

Chamber, others demand ending discrimination with Jammu

Various delegations of political, other organizations call on Delimitation Commission, submit memorandums

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: The representatives of various political and non political organizations today called on Chairperson of Delimitation Commission Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai and submitted a memorandum to her.

Indian National Congress, Chenab Region of district Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar demanded two to three new Assembly segments for district Doda and district Kishtwar. It further demanded that new creation of Assembly segments should be redrafted in such a manner that vulnerable section of the society, interests of the down trodden and unrepresented area, cluster villages and their feasibility should be made secured by the Commission.

The delegation comprised of Abdul Majid Wani, G M Saroori, Vikar Rasool Wani all ex ministers, Naresh Kumar Gupta, former MLC and Ashok Kumar Dogra ex MLA.

A delegation of **Chamber of Commerce and Industry** led by its president, Arun Gupta called on Chairperson of Delimitation Commission and submitted a memorandum to her. It said that the 2011 census should not only be taken as basis for delimitation of constituencies in UT of Jammu but the Commission should consider viewpoints strongly like Geographical area, voters, hilly terrain, communication, Kandi area and agriculture in thorough manner by not only giving importance to the 2011 population census. It stressed on rationalization of the Assembly seats in transparent manner, as the people of Jammu have suffered a lot due to discriminatory attitude of the successive regimes of erstwhile State of J&K. It also demanded that the aspirations and voice of Jammu region must be heard before taking any final decision.

A delegation of **Kashmiri minorities** led by Ashwani Kumar Churungoo senior KP and BJP leader and in charge Department of Political Feedback JK BJP called on chairperson of Delimitation Commission and submitted a memorandum to her. The memorandum demanded reservation of five Assembly seats in Valley for minorities including Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Sikhs and non Kashmiri speaking Hindus besides one Lok

Sabha and Rajya Sabha seat each for them. It informed the Commission that they have forwarded a draft amendment of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 which could be a way forward to fulfill the aspirations of Kashmiri Pandits. The other members of the delegation included Yoginder Kaul former Inspector General of Police and Prem Singh Raina president Kashmiri Sikh Displaced Forum.

National Sikh Front led by its chairman Varinderjeet Singh and president Kulwant Singh Bhatti called on chairperson of Delimitation Commission and submitted a memorandum to her demanding reservation of eight to ten seats for the Displaced persons from PoJK be defreeze and given to displaced persons as was done in case one seat of Mendhar, district Poonch in 1989-90.

This alone can give justice to 1947 DPs and will be also in the general welfare of the UT. It will also help to erase the regional imbalances between two regions of UT and mitigate sufferings of Jammu region.

All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) has impressed upon chairperson of Delimitation Commission, Justice (ret) Ranjana Prakash Desai to deliver justice to Sikh community and ensure that Sikhs get representation in the form of reservation in Legislature of J&K.

The demand was made by a delegation of APSCC members including Naranjan Singh, Ajit Singh Mastana, P S Bali and Indumeet Singh who met the Delimitation Commission at Srinagar. The delegation as led by APSCC chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina. They demanded reservation of five seats in Assembly, three in Jammu and two in Kashmir.

Kashmir Society International emphasized for recommendation of filling of 24 POK seats by Delimitation Commission to safeguard Kashmir. A delegation of five member Committee led by Renzushah, chairman along with A R Shah, Javid Tota, Mr Khanjari and Mr Haqani called on Delimitation Commission and put the demand before it.

A delegation of the representatives of people from **Teryath Shiv Kohri** also called on Chairperson of Delimitation Commission here and demanded

creation of separate constituency at Teryath Shiv Kohri. The members of the delegation included Seema Devi, Saprnach Teryath, Bushan Uppal, Sarpanch, Khabber, Rakshesh Chander, Sarpanch Thangrote, Vinod Bazal, Sarpanch Lower Tredu -B and Tarveena Begum, Sarpanch Allah.

A delegation of **Janata Vikas Manch** led by its president, Arun Kumar Sharma met the Delimitation Commission and submitted a memorandum to it demanding that the limit of Assembly segments should be fixed keeping in view the area, current population and road connectivity. It demanded carving out of one more Assembly Constituency for Samba district and the new constituency be named as Purmandal or Devika.

