



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta at MoU signing occasion for operation of 200 e-buses at Srinagar.

CS oversees MoU signing for operation of 200 e-buses in Srinagar, Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta in presence of Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Dheeraj Gupta today presided over a ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with TATA Motors Ltd. and Chalo Mobility Pvt. Ltd for the deployment of 200 electric buses in twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar here.

Division Commissioner Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL); Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL); CEO & MD - TATA Motors Smart City Mobility Solution Limited; COO TATA Motors Smart City Mobility Solution Limited; and Sr. Vice President, CHALO Mobility Pvt. Ltd besides other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The collaboration is part of Jammu and Kashmir's government initiative to establish an environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable network of public transport for Jammu and Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion,

Chief Secretary remarked that induction of electric buses will transform the transport system in both cities of Jammu and Srinagar. He asked both firms to ensure the best travelling experience to people in twin cities.

He made out that besides being environment friendly the buses will also give a unique experience to commuters. He maintained that the government is committed to provide every modern facility in the cities of the UT. He reiterated that the government would continue its efforts to provide world class comforts to people in both these smart cities.

Principal Secretary, H&UDD, said that the electric vehicles are the future of transport as they are eco-friendly, ideal for the urban environment, and contribute to reducing pollution levels.

He further added that this collaboration will facilitate effort-less and convenient travel in electric buses in both the capitals of Jammu and Srinagar.

It was revealed that passengers can also get details like real-time tracking of buses, how congested it is, along with expected time of arrival. It was also informed that the partnership between both firms will also

eliminate the need for paper tickets and make contactless ticketing a greener option.

Further, it was said that the initiative will play a significant role in savings on ticketing costs. Apart from reducing pollution levels, the electric buses are also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities like panic button, location system, CCTV, stop request system, and other security related features, as was given out on this occasion.

Under this project, Tata Motors and Chalo Mobility will work in collaboration with each other for functioning of electric buses in both cities in coordination with Jammu Smart City and Srinagar Smart City Limited. Tata Motors will be responsible for supply, operation & maintenance of electric buses, 100 each in Jammu & Srinagar.

Chalo Mobility will deploy its consumer technology solutions to offer convenience like Electronic Ticket Issuing Machines (ETIMs), Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS), Mobile App with Mobile Tickets and Mobile Passes Platform, Smart Cards Platform and Cloud Based Hosting to the commuters.

Omar exhorts party functionaries to intensify public outreach

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah today presided over a meeting of the Party's provincial committee, Kashmir province at the Party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subha,

Ahmed Shah, Mubarak Gul, Nazir Ahmed Khan Gurezi, Sharief ud Din Shariq, Muhammad Syed Akhoun, State spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, provincial secretary Showkat Ahmed Mir and provincial vice presidents--Ahsan Pardesi and Syed Tauqeer Ahmed and others.



NC vice-president Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting of the party functionaries at Srinagar.

Srinagar.

The meeting was marked by threadbare discussion on challenges faced by the Party and the future course of action. The members also gave a detailed appraisal of the underway political activities in their respective constituencies. Among other issues, the members also raised various other issues of public importance as well.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Party's general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, party treasurer Shammi Oberoi, chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, senior leaders Abdul Rahim Rather, Mian Altaf Ahmed, Sakina Itoo, MP Baramulla Muhammad Akbar Lone, women's wing president Shameema Firdous, Peerzada Gh

In his address, Omar Abdullah reiterated that the Party has and will always work towards protecting and cherishing the political legacy of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah. "Being the owners of that illuminating legacy, our party functionaries, workers and grass root level cadre has a greater responsibility in shouldering the worries of people and airing their issues at appropriate forums," he said.

Echoing the sentiments of party functionaries, he said the situation on ground zero in Jammu and Kashmir is contrary to the claims of the incumbent administration. "Here our party cadre has an added responsibility to reach out to the people and lend voice to voiceless," he added.

Opposition parties announce protests on issue of inclusion of non-local voters in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 17: A committee formed by opposition parties against the inclusion of non-locals in the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday decided to hold protests to mobilise public support on the issue.

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

The panel, which included all the five constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and several other political parties like the Congress and the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) met here for the first time since it was constituted on October 8.

"Our protests on the roads will be peaceful and in accordance with our constitutional rights," senior National Conference leader and MP Hasnain Masoodi told reporters after the meeting at the residence of PAGD chairperson and former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah here.

Flanked by members of the committee including former minister Lal Singh of DSSP, Awami National Conference president Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, and former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman, Masoodi said the final decision to start the public outreach programme will be taken after consultation with senior leaders.

"We will put forth the panel's view before the senior leadership and they will take a final call on the timing of the start of the campaign," he said, adding "this will be done very soon."

One of the leaders attending the meeting said all members of the panel were present except former minister and DSS president Gulchahin Singh Charak due to a "death in his family".

However, three more representatives of different religious and social groups attended the meeting after they were included in the panel, he said.

