

J&K adds 16 more online services of Tpt Deptt to list

CS calls for doing away with citizens visiting offices by resorting to e-KYC authentication

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: J&K today added 16 more online services offered by the Transport



CS Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launching online services of Transport Deptt.

Department to its list after Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launched them under the e-Transport project of the Department.

Speaking during the launch of these services, the Chief Secretary maintained that the motive of the online services is to reduce the burden on our citizens by providing them opportunities to access services from the comforts of their homes. He observed that the provisions of facial recognition, e-KYC authentication and Jivan Pramanpatra are few reliable means to ascertain the genuineness of claims. He asked for adopting measures under which the services are offered to the citizens seamlessly without having to make physical visits to government offices.

Dr Mehta further impressed that since volume of services has increased exponentially, it is time to assess digital maturity of these services. He made out that the quantity underpinned by quality would lead to desired

results and satisfaction of citizens. He enjoined upon them that the integration with APIs should also be carried out to make single sign-on a prominent

Hypothecation termination/changes, issuance of duplicate RC, Change of address in RC, issuance of fresh permit, renewal of permit, renewal of authorization, temporary permit, duplicate permit, transfer/surrender of permit, application for Counter sign/duplicate counter sign, modification of documents, updation of mobile number, checking status and pending transactions.

Those who participated virtually in the meeting included the RTO Jammu/Kashmir, ARTOs and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary called it an important milestone in tune with the resolve of the J&K administration to provide corruption free, convenient and accessible services to the common man. He made out that the 'Digital J&K Programme' that was launched in mission mode last year has been successful in making J&K to upgrade from 'line to online' and 'physical to digital' thereby ushering an era of transparency and efficiency in working of government offices across the UT.

While providing details the Secretary Transport, G Prasanna Ramaswamy revealed that by introducing these services in an online mode would make the Department faceless to a large extent. He gave out that these services would go a long way in resolving many of the issues faced by the Department in serving the citizens better.

The services which were made online today includes Transfer of Vehicle ownership,

Months on, Govt school in Ganderbal's Bagoor Rampora awaits repairs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: The students of Government Boys Middle School in Bagoor Rampora, situated in the Ganderbal district, are grappling with challenging conditions as local authorities continue to overlook the urgent need for repairing the school building that suffered damage when a chinar tree fell on it in December last year.

Despite almost nine months

passing since the incident, the school building's repair remains unaddressed, leaving a major portion of the structure in ruins. While two functional rooms are currently accommodating the students, the risk they face cannot be ignored.

"We find ourselves attending classes out in the open, and this becomes even more difficult during hot and humid weather. When it rains, we are forced to combine classes and utilize the two unaffected rooms. However, the peril still exists," revealed Zakir Ahmad, a

student at the school. Residents also expressed their discontent with the lack of progress, stating that several teams have visited the school, making promises of action, yet tangible results have not materialized. "Despite the passing assurances, the reality on the ground remains unchanged, with students continuing to endure outdoor classes," commented a resident.

Both students and local inhabitants are now appealing to the administration led by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the dire situation and take swift measures to repair the school building, ensuring a conducive environment for learning.

Majid Ahmad Kohli, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Ganderbal, acknowledged the extent of the damage caused by the falling chinar tree in December. "The incident resulted in damage to two rooms and a boundary wall. We have already prepared a cost estimate and forwarded it to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) for approval. Once we receive the green light, repair work will commence," he assured.

GM reviews performance of Northern Railways

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 29: General Manager Northern Railways, Shobhan Chaudhuri, today held a performance review meeting with



GM Northern Railways, Shobhan Chaudhuri, chairing a performance review meeting of the Railways at Baroda House, NR Headquarters office, on Tuesday.

the departmental heads of the Northern Railways and DRMs at Baroda House, NR Headquarters office.

Claiming that safety is the primary concern of the Railways, the GM emphasized that all out efforts should be directed towards maintenance of tracks, rolling stock, signalling and proper functioning of overhead wires.

He directed the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to minimize any human error.

He also reviewed the progress of enhancement of passenger amenities work and projects of doubling and new lines while directing the concerned officials to expedite the works.

advised all divisions to take all necessary remedial actions to ensure proper and efficient functioning of the signalling system.

Expressing concern over the rail fractures, he instructed that monitoring of signals, rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively to avoid the scope of error.

He also instructed for expediting the approvals for cutting of tree so that they don't pose a threat to the tracks or OHE wires.

The GM Railways also laid focus on electrical safety on tracks as well as safety in relay and panel rooms for error-free movement of trains.

He also instructed the department heads and DRMs to maintain the punctuality and keeping pace for freight loading with safety as priority.

Angrez Singh posted as AC (Central) with Div Com office

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 29: Government today ordered transfer and posting of two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) officers.

