

UGC releases draft regulations on 'deemed to be universities'

NEW DELHI, Nov 4:

Institutions applying for "deemed to be university" status have to be multi-disciplinary or a cluster of setups having a minimum of five departments, according to draft UGC regulations.

Deemed universities will also be allowed to start off-shore campuses and admissions will be based on a testing by a Government agency.

"UGC has reframed the Institutions Deemed to be Universities Regulations, 2019 to make them in tune with the broader policies of higher education as contained in the NEP, 2020," UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar said, adding that these regulations were notified to regulate, in an orderly manner, the process of declaration of institutions of academic excellence as deemed to be universities and to maintain the quality of higher education imparted by these institutions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Friday made the draft public and invited comments on it.

The salient features of these modified regulations include fixing fee transparently keeping in view non-profiteering/

non-commercial aspects, may provide fee concession/ scholarships or may allocate some seats to meritorious students belonging to socially and economically deprived groups of the society and "shall implement the reservation policy in admissions/ recruitment, in accordance with the Constitution of India and the Act of Parliament in force."

These universities are also allowed to offer online/distance courses in accordance with the UGC regulations notified on the subject.

The new regulations also stated that the UGC may recommend withdrawal of status for failing to rectify deficiencies such as deemed to be universities with NAAC less than 'A' grade or ranked more than 100 in current NIRF ranking (Universities category) after being monitored on the academic parameters by UGC expert committee.

For prospective deemed to be university, the regulations also mandated that "in the case of institutions not funded by the Government, a corpus fund of Rs 25 crore or as decided by the commission from time to time, shall be created and maintained in the name of the institution." (PTI)



DG Floriculture Jatinder Singh presenting land passbook to a beneficiary in Panchayat Shiendra Lower in Poonch district.

DG Floriculture conducts tour of Panchayat in Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Nov 4: The fourth phase of Back to Village (B2V4) programme was conducted successfully in Panchayat Shiendra Lower of Block Lassana where Jatinder Singh (Director General Floriculture, Parks and Gardens) was deployed as the visiting officer.

Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat Wajahat Bhukhari along with all the panchs participated in the two-day activities of B2V4. About 125 persons from the Panchayat participated in the Gram Sabha where convergence plan of different departments was discussed and approved.

On the occasion, 15 land passbooks were distributed by the visiting officer to the different beneficiaries of the panchayats which were prepared by the revenue Department. Twenty candidates were also identified by the Gram Panchayat for training under Himayat Scheme.

The visiting officer along

with Sarpanch and Panchs also paid a visit to the PHCs, FPS AW Centres, animal and Husbandry Centres and educational institutions. The stress was laid by the visiting officers to aware the people towards corruption free and 'Nasha Mukh' society.

The Social welfare Department distributed baby kits among the beneficiaries and the indoor playing equipment to the senior citizens of the Panchayat.

The visiting officers along with Sarpanch of the Panchayat laid foundation stone of the Village Haat and the bridal path in ward number 2. Jatinder Singh stressed upon different departments to achieve 100% saturation in all the beneficiary schemes of the Government so that genuine persons are not left out of any scheme.

Inauguration of two rooms of Government primary school, two houses under PMAY and upgradation of transformer to 100 KVA was also done by the visiting officer and the Sarpanch of the Panchayat.

H&ME orders increase in seats for SAM College of Nursing in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 4: The Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department has granted Provisional NOC in favour of Syed Ali Memorial (SAM) College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences Beerwah, Budgam for enhancement of seats.

As per an order issued here in this regard, the sanction has been accorded to the grant of provisional Permission in favour of the college to the enhancement of seats in General Nursing & Midwifery.

The earlier capacity was 25 and the sanction has been accorded for the enhancement of 25 more, taking the total capacity to 50.

The Provisional No Objection Certificate has been granted subject to conditions which include that the approval is subject to the fulfilment of provisions laid down in the J&K Paramedical Council, Act, 2014.

The order stated that no capitation fee will be charged by the Institute and the permission shall be subject to any policy on

the subject, which the Government may sanction in future for regulation of these Institutes.

