member, Dr Jitendra Singh stated here today that any long-term drive against corruption can prove effective only when it starts from the top and when the institutions to check corruption like State Accountability Commission (SAC) and State Vigilance Organization (SVO) are made fully autonomous and independent of Government control.

Dr Jitendra said this while responding to the Chief Minister's recent announcement to handover corruption cases against politicians and bureaucrats to SVC.

Dr Singh said that in order to restore its eroded credibility of the last four years, the State Government will have to redeem its image of acting only against middle-rung officials or middle-rung politicians, and will have to

be ready for an impartial inquiry against some of the notorious cases including the case of Haji Yousuf Shah who died under mysterious circumstances and the Jammu Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) scam.

Quoting figures, Dr Jitendra Singh said that pilferage of enormous funds obtained from the Center had adversely affected development works and economy of the State while filling coffers of handful few. Citing examples of other States, he said there is a lesson to learn from the fact that States like Gujarat and Punjab were contributing more than 10 % to country's overall Growth Rate while J&K instead of contributing to country's economy, was always asking for more from the Center on the pretext of militancy even though the Chief Minister claimed that militancy was under control and it was time to revoke AFSPA.

Youth of J&K have high potential to excel: Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 31: N. N. Vohra, Governor, has reiterated that the youth of the Jammu and Kashmir have very high potential if provided the enabling opportunities and called upon them to work

hard and compete for entry into the over two dozen All India and Central Services, each one of which plays an important role in the national administrative machinery.

The Governor was interacting with all those from J&K who qualified this year in the All India Civil Services Examination. He had invited them to Raj Bhavan this evening, along with a few others who joined the State cadre in the past 3 years, to felicitate them on their achievement.

The Governor observed that he was particularly happy to find that the number of boys and girls from the State who were successful in entering the All India Civil and Central Services has been progressively increasing year after year. He reiterated his view that if the youth from J&K put in adequate effort a large number among them is bound to succeed in entering the All India and Civil Services.

Usha Vohra, First Lady, who joined the IAS in 1960 and retired as Secretary to the Government of

German Envoy calls on CM

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 31: German Ambassador to India, Michael Steiner this evening called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

During the meeting various matters of mutual interests were discussed in the meeting. The rich tourist potential of Jammu and Kashmir particularly the scenic splendour of Valley was also discussed in the meeting. The measures put in place by the State and the Centre Governments for peace and development in the state were also talked about in the meeting.

The German Envoy showed keen interest in the new initiatives taken by Omar Abdullah led Government for good governance, transparency and public empowerment in the State.

Gul calls on Farooq

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 31: Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul called on the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah here today and discussed various issues pertaining to the development and overall scenario of the State.

While discussing energy needs of the State, the Speaker demanded adequate support from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and urged Dr. Abdullah to launch new initiatives to meet the need by setting up of non-conventional energy plants in the State.

They also discussed the peace process initiated at different levels by the Central and State Governments. Mr Gul stressed the need for starting the dialogue process by the Union Government with the new Pakistan Government, which is essential for maintaining better relations between two countries and State as well.



Governor, N N Vohra alongwith Usha Vohra interacting with those who have qualified All India Civil Services Examination.

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