As per an order, Angrez Singh, Deputy Secretary in the LG's Secretariat, has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner (Central) with Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, with immediate effect.

Further, it has been ordered that Ajay Bharti, Deputy Director, Estates, Jammu, under orders of transfer as Assistant Commissioner (Central) with Divisional Commissioner Jammu, shall continue to work at his present place of posting.



LG Manoj Sinha presenting bouquet to VC Nalanda University Prof Sunaina Singh at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

VC Nalanda University calls on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: Prof Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. She was accompanied by Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir.

Cong intensifies protest against BJP, Adm J&K people fed-up of series of lies, false promises of BJP: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 29: Exposing BJP for its anti-people and anti-poor policies, District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Urban/Rural today intensified the ongoing protest in Jammu North Assembly segment.

The protest was organized under the chairmanship of Surinder Kumar, Congress leader, to highlight the ongoing issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Toll Plaza, Smart Meters

the BJP of diverting public attention from its failures by raising emotional and residual issues. He said that the people of J&K are fed-up of series of lies and false promises made by the BJP leadership in the Union Territory. He criticized the Government's decision to allow the continued operation of the Toll Plaza at Sarore, despite the large scale agitation initiated by the people of Jammu region.

Mula Ram, flayed BJP on smart electricity meters and inflated power bills and alleged



Senior Cong leaders and party activists taking out strong protest rally in Jammu North on Tuesday. - Excelsior/Rakesh

installation, and Property Tax imposition, which have significantly impacted their daily lives.

The protest witnessed a robust turnout, with prominent leaders and members of the community coming together to voice their concerns. The event was attended by Raman Bhalla, working president JKPC, Mula Ram- former Minister, Yogesh Sawhney, former Minister, Uday Bhanu Chib- Youth Congress National general secretary, Hari Singh Chib, president DCC Jammu Rural, Block presidents HS Baghi, Som Nath Sharma, Parshotam Singh and Members of DCC Jammu Urban and Rural.

Addressing the media, Raman Bhalla criticized the BJP-led Government at the Centre for its "hollow policies" that have resulted in the increased sufferings of the people. He accused

the BJP has nothing to offer to the people and has failed to address the core issues. He criticized the Government for its apparent lack of concern in resolving these crucial matters. He emphasized that the installation of Smart Meters stands as a stark example of a decision that contradicts the sentiments and preferences of the general public.

DCC Jammu leaders Yogesh Sawhney and Hari Singh Chib threw light on the plight of the people in the Jammu region who are burdened with multiple taxes due to the Government's failure to address their pressing issues. They warned the Government that if the decisions regarding smart prepaid meters, property tax and the Toll Plaza are not reconsidered, the people of the Jammu region will take to the streets.



Duped Lal Chowk shopkeepers at Press Colony in Srinagar on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Shakeel

Man posing as police officer dupes shopkeepers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: A fraudster, masquerading as a police officer, has orchestrated a series of scams that have left several shopkeepers in Srinagar's bustling city centre, Lal Chowk, defrauded of lakhs of rupees.

The affected shopkeepers gathered today at the Press Enclave to share their harrowing experiences and to implore authorities to take swift action in apprehending the accused.

Shiraz Ahmad, the proprietor of SSR Enterprises, recounted his distressing encounter with the impostor. He revealed that the swindler, who cunningly posed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), approached him and successfully convinced him to hand over electronic merchandise worth Rs 2.8 lakhs. These items, he said, were then surreptitiously sold to an unsuspecting shop in Tangmarg for a mere Rs 1.8 lakhs.

"He handed me Rs 50,000 in cash, and for the remaining amount, he provided me with a check that later bounced. In the wake of this deception, I promptly reported the incident to the police, who subsequently filed an FIR," he recounted.

When questioned about his decision to trust the unknown individual, Shiraz cited the fraudster's convincing appearance and the absence of any red flags. "Not only did he provide me with his contact number, which was verified on Truecaller as DySP Obaid, but he also handed me cash. Given these factors, I saw no reason to doubt his authenticity," he explained.

Identified as Obaid Maqbool Khwaja, son of Muhammad Maqbool Khwaja, and hailing from Gomal Chak in the northern Keran region of Kashmir, the con-man has left nearly ten shopkeepers, including establishments like Lark, Ali Baba, and Imran Baba, facing significant financial losses. Collectively, as per the shopkeepers, the amount pilfered by Khwaja through his fraudulent activities is estimated to be between Rs 20 to Rs 30 lakhs.

Further revelations indicate that the audacious fraudster targeted a jeweller on Hari Singh High Street and managed to abscond with gold worth approximately 29 lakhs. The shopkeepers said that while he was briefly incarcerated for this offence, he was released just after a few months, leaving them bewildered.

"Recently he was also arrested by Shaheed Gunj police station, but he was released swiftly; we now want the authorities to take note of it and arrest the fraudster."

