

HC upholds closure of ReT scheme

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 6: High Court has upheld the decision of the Government on closure of Rehber-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme with the rider that the closure of scheme would not affect the select panels as also would not override the judgments passed by the court and shall not affect the cases pending before the court.

The court has disposed of a batch of petitions challenging the closure of the ReT scheme. "We, in the present case, are confronted with executive override which, in any case, is not permissible in law. The Executive is bound to comply with the orders of the Court and has no power, jurisdiction or competence to sit over or overturn such a decision by mere executive fiat", Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Moksha Kazmi said.

The court while upholding the decision of the court clarified that the impugned Government order will not affect the select panels prepared by the respondents which have been acted upon and formal orders of engagement have been issued. Court has also made it

clear that the impugned Government Order will not override or affect the judgments passed or to be passed by this Court holding a candidate entitled to engagement in the selection process which is under challenge before the Court.

Court has also clarified that the closure of scheme will not affect the cases where the select panels are approved and the aggrieved party has approached the Court before it could be acted upon, in that, but for litigation in the Court, the approved panel/panels could have been acted upon and formal letters of engagement in favour of the selected candidates issued prior to the issuance of the impugned Government order.

The Court said that despite the closure of the scheme the authorities shall abide by the judgments passed by any competent Court of law which have attained finality. "However, the writ petitions involving adjudication of disputes in respect of tentative merit lists or tentative select panels shall be liable to be dismissed in view of the impugned Government order, in that, it would not be permissible for a Court of law to direct the respondents to finalize the tenta-

tive merit lists or tentative select panels and issue engagement orders in view of closure of the scheme", reads the judgment.

Court with these conditions has upheld the constitutionality of the impugned Government Order. In these petitions, Government Order No. 919-Edu of 2018 dated 16th November 2018 was under challenge. The impugned order was passed by the Government pursuant to State Administrative Council decision No. 129/19/2018 dated 14th November 2018 to formally close ReT Scheme as also providing for cancellation and withdrawal of all advertisement notices issued for making engagement of ReT or the panels prepared where no engagement orders have been issued under the scheme.

The scheme was formulated in the year 2000 by the then Government with an objective to promote decentralized management of elementary education with community participation and involvement to ensure accountability and responsiveness through a strong back up and supervision through the community and to operationalize effectively the schooling system at the grass root level.

HADP to focus on artificial insemination for boosting Dairy Industry in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 6: The J&K Government has taken a major step towards boosting the agriculture and allied sectors with the recent launch of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The HADP is a comprehensive program that aims to address various challenges faced by the agriculture and allied sectors including dairy industry in J&K besides providing ample employment opportunities for the local population.

The HADP encompasses 29 innovative projects, including a visionary plan for dairy development in J&K over next 5 years. This dairy development project focuses on one of the most critical components that is; increasing milk productivity through wider implementation of Artificial Insemination (AI) by involving private AI workers. By successfully executing this intervention, the J&K government hopes to achieve a remarkable growth in average annual milk productivity, from 2380 litres to 4300 litres, by 2027.

The use of Artificial Insemination in the dairy industry

has been proven to be a highly effective tool to increase average animal productivity and contribute to the growth of the rural economy. By using AI, dairy farmers can benefit from efficient use of high-quality bulls, without being limited by their location. The advantages of using AI over traditional breeding with bulls are numerous, including improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness, reduced transmission of disease, and enhanced breeding efficiency.

One of the major obstacles in expanding Artificial Insemination (AI) coverage in J&K is limited network of government-run AI centers and shortage of trained AI technicians.

To address this, the Dairy Development Project aims to enhance the productivity of existing bovine population by increasing AI coverage through establishment of Multi Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (Private AI workers). These private AI workers will deliver AI services to farmers at their doorstep on a self-sustainable basis by collecting the cost of goods and services.

The project will directly benefit 1533 educated rural youth and approximately 7 lakh dairy farmers will receive indirect benefits in terms of increased productivity and milk production.

At present, only 3.32 lakh breedable cattle are covered under AI and the project aims to bring 7.63 lakh cows under AI coverage within the next three years. To achieve 70% AI coverage over the next three years, the total AIs conducted will be increased by 10 per cent in the first year, 22 per cent in the second year and 8 per cent in the third year on a year-to-year basis.

