

CS emphasizes on digital DPRs, billing of all works under OMMAS

***Launches 8 more services under auto-appeal**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today highlighted the need for introducing the Online Management & Monitoring System (OMMAS) for raising bills of all works under execution by different Departments such as Public Works Department, PDD, PHE etc throughout J&K. He impressed on all the concerned Departments to look into their readiness within 15 days and decide about the timeframe to onboard themselves onto this online system of bill preparation, submission and monitoring.

Dr Mehta also directed formulation of DPRs in digital mode of all the projects to be taken up in the UT so that automated and hassle free checking can be introduced. He said that the digital DPRs will make the process of analysis easy and less cumbersome and shall bring about much needed efficiency. He also stressed on use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in gauging the efficiency and output of employees so that deadwoods are identified easily by the system.

On the occasion, he also launched auto-appeal feature for 08 more online services offered by different Departments. The feature is going to auto escalate the appeals in case the services



are not provided to the applicants within the time limits set under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). Dr Mehta complimented the IT Department for integrating this vital feature in the digital services offered by these Departments to the citizens. He stressed upon need for integrating the Auto-appeal feature for all the designated 48 services offered over Service Plus immediately and rest of services by May 2023.

The Chief Secretary said that the auto-appeal feature for services related to everyday life of the people like birth and death certificates are critical for enhancing ease of living. He emphasized that benefits like old age and widow pension, scholarships under various social security schemes etc should also be included in the system without any delay.

He observed that this feature would act as a turning point in maintaining transparency and accountability in

services to the public and eradicating corruption. He stated that auto escalation feature of online services is going to put an end to mal-practices besides promoting fairness, a priority set by the current dispensation in all its affairs including offering of government employment and public contracts to its citizens on the basis of merit alone.

The Services which were today brought under the Auto-appeal system include issuance of unmarried/widow/divorce certificate; issuance of family income/property certificate for Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme; issuance of Dependent Certificate; issuance of Income Dependency Certificate; issuance of OBC Certificate; issuance of street vending/Rehri Licence; Application for Road cutting permission under Municipal Corporations; and Application for Road cutting permission under Municipal Councils/Committees.

G-20 Summit: Div Com gives deadline of 10 days for completion of works

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Taking firsthand review of ongoing works under G-20 Summit, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today issued clear cut directions to all officers, officials and contractors associated with these works to complete them within set timelines.

The Div Com issued this direction during a high level meeting held to take review of works completed, and ongoing works under G-20 Summit.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC/CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited, V.C L&CMA, Director Floriculture, Labour Commissioner J&K, SSP Security, SSP Traffic City, C.Es of PW (R&B), PHE (Jal Shakti), I&FC (Jal Shakti), KPDC Kashmir and other Officers and Officials besides Contractors of works going on under G-20 Summit.

At the outset, the Div Com said that the works are for the people and should be completed at an earlier for their convenience. He sought feedback from the participants regarding the needs and requirements vis a vis meeting work completion deadlines.

During the meeting, the Div



Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court, Justice N Kotiswar Singh, VC KU Prof Nilofer Khan and other dignitaries during a function at KU in Srinagar.

Chief Justice inaugurates mega project on 'Revival of Legal Aid Clinics' at KU

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N Kotiswar Singh today inaugurated a mega project on 'Establishment, Revival and Operation of Legal Aid Clinics in Kashmir' at the University of Kashmir (KU).

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan were the guests of honour at the event, organized by the varsity's School of Law. Dr Vijaylakshmi Brara was the special guest at the inaugural session.

In his presidential address, Justice N Kotiswar Singh invoked the Preamble of the Constitution which calls for securing justice for

all citizens to highlight the importance of providing free legal aid to vast sections of people "who are still unaware of their legal rights and privileges". "This is a big challenge," the Chief Justice said.

Praising the KU for the ambitious project, the Chief Justice, who was the chief guest on the occasion, highlighted the important role that law students can play in making legal aid clinics more vibrant and effective by going to grassroots for legal awareness among the people to increase their access to justice. He also said that justice-delivery is not the exclusive prerogative of the judges or lawyers alone but "everyone in the society can contribute to justice delivery in a small way."

