



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during meeting with DDC Chairperson and members of PRIs.

DDC Chairperson, PRI members call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 17: A delegation led by DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq comprising PRI representatives from Ganderbal called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today at Raj Bhavan.

Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the members of the delegation discussed with the Lt Governor various area-specific issues pertaining to development of the district and welfare of people.

They submitted memorandums containing demands and issues regarding improvement of road connectivity, health, Power and drinking water facilities; sanctioning of Fire & Emergency Sub-Station for

Chattergul, Ganiwan, Sonamarg; upgradation of schools; exploring the tourism potential and strengthening of health sector, besides expediting other developmental projects in Ganderbal district.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegation said that the UT Government is committed to fulfilling the aspirations and developmental needs of the people. He observed that the UT administration is working on several fronts for the holistic and equitable development of all sections and regions of the UT.

He assured them that all their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. The Lt Governor directed Commissioner/Secretary, RDD to extend all

possible assistance to the DDC Chairperson and the PRI representatives for discharging their roles and responsibilities smoothly and efficiently.

Former Legislator, Ishfaq Jabbar; DDC Member, Sajad Durani; Chairman BDC Kangan, Mohd Yousof Paswal; President, Sarpanch Association District Ganderbal, Sh Nazir Ahmad Raina, besides other PRI representatives were present on the occasion.

Delay in appointment orders leaves over 200 selected candidates in lurch

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: Over 200 selected candidates have been left in the lurch as a result of an undue delay in the issuance of appointment orders despite the passing of over six months since their recruitment process was concluded.

There are 120 financial copywriters, 71 junior-scale stenographers in the General Administration Department, and seven junior-scale stenographers in the Department of Information and Public Relations among the positions.

The candidates applied for the post through the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board before the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, and the selection procedure was completed after the abrogation, but an excessive wait in the appointment order has left the candidates despondent.

"We had been appointed with the proper procedure. We had appeared in competitive

exams and are suffering immensely as most of us have crossed the age limit and some are on the verge," a candidate said.

The candidates said they are perplexed as to why the Government is delaying the process when the pre-and post-abrogation selection processes are identical. "There is something fishy about the whole issue," he said, adding that the government is working against its own order by delaying the appointment orders.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir reorganization, the Law Department has issued an opinion under order number LD (OPN) 2020/123-GAD, dated August 23, 2020, stating that the J&K Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment Act 2010 shall remain in effect in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and that the recent constitutional changes shall have no bearing on the current selection or recruitment process.

"It is hereby ordered that the recruitment agencies/appointing authorities take the following action in respect of vacancies already referred/adv under JK special recruitment rules 2015 (where the selection has been completed but the appointing authority has not issued the final appointment order," Administrative Council Decision Number 78/12/2020, dated June 15, 2020, states.

The order further states appointing authority must also follow the JK probationary/condition of service (pay and allowances) and tenure fixation rules 2020, which were released by the government of Jammu and Kashmir on June 19, 2020.

The candidates said that more than 500 positions, including Assistant Professor English in Higher Education Departments, Assistant Professor Music, Assistant Storekeeper (FCS&CA), Junior Scale Stenographer in the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Junior Assistant in Youth Services, and Sports, and Junior Scale Stenographer in Industry and Commerce, and Inspector posts in the Department of Finance, were filled despite the fact that they had the same status.

"When all these posts were filled, why are our appointment order delayed?" asked the candidates.

'Rollout patient feedback mechanism through Mera Haspatal by Feb'

All healthcare institutions to obtain quality certification within one year: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 17: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Health & Medical Education Department and progress achieved under the CAPEX Budget during this financial year.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Director, SKIMS, concerned HoDs, Principals of all Medical Colleges, and other senior officers of the department attended the meeting.

It was informed that 422 drugs are provided free of cost across all Government hospitals, especially under maternal and child health care through Government drug stores. The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to submit a report on procurement, storage, and distribution of free medicines in all government facilities, besides raising awareness on the provision of free medicines through displayed lists at prominent places in the hospital premises.

Further, to streamline prescriptions of drugs by doctors, the Chief Secretary directed a prescription audit and asked the

department to ensure that all doctors produce their seal and signature on the prescription card, in case the prescribed drugs include non-generic medicines to be procured from the market.