The project aims to train a

total of 1,533 young individuals from underprivileged and uncovered areas of Jammu and Kashmir as private Artificial Insemination (AI) workers. These individuals will be selected under HADP and CSS-RGM and will undergo training at an accredited AI training institute with a support of Rs 30,000 per candidate. These trained private AI workers will be deployed in their respective villages to deliver AI services to the farmers over a period of two years.

If a private AI worker conducts an average of 600 AI procedures in a year, they can easily earn Rs 1.08 lakh from AI work alone, besides additional income from minor veterinary practices. With this project, the productivity of the bovine population in Jammu and Kashmir will be enhanced, providing indirect benefits to around 7 lakh dairy farmers in terms of increased productivity and milk production.

The deployment of private AI workers in uncovered areas of J&K holds great potential for not only providing part time employment opportunities for rural youth but also for making veterinary healthcare and breeding services readily accessible to farmers. By utilizing quality germplasm, these AI workers will be able to upgrade the quality of non-descript low-yielding dairy animals in remote areas, resulting in production of superior dairy animals within a period of 5 years. This will lead to a significant increase in average annual milk productivity, reaching 4300 litres per dairy animal by 2027-28.

The implementation of this project will provide a much-needed boost to the dairy sector in the uncovered areas of J&K, thereby contributing towards overall development of the region.

Evacuee Property Deptt continues anti-encroachment drive

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 6: On the instructions of Commissioner Secretary to Government, Revenue Department and Divisional Commissioners, the Evacuee Property Department with the active support of all District Administrations has retrieved huge chunks of evacuee land of different nature particularly agricultural at various places during last few months.

As per an official statement issued here, it has been given out that the department has for the first time reconciled the figures of evacuee land in the Valley in due consultation with the Revenue Department and wherever the hidden property was found, the same was notified as an 'Evacuee Property' under Section 6 of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act, Svt. 2006 and its retrieval on spot.

The Evacuee Property Department has the mandate towards safeguarding the evacuee property as such as and when reports of encroachment are available, the department acts swiftly with the collaboration of Revenue Department and retrieves illegally occupied evacuee land from the encroachers/land grabbers/illegal occupation.

The department has appealed to the general public to refrain from raising illegal constructions on the evacuee land and illegal occupation thereof failing which action as warranted under the relevant provisions of J&K Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act, Svt. 2006 shall be taken against the violators.

The Tehsildars who are also Assistant Custodian of the Evacuee property have been directed to ensure timely action on any type of encroachment if any

surfaced within their jurisdiction. With the active support of relevant quarters, the department has been able to carry out reconciliation of E.P Record with Revenue Department for identification of evacuee property and its reflection in the revenue records. This has helped to trace out the hidden property, illegal occupation and total quantum of land.

The department completed demarcation of evacuee land at various places and the process is still going on. This will follow retrieval thereof by removal of encroachment, illegal occupation/cancellation of lease during last two years.

It has also prepared a proper inventory of evacuee land and land bank, besides, the exercise of photography and geo-tagging of evacuee property is underway.

The identified chunk of land will be utilized for developmental projects by UT Government either by lease or acquisition mode besides commercially viable land for gainfully utilization.

So far, the department has also provided land for various public purposes such as setting up of government offices and institutions and for such noble causes as setting up of hostels for wards of police and armed forces martyrs.

The practice of allotment of land on the basis of individual request has been done away with and now a transparent procedure of auction to determine lease premium of property has been adopted. In this connection recently the department has auctioned various flats and shops in Srinagar city and also auction of shops in Baramulla is under way. Various patches of land have also been identified which will put to auction to determine lease, after giving wide publicity.

International research colloquium held at MIER College

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: The MIER College of Education hosted an international research colloquium organized by the Research and Development Cell.

The resource person for the colloquium was Dr Byron Bunt, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, School of Commerce and Social Studies in Education, North-West University, South Africa. The theme of the colloquium was "Nurturing Self-Directed Learning through an Open Game-Based Renewable Assessment Approach."

