

# Pol parties seek withdrawal of notice on property tax

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 22: Several political parties here on Wednesday demanded withdrawal of a notice that mandated imposition of property tax in the municipal limits from April 1st, this year.

Describing the move as "arbitrary and unjust", the Pradesh Congress Committee said that imposition of property tax has caused frustration and anger among the people, as they are already facing economic and political distress due to various factors including security situation and the lack of an elected Government.

In a joint statement, the Party leaders Vikar Rasool Wani, Raman Bhalha, Tara Chand, Mula Ram among others accused the bureaucratic regime under the command of the Central Government of "harassing the common people" with "anti-people" orders.

The party leaders demanded the withdrawal of the order and holding of Assembly elections at the earliest to restore democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling the property tax as "Jazia", senior Congress leader Gurmeet Singh also criticized the LG administration.

He said that people in Jammu and Kashmir are already struggling financially and the new tax will only add to their burden. He further said that the BJP Government has looted businesses in the State.

"In case this tax is not withdrawn, we will launch a hunger strike to protest against the imposition of 'Jazia' on the people," he warned.

Former Minister and senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra strongly opposed the imposition of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

He argued that the decision shows the present dispensation's disconnection with the people who are already burdened by inflation, power tariff, water supply, and public transport fare hikes.

Sadhotra attributed the Government's decisions to the lack of vision of the "double-engine Governments" and the absence of a people's Government.

He accused the BJP of taking pleasure in people's suffering, referring to the recent recruitment process scams, compromise with lands and jobs of bonafide residents and divesting the poor from their small holdings.

Sadhotra demanded immediate rollback of the order on imposition of property tax from poor people.

National Conference State Spokesperson, Imran Nabi Dar stated that the notification regarding the property tax smacks of arbitrariness and will further push the people of Jammu and Kashmir to the wall.

He questioned the haste in which such decisions are taken in the absence of a democratically elected Government, and demanded that such matters be left to an elected Government.

He also called the decision "anti-people" and a "grave injustice", and demanded its immediate rollback.

Rattan Lal Gupta, the Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference also condemned the imposition of property tax by the Government, calling it "Jazia" on the common people.

He demanded the immediate withdrawal of the notification issued by the J&K Administration "as imposition of this tax is unjustified, arbitrary, and against the norms of the democracy".

He said that the BJP is running a proxy Government in Jammu and Kashmir and imposing anti-people policies on the residents.

He warned that if the Government does not withdraw the property tax order, National Conference workers and activists would come on the roads to support the affected people.

Former Minister and Zonal President of National

Conference, Babu Rampaul also castigated the UT administration for allegedly making the lives of people miserable with its hosts of "anti-people" policies and decisions. He was referring to an order issued by the J&K Government that has mandated for people owning more than 1000 square feet area to pay property tax from April 1st this year.

He also appealed the youth of J&K to come forward and launch a movement for "Parivartan" and early elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) has also expressed its discontent over the imposition of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded its immediate rollback.

In a statement, party leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said, "the process of collecting tax is the sole prerogative of the elected institutions. Levying tax in absence of an elected Government is quite unconstitutional".

"It is surprising that even the elected municipal bodies were not consulted before announcing the tax," he said.

He demanded immediate rollback of the property tax notification.

In a party meeting organized here at Gandhi Nagar Jammu, Ghulam Hassan Mir, the Senior Vice-President of Apni Party said that the decision regarding imposition of property tax should be left to an elected Government.

"The recent decision has received criticism from the people of Jammu as well as Kashmir regions and hence this decision should be reviewed before it is forced on the people in haste," he said.

The meeting also demanded restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

A statement from DCP Balkar Singh, MLA Aam Aadmi Party, Kartarpur Constituency, Punjab and Prabhari, AAP Jammu Province strongly condemns the

imposition of property tax on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Singh has cautioned the people of Jammu against trusting the Bharatiya Janata Party and its leaders on promises of welfare to the people of this region, asserting that it only believes in "Jumlas".

Senior AAP leader Taranjit Singh Tony also criticized the BJP and the PM for not delivering the "Ache Din" promised to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Tony expressed immense anguish, saying that there is no one to listen to the people's woes in the local leadership of BJP. Tony also accused the BJP of committing a serious crime of giving false assurances to the people on pressing issues like the eviction drive and property tax.

Party (AAP) leader Amit Kapoor also opposed the notification issued by the Government regarding the imposition of the property tax, calling it "anti-people". He also demanded immediate withdrawal of the notification issued in this regard.

Sunil Dimple, the President of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, led a protest rally against the imposition of property tax on traders and people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also burnt effigies of the BJP Government and appealed people to unite against the BJP to save their coming generations from "further exploitation".

Sandeep Singh, President National Awami United Party (NAUP) appealed all the like-minded people to unite under one platform to thwart the "misadventure of the LG Administration".

Referring to the imposition of the property tax in J&K, he warned the administration to stop underestimating the common people in Jammu and Kashmir claiming, "in case the notification regarding imposition of tax is not taken back, Government will have to face strong protests in Jammu region".