"Eligibility of candidates for admission to the above courses shall be made on merit basis as per the provisions laid down by the Government from time to time through J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) and the J&K Paramedical Council shall conduct an inspection of the institute, periodically, to monitor and assess the adequacy of infrastructure concerning the number of trainees.

The conditions laid down state that an amount of Rs.5000/-per trainee per session be charged by the Institute on account of providing hospital facility and the amount so received be utilized for the Hospital Development fund of the Hospital to which the institute is attached.

H&ME stated that the J&K Paramedical Council shall conduct an examination of the trainees on the same pattern as in the case of trainees of AMT/ANMT Schools in the UT of J&K.

Bovine smuggling foiled, 23 animals rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Nov 4: Police foiled two bovine smuggling bids under the jurisdiction of Police Station Udhampur and rescued 23 animals, which were being transported to Kashmir valley in two different vehicles.

During naka duty at Jakhani, Police party of PS Udhampur, headed by SHO Raghuraj Singh, under the supervision of Adl SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq DYP Headquarters Sahil Mahajan, signaled a truck and Mahindra pick-up truck, bearing registration number JK02AR 8377 and JK14G 7695 for sensing for checking.

Sensing trouble, driver of the vehicle JK02AR-8377 fled away from the spot after leaving behind the vehicle on road by taking the advantage of traffic on road. On search of the said vehicle, police found 20 bovines loaded in a very cruel manner.

On search of other vehicle (JK14G- 7695), three bovines were found loaded in it. Driver of this vehicle, identified as Subash Chander son of Krishan Lal of Jib Udhampur was apprehended on the spot.

Police rescued all the bovine animals and seized both the vehicles. In this connection, two case FIR number 452/2022 and 453/2022 under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Udhampur and further investigation of the case is in progress.

Plots in Kashmir demanded for security forces

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: To improve present situation and to encourage minorities in Kashmir, Shiv Sena J&K unit has demanded special colonies for security personnel and minorities in Kashmir.

Shiv Sena J&K president, Manish Sahni, expressed concern over the exodus of KPs from Kashmir and the continuing terrorist attacks on minorities residing there. Accusing the Government of failing to improve the situation in Kashmir and to protect the minorities there, Sahni condemned the terrorist attack on migrant labourers in Anantnag and warned the terrorists to desist from such coward acts.

He asked the Government to take concrete steps to stop selective attacks on minorities in Kashmir. Sahni said that claims of the Government regarding restoration of peace in Kashmir have proved hollow as even after three years of abrogation of Article 370, the dream of settling KPs in Kashmir has not been done.

Police rescued all the bovine animals and seized both the vehicles. In this connection, two case FIR number 452/2022 and 453/2022 under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Udhampur and further investigation of the case is in progress.

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HC seeks response on functioning of Food Court

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 4: High Court has sought reply from the Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Srinagar with regard to appointment of Arbitral Tribunal for running of the cafeteria (Food Court) at Moominabad Court Complex here.

"The appointment of Arbitrator, court added, on Food Court in Sadder Court Complex Srinagar will be considered only after response is filed by the PDJ, Srinagar", HC directed.

In its plea filed by M/S Miras Foods has sought the appointment of Arbitral Tribunal for adjudication of the disputes which have arisen between the parties in relation to the contract for running of the Food Court. The appointment of Arbitral Tribunal has been sought on the ground that due to imposition of Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions on the public movement, there was the suspension of business activities.

DB restrains DPC from making any recommendation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Division Bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Sanjay Dhar has directed Departmental Promotion Committee not to make any recommendation on the basis of impugned seniority of private respondents for promotion of Patwaris of Bandipora.

The order has been passed in a petition filed by Mir Ehsaan Ul Haq and others seeking quashment of impugned Order No. DCB/Estt/2022/1308-21 dated 29.08.2022 whereby the final seniority list of Patwaris of District Cadre Bandipora has been issued and also seeking direction to the respondents to fix the seniority of Patwaris of District Cadre Bandipora, which includes the applicants, in accordance with merit list issued by respondent BOPEE vide Govt. Order No.201-REV(NG) of 2012 dated 13.08.2012.

