



Minister for Finance and Ladakh Affairs Abdul Rahim Rather and MoS Home Sujud Ahmad Kichloo alongwith awardees.

Academy's Best Book Award presented in 7 languages

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, June 18: The J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages today presented the Best Book Award-2011 to seven authors in as many languages. The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs. 51,000, a memento, shawl and citation each, was given to N. D. Jammwal for his Dogri book 'Triphala', Abdul Gani Sheikh for his English book, 'Reflections of Ladakh, Tibet and Central Asia', Shiv Nirnolhi for his Hindi book, 'Kishtwar - Sanskriti Aur Parampara', Makhan Lal Kanwal for his Kashmiri book, 'Yath Aangnas Manz', Urgan Razigun for his Ladakhi book, 'Nubray Nas Shad', Dr. Sushil Sharma for his Punjabi book, 'Jammu Kashmir De Panjabi Geetan Wich Samkaleen Samaj Di Jhalak' and Muhammad Amin Lala for his Urdu book, 'Kitab ul Mousiquee'.

The Academy gives away this award annually in 10 languages. However, this time Gojri, Pahari and Dardi languages remained out of the competition as the minimum three books required for the completion were not received in these languages.

The awards were presented by Minister for Finance & Ladakh Affairs, Abdul Rahim Rather. Minister of State for Industries & Commerce, Home, Tourism & Culture, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism

Sharma seeks early implementation of priority issues of public

Excelsior Correspondent
NEWSHERA, June 18: MLC Ravinder Sharma, general secretary and spokesperson PCC has sought expeditious implementation of various decisions taken in the District Development Board meeting with regard to some priority issues of the public of Sunderbani and Nowshera in district Rajouri.

Addressing meetings at Nowshera and Sunderbani during his two-day tour of the area, Mr Sharma shared the concern of the public regarding delay in the execution of several developmental works especially in the implementation of important decisions concerning the issues of vital importance to the general public.

He regretted that more than four years have lapsed in the shifting of the Veterinary Hospital and poultry farm adjoining the Sub District Hospital Sunderbani,

& Culture, Atal Dulloo, a large number of writers, senior officers and lovers of literature were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rather described writers as players of social change and highlighted their role in socio-cultural transformation. He said writers have always played pivotal role in bringing positive changes in society. He said J&K has rich cultural and literary legacy which needs to be promoted and preserved and assured his Government's full support to any initiative in this regard.

The Minister hoped that languages that did not make to the award this year because of lesser than the required number of entries would be part of the next Best Book Award of the Academy. He asked the writers of these languages to make sure that enough books are written and submitted for the competition next time.

Earlier, giving a resume of the Academy's activities during the past one year since June 2012, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Khalid Bashir Ahmad said that, besides routine activities, many significant steps were taken to improve the functioning of the institution and promote art, culture and literature. He said a comprehensive website of the Academy was launched to disseminate information and keep viewers updated.

Unfolding the package of the

which has resulted into delay in the expansion of the S D Hospital, Dak Banglow Sunderbani, setting up sports stadium, identification of college land at Sunderbani and setting up of Fruit/Vegetable Markets at Nowshera and Sunderbani, as these are some of the issues which are in pipeline for a long time.

He said that proposed mini Industrial Estates at Thandapani and Lambari are required to be set up at the earliest as the unemployed youth of the area have no job opportunities in private sector.

He urged the Government and the concerned agencies to avoid all sorts of delay in the vital projects as it was causing great resentment.

Mr Sharma also reminded the Government about the genuine demand of the border migrants of tehsil Nowshera, who were not provided the relief at par with other such category of persons in Jammu District.

Work paralysed as 2-day pen down strike by clerical cadre begins

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 18: Normal work in all the Government Departments was paralyzed on first day of pen down strike by the clerical cadre today. The agitating employees held protest demonstrations at all the district headquarters across the State.