In his special address, Justice Tashi Rabstan underscored the importance of legal aid clinics in enhancing the people's access to justice. "Legal aid clinics are one of the important ways to fulfill our Constitutional pledge of ensuring access to justice for one and all," he said.

In his inaugural address, Prof Nilofer Khan said, "We need to see how best we can utilize our young students, para-legals, scholars and pro-bono lawyers to go to the remotest parts of the Valley under this important project to raise legal awareness among people."

Head and Dean, School of Law, Prof Beauty Bandy delivered the welcome address while Dr Mohammad Yasin, Director of the Project, highlighted its objectives and conducted proceedings of the inaugural session. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Shehnaaz, faculty, School of Law.

Earlier, a ceremonial guard of honour was presented to the Chief Justice by a contingent of the University Police.

Govt neglecting important Tunnel projects in J&K: Mir

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, Apr 11: The progress on Zojila Tunnel and other important projects including efforts to boost tourism sector in J&K were mentioned by the Union Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in Srinagar yesterday, sadly the Minister did not even mention the plans for construction of other important tunnels at various higher altitudes in Kashmir awaiting Govt approval since long.

"Govt of India has neglected Kapran Desa, Sadhna Top, Razdan Top, Mati Gavarn - Enshan Tunnel projects, which also happen to be equally important given their higher altitude and difficult topographies coupled with strategic defence snags due to the connectivity issues in certain areas especially Karnah and Gurez falling very close LoC," former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president Ghulam Ahmad Mir said today in the backdrop of a press conference addressed by Union Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in which he explained GOI's efforts and strategies being implemented with regard to execution and completions of various developmental projects in J&K.

Former JKPC chief expressed surprise that the Union Minister has not even mentioned Sadhna, Lolab Machil, Razdan, Matigwaran Enshan and Kapran Desa tunnel projects, which are equally significant projects to be executed given the landscape and difficult topography of respective areas.

Elaborating the significance of Tunnel projects, Mir said Kapran Desa Tunnel is an important project sanctioned by the UPA Govt, which connects Kashmir with Chenab Valley, but the project has been awaiting execution for a long time due to the policies adopted by Modi Govt. The Union Minister didn't even mention this project in his presser thereby hurting the expectations of the people.

Quoting the importance of Sadhna Top connecting Kupwara with Karnah and Razdan Pass connecting Bandipora with Gurez, Mir said these two are important projects in terms of defence and other means of connectivity, but remain cut off with rest of the valley for about six months so causing huge inconvenience to common people, who get stuck during winter months.

Mir also referred to Lolab-Machil area of Kupwara district, which is a most remote and neglected, where people are living a miserable life on account of connectivity and other facilities. There was an urgent need to sanction a Tunnel for the area.

Special Summary Revision

Govt constitutes teams to facilitate Kashmiri migrants

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: One of its initiative by Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Department with an aim to ensure maximum awareness and facilitation of Kashmiri Migrants in Electoral Rolls of constituencies of their original residence, 22 teams have been constituted in camp and non camp areas of J&K UT and for outreach program at Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Ahmadabad, Delhi and Chandigarh.

Besides, two (02) special teams have been constituted wherein 16 officers, 56 officials and 50 Casual labourers have been engaged under the supervision of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner(M), J&K.

For Zonal Area Awareness Campaign, all the officers/officials of 22 Zones have been declared as BLO's and have been assigned the task of conducting door to door awareness program and enrollment of Kashmiri Migrants in Electoral Rolls.

Cong responsible for present situation: Rana BJP thanks LG for deferring power tariff hike

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Senior BJP leader and former MLA, Devender Singh Rana today expressed gratitude on behalf his party to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for positively responding to the plea taken up with regard to the proposed hike in the power tariff and assuring against any such move in the near future to increase the rates to every category of consumers across Jammu and Kashmir in the larger public interest.

Addressing a press conference at the party Headquarters here, this morning, Rana said that this important issue, flagged by a deputation of Federation of Industries Jammu to the Pradesh BJP Trade and Industry Cell, was taken up with the Lieutenant Governor, who responded very positively keeping larger public interest in view.