The petitioners always prayed for directions to the respondents against conducting Departmental Promotion Committee till the seniority list

The contractor has claimed remission in payment of license fee in relation to Food Court premises. He has also sought extension of tenure of license period on account of suspension of business activities due to Covid-19 pandemic based on orders and circular issued by the High Court and an extension in tenure of license period on account of satisfactory performance.

Court on examining the contents of the petition supported by the documents, said, the response of the respondent (PD&SJ) is necessary as the allotment order on which agreement is drawn between the parties, has come into effect on 05.08.2017 valid for a period of one year commencing from 05.08.2017 up to 04.08.2018 and the contract for running the Food Court at District Court Complex Moominabad, Srinagar, was renewable thereafter, depending on the satisfactory performance of the Contractor," the court said.

is revised in accordance with merit list issued by respondent BOPEE vide Govt. Order No.201-REV(NG) of 2012 dated 13.08.2012 and the official respondents be further directed not to make any promotion to the next higher grade till the final seniority list is revised.

After hearing both the sides, the DB observed, "the Central Administrative Tribunal should have considered the interim application which is pending before it from 20th September, 2022 and decide the same in terms of applicable law".

On the strength of pleadings of the parties the DB disposed of the petition with a request to the Central Administrative Tribunal to decide the interim application or the main OA by or before the date of convening of meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee.

"However, in the meantime till decision is made by the Tribunal in the interim application, the Departmental Promotion Committee shall not make any recommendation on the basis of impugned seniority of private respondents", the DB directed.

Man arrested with illegally stocked petrol, diesel

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Nov 4: Batote Police arrested a man along with illegally stocked petrol and diesel.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Batote conducted raid in a shop at Baggu nallah and recovered around 120 litres of petrol and diesel, which the shopkeeper has stocked illegally. The team also recovered 9 empty drums, 7 empty gallons and other materials used for measuring petrol and diesel.

The shopkeeper identified as Rameet Kumar, son of Ganesh

Chand of Daralta Batote District Ramban was arrested on the spot.

The accused used to sell petrol and diesel among the locals for gaining monetary benefits.

A case FIR Number 196/22 under section 3/7 Essential Commodities Act has been registered at Police Station Batote and investigation started.

Police team led by SHO Batote Inspector Sam Paul Gill SHO made the arrest under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Ramban Pradeep Singh Sen and SP Ramban Mohita Sharma.

Fill all vacant posts in Govt depts: NPP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: President J&K National Panthers Party (NPP) Vilakshan Singh has demanded that all the vacant posts in the Government departments should be immediately filled and the promotions should also be granted to the employees in a time bound manner so that more posts are available for direct recruitment.

He said that the BJP Government has failed to contain unemployment in the country in general and J&K in particular. Singh said that in the data recently issued by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, unemployment rate has increased to 7.77% in October

HM did justice with Paharis: Suri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah kept his word and did justice with Paharis, said BJP executive member, Raman Suri, here today.

"The Union Home Minister had last month in October promised ST status for Paharis and now, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) approved with inclusion of Pahari ethnic group, Paddari tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmins in the STs and proposal for which will now go to the Cabinet and this will also get a seal of the Parliament very soon," he said.

Earlier, the BJP abrogated Article 370 and did justice with

from 6.43% in September. Singh said that in the data issued for J&K was among the worst sufferers with an unemployment rate of 22.4%.

Singh said that youth of J&K are already suffering due to lack of employment opportunities. BJP's failure to run the administration properly has added fuel to the fire, he said, adding that BJP instead of increasing the employment opportunities in J&K is focussing on increasing the sale of liquor in J&K and making J&K a "liquor UT".

He said that J&K Government failed to such an extent that the selection processes had to be scrapped due to large scale bungling in the said selection processes.

displaced persons from West Pakistan and Valmiki samaj by granting them voting rights. They had been living here since partition without enjoying this right but the BJP Government empowered them by striking off Article 370 that blocked their way to progress.

Suri further said that the Congress, NC and PDP had always been making false promises with people for their vested interests, which is definitely not the case with BJP.

He said that the BJP Govt at the Centre is committed to build a strong India and do justice with every section of the society, which is why it keeps its promises made to the people or incorporated in its Party manifesto.



Students and their parents raising slogans during protest. -Excelsior/Rafi Choudhary

Students, parents hold protest; demand repair of school building

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Nov 4: The students along with their parents held protest and demanded repair of school building.