The call for two-day strike has been given by Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Clerical Staff Association for implementation of the agreement reached out with the Government on

towards the grievance of Clerical cadre, which has taken to streets once again. They appealed the State Government for removal of pay anomalies while granting the pay scale of Rs 4000-6000 to Junior Assistant, Rs 4500-7000 to Senior Assistant, Jr Statistical Assistant and Rs 5500-9000 to Head Assistant /Statistical Asstts.

Those who addressed the employees included Ravi Singh Bhai, Sukhbir Singh, Ravi Kumar, Bashir Mallik, Yash



Ministerial staff of Health Department holding protest on first day of pen-down strike at Jammu on Tuesday.

removal of pay anomalies.

In Jammu city, the clerical cadre in different Government Departments observed complete strike in their respective office complexes and held strong protest demonstrations.

These demonstrations were addressed by various leaders of the employees. They condemned alleged callous attitude of the State Government

Paul Sharma, Ravinder Singh (P.L.G.), Mohan Lal Kangotra, Hamid Hussain, Rajinder Singh, Jaideep Singh, Ram Dass Thapa, J R Sagar, Kirpal Singh, Brijesh Mehta, Avtar Krishan, Anil Kesar, Lalita Bali, Onkar Chand, Vikas Gupta, Raj Kishore, Ranbir Singh Bhai and Vinod Kumar.

J&K Forest Ministerial Staff Association held protest demonstration under the leadership of Sukhbir Singh Sudan while the Municipal Employees Union (Ministerial) members were led Rohit George.

Reports from other district headquarters said that protest demonstrations were held in Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua etc by the Clerical staff, who observed a complete pen down strike. They warned to go on indefinite strike if the pay anomaly is not removed by the Government.

Tomorrow, on second day of the pen-down strike, protest rallies will be held again at all the district headquarters, including at Jawahar Lal Nehru Udyog Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

Former Chairman Legislative Council, MLA among several deputations call on Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: Several deputations including former Chairman of Legislative Council and a Member of Legislative Assembly today called on Governor N N Vohra at Raj Bhavan.

Abdul Rashid Dar, former Chairman, State Legislative Council discussed with the Governor several matters concerning the future growth and development of district Anantnag and the adjoining areas in South Kashmir.

In his meeting with the Governor, National Conference MLA, Nasir Aslam Wani discussed various matters relating to the interests of the State.

A joint delegation of the Railway Station Hotels & Lodges Association and Raghunath Bazar Businessmen Association led by Baldev Khullar and Bhuvaneshwar Gandotra presented to Governor two memoranda containing their demands.

The Governor discussed with the delegation the to-date status of the implementation of the various components of the Raghunath Bazar Beautification Project. The demands presented by the delegation included grant of financial assistance for the speedy completion of the Raghunath Bazar

demands because of apprehension that after the extension of train services to Katra, the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi



Governor N N Vohra interacting with a deputation at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

Shrine should be attracted to halt at Jammu and visit various scenic spots and religious places in the surrounding areas. They also brought to the Governor's notice issues concerning the group of guest houses, which are located opposite the Railway Station, Jammu.

The Governor gave patient hearing to the delegation and observed that the issues raised by them would be discussed with the Chief Minister.

Ritu Asrani, Project Coordinator, Indian Youth Climate Network for J&K Chapter, a Delhi based organization working for environment conservation and Owais Rahim, Project Coordinator made a presentation about the activities of the Indian Youth Climate Network in J&K and across the country and those planned for the future for promoting environmental protection.

They also briefed the Governor about the small pilot projects, which they had undertaken at the Baltal Base Camp of Shri Amarnathji Yatra last year, which included setting up of a water purification plant, providing of environment-friendly carry bags to the Yatris and establishment of eco-friendly hand washing stations.

Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the Governor and Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and Preet Pal Singh, Additional CEO of the Board attended the presentation. The Governor asked CEO to provide the best possible support to this NGO to carry out their activities.

Dr (Capt) Ritu Biyani, Founder Director, Highways Infinite, a Pune based NGO working on cancer education in the

country also called Mr Vohra and briefed him about the activities undertaken by her NGO to enlarge awareness about cancer across the country.

