



SEC K K Sharma and others releasing compendium on elections.

## SEC bids adieu to Ist State Election Commissioner

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: The State Election Commission today bid farewell to the State Election Commissioner, K.K. Sharma, who completed his tenure as Ist State Election Commissioner of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention that K.K. Sharma was appointed as the Ist State Election Commissioner of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in October 2020. Prior to that, he had been Advisor to the Governor, Satya Pal Malik and Lt. Governors, GC Murmu and Manoj Sinha.

During his tenure as the State Election Commissioner, the elections were held to the first ever District Development Councils established under the new amendments of the Panchayati Raj Act by Government.

Secretary, State Election Commission, Susheel Kumar, Additional Secretary, Chief Electoral Officer Sandesh Kumar, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Anil Salgotra, other senior Officers and officials of the Commission and Chief Electoral Officer were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Election Commissioner underscored the role of an autonomous body for the conduct of the Municipal and Panchayati Raj Institution

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and other dignitaries blessing KP boys during the Samuhik Yagynopavit ceremony at Jagti on Wednesday.

## Global Solace Society performs Samuhik Yagynopavit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Inspired by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Global Solace Society Jammu in association with Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and supported by Sodhani Foundation and several Dogra and KP social workers concluded the second edition of Samuhik Yagynopavit Sanskar at Jagti Camp today.

Twenty seven (27) KP children including three community daughters took part in the proceedings and were initiated into wearing Janeu, the sacred thread of Mother Gayatri.

Given the Central importance of Yagynopavit in the Kashmiri culture as an important milestone for children into performing their threefold-duties to the household, the Devas and to his Pitras (deceased elders), this batch of Samuhik Yagynopavit was blessed and visited by their families, relatives and a large number of well-wishers that included social activists, eminent people and personalities across the Socio-political and religious spectrum.

Kiran Watal convener, Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and patron Global Solace said this is a way of giving hope to the exiled community of preserving its religious tradition. Yagynopavit is also called as 'Mekhala', is one of the most important religious rites of Kashmiri Pandits.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar participated in Pujan and showered his blessings to children as chief guest. Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, K K Sidha and CC Inran Nayak also blessed the children.

The organizers were led by Pintoo Ji, president of Global

## JMC seals portion of IDPS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: The Enforcement Wing of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) here sealed a portion of the building of International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Sunjwan.

According to JMC sources the school building was under litigation and the Court has ordered to maintain status quo while the owner of the building was carrying on construction work on its first floor which prompted JMC to seal the same for violation of the status quo.

The JMC authorities have asked all the dwellers of Jammu city to refrain from any type of

## Pathania for humanitarian approach with landless people

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 1: Ranbir Singh Pathania, former MLA and BJP spokesperson was addressing a series of largely attended meetings in Udhampur. While addressing a meeting at village Dehma of tehsil Majalta and interacting with a deputation of affected land owners, he called upon the UT-level dispensation to adopt a humanitarian approach while going ahead with eviction drives on State, Kahcharai and Roshni lands held by poor, landless and indigent people.

The concept of 'Navtods' was evolved in late sixties under the regime of the then Chief Minister, GM Sadiq with the slogan 'grow more, sow more'. It was as per the policy that people converted grasslands and meadows into crop bearing farms. Now that more than 50 years have elapsed by that the Revenue officials have been on the prowl trying to restore the status quo which is almost unworkable and impractical too.

He called for adopting a humanitarian approach as these people are dependent upon these lands for their housing as well as vocation. "We should loom for a plausible way out and rather a

formula as to how these small pieces of lands could be regularised in their favour. However, welcomed Government's move of vacating encroachment on State, Kahcharai and Roshni lands of from bureaucrats, politicians and big businessmen.

Nonetheless, the ground level staff of the Department of Revenue with a view to showing their day to day performance have been going out in the area and torturing poor peasants and petty landholders.

Pathania took strong objection to the same. He further called upon the party cadres to remain vigilant and educate and enlighten people about policies and programmes of Modi level Government.