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# Yogi Govt presents biggest budget in the history of UP

Prabhat Ranjan Deen

LUCKNOW, Feb 22: Yogi Government's sixth consecutive, and first budget of the second term was presented today.

This time's budget is the biggest one in the history of Uttar Pradesh. The size of the presented budget is Rs 6, 90, 242.43 crore. While the original budget of the state government last year was Rs 6, 15 lakh crore and the supplementary budget was Rs 33,769 crore. Farmers have been given special attention in this budget also.

Rs 831 crore 93 lakh will be spent for the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture scheme. Along with this, a provision of Rs 113 crore 52 lakh has been made on the National Mission on Natural Farming scheme. Rs 1950 crore has been sanctioned for the supply of electricity to private tube wells for the farmers at concessional rates. It has been announced to spend Rs 984 crore 54 lakh for the National Agriculture Development Scheme.

Not only this, Rs 753 crore 70 lakh will be spent for National Crop Insurance and Rs 55 crore 60 lakh will be spent on UP Millets revival programme. An arrangement of Rs 20 crore has also been approved for the Agritech startup scheme in 4 agricultural universities of the state.

Along with this, Mahatma Buddha Agricultural and Technological University will be started in Kushinagar with 50 crores.

Special attention has been given to women in the budget. A provision of Rs 1050 crore is proposed for the financial year 2023-24 under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. Rs 600 crore will be spent on the Chief Minister Group Marriage Scheme. The government will spend Rs 83 crore on the Women Empowerment Scheme and Rs 4032 crore for the maintenance of destitute widows.



UP CM before presentation of budget on Wednesday.

In view of law and order in the state, 3 women PAC battalions are being formed for maximum participation of women.

Many gifts have been given to the youth in the budget. Rs 3600 crore will be spent to provide tablets/smartphones to eligible students under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme.

An arrangement of Rs 60 crore has been made for IT and startups policy. The government has set a target of creating 40 thousand jobs in the textile sector. An arrangement of Rs 150 crore has been made for the training program under the Skill Development Mission.

There is a provision of Rs 70 crore for the Chief Minister's Apprenticeship Training Scheme. A target has been set to train 31 thousand youths. An arrangement of Rs 100 crore has been made for the promotion of incubators and seed fund for startups. Rs 20 crore is proposed for the Agriculture Accelerator Fund for setting up agritech start-ups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas. An arrangement of Rs 10 crore has been made for young advocates to purchase books and magazines for the initial 3 years of work and Rs 5 crore for

proof of this. The budgetary allocation is aimed at strengthening the state's law and order system. Strengthening the police force by providing accommodation facilities for police officers and employees has been focused in the state budget. Government is also going to provide its own lands to the police commissionerate offices.

In the budget for the financial year 2023-24, Rs 850 crore has been proposed for the arrangement of the newly created Police Commissionerate's office and non-residential buildings etc. With this, the Police Commissionerate system implemented in various cities will gain momentum. Police departments will be able to construct offices on their own land in cities with police commissionerate systems instead of renting space as they do now.

The Yogi Government has allocated an amount of 1,000 crore to the Police department for residential facilities. With this, the Police department will be able to construct modern housing for its officers and employees in different cities. At the same time, an arrangement of worth Rs 400 crore has been made for housing facilities in urban areas.

A provision of Rs 10 crore has been made for the purchase of new vehicles in order to strengthen the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Financial aids of 17 crore 96 lakh to the dependents of 73 martyrs/deceased Army & Para Military Forces hailing from UP, have been provided.

## DC Jammu listens public grievances at Suchetgarh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 22: To get first-hand account of the public grievances, Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa today presided over the weekly Block Divas programme here at Panchayat Abdal Tehsil Suchetgarh. Scores of individuals appraised her about the problems being faced by them in day to day life.

The main issues highlighted during the programme were related to shortage of water supply and inadequate electricity, rational power bills, construction of community hall, land compensation, timely distribution of seeds and fertilizers and road connectivity.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the delegations and passed on the spot directions to the concerned officers for early redressal of their genuine grievances.

An awareness camp was also organised in block Arnia to encourage women to set up self-employment units under the Lakhpati

Didi' scheme. The Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) were encouraged to take up micro-enterprises after developing related skills.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the scheme envisages empowering the women especially in rural areas by enhancing their earning over one Rs lakh per year.

She asked the concerned officials to spread awareness about the scheme so that maximum women can register under the scheme.

ACD, Preeti Sharma; SDM R.S Pura, Ram Lal; Tehsildar Suchetgarh, Nirbhay Sharma; DSWO, Mamta Rajput, PRI members besides other officers from concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of works under the District Capex Budget, including DDC, BDC and PRI components.

The DC stressed on the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of the progress on different projects for their time-bound completion.

## Sinthan Top road opened for first time in Feb

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, Feb 22: For the first time, the road to Sinthan Top, on way to Kishtwar in Chenab region has been opened for traffic in the month of February with the aim of pro-

road condition for next three to four days. Snow clearance has been completed but some technical interventions are needed," Deputy Commissioner Anantnag district Basharat Qayoom told reporters.