The students of Government Primary School Butt Mohallah Shuran in Education Zone Bhallesa along with their parents staged protest against Government and Education Department for their failure to repair the school building.

The students pursuing their education in this Government school assembled at Shuran and blocked Gandoh-Doda road for two hours. They raised slogans against the Education Department and demanded immediate repair of their school building.

A local resident Mohd Shafi said that the school building is without roof top due to which

students suffer a lot.

"The matter was taken up with the concerned authorities several times, but nothing has been done till date", he added.

The parents stated that the students have been made to sit under open sky whether it is summer, rainy or winter season.

Around 71 students are pursuing their education in this school and have been left to suffer in all the weather conditions, they added.

Later, SDM Gandoh Arun Badyal, BDC Chairman Choudhary Mohd Hanif and SHO Gandoh Inspector Vikram Singh visited the spot and assured the protesting students of redressing their issue in the shortest possible time.

On the assurance, the students dispersed and vehicular movement was restored on the road.

JKNUF shows concern over plight of package employees

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Jammu Kashmir National United Front (JKNUF) has expressed grave concern over the denial of salaries to PM package and non package employees working in Kashmir who have been forced to leave the Valley after targeted killings.

In a statement the chief spokesperson of the Front, Rakesh Handoo said that the Kashmiri Pandits have been betrayed by the Government totally. He said community had never hoped that they will meet such an ill treatment from the BJP Government. He asked the

community to get united and fight its battle on its own.

He said JKNUF will lead the cause of Kashmiri Pandits and the Front will come on streets to highlight the genuine issue. He strongly advocated for the relocation of package and non package employees to Jammu till conditions become conducive in Kashmir and release of their salaries. He ridiculed the authorities' decision asking the package employees for biometric attendance and said what safety and security they have in Kashmir as their colleagues were killed in offices. He urged the Government to look into the issue and find an everlasting solution to it.

BADC expresses concern over frequent road accidents in district Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JKBADC) has expressed serious concern over the frequent road accidents in border district Poonch wherein several people lost their lives while others got serious injuries.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JKBADC and former Vice Chancellor called for urgent attention of the Government and local authorities towards this serious issue.

He said the Deputy Commissioner Poonch who is also the Chairman of District Road Safety Committee must issue appropriate directions to the concerned departments to take steps, identify risky spots to minimize the fatal road accidents in the district and depute Quick Reaction Teams including doctors and ambulances to rescue road accident victims in the border district.

The former Vice Chancellor requested the Deputy

Commissioner to regularly convene the meetings of District Road safety Committee as this is very serious issue concerning the lives of the citizens.

Dr Shazad also asked the Traffic Police and Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Poonch to lay stress on awareness about traffic rules instead of penalties and challans as nothing is more precious than the human lives.

He said that there is urgent need of issuing more route permits for operating new vehicles and the transport authorities should be liberal in issuing new route permits for passenger vehicles as it will also increase employment avenues for the youth.

He also cautioned the people to not board on overloaded vehicles and cooperate with the law enforcing authorities for safe driving and managing traffic.

The BADC chairman also reiterated the demand of setting up a state of the art Trauma Hospital in Poonch.



Taranjit Singh Tony Chairman of AAP J&K for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs interacting with residents.

BJP Govt running liquor, mining mafia in J&K: Tony

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Accusing the BJP Government of running liquor and mining mafia in J&K, Taranjit Singh Tony Chairman of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) J&K for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs and DDC Member Suchetgarh asked the people to root out saffron party's dispensation and vote for people friendly party AAP to ensure desired transformation in the UT of J&K.

The senior AAP leader was addressing a meeting called by the residents of Azad Nagar in Upper Gadigarh area after the completion of black-topping work in the locality. Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Upper Gadigarh organised this meeting in which Ashraf Ali, Mandeep Singh, Sub Balak Ram, Bal Krishan Ashok Bhagat, Satvir Singh and many youth of the area were present.

Tony said it is intriguing that despite the constituency being represented by the towering leaders of BJP and Congress in the past people

have to suffer for these minor things as the former legislators of the area never paid any heed towards the issues of people rather they preferred to satiate people through lip service and big promises.

