



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meeting delegation of Municipal Bodies at Srinagar.

Heads of Municipal Bodies, several delegations call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: Heads of Municipal Bodies of Kashmir, political leaders, sportsperson, senior faculty members of SKIMS and MD Ahad Hotels today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

A delegation of Presidents/ Vice Presidents/ Councilors Coordination Committee, comprising of members of different Municipal Bodies of Kashmir headed by its Chairman, Mohammad Iqbal Ahanger including Altaf Ahmad Lone, Irshad Ahmad, Omar Kakroo, Zahid Jan, Jehangir Ahmad, Abdul Karim, Pritpal Singh and Shaheena Nidaf submitted a memorandum of demands and issues to the Lt Governor pertaining to complete implementation of 74th amendment in local bodies to strengthen the democratic institutions at grass-roots level, regularization of Safai Karamcharis in all Municipal Committees/ Councils, delegation of powers and other concerning issues. They also projected a demand for providing adequate security cover to the newly elected members.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues and demands put forth by the delegation and assured them that all their genuine issues and concerns would be looked into on priority. With the dedicated efforts of

the UT Government, an empowered and robust grass-roots democratic system in J&K has been ensured, said the Lt Governor.

Meanwhile, Managing Director, Ahad Hotels and Resorts, Asif Iqbal Burza called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about range of issues pertaining to Tourism and Hotel Industry of Kashmir region. He also lauded the recent steps taken by the Lt Governor's administration for revival and promotion of tourism sector in Kashmir.

The Lt Governor observed that the Government is taking several initiatives to promote tourism sector in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He assured Burza that the Government is resolute in giving due consideration to the issues of Hotelier fraternity for their early redressal.

Similarly, a delegation of senior faculty members of SKIMS, Soura comprising of Prof. Nisar Ahmad Chowdhri, Prof. Gul Mohammad and Prof. Qayoom Lone submitted a memorandum of demands to the Lt Governor pertaining to implementation of the recommendations of Standing Finance Recommendations Committee of 28th and 29th September, 2019 regarding phased implementation of SRO 283 vis-a-vis SKIMS faculty.

While interacting with the faculty members of SKIMS, the Lt Governor appreciated the role of

doctors, especially during the pandemic period and urged them to continue working with the spirit of human service and play an instrumental role in providing best health care to the people. He also assured the deputation that their demands would be taken up for consideration on merit.

Former MLA Karnah and District President Apni Party, Raja Manzoor apprised the Lt Governor about various issues of people living in the remotest area of Kashmir related to basic civic and essential amenities to the people of Karnah.

Former Journalist and senior BJP leader, Khalid Jehangir also met the Lieutenant Governor and projected various developmental and other issues of public importance. He congratulated the Lt Governor and his Administration for reaching out to the public during tough times, particularly during recent snowfall.

Gold Medalist and first female black belt of Kashmir, Unjunam Farooq also called on Lt Governor and put forth some matters regarding promotion and upgradation of sports infrastructure. She also demanded regularization of Rehbar-i-Khel teachers.

While giving patient hearing to the deputations, the Lt Governor assured that all genuine issues projected by them would be redressed on priority. He observed that the Government is taking concrete measures to meet the developmental aspirations of the people of J&K with special focus on prompt and timely disposal of public grievances.

DGP reviews implementation of CCTNS in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh here today chaired a high level meeting to review the implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS) in the Jammu and Kashmir at Police

will go a long way in studying the patterns of crime.

While referring of the crime against women, children and other vulnerable sections of the society, the DGP said that different helplines established must be functional 24X7 along with the Women Police Stations and Women Police



DGP Dilbag Singh chairing a meeting.

Headquarters.

IGP Crime J&K MK Sinha, IGP Headquarters PHQ Gareeb Dass, DIG South Kashmir Range Atul Goel, AIG CIV PHQ Rajesh Bali and officers from Crime Branch and PHQ attended the meeting at PHQ and IGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh, DIG NKR M Suleman Choudhary, all district SSPs of Jammu and Kashmir Zones attended the meeting through video conference.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said that the CCTNS is a platform which when fully implemented will help in prevention and investigation of crime cases in a desired manner and at a faster pace.

During the review, the DGP impressed upon the district SSPs to encourage and motivate the field officers to update the system by filling in information in different columns so that optimum use of CCTNS is ensured. He advised the officers particularly the SSPs to make full use of different features of the software and update it by filling the crime figures which

Cells established in all the districts including police districts of the UT.