Devender Rana, who also oversees the working of Industries, Tourism, Trade, Transport & Cooperative Cells, flanked by conveners and co-conveners of the respective cells said that the Federation of Industries had vehemently sought the intervention in getting the issue resolved as any move by the Jammu Power Development Corporation to increase the power tariff would be detrimental to the growth of Industry. They had pleaded that the further increase to the already hike of 25 to 38 per cent in the power tariff effected in October, 2022 was not desirable as Jammu and Kashmir was bearing a little less than the tariff structure in neighbouring Punjab and more than Himachal Pradesh, he added.

Rana said that the Lieutenant Governor has been agile to the genuine problems of the people and whenever approached, he has examined and decided the issues keeping in view the public interest. He also lauded the efforts being made for holistic development, rapid industrialization, massive infrastructural interventions



Senior BJP leader and former MLA, Devender Singh Rana addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

post August 5, 2019 political developments, as part of the Prime Minister's mission of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas. "With all these efforts in mission mode, Jammu and Kashmir is destined to be topping the North Indian states in respect of development and progress in the next five years", he said, adding that the day is

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not far when the Union Territory will be a shining part of the nation becoming Vishwa Guru.

He said due to concerted efforts, peace and tranquillity has returned to Jammu and Kashmir and the people are living in harmony under responsive and transparent governance. This is a historic achievement of the BJP under the dynamic leadership of the statesman, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, he maintained.

On being asked about the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Rana said holding of polls is the prerogative of the Election Commission of India. As far as the BJP is concerned, the party remains in the election mode 24x7x365, he

asserted. To a question about some opposition parties claiming that the BJP doesn't want elections due to fear of losing, he retorted, "Who are they? The Congress which I believe is responsible for the murder of democracy in J&K. It is the party which is singularly responsible for the present day situation in J&K", he said.

He exuded confidence that the BJP will emerge victorious in the elections, whenever held, at the strength of the pro-people policies and path-breaking initiatives taken in the recent years on all the fronts, especially development and security situation.

Rana said the people's mandate to the BJP will be yet another blow to the self centric political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, who have exploited the people all these decades. He held the Congress responsible for all the mess and uncertainty created in Jammu and Kashmir.

Convener Trader Cell Shyam Lal Langar, convener Industries Cell, Neeraj Anand, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, co-conveners, Vikas Jandyal, Chmail Singh, Jaspal Bhatti and others were also present in the press conference.a

FOIJ demands reimbursement of turnover incentive to existing units

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ) has urged the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for his intervention for the reimbursement of turnover incentives to existing working Industrial units for the financial year 2021-22.

While highlighting the issue, Lalit Mahajan Chairman Federation of Industries Jammu and president Bari Brahmana Industries Association drew the kind attention of Lt. Governor towards the Govt. Order No- 117-Ind of 2021 dated 19-04-2021 Clause No. 4.8 Turnover Incentives with Clause No 4.8.3, submitted by the existing industrial units as on 31-12-2022 amounting to Rs 200 crores to Industries Department for Jammu and Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention here that the turnover incentive was given to existing industrial units as per the Industrial Policy 2021-30 to provide relief to the unit holders who suffered due to abolishment of Toll Tax w.e.f 01-01-2020 to meet the stiff competi-

tion from the outside suppliers and the same has been passed on by the Existing Units to the consumers accordingly during the Financial Year 2021-22.

FOIJ claimed that in-spite of repeated requests made to Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce Department for the release of adequate funds to Director General Industries & Commerce Jammu/Kashmir for the reimbursement of Claims for the Financial Year 2021-22 but nothing has been done till date resulting the existing units facing the financial crunch due to blockage of working capital as the amount of turnover incentive already passed on by unit holders to their customers.

Federation sought intervention into the matter for the allocation of additional budgetary support of Rs 150 crores by Finance Department to Industries & Commerce Department enabling Industries Department for the settlement of turnover incentive claims for the period ending 01-04-2021 to 31-03-2022 which will provide great relief to the existing industrial units.