She stated that Highways Infinite has been organizing Cancer Awareness Workshops in various States, besides conducting Highways Infinite Walks at Pune as part of observance of World Cancer Day to promote the objectives of this NGO. Dr Biyani said that she had already organized over three dozen workshops on cancer awareness in Ladakh region and discussed with the Governor the possibilities of organizing similar awareness campaigns in other regions of the State.

The Governor lauded the initiative of Dr Biyani and wished her continuing success in her endeavours.

A 5-member delegation of the Bhartiya Gujjar Maha Sabha led by Eshfaq-ur-Rehman Poswal, State President of the organization, presented various demands to the Governor, which included provision of political reservation for the Gujjar and Bakarwal Tribes in the State, organizing of special recruitment drives for youth of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Army and Paramilitary Forces and effective utilization of funds available under Tribal Sub Plan.

The Governor heard the delegation patiently and said that the demands presented by them would be taken up with the concerned authorities in the State Government.

Dr Jitendra slams IMG's controversial J&K map

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 18: Taking exception to tinkering with boundaries of Jammu & Kashmir in the two controversial maps of India depicted in the 76-page manual prepared by London based International Management Group (IMG) for recently concluded IPL-6, BJP National Executive Member, national TV panelist & J&K chief spokesperson, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that cricket is not above country and therefore cannot be allowed to violate J&K's territorial integrity.

Dr Jitendra Singh wondered what was the BCCI doing when this mischief was going on and the manual was being circulated. Also, why has the External Affairs Ministry chosen to maintain a convenient silence, he asked. And, why the J&K Chief Minister, who is otherwise so very Twitter savvy, a self-confessed cricket fan and always ready with an opinion on subjects not related to J&K, now silent on an issue which is so sensitively concerned with his own State, he quipped.

Quoting from the text of the controversial Manual, Dr Jitendra Singh said what was even more objectionable was the reference in the Manual which read "The borders of Kashmir are in dispute. India, Pakistan and China have differing claims and therefore the borders of

India may not be correct". While in the map on page 37 of the manual, areas of Kashmir are missing, in the map on page 72 the alleged "disputed" areas are marked with dotted lines which is a clear affront to the sovereignty and self-respect of India, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh also described certain references in the Manual as being racist and biased. To prove this point, he referred to a caption written below the map which warns against alleged Malaria endemic in India in following words, "This map must be used in conjunction with the Malaria advice text. Bite avoidance (from malaria mosquito) measures should be taken in all areas".

Dr Jitendra Singh said the BCCI contract with IMG should have ensured that the latter confines itself to the brief regarding cricket and does not use the opportunity to interfere with the sanctity of India's territory or heritage. He called upon the Union External Affairs Ministry to take immediate cognizance and described it as yet another disgrace to much disgraced UPA Government at the Center. The Govt of India must seek an official apology from IMG, he suggested, adding that at the same time the J&K Chief Minister should also put on record his Government's disapproval lest he should be accused of appeasing the separatists.



Estates employees protesting at Jammu on Tuesday.

Estates employees protest

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 18: After holding protest demonstrations for the two consecutive days, the Coordination Committee of Estate Employees Association, Jammu has announced to observe a token strike tomorrow.

The protesting employees are demanding re-organization of Estate Department, regularization of daily rated workers, time bound promotions, finalization of seniority list for holding DPC, benefit of SRO-43, construction of staff quarters and building for office of Deputy Director Estates.

Highlighting these demands, employees of Estates Department held a protest demonstration today in

front of the office of Deputy Director Estates, Jammu.

Led by Prem Singh and Yash Paul Sharma under the banner of Co-ordination Committee of Estates Employees Association, the protesters raised slogans in support of the demands.

While addressing the protesters, Prem Singh Bawa and Yash Paul Sharma accused the Government of forcing Estates employees for resorting to agitational path.

Others who addressed the employees, included Rash Pal Lal, Shambo Singh, Rajinder Singh, Mohinder Paul, Rattan Paul, Rajesh Sharma, Subash Chander, Ravi Sharma, Jeet Raj, Mohd Ishaq, Sagar Mashi, Rajesh Gupta and Kuldeep Raj.

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