LG tours Zanskar sub-division, holds public interaction at Rangdum

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Aug 29: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retired), visited Rangdum to meet public representatives at Tourist Reception Centre, Tashi Stongday, so that necessary steps could be taken on spot for the redressal of their issues.

Several delegations raised their demands, viz. permanent solution for the pastureland dispute between residents of Rangdum and Gujjar-Bakerwals, merging of Rangdum and its adjoining areas with Zanskar sub-division, approval/sanction for the construction of Kanji-Rangdum road, creation of new Panchayat



LG Ladakh Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retired) interacting with Rangdum villagers.

Halqa for Rangdum and connecting the area with Northern Grid for regular power supply, etc.

The LG held a meeting with the Rangdum villagers at Shepherd nallah to find a solution for the decades old knotty pastureland dispute between residents of Rangdum and Gujjar-Bakerwals. He asked Bakerwals to remain on the Valley side and assured the Bakerwals to take up the issue with the Administration of Jammu and Kashmir to arrange an alternate pastureland for Gujjar-Bakerwals to resolve the issue permanently.

Mishra also assured to look into the demand of merging Rangdum and its adjoining area with Zanskar sub-division along with the construction of Kanji-Rangdum and the creation of a new Panchayat Halqa for Rangdum.

The LG instructed the concerned officials to connect Rangdum with the Northern Grid so that the residents of Rangdum have access to regular power supply. The LG also visited the Rangdum Gompa and inspected various artefacts put on display in the monastery. He was apprised of the construction of a 60-bedded solarized hospital and a 60-bedded school hostel adjacent to the Gompa.

First Lady Neelam Mishra, Member of Parliament from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Deputy Commissioner Kargil Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Superintendent Engineer PWD Kargil Abdul Mutalib, Superintendent Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kargil Muhammad Sharief and other concerned district and police officers were present during the LG's visit.

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JKEEGA, president, Sachin Tickoo, flanked by others addressing press conference in Jammu on Tuesday. - Excelsior/Rakesh

Power engineers to go on protest leave on Sept 9

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Aug 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) of the Power Development Department today declared that all the Electrical engineers of JK UT would go on protest leave in support of their long pending demands.

Addressing a press conference here today, Sachin Tickoo, president JKEEGA, flanked by the Executive Council members including Rajeshwar Jamwal,

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Sunil Gupta, Jahangir Ahmed, Gulshan Bhagat, Yash Paul, Vishal Singh Chib and others expressed serious concern over the inordinate delay in the filling up of the vacant positions across the hierarchy of the department, which has severely dented not only the morale of the officers but also badly affected the delivery of public service and grievance redressal.

He alleged that Government has failed to fulfill commitments even after nearly two years, made under the legal framework of the agreement dated 21-12-2021 signed between representatives of the Government and the Power employees after four days of confrontation.

Tickoo briefed that the meeting of its apex body -Guidance Council was held at Jammu and Srinagar respectively on this issue, which among others was attended by all Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers who are members of the Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association. The

Council deliberated upon the step-motherly treatment being faced by the Engineers of the PDD as the competent authorities have been delaying the promotions despite more than 750 vacancies in the hierarchy of engineering cadre, with 01 post of Managing Director, 03 post of Executive Director, 05 Chief Engineers, 14 Superintending Engineers, 61 Executive Engineers, 132 Assistant Ex Engineers, 164 Assistant Engineers and around 350 Junior Engineers, lying vacant leading to situation where every other person is having minimum two or three charge in the Corporations of PDD.

It is pertinent to mention that regularization proposals despite the SAC vide decision dated 23.10.2019 which had sought that the regular promotions be completed within a period of two months, but despite the lapse of 4 years now, the entire engineers presently working in different Power Corporations have not been granted a single regular promotion.

The Chief Engineers are working in the substantive grades of Assistant Engineers and Superintending Engineers and those below are working in the substantive grades of Junior Engineers.

The JKEEGA has already issued the notice to the administration. They will assemble at PDD complex Gladni Jammu and Bemina, Srinagar to register one day peaceful protest and abstain from work for 24 hours.

In Srinagar, JKEEGA general secretary Pirzada Hidayatullah also declared that all the Power engineer would go on protest leave in entire Kashmir on Sept 9, in view of indifferent attitude of the JKUT administration.

Multilingual mushaira on patriotism organized by JKAACL

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 29: J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized a multilingual mushaira at KL Saigal Hall, here today.

The programme was organized in connection with 'Meri Mati



A poet presenting her poetry during a multilingual mushaira at KL Saigal Hall, Jammu.

Mera Dosh' campaign to recall the sacrifices of war heroes and paying a poetic tribute to them. About 30 poets from six languages like Hindi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Gojri and Pahari presented their poems on the theme.