A vehicle plying on Sinthan Top road which has been opened for traffic for the first time in the month of February.

As Sinthan has emerged as new destination for summer tourists, the efforts are to make the area accessible to tourists during winter is well.

"For that we are putting up, mobile lavatories and other facilities that are needed," the DC said.

He said the administration has taken up with Telecom companies like Jio and BSNL for extending mobile connectivity to Sinthan Top area.

A team of officials from various departments including tourism accompanied the DC on the visit to this snowbound area.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

motoring tourism to this off beat destination.

"Last year the road to Sinthan Top was opened on April 6. We are trying to open it to general public after assessing the

## DDC Rajouri inaugurates smart classroom, other facilities in GMS Sara

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Feb 22: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, on Wednesday inaugurated a smart classroom, sports and reading rooms and a library in the Government Middle School (GMS) Sara.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Block

technology, including interactive boards, projectors and other audio-visual aids, to make the learning process for the students more engaging and interactive.

The sports and reading rooms provide students with a dedicated space to engage in physical activities and improve their reading habits, respectively. The library is well-stocked with books and other reading material to help students improve their knowledge and understanding of different subjects.

Speaking at the inauguration, the DDC emphasised the importance of providing quality education to all students. He also lauded the efforts of the school administration, teachers, and other officials for their hard work and dedication in setting up the new facilities.

The new facilities at GMS Sara are expected to benefit hundreds of students and help them in their overall development. The district administration remains committed to promoting the welfare and development of all students in the district and will continue to take measures to improve the quality of education in government schools.



DDC Rajouri Vikas Kundal inaugurating a smart classroom, sports & reading rooms & library at GMS Sara.

Development Council (BDC) Chairman, Javid Iqbal, along with other officials and dignitaries.

The new smart classroom, sports and reading rooms, and library have been created with the aim to provide students with access to modern learning facilities and promote overall development.

The smart classroom is equipped with the latest digital



Newly elected office bearers of KCCI.

## Tenga elected KCCI president, Bakshi secy gen

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 22: Javid Ahmed Bhat (Tenga) has been elected as president while Faiz Ahmed Bakshi as secretary general of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry held its 85th Annual General Meeting today at Chamber office, Residency Road, Srinagar this morning.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue and other officials of the Revenue Department and some members of Election Committee supervised the proceedings of the AGM in accordance with the orders of J&K High Court.

The results of the elections for Executive Committee of KCCI were declared by Election Committee constituted

for the purpose of conducting the elections to the 21 Executive Committee members.

Javid Ahmad Bhat (Tenga) was declared elected as new KCCI president, Ashaq Hussain Shangloo as senior vice president, Fayaz Ahmad Punjabi - junior vice president, Faiz Ahmad Bakshi as secretary general, Dr Umar Nazir Tibetbaqal as joint secretary general while Zubair Mahajan as treasurer.

The other elected Executive Committee members are- Akib Chaya, Muzaffar Majid Jan, Amir Manzoor, Ashfaq Ahmad Zahgeer, Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo, Ghulam Nabi Bhat, Altaf Ahmad Tramboob, Jagmohan Singh Raina, Mohammad Lateef Bhat, Siah Mohd Ibrahim, Suhail Jan, Dr Touseef Ahmad Bhat, Ferz Ahmad Bisati, Shoukat Khan and Zahoor Hussain Alamgir.



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### National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2023

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The National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) is a compulsory test for admission to the 5-year Integrated MSc programme in basic sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics - at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar and University of Mumbai - Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai. NEST 2023 will be conducted in around 120 towns and cities all over India on June 24, 2023 (Saturday).

The candidates admitted to the programme are eligible to receive an annual scholarship of Rs.60,000 through DISHA program of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. In addition, the scholarship recipients receive a grant of Rs.20,000 per annum for summer internship. Candidates selected by DST for the INSPIRE-SHE program are endorsed for INSPIRE scholarship by NISER and CEBS.

For detailed information on NEST 2023 application procedure and previous years' question papers please visit NEST 2023 website: [www.nestexam.in](http://www.nestexam.in)

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Through ONLINE portal ONLY. Visit <a href="http://www.nestexam.in">www.nestexam.in</a> to apply. Online portal opens on Feb. 27, 2023, & closes on May 17, 2023	ONLINE/computer based ONLY. Date of examination: June 24, 2023 (Saturday) Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (1 <sup>st</sup> session) 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM (2 <sup>nd</sup> session) <b>Results announcement : July 10, 2023</b>

**Address for correspondence :**  
The Chief Coordinator, NEST 2023  
NISER Bhubaneswar,  
P.O.: Jatni, Dist: Khurda,  
Odisha - 752050, India  
E-mail: [nest-exam@niser.ac.in](mailto:nest-exam@niser.ac.in)  
Website: [www.nestexam.in](http://www.nestexam.in)

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