A delegation of **Panun Kashmir** led by its president Virender Riana met Delimitation Commission and submitted a memorandum to it demanding reservation of five seats in Kashmir for minority population of Kashmir or nomination of five persons of minority population of Kashmir to Assembly as per their current population census, nomination of one person from internally displaced population to Lok Sabha and nomination of one person from the displaced population to Rajya Sabha. The other members of the delegation included Upinder Koul, PK general secretary, Ashok Churungoo and PK Bhan its Executive Members.

National Democratic Party of India (NDPI) delegation led by its president, Rajesh Gupta met the Delimitation Commission and demanded that people of PoJK residing in J&K be elected to 24 Assembly seats reserved for PoJK. It said that no Delimitation is expected without 2021 census as 2011 census was fudged as it was prepared for benefitting Kashmir region.

Thathri Development Front, District Doda led by its president Kuldep Kumar Rao who was accompanied by Om Raj Bhal general secretary of organization, Kanwal Jeet Singh Thakur, its vice president, Javed Iqbal Bhat and Lekh Raj Manhas its executive members called on Commission and demanded creation of Thathri new constituency on the basis of its geographical conditions, population and terrain.

A seven member delegation of **Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS)** led by its president, R K Bhat called on chairperson of the Commission and submitted a memorandum to her demanding that four to five Assembly seats be reserved in J&K Assembly for displaced Pandits besides two Parliamentary seats as long as the community is in exile. A provision of the reservation should be recommended to the Government in this regard to practically empower the community which is part and parcel of Indian society. The other members of the delegation included Sanjay Ganjoo, Ajay Pandita, Manoj Handoo, Sanjay Raina, Ashwani Kak and Arvind Wali.

A three member delegation of **Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC)** led by Gurdev Singh its president along with Dwarikanath Khajuria and Rajesh Khajuria called on Chairperson of Delimitation Commission and demanded carving out of two constituencies for DPs of 1947 while demarcating constituencies particularly in Jammu district.

A delegation of **Jat Kalyan Sabha** called on chairperson of the Delimitation Commission and demanded two seats each for border belt and refugees. The

delegation was led by Ch Kanal Singh, president of the Sabha accompanied by Neeraj Choudhary president Youth Jat Kalyan Sabha and other prominent people. The delegation also submitted a memorandum to the Commission in this regard.

A delegation of Displaced Pandits led by Girdhari Lal Raina ex MLC accompanied by A K Raina, vice president, All India Kashmir Samaj, Shiban Pandita, Ashok Ji Kaw and Daleep Kumar Pandia and demanded that mechanism to be put in place so that the diversity of society with regard to minority groups gets reflected in public institutions such as parliament, civil services, State Legislature etc was an internationally recognized obligation. Delegation demanded a well defined a n constitutionally guaranteed mechanism be ensured by the Commission to ensure appropriate, adequate, plausible and quantifiable representation of the religious minorities of Kashmir.

A delegation of **Kashmir Pandit Sabha** led by its president K K Khosa met the Delimitation Commission and appraised it of complete marginalization of KPs from the mainstream socio-political ethos of the land of their ancestors Kashmir and also their complete marginalization from the body politics of the State. The delegation demanded reservation of three seats at least out of present 46 seats for the community in Valley.

Eight member delegation of **PoJK 1947 Sikh Sharnarhi Intellectuals Forum** led by Amrik Singh and its general secretary, Surjit Singh called on the chairperson of the Forum and demanded that eight seats be reserved for the Sharnarhis from PoJK out of 24 seats kept vacant in State Assembly for PoJK on rotation basis as is done in case of reserved categories.

Representatives of **Duggar Pradesh party** led by its president Uday Chand also called on the Commission and submitted a memorandum to it and demanded that the delimitation of Assembly segments be held on the basis of holding of fresh census 2021 required under provisions and Assembly seats of Jammu region be carved out on the pattern of North Eastern states. The other members of the delegation included Mohan Singh Slathia, secretary general of the party, Shiv Dev Sushil, Member Executive and Mangal Dass district president.

Former Minister and district Congress Committee president Kathua, Dr Manohar Lal led a party delegation to the Commission and submitted a memorandum to it. The delegation demanded carving out of two more Assembly segments for Kathua district in view of vast geographical area of the district.

A delegation from **Dinga Amb** led by BJP district Trade and Industry Unit president, Ravi Abrol met the Delimitation Commission and demanded creation of separate Dinga Amb Kandi constituency by including some Panchayats from Billawar, Hiranagar, Basholi and Kathua constituencies in it. The delegation said this is the long pending demand of the people as the Dinga Amb is very large in area.