The session was chaired by Dr Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College. Dr Mool Raj, HoD PG Department; Dr Rohnika Sharma, HoD UG Department; Dr Nishta Rana, Head Research and Development Cell; Dr Monika Bajaj, Deputy HoD UG Department, along with the faculty and students of the PG Department, attended the colloquium.

Dr Bunt opened his deliberations by explaining that game-based learning is a teaching method that uses the power of games to outline and support learning outcomes and promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Game-based learning can be achieved through digital and non-digital games that provide meaningful learning experiences for students, he said and shared his research project, intervention,

findings, and recommendations. Dr Bunt's research focused on nurturing self-directed learning through an open game-based, renewable assessment approach. His data comprised of fourth-year B Ed students majoring in history. He used mixed-methods research, which included both qualitative and quantitative data.

In the intervention, Dr Bunt asked the students to create either a card based game or a board based game on a specific history topic. When the project was finished, a peer-assessment approach was used by allowing one group to play the game of the other groups. The findings highlighted that students were more engaged and considered it a fun way of learning. It helped them to share ideas, collaborate, self-monitor, and reflect on their progress by understanding their strengths and weaknesses. Dr Bunt elaborated on the implications of the study and recommendations and this was followed by an interactive Q&A session.

Dr Adit Gupta, in his presidential remarks, said gamification incorporates game elements such as point systems, leaderboards, badges, etc into traditional learning activities to increase students' engagement and motivation. He also emphasized that research projects with students and other faculty members can be undertaken in this area. The colloquium ended with the formal vote of thanks presented by Dr Nishta Rana, Head R&D Cell.

Billawaria, Angral kick start laying of slab in Krishna Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: The Deputy Mayor, Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with corporator Ward No. 12 and former Chairman JMC, Jeet Angral kick started the work of slab near the



Dy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria and corporator Ward 12, Jeet Angral kick starting laying of slab in Krishna Nagar on Monday.

back side of Guru Raviddas Mandir, Krishna Nagar Ward No 12.

The Deputy Mayor was accompanied by Executive Engineer, AEE, JMC officials. The work will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 37.40 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor said that it was with the efforts of the local corporator that five feet road has been widened to 22 feet with concrete work.

He attributed the completion of the project to the vision of road and Highway Minister, Nitin Gadkari to construct concrete roads and reduce the cost of work with the good quality of work. He said that the locals of the area were facing a lot of inconvenience due to the lack of proper road connectivity and other basic

Stop creating fear among people: Tarigami to Admn

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: Senior CPI (M) leader, MY Tarigami has asserted that the ongoing so called anti-land encroachment drive and eviction has on ground generated fear among the common masses.

In a statement issued here today, the CPI (M) leader said, while big land grabbers have to be identified and action be taken strictly under law, the manner and the method used to evict the alleged land encroachers, especially the peasants, marginal farmers, small shopkeepers and those living in small houses constructed years back, sends a message that the administration is insensitive to the interests and sentiments of the general public and that of the individuals and organisations which express resentment against the reckless drive and coercive manner of the evictions. If the present campaign

Dr Bahl receives multiple awards in IAPSM conference

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: Dr Rakesh Bahl, Professor, Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu was honoured with multiple awards in the annual National Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) held at AIIMS Hyderabad.

He was awarded prestigious fellowship of IAPSM (FIAPSM) for outstanding contributions in advancement of Preventive and Social Medicine by Governor of Telangana and LG of Puducherry Dr Tamilisai Sundarajan.

Dr Bahl was also awarded presidential appreciation award

of eviction attains roughshod propositions, it will generate more resentment. The present 'drive' gives the impression as if the administration has waged a 'war' against the public. The selection of areas and individuals for bulldozing, creates doubts regarding the real intentions of the administration. The eviction campaign seems selective and discriminatory.

Referring to the Chief Secretary's latest directions to the officers regarding action against those who dare to criticize the handling of the eviction drive, Tarigami affirmed that it speaks of highhanded approach of the dispensation. Those at the helm should keep in mind that it has to function under the Constitution and it should not give the impression that there is an undeclared emergency in J&K. This will in no way serve the cause of peace, law and order and the larger interests of the country.

During the inauguration, Surjit Singh Chib, Jatinder Kour, Varinder Dogra, Ramesh Kumar, Anil Angral, Swarn Samyal, Kuldeep Kumar, Tarun Angral, Manmohan Sharma and others were present.