The DGP also impressed upon the officers to take full advantage of different schemes of Center and UT Governments with regard to establishing as well as upgrading of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU). The DGP also said that he has already given directions with regard to enhancing the communication by procuring and putting to use dedicated smart mobile phones for updating CCTNS networking.

On the onset of the meeting, the Nodal officer for CCTNS, IGP Crime J&K MK Sinha gave a detailed presentation on the various aspects and steps being taken to improve the working on the network system which in turn will be very fruitful in investigating different crime cases.

Fall of PAGD started swiftly than anticipated: Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: Calling the exit of People's Conference from PAGD a formal beginning of the collapse of an 'unprincipled and an opportunistic alliance', Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said the development has taken place much earlier than anticipated by the people.

Since its inception, Bukhari observed that PAGD leadership indulged in fraud, deceit and emotional black mailing of the people just to make its constituent parties politically relevant and reap the electoral dividends in the recently concluded DDC elections.

"This development has happened sooner than even what we had thought. This whole political exercise carried out by the PAGD signatories was a pretense and façade to drain the sentiments of people and use them for their electoral numbers. Time has come when the NC and PDP leadership should go for serious introspection and shun further exploitation of the innocent public," Bukhari remarked.

Apni Party president reiterated

Unopposed BJP wins all three positions of JMC Standing Committees' chairmen

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 19: In a high voltage drama involving boycott of entire opposition, BJP today won unopposed all the three positions of Chairmen of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Standing Committees.

The winners in the election involving open ballot system, which was held for the first time in the history of J&K, were Kuldeep Singh, who will head the Standing Committees of Social Justice while Narinder Singh Jamwal (Bunty) has been elected as Chairman of Public Health and Sanitation Committee and Yashpal Sharma (Mantoo) has been elected as Chairman of Swachh Bharat Standing Committee.

While the jubilant BJP rejoiced victory, opposition members claimed they were kept in dark about open ballot election process.

The eligible Councillors for voting gathered at the venue at 11:00 am and the election process started at 11:15 am with an announcement by Tina Mahajan, JMC Secretary.

All opposition voters started protest and staged a walkout from the JMC hall which was turned into a polling station, as the Secretary said that elections will be held in an open ballot process.

While the JMC Mayor claimed amendment paving way for open ballot was done in October last year, the protesting opposition maintained that they were kept in dark about the development.

"It is only yesterday at 4:40 pm when an official from JMC handed over a document to me mentioning about the new rule of October 26, 2020 in an order of Union Home Ministry about tenure of Mayor and Deputy Mayor but it had no mention about open ballot," Dwarka Nath Chowdhary, opposition leader in JMC house of 75 Councillors told this reporter.

"Even on January 14 which was last date of filing nominations, we were not informed about open ballot," he maintained adding that last elections were held in secret



JMC Mayor and Deputy Mayor posing for a group photograph with three newly elected chairman of standing committee.

ballot wherein some members had clicked pictures after which "we had written to the JMC Commissioner to not allow phone during voting this time and she had assured that it will be a secret ballot."

He also said that today at start of election the Secretary informed them about open ballot and agents of parties to check the votes before it would be casted but "we objected."

"I remained Councillor since 2005 and also Chairman of a Standing Committee but have never seen open ballot elections," Chowdhary claimed.

Contrary to this, the JMC Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta said the election process was as per norms.

On opposition claiming that they were not informed well in time about the development he said, on several occasions he had told them "verbally" about the development.

"They should have also kept themselves updated on new developments," he maintained adding: "It is like an unprepared student crying out of syllabus paper in

examination hall."

Gupta also said that Srinagar Municipal Corporation too did these elections in same way.

It is pertinent to mention here that there are nine members each of the three Standing Committees of JMC including the Chairman and three of these members are from opposition in each committee barring the Swachh Bharat Committee which has four opposition members.

With this opposition members make a total of 10 votes.

"They feared cross voting as even many BJP members were not satisfied with the working of Mayor and his team as there was developmental crisis in almost all the Wards of JMC," Sobat Ali, a Congress Councillor who boycotted the election process claimed.

Sources informed that in the election process today the voter had to show vote paper to his/her party agent before putting it in a tray to avoid cross voting and the independent Councillors were not supposed to do so as there was no agent for them as they were independent.

Kargil Buddhists seek representation in apex body on 6th Schedule Movement

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Jan 19: Alleging discrimination towards minority Buddhist community in Kargil district, Buddhist Associations of Kargil and Zanskar today demanded their apex body to include their representatives to discuss safeguard issue

Movement of UT of Ladakh as nobody will understand their issues and problems better than themselves.

"Ladakh Buddhist Association, Kargil and Ladakh Buddhist Association, Zanskar supported apex body for 6th Schedule Movement from the beginning.