He said that people have the ultimate power and they should use this in the ensuing elections to ensure that power hungry BJP should be shown mirror and security deposits of all the candidates of this party should be forfeited without any exception.

The senior AAP leader said that J&K has been turned into money minting machine by the BJP Government as its stooges are running liquor and mining mafia at the cost of the pockets of the common man, which is suffering on all fronts.

He said that only AAP can provide the much required relief to the people of J&K and therefore strengthening the party by extending support should be taken as a cause for the welfare of the people. He said that a vote for AAP is a vote for public welfare and justice delivery.

Farmers suffering lot due to shortage of seeds & fertilizer: Ravinder

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 4: Senior Congress Party leader and former MLC Ravinder Sharma has alleged non availability of required quantity of seeds and fertilizers to farmers especially in Sunderbani, Nowshera and Kalakote areas and demanded immediate steps in this direction by the Government.

Sharma was apprised by the farming community during his tour of Sunderbani, Kalakote and Nowshera areas about non-availability of required quantity of fertilizers especially DAP besides seeds. They demanded immediate availability of quality seeds of wheat as well as pulses for the season by the department.

"The shortage of quality seeds and required quantity of fertilizers is a matter of serious concern to farmers. The farmers suffer a lot in the absence of timely supply of seeds and fertilizer which affects the production and leads to loss of income to farmers and rise in prices," the former MLC said.

He also expressed concern for the farmers of rice belt of Bimliya, Thangriote and Treyath as huge loss was caused to them during recent rains/hail storms but the

Government failed to respond to their demand of compensation.

Ravinder Sharma also expressed concern over lack of Government response to the farmers' cry about huge loss to the maize crop this year due to a particular insect disease, affecting the maize crop and production in most parts of the area. He said the farmers had to spend a lot of insecticides but the Government did not render any financial help to the farmers, which shows the anti-farmers approach of administration.

AAP demands early elections in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Organisation Building Co-Incharge of AAP in J&K, O.P Khajuria today castigated BJP for delaying elections in J&K.

In a handout he claimed that bureaucratic rule in J&K is turning dictator and communication gap between different departments is taking toll on overall Government system.

Khajuria said that there is no democratic setup of Government in J&K since the last more than four years and entire system of Government here is being run by bureaucratic setup.

'Smart City Projects Ltd using sub-standard tiles, other material'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 4: Renowned RTI Activist Balvinder Singh along with members of Resident Welfare Association Gandhi Nagar & other Civil Society members lambasted Smart City Private Limited and those responsible for maintaining quality of works, for using sub-standard

project of Apasara Road.

All in the press conference besides urging upon the authorities to take serious note of the issue raised and direct the concerned to take remedial measures for maintaining quality of works undertaken under Smart City Projects Ltd, also demanded CBI probe in the whole contract to find out who are the officers who have not mentioned any specification of material including tiles in the tender documents used in Jammu.

While addressing a press conference, Balvinder Singh demonstrated the sub-standard quality of tiles dumped in the park of Gole Market for fixing in the said park and same tiles are being used over the footpaths.

Singh further stated the colourful tiles used by Smart City Projects Limited lose its colour within a small span of time. He also displayed tiles, among the stock of tiles dumped in the park, which lost its colour in the sunlight even before it is being laid

in the park.

All present during the press conference criticized the SCPL Jammu for encroaching the roads by constructing footpaths on the roads which have already less width.

Resentment is also shown for use of sub standard cobble stone and poor workmanship performed at the most prestigious

project of Apasara Road. All in the press conference besides urging upon the authorities to take serious note of the issue raised and direct the concerned to take remedial measures for maintaining quality of works undertaken under Smart City Projects Ltd, also demanded CBI probe in the whole contract to find out who are the officers who have not mentioned any specification of material including tiles in the tender documents used in Jammu.

Prominent among those who were present during the press conference were Lalman Khajuria President Resident Welfare Association, CU Sharma Secretary General, Bharat Sharma, Suresh Sethi, Manjit Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, SC Khajuria, ML Vaid, GD Gupta and Krishan Lal Gupta.



RTI activist Balvinder Singh and others during a press conference at Jammu on Friday.