He, while complimenting Deputy Mayor said he has been taking keen interest for the development of Jammu city. His commitment to the betterment of the citizens of Jammu through his tireless efforts is really commendable, he added.

The PC president said that the administration is inventing homelessness by razing down homes of poor people. "They are not giving any notices. The law of the land cannot be violated," he said, adding that only poor are suffering due to the ongoing eviction drive in J&K.

"I want to ask my Prime Minister who is the Prime Minister of poor people whose houses are demolished. Where will poor people go?" he asked. Lone said that there is law for every action and the law of the land can't be violated. "There is a law for every action. The law of the land cannot be violated. On one side videos on social media wherein poor families having 4 or 5 marlas of land in possession being pushed to the wall and on the other side the Lieutenant Governor's office beat drums that poor will not be touched. This ongoing mess explains either these heartbreaking videos are fake or LG office is telling lies," he added.

The PC chairman said unlike other parts of the country, the J&K is being treated inhumanely and people have been left on the mercy of God. "If we see outside, the governments serve notices prior to any action. But in J&K no notice was served before demolition and destruction. Those possessed 4 or 5 marlas of land and faced wrath of the authorities were not being served notices. The J&K government only knows to come to the scene and bulldoze the property of poor," Lone said.

He lashed out at administration for suppressing people of J&K. "These officers are like tourists who after 2 or 3 years will be out of J&K. They should mend their behavior and stop harassing people of J&K," he added.



J&K People Conference president Sajad Lone addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Monday. —Excelsior/Shakeel

Eviction drive humiliation of people Sajad accuses administration of creating homelessness

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 6: Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone today accused the administration of creating homelessness in Jammu and Kashmir and said that New Delhi shouldn't be represented by bulldozers in Kashmir, but by love and compassion.

Addressing a news conference here this evening, Lone said the objective of the ongoing eviction drive seems humiliation of Kashmiris.

"What is the objective of the government? Do they want to retrieve land or humiliate people? I think humiliation is more important for them," he said.

Lone said that the current administration is not an elected regime and should leave bigger decisions for an elected government.

"It (President's Rule) is a temporary arrangement. They cannot take decisions on behalf of the people of J&K. They are not elected by the people," he said.

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Horti Deptt organizes awareness program for farmers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: Department of Horticulture Jammu today conducted one-day farmers' awareness-cum-interaction programme in village Kaandi of Akhnoor tehsil in Jammu.

The Program was presided over by Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak wherein large



Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak addressing farmers during an awareness program in village Kandi of Akhnoor, Jammu.

number of farmers besides Sarpanchs and Panchs of the area participated. Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Sarbjeet Singh, DL Subject Matter Specialist Sandeep Gupta and HDOS Amit Saraf and Varinder Sharma were also present.

While addressing the farmers, Ram Savak briefed the farmers about various Centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the Department. He said that keeping in view the suitable agro-climatic conditions, there is immense potential for horticulture crops in the area which must be tapped. He appealed the PRI members and field functionaries to work in

tandem for doubling the farmers income.

The Director said that in this Horticulture zone, about 100 hectares of area has been identified for High Density Plantation and 25 hectares for Aloe Vera Plantation in the coming season under CAPEX. He urged farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields and avail the benefits on different components viz. Bore Well, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Mechanization, Protected cultivation, Tools & Implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Further, he impressed upon them to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) for setting up of small fruit and vegetables processing units with the financial assistance from the Department.

Later, Ram Savak, as a Prabhari of Panchayat Lower Narayana of Block Khour chaired a review meeting regarding the decisions taken in the Back 2 Village-4 programme wherein the representatives of various departments besides Sarpanch and Panchs of the Panchayat participated. In the meeting, the chair reviewed the progress of works under taken for the overall development of the Panchayat and road map prepared for the implementation of other works.

Manjit Singh demands employment for local youth

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 6: Apni Party, provincial president, Jammu, and former Minister, Manjit Singh today demanded employment for local youth in the developmental projects in Samba.

Addressing a meeting at Ward Number 8, Vijaypur, near here, Manjit Singh said that the unemployment has grown manifolds in Jammu and Kashmir and Samba district is the worst hit especially after the acquiring of land by the National Highway Authority (NHA) from the people. The meeting was organized by Brij Mohan Dutta.