HC directs respondents to hold election of J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has directed respondents to hold election of J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd Srinagar in accordance with the directions of the Writ Court by next date of hearing failing which rule shall be framed against them for having violated the judgment of the writ court.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed by Kashmir Valley Cooperative Society challenging Order No.04-JK(Coop) of 2023 dated 21.01.2023 whereby sanction has been accorded to the re-constitution of the Board of Directors of the J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd Srinagar for a period of two weeks in terms of Sub-Section (3) of Section 30-A of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989.

In an earlier round of litigation in the shape of WP(C)No.2775/2021, judgment dated 15.07.2022 came to be passed by the court wherein it was directed that nominated Board of Directors of the Cooperative Bank is entitled to remain in position and legitimately run the affairs and management of the Bank till 04.10.2022.

It was also held that it is incumbent upon the Government or the Registrar to

reconstitute the Board of Directors of the Bank on or before 04.10.2022 by holding elections in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, the Rules and the bylaws of the Bank.

After hearing both the sides, Justice Sanjay Dhar observed, "if we have a look at the various provisions of the Act, the rules made thereunder as well as the bylaws, it becomes clear that the Cooperative Societies registered under the Act are democratic institutions whose affairs are to be run by the duly elected Board of Directors".

"Chapter IV of the Act provides the mechanism for management of Cooperative Societies. A perusal of the provisions contained in the Chapter clearly shows that the Cooperative Societies are autonomous institutions run by General Body of members", High Court said, adding "Section 30-A of the Act has been incorporated as a transitional provision in the Act to take care of certain emergencies".

"Similarly, Section 30 of the Act governs a situation where the elected Board is persistently making a default or is negligent in the performance of duties imposed on it by the Act, the Rules or the bylaws. So, role of the Government in running the affairs of the Cooperative

Societies comes into play only upon the happening of certain exigencies. Otherwise, the affairs of the Cooperative Societies are to be run by the democratically elected Board of Directors as also its members", High Court said.

"Continuation of a nominated Board in perpetuity is, therefore, anti-thesis to the object of the Act. The provisions of Section 30-A of the Act are, therefore, required to be interpreted in a manner to advance the object of the Act and not to defeat the same", Justice Dhar said, adding "the contention of the respondents that while Sub-Section (3) of Section 30-A of the Act extends the life of a nominated Board for a period of two years beyond the date of commencement of Third Order, the proviso thereto can give fresh lease of life to such Board by further two years and even beyond, is without any merit and cannot be accepted".

Accordingly, the writ petition was allowed and the impugned order bearing No.04-JK(Coop) of 2023 dated 21.01.2023 was quashed. "The respondents are, therefore, directed to hold elections in accordance with the directions of the writ court by next date of hearing failing which rule shall be framed against them for having violated the judgment of the writ court", read the judgment of Justice Dhar.



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma taking stock of Baisakhi fair preparations in Jammu on Tuesday.

Mayor takes stock of Baisakhi fair preparations at Ranbir Canal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: The Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma today conducted on spot inspection to take stock of the preparedness of popular Baisakhi fair along the stretch of Ranbir Canal.

He was accompanied by Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria; Chairmen of different Standing Committees of JMC—Arun Khanna of Sanitation Committee, Gopal Gupta of Swach Bahart Committee and Subash Sharma of Social Justice Committee.

Apart from this Joint Commissioner Sanitation, Health Officers, SOs and Safai Saathis also accompanied the Mayor who checked the Ranbir Canal right from Rajinder Park to Best Prize mall and issued directions to keep the entire stretch on which the fair shall be organised clean.

Sharma gave strict instructions for special cleaning at the Ghats and removal of accumulated mud and silt from there.

He said that JMC shall place dustbins at each of the Ghat

along with garbage removal autos and Safai Saathis shall also remain present there while facility of drinking water from tankers will also be made on Baisakhi fair for the public convenience.

Sharma also said that the canal shall also be cleaned from under the bridges and roads.

The Mayor appealed to the people visiting the fair to avoid poly-bags and maintain cleanliness and take all precautions while taking a dip in the canal.