Masoodi said all the participants are against giving voting rights to non-locals as "it will be tantamount to the disenfranchisement of the local voters".

Responding to a question about the mode of the public outreach programme, he said "We will be on the roads as per our rights given by the Constitution... We will get the people together as we are all united on this issue."

The National Conference leader criticised the now-revoked order of the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu authorising tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue certificates of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than one year to facilitate their entry in the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

"The order of the DC Jammu has reportedly been withdrawn but where is its replacement? The senior leaders are of the view that the government is deliberately keeping the people uninformed while carrying out the exercise," he said.

He alleged deliberate attempts are being made to divide the people of the two regions -

Govt making all round efforts for overall development of J&K: Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 17: As a part of the special public outreach program of the Central Govt. to the UT of J&K, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Pratima Bhoomik today said that J&K is the crown of India and government is steadfast, making all-round efforts for the overall development of J&K.

The Minister said that the basic objective of public outreach program is to assess ground-level development across all the sectors and to review the implementation of all the Central Govt. schemes and programmes in the district.

She also said that the Government is working on the idea of 'Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas' and thus, all round, holistic and sustainable development across every sector of J&K is the top priority of the Central Government.

The Minister further said that after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A in Jammu and Kashmir, all welfare schemes and programs have been implemented in J&K and many have reached 100 percent of their saturation which is a positive sign.

Underlining scores of measures being taken to meet the developmental aspirations of the border residents, the Minister said that the Govt. is very serious about the safety and protection of all the border residents and has thus taken several initiatives for their welfare. The contribution of border residents is immense as they work shoulder to shoulder

with our security forces for the maintaining peace in the border areas", she added.

Stating that there is a huge potential of tourism in border destinations, she said that it is the high time to explore these tourist spots to uplift the socio-economic status of the border residents.

of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" which aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.

Later, the Minister also inau-



Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoomik at a meeting in Rajouri.

Minister also highlighted scores of welfare schemes and programs launched by the Govt. and said that the Government is committed to ensure transparency and accountability at every cost.

She interacted with the DDC Members, BDC Chairpersons and PRLs at Nowshera who apprised the Minister about number of issues and demands of their areas and sought immediate redressal of the same.

The Minister also said that the Govt. is working on the concept

of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" which aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.

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Meet on Jan Abhiyan, upcoming 'Back to Village' Prog held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 17: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheela Nanda, convened an exclusive meeting with all Head of Departments, District Programme Officers, District Social Welfare Officers regarding Jan Abhiyan and upcoming 'Back to Village' programme phase IV (B2V4) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary elaborately defined goals for Jan Abhiyan and B2V4 for the department emphasizing an efficient approach towards ensuring visibility of the department on ground making sure saturation of all the departmental schemes.

She directed the officers to hold events on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in every district, establish senior citizen clubs in every panchayat and ensure generation and distribution of Disability UDID cards among all beneficiaries including differently abled school children in collaboration with Chief Education Officers of the concerned district. She also asked them to organize camps in far flung areas for issuance of age proof certificates in collaboration with Chief Medical Officers of the

concerned district during the Jan Abhiyan before commencement of 'Back to Village' programme.

During the meeting, both the Directorates of Social Welfare Department were also instructed to conduct 100 percent saturation of pensions besides implementation of new guidelines for sanction of widow pension for aged less than 40 years.

Commissioner Secretary asked the Mission Director, Poshan, to conduct audit of Poshan Vatikas and visible Anganwadis through concerned DPOs and CDDOs besides holding anemia identification camps for the beneficiaries.

She also directed the concerned to ensure wall paintings of all pension beneficiaries in every Panchayat. She also asked to display and publicize helpline numbers of One Stop Center, Mahila Shakti Kendras and Elderline for senior citizens, helpline under SC/ST (Atrocities Act), drug de-addiction helpline, Childline and all other helpline numbers of the department. She directed for distribution of pamphlets in vernacular languages on all schemes including scholarships, marriage assistance scheme, Ladli Beti scheme and related programmes.

AAP announces UT, provincial level units in J&K Harsh Dev to head Coordination Committee, Mustafa Kashmir, Tony Minority Committee

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 17: Aam Aadmi Party today announced the provincial level as well as union territory level units of the party in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party has framed AAP Jammu and Kashmir State Coordination Committee with former minister, Harsh Dev Singh as its Chairman while DDC member Mehraj Malik and Dr Ghulam Mustafa Khan will be co-chairmen of the committee.

Similarly, Jammu and Kashmir State Organisation Building Committee will be headed by Prabhari of Jammu and Kashmir while senior leader Om Prakash Khajuria and DDC member Mehraj Malik will be Co-chairmen of the committee.

Nasir Ali Kochak will lead the J&K State Political Strategy and Policy committee as Chairman with S Surender Singh Shangari as Co-chairman whereas Jammu and Kashmir Manifesto Drafting Committee will be headed by S Deep Singh as Chairman while Prof Farooq Ahmed Aga will be Co-chairman of the committee.