While presenting welcome address, JKAACL secretary Bharat Singh said that main thought behind organizing this program was to show that what the importance of this Day in our lives is. He said today's programme is dedicated to all those people who had sacrificed for the freedom of the country from British rule.

Ahmad Shanas was the chief guest on the occasion while Prof Rajkumar presided over the function. Shanas said that JKAACL has come alive since Bharat Singh has taken over as the secretary of this prestigious institution. He

said he knows how to take JKAACL to its heights. Prof Rajkumar in his presidential address said that such program gave him opportunity to listen to so many thoughts at one place.

Renowned writers/poets along with young writers presented their poetry in Hindi, Dogri, Punjabi, Urdu, Pahari and Gojri. The writers included Sahil Badyal (Dogri), Zahida Khanum (Gojri), Tahir Mohamad (Pahari), Heena Mahajan (Hindi), Bhubinder Singh Bhargav (Punjabi), Dr Liyaqaq Jafri

(Urdu), Aiay Singh (Dogri), Bilal Zam Zam (Gojri), Sadeeq Ahmed Siddiqui (Pahari), Nitish Dev Seeman (Hindi), Balvinder Singh Deep (Punjabi), Pankaj Sharma (Dogri), Saddam Saraf (Gojri), Gursaran Singh (Punjabi), Rattan Sehgal (Dogri), Usha Kiran Kiran (Dogri), Ahmed Shanas (Urdu), Krishan Kumal Sharma (Hindi), Bachan Bharti (Punjabi), Brij Mohan (Dogri), Anil Sehgal (Hindi), Indu Bhushan Bali (Hindi), Dildar Mohan (Kashmiri), Farid Ahmed, Raiinder Aghosh (Kashmiri), Ghulam Sarwar Chouhan (Gojri) and Amin Banihali (Urdu).

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Recta Khadyal, Assistant Editor, JKAACL while vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shahnaz, Editor cum Cultural Officer, Gojri, JKAACL.



SDRF team posing for a group photograph during Awareness cum Demonstration programme on disaster management.

Sapna Kotwal asks students to learn latest techniques to tackle disasters

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 29: A team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 2nd Battalion today conducted a one day 'Awareness cum Demonstration programme on Disaster Management' here in the Government Boys Pahari Hostel, Bantialab Jammu.

Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal was the chief guest on the occasion.

On the occasion, the resource person, Inspector Sanjeev Kalsi said that the training cum awareness programme was conducted so that the students can have a practical session on how to reduce the risk during the disasters.

Various practical demonstrations and mock drills on fire-fighting, first-aid, search and rescue besides basics of Disaster Mitigation were also conducted during the programme

During her address, Sapna Kotwal sensitized the students about the essence of disaster management. She also encouraged the students to learn about the latest techniques, mode and equipment used in managing any natural or manmade disaster.

She also spoke on the human, material, economic or environmental impacts of disasters and how the training of disaster management helps to plan, organize, coordinate and implement various measures regarding that.

The Secretary expressed her gratitude to Commandant SDRF 2nd battalion for organising the event.

The inmates of the Hostel showed keen interest in the demonstration programme and also shared their point of view on the occasion.

Assistant warden, Farid Hussain and other officials of the Hostel were present on the occasion

'Jashn-e-Rustam' cultural program held near LoC in Uri

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 29: In a historic initiative, the Rustam Battalion of the Indian Army, operating under the Pir Panjal Brigade of the Dagger Division, joined forces with local residents to host the very first 'Jashn-e-Rustam' cultural festival near the Line of Control (LoC) in Nambia, Uri.

The event was conceived as an expression of gratitude towards the steadfast support provided by the local community, and it underscored the theme of 'Jawan Aur Awam - Saath Saath' (Soldiers and Civilians - Together as One).

The festival aimed to foster stronger bonds between the military and civilians by spotlighting the untapped tourism potential of border regions and offering a platform for local artists to showcase their talents.

"This marks the pioneering instance of a festival being conducted in close proximity to the LoC, drawing an impressive

crowd of around 15,000 attendees, including both local residents and visitors," organizers shared.

The Rustam festival unfolded in an area that once served as an Indian Army firing range, frequently subjected to cross-border shelling. Locals emphasized that this event became possible following an agreement between the Indian and Pakistani armies to uphold a ceasefire along the LoC.

The festivities featured remarkable performances by acclaimed artists such as Tariq Pardesi, Masrat Naaz, Yemberzal Cultural Group, Kohinoor Band Baramulla, Raja Bilal, Sahi Mumtaz, Team 360 (Uri), Safi Farooq, and the versatile band led by Aijaz Bhat, AGS Boniyar, in addition to several participating schools.

Adding to the occasion's allure was the presence of Bollywood actor of Kashmiri origin, Mateena Rajput. The event was a collaborative effort with the Srinagar unit of All India Radio (AIR).

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