A delegation of **JKNUP** led by Rakesh Handoo its official spokesman called on Delimitation Commission and said that delimitation on basis of 2011 census was unacceptable to it as the census was fudged and fake to give upper hand to Kashmir Valley. It demanded rehabilitation of KPs in homeland so that they can elect their own representatives

DAK condemns attack on SDH Tangmarg staff, seeks action

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 8: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) today condemned the attack on COVID warriors at SDH Tangmarg by miscreants while also demanding strict action against those involved.

In a statement issued here, DAK said that the incident was unfortunate and that despite working day and night the violent attacks on COVID warriors are taking place now and then in J&K.

"Every time doctors and Paramedical staff of hospitals are becoming victims of circumstances and in addition to verbal abuses and physical violence is unleashed on them by unruly attendant mobs," DAK said. DAK President Dr M Y Tak while condemning the incident termed the incident shameful

and an eye-opener for administration on what is happening with the doctors in the field.

He said that DAK has been pressing since long ago for making the working environment conducive and safe and secure for doctors and staff at hospitals.

"Strong action must be taken against the culprits as per laws of the land and under Epidemic Act," he demanded.

General Secretary DAK, Dr Owais H Dar appealed the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to intervene in the matter and direct the police to book the culprits at the earliest so that the morale of Covid warriors is not affected.

DAK has requested LG, Manoj Sinha and the Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dullo to bring an ordinance for the safety of doctors, and other staff working on the ground.

J&K's Agri, Horti perishables to be transported to Dubai, Sharjah at just Rs 96 per kg

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 8: In a historic move, Jammu and Kashmir Government today launched, for the first time, air cargo service from Jammu and Srinagar airports to top domestic and international markets for transportation of perishable horticulture and agriculture produce.

The market linkage support scheme 'PARVAZ' has been launched by Horticulture Department as part of its endeavors to ensure better dividends of the horticulture & Agriculture produce, which will eventually result in socio-economic emancipation of fruit growers and farmers of J&K by doubling their income.

As per an order, issued by the Government, sanction has been accorded to the implementation of 'PARVAZ', a market linkage support scheme, for shipment of agriculture and horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir to domestic and

International destinations through Air Cargo.

The order states that 25% subsidy will be provided on Air Cargo charges inclusive of Airport handling charges for shipment through one or more empanelled Airlines by the government from time to time and in the DBT mode to the farmers/FPOs/SHGs and registered intermediaries besides subsidy shall be paid in the reimbursement mode as per the original invoices/bills of the concerned Airlines in offline mode only till 31.08.2021. Thereafter, the support shall be paid through online medium in DBT mode by creating a platform between Directorate of Horticulture, Jammu and Kashmir besides the concerned Airlines.

The order further stated that the scheme could also be adopted by Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Departments for milk based perishables and trout fish subject to availability of funds.

Meanwhile, J&K government also notified rates for shipping out Horticulture and Agriculture perishables harvested in the UT through M/s Go Airlines India Limited (Go First) to various domestic and international destinations.

The notification stated that Rs 128 per Kilogram have been fixed

for shipment of the products from Srinagar/Jammu to Dubai, Rs 128 per Kilogram for Srinagar/Jammu to Sharjah, Rs 29 per Kilogram from Srinagar/Jammu to Delhi, Rs 54 per Kilogram from Srinagar/Jammu to Chennai, Rs 52 per kilogram from Srinagar/Jammu to Kolkata, Rs 39 per kilogram from Srinagar/Jammu to Mumbai/Pune and Rs 55 per Kilogram have been fixed for shipment of UT's perishable agriculture and horticulture products from Srinagar/Jammu to Bangalore. These rates are inclusive of all taxes and Airport handling charges.

The organic/exotic vegetables eligible under the 'PARVAZ' Scheme would be identified by an Expert Committee to be notified separately.

"However, with 25% subsidy under Parvaz in place, the effective per kg air cargo charges for cherry, litchi, strawberry, pear, peach and plum from Jammu and Srinagar airports to Dubai and Sharjah will be only Rs 96 while it will be 21.75 for Delhi, Rs 29.25 for Mumbai, 39 for kolkata, 40.5 for Chennai and 41.25 for Bengluru. This will revolutionize the marketing of fruits and vegetables of Jammu and Kashmir", maintained an official spokesperson.

HC restrains respondents from shifting assets to Sheep Husbandry Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 8: High Court has directed the Sheep and Sheep Products Development Department not to transfer its movable assets to the Directorate of Sheep Husbandry.