On the other hand, senior party leader and DDC member TS Tony has been assigned the task of chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs Committee with Sheema Farooqi as Co-chairperson.

Aam Aadmi Party has also formed State Media Committee

with Dr Nawab Nasir as Chairman, S Jagdeep Singh as Co-chairman whereas Prof Farooq Ahmed Aga has been nominated as Chairman of State Grievances Redressal Forum and SK Sharma as Co-chairperson.

In Jammu and Kashmir SC, ST and OBC Welfare Forum, Yashpal Kundal has been appointed as Chairman with Retired Judge Sikander Azam as Co-chairman whereas Dr Mohammad Ayub Mattoo shall lead Jammu and Kashmir Publicity and Visibility Committee as Chairman along with Zafarullah Sheikh as Co-chairman.

AAP has also announced the provincial level units in Jammu and Kashmir provinces with Dr Ghulam Mustafa Khan appointed as Kashmir province president whereas Dr Nazir Ahmed Yatoo, Mohd Amin Dar and Deeba Khan as Vice Presidents.

Similarly in Jammu province unit, S Surender Singh Shangari has been appointed as senior vice president and Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Raj Kapoor, Ravi Shastri, Rajesh Padgotra, Amit Kapoor and Subhash Sharma as Vice Presidents.

Alongside, Retd Judge Sikander Azam has been appointed as Prabhari of Jammu province ST wing while Khatib Hussain is President of Unit.

Jammu province unit of Kashmiri displaced people wing will be headed by MK Yogi as Prabhari and Ashwani Kumar Bhat as President.

AAP has also announced units of some of the districts of Jammu and Kashmir with Mian Ayaz Ahmed Jamali appointed as District President Bandipora, Younis Khan as District President North Srinagar comprising of four assembly constituencies, Owaise Wani as President of South Srinagar district comprising of four assembly constituencies.

Termining the announcement of all these units as a major step forward by AAP, the party's organization building incharge in J&K, Munish Kaushik said that a powerful organisational structure is prerequisite for every political party and AAP is now having the same in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that alike other parties, AAP units in J&K are having highly educated chairpersons in it who are having high qualifications like PhD and many are doctors, engineers, lawyers, technocrats, entrepreneurs and presence of these highly educated and professional people in units make Aam Aadmi Party a dynamic political platform.

He further said that the oath ceremony of all the newly elected chairpersons will be held in Jammu on October 28 and in Kashmir on October 29 and campaign for next Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will start formally from November 1st.

Pertinent to mention here that two rounds of announcements were made earlier in which units of district as well as block level were constituted and announced.

BJP, Cong candidates file nomination papers Independents withdraw in favour of Rajinder

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 17: The candidates of BJP and Congress today filed their nomination papers for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), election of which is scheduled for October 21, 2022.

The J&K BJP had yesterday announced its candidates for the posts of JMC Mayor and Deputy Mayor by declaring Councillor of Ward number 16, Rajinder Sharma as candidate for the post of Mayor and that of Ward number 56, Baldev Singh Bilowria for the post of Deputy Mayor and these Councillors today filed their nomination papers.

Also, Congress chief whip in General House of JMC, Dwarka Chowdhary of Ward number 46 has filed his nomination papers for the post of Mayor and Sonika Sharma of Ward number 30 has filed her nomination papers for the post of Deputy Mayor.

In a new development, the Independent candidates Anu Bali, Councillor of Ward 24 and Amit Gupta, Councillor of Ward 19

who were supposed to contest for the post of Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively today withdrew their decision to contest the elections in favour of BJP candidate Rajinder Sharma, contesting for the post of Mayor, claiming him to be honest and upright person who is expected to work with dedication.

Both Bali and Gupta when contacted said that they will support Sharma as an individual and have nothing to do with his party BJP.

"About 12 Independent Councillors have announced to extend their support to BJP and out of 73 Councillors, BJP is likely to get more than 60 votes in favour of its candidates," BJP J&K president, Ravinder Raina claimed.

Senior BJP leaders including Kavinder Gupta, Sat Sharma, Priya Sethi, Yudhvir Sethi and others were also present at the office of JMC Secretary where the candidates of BJP and Congress have submitted their duly filled nomination forms.

Sources informed that senior Congress leaders were not present

on the occasion as they were busy with election for national president of Congress.

Though from the total 75 Councillors of JMC, one from BJP and another Independent have died while some including Independents have joined either BJP or Congress.

Still the BJP has about 44 members ensuring easy victory to its candidates while number of Independents is just 15 while Congress has presently 13 members as two of Congress Councillors have left the party to join newly floated Democratic Azad Party.

Election for Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be held on October 21, 2022 at 11 am by means of open ballot.

Many Councillors have expressed resentment against the open ballot system of holding elections for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and have termed it as murder of democracy.

They have suggested secret ballot system as per the norms of democracy for holding these elections.

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