Prominent among those present were Mohan Lal Sharma (Mandal Pardhan), Capt (ret'd) Gopal Singh Mankotia (Mandal Pardhan), Makhan Lal Sharma, Shiv Ram, Anil Kumar Baldev Singh Mankotia, Ved Pal (Mandal general secretaries), Ashok Kumar, Kuldip Singh, Kirpal Singh, Prem Nath, Kurpal Singh, Lochan Singh, Mohd Din, Hans Raj, Sanjiv Singh and a wide galaxy of local leadership.

hand, the authorities are serving public notices to the inhabitants of these areas to remove illegal constructions within seven days. Leaders of several political parties including National Conference, Congress, People's Democratic Party, Apni Party and Aam Aadmi Party also joined the protest and demanded an immediate end to the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in the protest. A complete shutdown was observed in the area. Waving Tricolours and shouting slogans against the eviction drive, the protesters passed through the main roads before staging a peaceful sit-in at a vast land adjoining the Kunjwani-Nagrota Bypass Road.

The protesting people said that on one side they are being assured that no residential or commercial establishment raised on small portion of land will be touched in the anti-encroachment drive and on the other



People staging protest in Sunjwan area of Jammu on Wednesday.

## People hit streets in Sunjwan to protest against ongoing anti-encroachment drive

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Thousands of people, including women and children, today hit the streets in Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu City to protest against the ongoing anti-encroachment drive of Jammu and Kashmir administration to retrieve "illegally occupied" State land.

People from Sunjwan, Bathindi, Narwal, Malik Market and other adjoining areas participated in the protest. A complete shutdown was observed in the area. Waving Tricolours and shouting slogans against the eviction drive, the protesters passed through the main roads before staging a peaceful sit-in at a vast land adjoining the Kunjwani-Nagrota Bypass Road.

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## HC gives go ahead to SSB for para-medics selection

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 1: High Court while dismissing a batch of petitions filed by the para medical staff appointed on academic arrangement asked the Service Selection Board (SSB) to proceed ahead with the selection process of posts on a regular basis.

The aggrieved petitioners were engaged in the H&ME Department as Para Medical Staff on academic arrangement for a period of one year extendable up to maximum of four years, one year at a time. By subsequent amendment made vide SRO 409 of 2013 dated 19.09.2013, the academic engagement was provided extendable up to six years instead of four years.

The extension, however, was subject to good performance and conduct of the candidates or till selection or promotion was made according to the recruitment rules governing the field, whichever was earlier.

The recruitment board meanwhile issued an advertisement notice in the year 2021 for filling up of the 1446 posts of para medical staff on regular basis and aggrieved of the advertisement notice the aggrieved candidates approached the court to challenge the said notification.

The Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice M A Chowdhary while deciding the pleas in a common judgment said there is no dispute that the Recruitment Rules governing selection and appointment against the posts held by the writ petitioners provide for



BJP leaders listening public grievances at Jammu on Wednesday

## BJP is in politics for nation, not for power: Sat Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: BJP leaders including former Minister, Sat Sharma, ex MLA, Ashwani Sharma and corporator, Sanjay Baru listened to the public grievances at party Headquarters here, today.

"BJP is in politics for a responsibility to make the nation strong and to ensure the capacity building of masses.. We are not here to enjoy power but for a responsibility," stated Sat Sharma, former BJP President and ex Cabinet Minister while listening to the grievances of the people.

Sat Sharma said that PM, Narendra Modi's stand against divisive politics, handling of terrorism and security threats, decision making abilities, clear vision for India's future, powerful mass appeal, abrogation of Article 370, empowering India, leading the world, empowering farmers for a prosperous India, Jan Dhan financial inclusion, unleashing India's entrepreneurial energy are some of the major reformatory steps taken by him to make the nation strong and to ensure the capacity building of masses.

"Our nation experienced an innovative change such that foreign countries also praised for the efforts taken by the BJP Government", said Sat Sharma.

Numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership.

Main issues presented in the camp related to the water, electricity, lanes, drains, roads, health, revenue departments, Ration issue etc.

Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, Sat Sharma, Ashwani Sharma and Sanjay Baru telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others.

Ashwani Sharma said common masses have their own demands and problems and BJP works for them. BJP workers treat the needy as their family members and people pose trust and faith in party activists, which are clearly visible in crowded grievance meets at party Headquarters.

Sanjay Baru coordinated the proceedings of the public grievances where deputations including individual persons highlighted various issues related to the development of their respective areas and their other concerns.

## PDD terminates services of AEE

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: The Power Development Department has terminated the services of Bashir Ahmad Shah as In-charge Assistant Executive Engineer (Electric).

