

Farooq, Omar, others pay tribute to Sheikh Nazir

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR/JAMMU, 24 Feb: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president



NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah and others paying tribute to party stalwart Sheikh Nazir at Srinagar.

Dr Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah today led party functionaries in offering 'Fatha' and floral tributes to the party stalwart Sheikh Nazir on his 8th death anniversary at his final resting place in Malik Sahib Shrine in Soura.

Party general secretary Ali Mohd Sagar, Provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, chief

spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, senior leaders Choudhary Mohd Ramzan, Irfan Shah, Ali Mohd Dar, Mudassar Shahmiri, spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar and other functionaries were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering Farooq said, "Virtues like sincerity, conviction, perseverance and loyalty, which are rare among the contemporary breed of politicians formed the template of his personal life and pol-

itics. Uncompromising on his principles and beliefs, which he had inherited from Sheikh Sahab, Nazir Sahab was a go-to person for all party workers. He was a strong-spirited person whose contribution towards strengthening the party at the grass-root level will be remembered for all the times to come. On his eighth death anniversary, I pay my humble tributes to him," he said.

Ali Mohd Sagar said, "Nazir Sahab was a pillar of strength for the party. He was looked up to for inspiration by all. The best tribute to him on his death anniversary would be to imbibe the zest with which he served the party."

Nasir Aslam Wani said, "Late Nazir belonged to the tribe of those great men and women, who suffered immensely alongside Sheikh Sahab for the restoration of the rights of the people of J&K."

In Jammu a commemorative function was held at party office where NC's Provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta led the functionaries in paying tributes to the veteran leader on his death anniversary.

While paying homage to the late leader Gupta said that Sheikh Nazir will always inspire the National Conference cadre for his simplicity, honesty, selfless service, organizational capabilities and political acumen.

Additional general secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization, who remained connected with the cadre at grass roots level all his life.

Central secretary Ajay Sadhotra described Late Nazir as a pioneering leader who stood for high values in politics and public life.

Senior party leaders Babu Ram Pal, Abdul Gani Malik, Vijay Lochan, Bimla Luthra, Abdul Gani Teli, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Raghvir Singh Manhas, Ch Rehmat Ali, Nar Singh and others also paid tributes to Sheikh Nazir.



MP Ladakh, Jamyang T Namgyal chairing DISHA meeting at Leh on Friday.

MP Ladakh reviews progress on various schemes in DISHA meeting

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Feb 24: Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who is also the Chairman of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA), today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under different Centrally sponsored schemes in the Leh district.

MP inquired from the concerned officers in detail about the status of progress achieved so far under the flagship programmes such as, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, PMGSY, JIM, SBM U, PMAY-U, NHM, Poshan Abhyan, PMFBY, PMKSKY, UJAWALA, PMGKAY, NSAP, ICDS, NULM, NRLM, DDUGJY, SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, PMSGP and other Centrally sponsored schemes.

ADDG/ACD Leh, Sonam Nurboo informed about the technical glitches faced in the National Mobile Monitoring System for attendance of labourers engaged under MGNREGA and sought intervention from MP Ladakh for some relaxation owing to the topographical challenges. He also shared that out of 30,000 registered labourers under MNGREGA, Aadhar seeding of 29,000 is achieved enabling Aadhar-based payment as per the guidelines.

Highlighting the importance of SHGs under NRLM/NULM scheme for enhancing livelihood and economic opportunities, MP directed the concerned officials to submit/furnish a detailed report of increase in per capita income of individual working in SHGs at the earliest.

The MP also directed to opt for biodegradable/disposable dustbins as an alternative to plastic bins to

achieve goals of Swachh Bharat Mission and Solid Waste Management.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh informed that Rs 13.24 crore has been disbursed to a total of 6504 registered farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi in the Leh district. MP Ladakh directed CAO, Leh to cover more water scarce areas under Micro Irrigation plan.

Stressing the potential of Ladakh in food processing, MP directed Chief Horticulture Officer Leh to develop a plan for establishing micro processing units in a decentralised manner in Nubra, Dha-Hanu to reduce wastage of food products. He directed to Horticulture, Industries Department and banking sector to work in coordination to promote food processing units under PMFME scheme to increase employment opportunities.

Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse, Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, P D Nitya; concerned members of DISHA committee and heads and representatives of various departments and agencies attended the meeting.

Saurabh Bhagat inaugurates week long mega Solar Expo in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today inaugurated a week long mega Solar Expo at Rail Head, Bahu Plaza here.

The expo being held from February 24 to March 2, 2023, is being organized by J&K Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) in collaboration with multiple vendors of RE industry and other line departments of Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary inspected the stalls established by various vendors and also interacted with them regarding their solar equipments and services.

He advised JAKEDA to procure such devices for display in the Science Centers being established by S&T department.