Dr. Mehta emphasized switching over to digital prescriptions by the next financial year through suitable provisions in the CAPEX budget, which will be a step ahead

standards of healthcare at all institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to introduce the Health Management Information System by March 2022. The department was also asked to obtain quality certification for all Health Care Facilities within one year, and conduct regular training of the healthcare professionals.

Moreover, the Health and Medical Education Department was asked to notify a quality policy to be followed by the government health care institutions to ensure uniformity of treatment throughout the Union territory, while maintaining a high level of hygiene and cleanliness.

Dr. Mehta also directed the concerned to ensure adequate testing, fast-tracked vaccination in the 15-17 age category, and the best possible treatment to the COVID patients.

With regard to the completed works under the UT and District CAPEX and PMDD, the Department was asked to compile a compendium of completed projects with all details and geo-tagged photographs, to be put in the public domain for public view.



Use existing card board boxes infrastructure: FCIK

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: Federation of Chamber Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has demanded that Government should support the existing unit holders to fulfill the demand of the packaging and has taken a strong note of Government's plan to establish 40 MT integrated pack house at Doabagh, Sopore, as it seems that Government is giving birth to one more loss making PSU.

On the one hand Government is planning to disinvest the PSU's and establishing of new one seems to be a disaster and repetition of the Government mistakes which is unwarranted.

In a statement, FCIK president Shahid Kamili said establishment of pack house by Government at Sopore will deal a severe blow to the existing pack houses established by local entrepreneurs. Kamili said there is no need to establish additional facility when private entrepreneurs have already established around 150 state of art corrugated cardboard manufacturing facilities worth Rs 750 crores at various places catering to the Valley's horticulture produce successfully.

It said the existing installed capacity of packaging products is more than the demand of the horticulture crop from the Valley and the additional facility by the Government would also be a loss making unit.

"It seems that Government has not learned from its various loss making PSU's. This facility would not only prove white- elephant for the state exchequer but

will also destabilise facilities put up by the local entrepreneurs. The non-functioning of the Government PSUs have proved that the PPP models have failed," FCIK said.

FCIK secretary general, Ovees Qadir Jamie said that the packing industry is already saturated and ruthless competition has pushed the existing units to the wall, the existing units should be further augmented with Government hand-holding and supportive measures. FCIK said the existing units provide employment to around 2500 youth directly and 10000 indirectly who will also stare at expulsion if Government facility comes up and unneeded capacity increase will misbalance the economies of scale of the sector.

The Chamber has urged the Government to impress upon the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Planning and Marketing Corporation to cancel the tender inviting bids for the construction of 40 MT integrated pack house at Doabagh Sopore and also sign MoUs with existing units so that Government provides them the marketing support to their business venture. Government should take local industry leaders on board before making such decisions as the local unit holders are aware about the current industry status and how it can be promoted.

As the current supply from the existing units is enough and as per the required standards which is needed to be augmented by the government hand-holding and demands marketing support.

Sagar calls for end to alleged harassment of transporters

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The National Conference on Monday asked the administration to provide an enabling environment to Srinagar based registered transporters to operate on all inter and intra district routes.

This was said by the party general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar after a delegation of Kashmir Transport Workers Association, headed by its president Shabir Ahmed Matta, called on him here at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha Srinagar. The visiting delegation brought to the notice of the Party General Secretary a plethora of issues concerning their fraternity. The delegation rued the everyday intimidation which the registered transporters of Parimpora and Pantha Chowk stands are subjected to.

The NC General Secretary who was all ears to the concerns

raised by the visiting delegation, said that he will raise the issues concerning them at all appropriate forums

"It is distressing to hear how these transporters aren't allowed to make their humble living. I had contacted the concerned authorities earlier as well on this issue after I was approached by various other transport associations," he said.

Calling for a consensus between transport authorities and transporters on route issues, Sagar said the Government's vacillating approach on routes has aggravated the transporters. The undue intimidation, he rued, has further aggravated their plight.

Calling for an enabling environment for these registered transporters to operate on all inter and intra district routes, Sagar asked the concerned authorities to ensure that transporters aren't intimidated.

Locals demand development of Devika Sangam

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Jan 17: The members of Devika Sudhar Committee Nansu demanded development of Devika Sangam Nainsoo.

This village is situated about five kms from Udhampur town, a place where water of Birmahn River and holy river Devika meet and make a holy Sangam of these two rivers. A historical Aapshambu temple, dedicated to lord Shiva is also situated on the bank of sacred Devika Sangam.