The direction came to be passed in a contempt petition filed by the employees of Sheep & Sheep Products Development Department. The employees submitted that the Government is winding up the Sheep & Sheep Products Development Department and also transferring the fixed and movable assets to Directorate of Sheep Husbandry with further direction as regards the deployment of the employees to the Government departments.

Petitioners alleged violation of final order/judgment passed in December 2020 in terms whereof the writ court while allowing the writ petition directed the respondents to implement the Government Order No. 46-ASH of 2008 dated 24th of March, 2008, for release of salary/pensionary benefits in their favour.

It was further directed that after viability of the Board is assessed by the Committee to be constituted for the purpose, with further direction to the Committee to assess the viability of the Board and submit its report about resources and thereafter service/pensionary benefits of the petitioners shall be released in their favour out of the assessed resources of the board as also of the

Government.

"The respondents shall indicate as to what steps they have taken to implement the judgment after 19th of December, 2020. Meanwhile, Government Order No. 49-ASH of 2021 dated 1st of March, 2021, to the extent of transfer of assets to Sheep Husbandry Department shall not be given effect", Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey directed.

The appearing counsel on behalf of petitioners submitted that instead of implementing the judgment, the respondents reversed the same as if they are sitting in appeal by according sanction to the closure/winding up of the J&K Sheep and Sheep Products Development and also transferring the fixed and movable assets to Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Jammu/ Kashmir.

In its earlier compliance report, its respondents have stated that providing pensionary benefits to the petitioners is not possible, as the erstwhile Board was an autonomous body having its own and defined resources generation scheme.

"Prima facie it appears that respondents have instead of implementing the judgment, reversed the same, which amounts to contempt of the Court. Before proceeding further, it has become necessary to seek response from the respondents on these issues. Notice for filing statement of facts returnable without four weeks", Court said.

Central Mahajan Sabha pays tribute to its former President

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: Led by President Ramesh Chander Gupta, office bearers of Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha remembered former president and patron Adv Manohar Lal Gupta, in a simple program, here yesterday.

Prominent members T R Gupta, Yash Pal Gupta, Prof Jagdish Raj Gupta, Amar Chand and others were present on the occasion. They garlanded the portrait of Adv Manohar Lal Gupta and paid rich tribute to the noble soul, who contributed a lot for the welfare of the community spread over different parts of J&K.

Ramesh Chandra Gupta, on this occasion, said that the former President, served the Sabha from 1984-1991 and his services for the Sabha had been splendid which earned him respect among every single members of Mahajan Biradari.

The members, including Sanjay Mahajan, Shiv Partap Gupta, Om Parkash Gupta (Kaku Shah), Harinder Gupta, Surinder Gupta, Balbir Gupta, Subash Gupta, Manu Mahajan, Munish Gupta, Atul Gupta, Dr Mohan Lal Gupta, Mukesh Mahajan, Yash Pal Gupta, C P Gupta, Ramesh Chander Gupta (Bhartan wale)and others also paid their tributes.

Surrender AAY, PHH category ration cards: FCS&CA Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 8: The Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kashmir today directed people whose economic condition has improved since 2016 to voluntarily surrender their ration cards of the AAY/ PHH category.

In this regard, the directions were issued by the Director FCS&CA asking those in possession of such ration cards to surrender the same within 15 days.

"These categories have been identified based on being poorest of poor and poor respectively; since the implementation of NFSA, the economic condition of many households has improved either through acquiring of Government jobs or through other means rendering them ineligible for receiving subsidized ration under AAY/PHH categories," the Directorate said.

It said that all such families/ households/ ration ticket holders whose financial position has improved, rendering them ineligible for receiving ration under the above-mentioned categories are hereby advised to voluntarily surrender their ration tickets issued in their favour under AAY/ PHH categories within 15 days.



Students protesting for mass promotion.

Result declared as per approved criteria: BOSE

Students failing in Class 10th protest for mass promotion

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: The Class 10th students, who have been declared failed by the J&K Board of School Education in the recently declared result, today held a protest demonstration demanding mass promotion.

The agitating students, both girls and boys, assembled near the Press Club Jammu and held strong protest demonstration amidst raising of slogans and holding placards in support of their demand.

The protesting students claimed that they were declared failed notwithstanding the earlier assurance of mass promotion. They also alleged that their answer sheets were not evaluated properly.

Demanding mass promotion, the agitating students also attempted to take out a protest march towards JKBOSE office but Police did not allow them to move further.