"The people who had shops on the highway lost their source of earning after their shops/commercial places were taken over by the authorities for Highway widening. The people did not receive rate as per the market value from the authorities. There were complaints about the disparity of price from one place to another even as the villages were close to each other," he said.

As the people have become jobless, he demanded that the Government should ensure employment for the local residents who have become unemployed youth.

"The educated people have no source of earning and the

employment opportunities are really poor. The recruitment process for different posts in Government departments has turned into major scams and the Government also cancelled them. The youth have lost their hopes," he said.

In this situation, he said that the Government should ensure that the youth should get employment in their respective districts referring to Samba where the industrial sector, AIIMS are established and other developmental projects are in progress.

"In these institutions, employment for the local youth must be ensured," he demanded. He also assured the youth that the Apni Party will continue to raise their voice.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting include district president, Samba, Raman Thappa, Ex-president, Municipal Committee, Vijaypur, Nicky Mahajan, district president, Legal Cell, Sahil Bharti, Lavli Mangol - both in charge of Ramgarh and Samba respectively - block president, Vijaypur, Mohan Lal Sharma, block president, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, Sarpanch Vijaypur, Joginder Lal, Ex-Sarpanch Channi, Sham Lal Bhagat, and others.

Paediatric Endocrinology OPD starts at SMGS Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: In another initiative for improvement of patient care services, Paediatric Endocrinology OPD has been started at SMGS Hospital Jammu. The OPD will be held on every Tuesday.

This new OPD service shall be beneficial to the patients of the Paediatric age group as the services will be available at SMGS Hospital only and they will not need to go to Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu.

Paediatric Endocrinology is a speciality that deals with variations of physical growth and sexual development in childhood, as well as diabetes and other disorders of the endocrine glands in the paediatric age groups.

The OPD shall take care of children who have growth abnormalities (short or tall stature), disorders related to puberty

(early or delayed puberty), menstrual abnormalities, hirsutism (excessive hair growth on the face and other parts of the body), gynaecomastia (breast enlargement in boys), thyroid disorders, obesity, abnormal genitalia in children (undescended testes, micropenis etc.), adrenal disorders such as CAH, Addison's and Cushing's disease, disorders of the bone and parathyroid gland and diabetes mellitus.

Nutritional advice and diabetes education shall also be provided to parents/children during the OPD. It is pertinent to mention that the Endocrinology OPD at SSH is available every Wednesday and Saturday.

Further, the Department of Endocrinology is also applying for starting DNB Endocrinology which shall increase the trained human resource and lead to improvement of Patient care in the Institution.

Tickoo inducted as chief advisor of NMOPS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS), a national level body of the Government employees, has appointed Sachin Tickoo, president Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) as its chief advisor for J&K Unit.

The nomination was made by the JKUT president of the organization, Mohd Ashraf Sheikh with the consultation of National president of NMOPS, Vijay Kumar Bandhu. Ashraf said JKEEGA has extended hands with NMOPS for the restoration of Old Pension Scheme in J&K like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Tickoo and Ashraf appealed all the employees of various Govt departments to join hands and launch joint struggle for the restoration of Old Pension Scheme in J&K UT.

Restrictions under Sec-144 at Hirnihal, adjoining areas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: District Magistrate Ramban, Mussarai Islam here today imposed restrictions on assembly of persons under Section 144 Cr.P.C at Hirnihal and its adjoining areas on Nachlana-Khari road.

The restrictions have been imposed to ensure start temporary restoration works/alternate route by IRCON Int'l Limited, Banihal.

An order from the office of District Magistrate Ramban stated that the restrictions shall remain in force till February 13, 2023 and the SSP Ramban shall implement

the order in letter and spirit.

The restrictions were imposed after CGM IRCON Int'l Limited, Banihal and SDM Banihal reported that some local persons with vested interests were resisting the restoration works which is not only creating hardships for the people but has also stopped USBRL works in Khari section.

CGM IRCON, Banihal was advised to carry out temporary restoration/alternate route works at Hirnihal so that the vehicular movement, including that of feeding material of IRCON Int'l Limited is restored on Nachlana-Khari road.