The termination order has been issued in terms of Article-128 and Article-113 of J&K Civil Service Regulations (Volume-I) of 1956 vide government order number 18-JK(PDD) of 2023 dated 31-01-2023.



A delegation from apricot FPO meeting LG RK Mathur at Raj Niwas on Wednesday.

## Apricot FPO delegation calls on LG Mathur

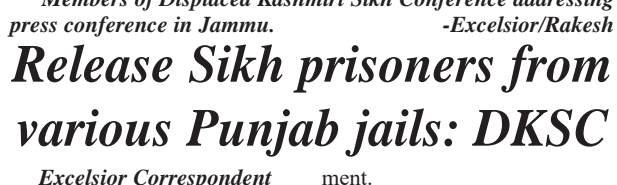
Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Feb 1: A delegation from apricot Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) met Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur here on Wednesday.

As per a statement, the delegation led by its Vice-President Tsewang Dorjay informed the LG that their organisation is the first FPO to be formed in Ladakh with over 300 members from eight villages from the Lower Sham area.

He further told the LG that the members of the FPO has formed 18 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) besides collecting 6.5 tonnes of dried apricots since its inception in December 2020 and adopted both B2B and B2C business models, said the press statement.

Dorjay also informed about their plan to establish an agro-processing center in Leh to produce various value-added products. He requested the LG to provide land in the Industrial Estate to set up the center and sought assistance in introducing suitable apricot-drying technology.



Members of Displaced Kashmiri Sikh Conference addressing press conference in Jammu.

## Release Sikh prisoners from various Punjab jails: DKSC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Displaced Kashmiri Sikh Conference (DKSC) activists have demanded that all the Sikh prisoners languishing in various Punjab jails for the last over 30 years be released without any delay.

Addressing a press conference here today, Harmohinder Singh, president of the organisation said that the issues of Sikhs are needed to be dealt by the Government under the Constitution of the country. He urged the Government of India to release the Sikh prisoners from various jails in Punjab who are languishing for the last over 30 years or more.

He claimed that the era of turmoil has gone and peace has been restored in Punjab and other parts after giving thousands of sacrifices. He said many people were tortured on flimsy grounds. The previous Governments in Punjab adopted vindictive stance which resultantly created mayhem and fear psychosis among all the communities in Punjab and ugly incidents of killings started in which the then sitting Chief Minister of Punjab Beant Singh and 17 of others were killed in bomb blast on August 30, 1995 at Chandigarh. Many were arrested and convicted for life imprisonment.

Surjeet Singh, executive member raised the issue of proposed Uniform Civil Code Act which is to be implemented in entire India soon. He said this Act will prove detrimental for Sikh community and effect the customs, religious practices and distinctive culture and secular fabric of the country. He demanded to implement Sikh Anand Marriage Act of 2012 in the J&K UT. Ravinder Singh demanded to implement SRO 425 of 10-10-2017 in favour of Sikhs residing in Kashmir. These people be given benefit of PM package, he added.

## Prof suspended after sexual harassment complaint

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 1: The Government has ordered the suspension of an Associate Professor at Govt College for Women (GCW), Nawakadal, Srinagar after a sexual harassment complaint was filed against him by the students.

In this regard, the Higher Education Department has ordered his suspension and directed the concerned to hold an inquiry into the matter.

The order issued stated that the students of UG 1st Semester, Travel and Tourism subject of Govt. College for Women, Nawakadal, Srinagar lodged a complaint against Dr Rafiq Peerzada, Associate Professor (Travel & Tourism) GCW, Nawakadal, Srinagar has been debarred from all the committees of the college to ensure minimal contact with students and...students are not satisfied with the written apology submitted and demanded strict action against the accused.

The Govt stated that the Director Colleges, J&K submitted the action taken report to the Administrative Department on the complaint.

"Now, therefore, keeping in view the findings of the internal Complaint Committee/ Grievances Redressal Cell and Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment of the college and the recommendations of Director Colleges MK, Dr Rafiq Peerzada Associate Professor (Travel & Tourism) is placed under suspension with immediate effect."

The officer, the Government said, shall remain attached in the office of the Director colleges, J&K during his period of suspension.

Further, Director Colleges, J&K has been directed to serve a charge sheet with articles of charges to the officer and conduct a detailed enquiry and co-opt an independent lady member to conclude the inquiry. "The enquiry report shall be submitted to this office within 15 days."