Locals of village Nainsoo and members of Devika Sudhar Committee Holy Sangam are demanding construction of concrete retaining walls on both sides of Devika, flooring on both sides of cremation Ghats,

development of park with foot path space for walking pilgrims visiting the holy Devika sangam and a foot bridge over Devika adjoining to cremation Ghats.

Talking to media persons, Chairman of Devika Sudhar Committee Nansu, Bansil Lal said that a memorandum in this regard was forwarded to Union Minister in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh and Commissioner Secretary Planning through Deputy Commissioner Udhampur listing fifteen demands for development of the Devik Sangam.

Bansi Lal was accompanied by Ved Parkash Sharma, Bansil Lal Verma, Parkash Sharma, Subash Sharma, Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Om Parkash, Mangal Singh and Madhan Lal Sharma.

Gaurav Gupta elected Secretary of Jammu Club

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 17: Gaurav Gupta has been elected as Secretary of Jammu Club.



It was a contest between him and Dr Sandeep Singh in which, Gaurav Gupta defeated the latter with a margin of three votes. In secret ballot voting, Gaurav Gupta got 9 votes and Sandeep Singh secured 6 votes.

Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, who is also Vice President of the Club, graced the occasion, accompanied by Ratandeep Singh, outgoing Secretary of the Club.

Four nominated Members of Jammu Club are Er Ajay Sabharwal, Er Sumeet Puri, Er Tania Mahajan and Prof Aekta Gupta.

Pertinent to mention that eleven elected members of Jammu Club are; Gaurav Gupta, Er Ashok Gandotra, Dr Sandeep Singh, Dr Uttam Singh, Ashwani Gupta, Er Ashok Sharma, Chandra Kapoor Indu Puri, Aditya Gupta, Vikram Sharma and Kavita Gupta.

JKCCC stages protest, seeks LG's intervention in release of payments

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: J&K Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) staged protest at Engineering Complex, Rajbagh in Srinagar and sought the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for release of contractors' pending payments.

"The chairman of JKCCC, Ghulam Jeelani Purza in a letter written to the Lieutenant Governor has stated that if the new black laws are applied especially on the contractors of Kashmir, the administration will not be benefitted here even after that. Contractors are the backbone of development works' however, everyday, officials keep saying only about the development work is justice done to the contractors here for carrying out these development works.

If one side orders are issued by the Government officials in which they states to complete all of the ongoing projects as soon as possible which also states that if any of the contractor does not complete the project on time So blacklist it, On the other hand, does the same

administration think about those contractor? Has any official ever asked the contractor is your work done claim/ bills being paid on time.

A similar problem still exists with contractors of Kashmir. Thousand of bills are pending in Treasuries from December 31, 2021 till date which have not yet been paid. If the Administration claimed that we will go through first by making the funds available thereafter to put the work on Tender, Does the administration have this type of funds? The Hollow administration of J&K UT must think about Contractors here if they really want to carry out the development works So called Smart City then they should release our payments/ bills which are lying on the tables in treasuries.

JKCCC, chairman GJ Purza requested LG to look into the matter and issue your esteemed orders for release of funds as is known to the Planning Department/ Finance Department so that the work done claims of the contractor of J&K UT are settled and paid."

Contractual nursing staff of SKIMS seeks extension, stages protest

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The contractual nursing staff of SKIMS, Soura appointed under the academic arrangement last year today staged a protest demanding an extension in their contract which ended in October, 2021.

The protestors appeared in the Press Enclave and were raising slogans in favour of their demands, urging the administration to ensure that they are given

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

the necessary extension.

"We have been appointed under the academic arrangement by virtue of a contract for 6 months; it was stated that we will hold the job until such posts are filled by the competent authority," the staff said.

They said that their contract ended on October 28, 2021, and that they are waiting since then for the authorities to extend their contract so that they could continue

their duties. "3 months have passed and we are yet to get the extension, more so, we are being told that it will be done, but we have not seen anything so far," they said.

85 such individuals were appointed under the academic arrangement who said that many of them are still reporting for the duties even as some of them have already tested positive for COVID.

Meanwhile, SKIMS PRO said that the file about the extension of contractual nursing staff has been submitted to the Government and is under active consideration.

"The said contractual nursing staff has not been attending their duties for the last 3 to 4 days putting patients at the inconvenience. They were time and again informed by the concerned authorities that the file is being processed and orders will be issued after pending approval.

"They are not attending duties but using social media platforms to create unnecessary confusion," SKIMS said.

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