Representatives of Buddhist Associations of Kargil and Zanskar during a press conference in Leh.

-Excelsior/ Morup Stanzin

with Home Minister Amit Shah.

Addressing a press conference here today, Skarma Dadul (vice-president, Kargil Buddhist Association) flanked by Zanskar Buddhist Association (ZBA) representatives Stanzin Tsering and KBA General Tsering Samphel, announced that they are neither supporting Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) nor Gupkar Alliance.

He said that they are with their apex body and therefore minority Buddhist representatives from Kargil must be included in the apex body delegation to talk with Home Minister on 6th Schedule

Buddhist civil societies and local Buddhist political leaders are not part of KDA or Gupkar Group and their agenda," he added.

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

On behalf of LBA Kargil and LBA Zanskar, Dadul appealed Central Government and the UT Administration to ensure representation of Buddhist community in all future delegations and committees framed to represent district Kargil.

He also appealed apex body for 6th Schedule Movement to give due representation to them in the Committee framed by them for talks with Central Government.

Patwari convicted in trap case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: Additional Anti Corruption Court Jammu has convicted then Patwari Halqa Paloura Balwan Singh in a trap case.

As per official spokesperson, the instant case was registered on the basis of written complaint wherein it was alleged that the complainant had applied for Nakal Jamabandi of his 8 kanals of land situated at village Ladore, Jammu. "The Nakal Jamabandi was required for sanctioning of loan by the bank for purchase of tractor by the complainant", he said, adding that Balwan Singh, Patwari Halqa Flora Nagbani, Jammu demanded Rs 5000 as bribe from the complainant for issuance of the said Nakal Jamabandi.

On the basis of said complaint, a case under FIR Number 25/2011 under Section 5(2) PC Act r/w

Section 161 RPC Police Station VOJ (Now ACB) was registered and investigation taken up and constituted a trap team and Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting Rs 5000 from the complainant.

"After obtaining sanction the case was charge-sheeted in the court of law. The Additional Anti Corruption Court, Jammu convicted the accused by holding him guilty under section 5(1) (d) of PC Act r/w Section 161 RPC. The court has ordered the accused to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 2 years for each offence. The court has further ordered that both the sentences shall run concurrently. The court has also ordered the accused to pay fine of Rs 10,000 for each offence and in case of default of payment, to undergo further imprisonment of 2 months for each offence", the spokesman informed.

CB books man in forgery case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: The Crime Branch Kashmir today produced a charge sheet against one individual regarding his appointment as Junior Engineer (Electric) in PDD based on forged documents.

The charge sheet against the person, Mohammad Arif Ganie of Gutting Verinag in Anantnag was filed ten years after a case vide FIR No. 09/2011 under section 420, 468, 471, 201 RPC was filed against him.

The charge sheet was filed before the Court of Special Magistrate 13th Finance /

Railways Srinagar. The CB said that the case pertains to the appointment of a Junior Engineer (Electric) in Power Development Department through Service Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB) on the production of fake and forged diploma marks card, Provisional Certificate etc.

Consequent upon a written complaint, CB said, the investigation was set into motion and it was found that the accused produced fake and forged Certificates before the competent authority to obtain appointment orders as Jr. Engineer (Electric) in Power Development Department.

PSU employees without salaries, stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: The J&K Public Sector Employees and Workers Federation (JKPSEWF) today held a protest demonstration against the non-payment of their salaries.

Scores of employees and workers of the Federation assembled here in the Press Enclave and started protest. They said that due to

had no money for the treatment—this is our condition," Wajahat said.

As per the Federation, the employees of the State Forest Corporation are without salaries from the last 6 months, those working with the JKSRFC are without salaries from the last 4 months, employees of JK Cements, Handloom Development Corporation, Arts Emporium and JKTDC are also without salaries.



J&K public sector employees and workers staging protest in Srinagar on Tuesday.

-Excelsior/ Shakeel

non-payment of their salaries, they are facing starvation as they have got no other source of income to feed their families.

The State president of the Federation, Wajahat Hussain who was leading the protest along with other office-bearers of the Federation, said that the workers of different PSUs such as State Forest Corporation, SRTC, JK Cements, JKTDC along with others are without salaries and the Government has so far failed in addressing their issues.

"Yesterday three of our colleagues who were working in JK Cements died as they were ill and

They said while they are not being given salaries, they even are not reaping the benefits of having CP fund, leaving aside arrears and the perks of 7th Pay Commission.

"We appeal the Government to take notice of our issues and grievances and take measures to address the same, failing which we will be forced to come out on roads along with our families," he said.