Saurabh Bhagat appreciated JAKEDA for organizing the expo saying that the initiative will immensely help in raising awareness among the people about the benefits of rooftop solar plants.

He reaffirmed that the UT Government is committed to provide all support to vendors and the people while asking people to get maximum benefit from the scheme.

He asked JAKEDA to organize more such awareness camps and expos across other areas of Jammu city so that people would know about rooftop solar plant and its financing pattern and scheme.

Commissioner Secretary



Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology Saurabh Bhagat inaugurating Mega Solar Expo in Jammu.

also apprised of various benefits being extended by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Government of Jammu and Kashmir under Grid Connected Rooftop Solar (GCRT-SPV) and PM-KUSUM schemes.

He informed that under GCRT-SPV, which entails a collective subsidy of 65 per cent, the Domestic Consumers of DISCOM's can offset their monthly electricity bills under Net-Metering mechanism and under PM-KUSUM scheme which is primarily meant for upliftment of farmers. The farmers can install subsidized Solar Powered Pumps upto 10 HP capacity, for irrigation of their farmlands with a choice of AC/DC surface and submersible pumps.

He added that the project is also expected to provide employment opportunities to around ten thousand youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural event was attended by Pankaj Mangotra, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA), Dr. P R Dhar, CEO JAKEDA, officers from Horticulture

Department, Agriculture Department, Engineers from Jammu Power Development Corporation (JPDC) and other dignitaries.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer JAKEDA, Dr PR Dhar, spoke about the benefits of the scheme.

In the Expo, around 29 exhibitors from across the country have displayed their RE products/technologies. The J&K Bank, Punjab National Bank and the Agriculture Department also participating in the event to showcase their customer friendly schemes and programmes.

Broadly, the Jammu Solar Expo will allow showcasing Solar PV products to the prospective consumers and information related to the advantages of the two Solar based schemes i.e. Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant and Solar Pumps (PM-KUSUM) being presently implemented in the UT by JAKEDA wherein targets of 200 MW cumulative capacity and 10000 numbers, have been respectively allocated to JAKEDA. Both the schemes have been heavily incentivized by the Ministry as well as the J&K UT in order to make it viable for common masses.

Commissioner Secretary

Department, Agriculture Department, Engineers from Jammu Power Development Corporation (JPDC) and other dignitaries.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer JAKEDA, Dr PR Dhar, spoke about the benefits of the scheme.

Forms panel to verify equipment for vitrectomy surgery

H&ME releases UT-share of over Rs 92 lakh for 'National Ayush Mission'

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Feb 24: The Government has released over Rs 92 lakh as the UT share for Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Ayush Mission' under Capex Budget 2022-23 to be utilized during the year 2022-23.

The total amount which has been released is Rs 92.75 Lakh under Capex Budget as matching UT Share under Centrally Sponsored Scheme and its placement at the disposal of Director Ayush, J&K for utilization of the funds during the current financial year (2022-23) towards the approved components of the scheme.

The funds, whose advance drawl has been sanctioned, have been made subject to several conditions which include that Director Ayush, J&K will have to furnish the physical and financial progress report every month to this Department, which shall be open to the on-spot verification.

It has also been stated that the expenditure shall be made strictly, according to the classification which has been authorized by the Finance Department while directing that the Treasury Officers shall not entertain bills without ascertaining the complete classification under which funds have been authorized by the Finance Department.

The Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO), in this regard, has been directed by the H&ME, to complete all the codal formalities before the presentation of bills at the Treasury, while noting that the Treasury Officer will not allow parking or drawl of funds in the Civil Deposit without prior concurrence of the Finance Department.

The funds so released, it has

been directed, shall be utilized for the purpose meant for without any diversion at all and all the required codal formalities have to be observed at all levels with due diligence without any deviation from the guidelines.

"The Red D.C account shall be furnished to the concerned quarters within the stipulated time and the Director Finance, Health & Medical Education Department shall vouchsafe the availability of funds on the BEAMS portal and accordingly release the funds to the concerned," Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department said, adding the funds shall not be parked unnecessarily and all the conditions contained in BEAMS release order shall be adhered to.

Meanwhile, the H&ME Department has directed for the constitution of a panel tasked to verify the equipment for Vitrectomy Surgery Advanced Technology and A/B scan installed in GMC Jammu.

As per the directives, the committee has been asked to ensure verification of equipment "Vitrectomy Surgery Advance Technology" purchased by J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited for Government Medical College, Jammu and installed in the Eye Bank of the said College as per the technical specification and terms and conditions.

The committee formed will have Principal Govt. Medical College, Anantnag as its Chairman, Head of the Department, Ophthalmology, GMC, Srinagar, and a Senior Consultant, Ophthalmology Department, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu as members. The panel has been directed to submit its report to the Administrative Department within a week.

Additional general secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization, who remained connected with the cadre at grass roots level all his life.