Later the students dispersed off peacefully with an announcement to continue their protest till JKBOSE declares mass promotion for all the candidates who appeared in Class 10th examination (Annual-Summer Zone).

Meanwhile, JKBOSE has reiterated that consequent upon the cancellation of class 10th Annual Regular Summer Zone 2021 examination vide Govt. letter No. Edu/Nc-SE/04/2021 dated: 17-06-

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



Cong activists staging protest against price hike in Jammu.

Cong workers protest against price hike of LPG, diesel, petrol

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: District Congress activists today held strong protest against the sharp hike in the prices of petrol, diesel, LPG and other essential commodities in the country under BJP rule.

President Beopar Mandal and District general secretary Congress Gurmeet Singh was leading the protest here today. The Congress workers were raising loud slogans in support of their demands.

Singh strongly attacked the BJP Govt at the Centre for the sharp price hike of essential commodities including LPG cylinder and continue hike in price of petrol and diesel, making life miserable for all sections of society in the country.

He pointed out that during Cong rule the rate of LPG cylinder was Rs 414 while now under BJP rule the rate has gone to Rs 875. Rate of petrol per litre was Rs 60 and now Rs 112; the rate of diesel which was under Cong rule Rs 55 per litre but now it is Rs 100. Mustard Oil which was Rs 90 per kg but now it has gone to Rs 190. The prices of pulses have doubled in last 10 years.

Gurmeet Singh alleged that Modi Govt has imposed heavy

taxes on the people, as its economic policies have been total failure leading to worst ever economic situation and lowest ever growth of the Country leading to unprecedented price rise of all commodities.

He lashed out at the Central Govt for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post August 5, 2019. He said that developmental process started by UPA in J&K received a major setback, as the NDA Govt failed to carry forward the massive developments started by UPA.

District general secretary said that people are feeling harassed by tax terror and unprecedented price hike, at the same time, they realize that BJP Govt is looting them to recover the losses it has done to the country economy by misuse and mismanagement of things since the day one as a result there is a restlessness across the country.

Prominent among those who accompanied included Hardavinder Singh, Raj Kumar Sodhi, Nimmi, Suman Gupta, Deepu, Poli, Amarpreet Singh, Vijay Kumar, Ar Singh, Suman, Javesh Arora and beside others.



Senior PCC leader, Raman Bhalla interacting with people in Dilli area of Gandhi Nagar in Jammu on Thursday.

Vardhan's resignation exposes failure of Modi Govt: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: JKPC vice president and former minister Raman Bhalla said today that the resignation of Harsh Vardhan as the Health Minister during the Cabinet reshuffle is an admission that the Narendra Modi Government had "utterly failed" in managing the Corona pandemic.

"The resignations of the Union Health Minister and the MoS Health are a candid confession that the Modi Government has utterly failed in managing the pandemic. This was observed by former minister while interacting with prominent persons of Dilli area of Gandhi Nagar constituency. There is a lesson for ministers in these resignations. If things go right the credit will go to the PM, if things go wrong the minister will be the fall guy. That is the price a minister pays for implicit obedience and unquestioning subservience," Bhalla said.

Former minister further said that Dr Harsh Vardhan, a good man has been made a scapegoat for monumental failures at the highest level, nowhere else". He said since Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank had resigned as the Education Minister, the National Education Policy (NEP) should also be scrapped.

Commenting on the exercise to rejig the Cabinet, Bhalla said it was not a cabinet expansion, but "distributing the spoils of power" and "defector adjustment programme". He said if

performance and governance were the criteria, then Defence Minister Rajnath Singh should have been sacked, as the Chinese had occupied Indian territory and refused to vacate; Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should have gone, as the economic growth was now minus 8% and Home Minister Amit Shah should have stepped down as naxal attacks and mob lynchings continued "unabated".

"If performance and governance were the criteria then the first person to be sacked should be the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, as he has brought the Government, the entire country to a standstill, progress, peace and harmony has been thrown in the dustbin of history and the present Prime Minister would be remembered as an autocrat", Bhalla added.

Modi and his Government have faced increasing criticism from all quarters for their failure to prevent the surge in COVID-19 cases, high number of deaths and the shortage of healthcare equipments, especially oxygen supplies.

Bhalla observed that in yet another move to evade responsibility, the Centre is now leaving it up to the states and the private sector to procure the vaccines required to inoculate the population. The BJP sought to reduce the offences it is being blamed for and deflect attention from the party and Modi by accusing the Congress party of running a campaign to discredit ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.