He extended Baisakhi wishes to all the Jammuites and said that JMC is working day and night for better facilities to the public.

Mayor lauded the public for cooperation during Saakh immersion on last Navratri and said that with the cooperation of public every big target can be achieved.

He said that he shall be available for the public round the clock and appealed to the Chief Engineer of Irrigation and Flood Control to ensure proper water supply in Ranbir Canal on Baisakhi and maintain water level there.

Interstate drug module busted in Sopore, absconding woman among 5 arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Jammu and Kashmir Police today said that they have busted a major interstate drug module by arresting five persons including a kingpin and seized contraband substance recovered from their possession.

Addressing a press conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore, Shabir Nawab, said that they arrested two persons identified as Tanveer Ahmed Shah and Javid Ahmed Shah of Sopore

son was identified as Amir Sadeeq Parra of Chandoosa Baramulla and on his personal search, 112 tablets were recovered," the Officer added.

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The SSP stated that during further investigation names of two kingpins identified as Urooj daughter of Mohammad Muzaffar Bhat of Batapora (Sopore) and Mohammad Ashraf Mir son of Late Farooq Ahmed Mir of Hathishah Sopore also surfaced.

"The duo was involved in supplying drugs from outside valley to Sopore and other areas. On the confession of arrested persons, we managed to arrest the duo from Srinagar outskirts along with 1648 capsules. With their arrest we have managed to bust a major interstate module", he said.

Meanwhile, a case under FIR Number 07/2023 U/S 8/22-29 NDPS Act has been registered in Police Station Bomai and further investigation has been set into motion.

Dr Sumedha Sharma murder case SP Hqrs appointed new SIT incharge, asked to culminate investigate quickly

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Chandan Kohli, has appointed SP Headquarters, Ramnish Gupta, as the new incharge of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in Dr Sumedha Sharma murder case and has asked the latter to conclude his probe quickly on the basis of merits.

Pertinently, Dr Sumedha Sharma, a dentist of Talab Tillo, Jammu, was murdered by her alleged boyfriend, Dr Johar Mehmood Ganai (30), of Bhaderwah, in Jammu's Janipur locality on Holi, March 8, after the duo had an altercation over some issue.

After protests by the civil society and other groups demanding arrest of the accused and proper investigation to probe into the involvement of others, if any, in the murder, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by SDPO Jammu West, Vikram

Bhau, under the supervision of SP North, was constituted by SSP Jammu on March 10.

Today, the SSP Jammu modified the SIT and appointed Ramnish Gupta, SP Headquarters, as the new incharge of the SIT with SDPO City South, Jammu, Sachit Sharma, SDPO Domana, Vishal Shoor, and SHOs of Bakshi Nagar and Janipur Police Stations, as the members of the SIT.

Through an official communication, the SSP Jammu also asked the new incharge of the SIT to culminate the investigation quickly on merits and submit the day-to-day basis of the investigation to the former.

"The incharge SIT is advised to ensure the culmination of the investigation quickly on merits and day-to-day progress achieved thereof be communicated to this office," reads the letter forwarded by SSP Jammu to the new incharge of SIT, SP Headquarters, Ramnish Gupta.

DC Bandipora reviews enrollment for registration under PMJJBY, PMSBY

Excelsior Correspondent

BANDIPORA, Apr 11: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr. Owais Ahmed on Tuesday chaired a meeting of concerned departments and financial institutions to utilise their field functionaries for identification and mobilisation of the Scheme beneficiaries for cent percent enrolment.

He also stressed on intensive awareness among the people regarding awareness of the scheme.

Dr. Owais on the occasion asked the departments to achieve the targets within shortest possible time.

Besides ADDC Bandipora Ali Afsar Khan, the meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Intiyaz Ahmad, DIO Bandipora Jahangeer Akhoun, Lead District Manager Bandipora and other concerned.



SSP Sopore Shabir Nawab along with other senior police officers addressing a press conference.

along with 3512 tablets of Spasmaproxyvon plus tablets on March 1 during naka checking at Tarzoo.

He said that during investigation the arrested persons revealed the name of another person, who is involved in selling drugs in and around Sopore. "The arrested per-