The employees said that the Government has promised stars, but the ground situation is different. They also said the Government must clean whether it wants to run these PSUs or not.

Winter tourism takes hit as ski lift remains defunct for 3-yrs in Pahalgam

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: Much to the annoyance of the skiers and hoteliers of the Pahalgam in South Kashmir, a ski lift is defunct for the last 3-years despite crores being spent by the Government for the establishment of the facility.

The purpose of the lift was to attract tourists during winters and promote Pahalgam as a winter sports station. However, the failure of the authorities to keep the facility functional has completely jeopardized the initiative.

"The department abandoned the project after making it functional for just one or two seasons. By doing so, the Cable Car Corporation is wasting crores of money spent on its making," an official of the Tourism Department said.

Located around Circuit Road in main Pahalgam town, the lift was provided in 2016 with an aim to ease the uphill journey of skiers and encourage sports lovers to visit the place.

The project was part of the gov-

ernment's efforts to promote the place as a winter sports destination as the place receives dismal tourist footfall in winters. "It is because of such attitude of the authorities, the efforts of the government to make Pahalgam as winter destination remain futile," an official said.

The sports lovers from South Kashmir said they have to travel all the way to Gulmarg for skiing despite the availability of the facility. "The place has everything that a winter tourist destination needs. It is not that facilities are not there, but the callousness of the authorities have wasted it. The government should seriously look into the issue," Nissar Ahmad, a skiing enthusiast said.

Mushtaq Simnani, the Chief Executive Officer of Pahalgam Development Authority said that he has taken the matter with the Tourism Department. "I have written to the concerned officials but there has not been any progress so far," Simnani said, adding that the place received good snowfall this season and that would have encouraged ski-lovers to visit the place.

Central Electrical employees project burning demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: J&K Central Non-Gazetted Electrical Employees Union (JKC-NGEEU) projected burning demands of Electrical employees in separate functions held today at Jammu and Srinagar, in connection with 34th anniversary of the Union.

The function was presided over by J&K president Mohammed Afzal Bhat Fatehpuri at Bemina PDD complex Srinagar and Parshotam Sharma, J&K general secretary through press conference at Press Club Jammu along with Gurnam Singh Salathia, Surjeet Khajuria, Chander Vijay Singh and others.

In the programme it was made clear that all PDD/PDC employees and workers are united for the ongoing struggle against the privatization of PDD, release of long pending wages of daily wagers and regularization of their service.

The speakers said that the Power Development Department was reorganized in the year 1981 and since then a huge augmentation was made to the infrastructure by way of construction of large number of

Grid Stations, Receiving Station and laying of HV Transmission lines but the manpower required for smooth maintenance of this huge infrastructure has not been provided and no attempt made to create the adequate posts for the required manpower.

Parshotam Sharma demanded revocation of wrong policy of Government for Restructuring and Unbundling (Privatization) of the PDD and formation of companies and corporations. He also demanded transfer of all power projects from NHPC to JKSPDC to overcome power and economic crisis and unemployment to some extent.

The Union, during the function, also demanded risk allowance in favour of the staff working on risk prone jobs, formation of compensation, relief and rehabilitation centers for employees and workers of the department undergoing power accidental cases and provision of modern safety tools to employees and workers.

The speakers appealed the employees and workers of PDD to unite for fighting for their common cause and urge the Principal Secretary PDD and MD JPDC to resolve the pending issues of PDD employees and workers.

3 Inspectors transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Shridhar Patil has ordered transfer and posting of 3 Inspectors with immediate effect.

According to the order, Inspector Gurmeet Singh has been transferred from Police Station Janipur and posted at District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu, while Inspector Nayat Ali has been transferred from Police Station Peer Mitha and posted at Police Station Janipur as SHO and Inspector Ayaz Haider has been transferred from DPL Jammu and posted at Police Station Peer Mitha as SHO.

Yasin gets addl charge of CEO Ayushman Bharat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: Choudhary Mohd Yasin, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, has been assigned the additional charge of CEO, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna.

An order in this regard was issued today, according to which, Mission Director NHM, Choudhary Mohd Yasin shall hold the charge of CEO, Ayushman Bharat, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Addl charge of Tribal Welfare Officers assigned

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 19: District Social Welfare Officers of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Ganderbal have been assigned additional charge of the posts of District Tribal Welfare Officers of the respective districts.

An order in this regard has been issued by the General Administration Department of J&K Government.

As per the order, the posts of District Tribal Welfare Officers of Rajouri, Poonch and Ganderbal are assigned to the District Social Welfare Officers of the respective districts in addition to their own duties, till further order.