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Property Tax a progressive reform: DC Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: Deputy Commissioner Jammu chaired a meeting with all stakeholders including the Presidents, Vice Presidents & Executive Officers of all seven Municipal Committees and their market associations to create awareness and answer queries regarding implementation of Property Tax in JK UT.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner General besides other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

The meeting was convened to curb the misinformation being spread regarding property tax in which the Deputy Commissioner gave them a detailed powerpoint presentation about the truth and facts about the property tax.

The Deputy Commissioner said that J&K is the last UT to implement the reform with minimum financial implications on the common masses. She informed that residential houses/apartments with built up area upto 1000 sqft, religious institutions and agricultural land have been exempted from paying any

PHDCCI delegation calls on JMC Com on property tax issue

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: A delegation of PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry called on Rahul Yadav, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Led by Rahul Sahai, chairman of the Chamber, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and deliberate on the various issues related to the newly introduced property tax in J&K.

Yadav gave a detailed presentation related to the implication of property tax in J&K. He briefed about various factors involved in calculation of the property tax. He suggested that all the leased properties should be exempted from property tax and if applied should be free hold first. He said the Industry should be exempted from property tax. Gair Mumkin Khads, lands near Army walls should be exempted from property tax, industrial areas of SIDCO / SICOP should be exempted as they are not using municipal services for garbage cleaning. He regretted that notified commercial rates are too high.

Sahai said mostly minimum property size of residential area is 7, 10, 12 marlas and 1 kanal rates

IGNOU organizes webinar on Lifestyle for Environment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: In anticipation of the National Science Day, Regional Centre Jammu organized a webinar on the topic "Lifestyle for Environment: Role of Science and Engineering in sustainable well-being".

The webinar was attended by the officials and staff of the RC, Coordinators, Programme In charges of Learner Support Centres, students and other stakeholders of the University.

The resource person of the special webinar was Dr Anshumali, Professor & Head, Department of Environment Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

Dr Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director briefed about the event. She called upon students to make it a point to follow environment conservation protocols in daily lives as small behavioural changes save us a small fortune and we as well as the planet will benefit from our decisions.

Dr Anshumali in his discourse, expounded that Science and Engineering are the protection force in environment conservation by way of conducting research on proposed environmental projects, analyzing scientific data, performing quality control checks and designing new strategies and systems. He said that earth and environmental sciences are critical to sustainable development and emerging themes and integration policies can help to tackle diverse pollution issues. He also discussed the importance and contribution of river beds to the sustainability of civilizations across the globe. He stressed upon the river restoration measures and deliberated about its

benefits on the quality of the ecosystem through reengineering channels that improve the ecology and reduce floods. He said that river restoration also enhances biodiversity in the area by restoring the natural functions.

Dr Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director in charge, informed that the aim of organizing such an event is to create awareness among the masses about environment conservation and its need for the well being of future generations.

Dr Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director presented the "vote of thanks" and said that reducing water consumption, switching to renewable energy and changing method of travelling can make a huge difference to the future of our environment.

57 officials of IRP Zone Jammu promoted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: Deputy Inspector General, (DIG) IRP Jammu has granted Insitu promotion to 57 Police Personnel, including Head-Constables and Selection Grade Constables of various Battalions of IR Jammu Zone with nine year service and a clean record.

The promotion has been granted on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee constituted for the purpose. The Committee cleared the promotion of (9) Head Constables and (48) SG Constables who will get the next higher scale of pay in their respective rank.

property tax. She added that this tax is to be levied on annual basis and not monthly & shall be deposited in the bank accounts of respective ULBs which shall further be utilized by the elected body of ULBs to carry out developmental works & improve infrastructure and service delivery.

She emphasized that the tax is progressive in nature with minimum implications to small households and business establishments and that it will also help generate local employment through innovative means within the urban region.

In the meeting, all the queries of the stakeholders were addressed through demonstrations & sample calculations for minimum and maximum tax implications. The stakeholders expressed satisfaction and assured support to the progressive taxation and committed to teach the masses & fight against spread of misinformation.

At the last, the Deputy Commissioner directed the EOs to establish help desks in order to create awareness among people and understand more about the property tax.

Army announces new recruitment procedure for JCOs/OR

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: The Indian Army has announced a new recruitment procedure for Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks (JCO/OR), which includes an online Common Entrance Examination (CEE) as the first filter.

Addressing media persons here, Colonel Sumit Singh said in the stage I, candidates who have registered and applied online on joinindianarmy.nic.in, will undergo the CEE, which is a computer-based exam.

The shortlisted candidates, he said, will then be called for a

Apni Party holds protest against imposing property tax in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMGARH, Feb 24: Apni Party leaders today organized a peaceful protest demonstration against the property tax being imposed by the Govt in Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest was led by

amenities are also not being fulfilled forcing the people to live in a miserable condition. Repeated requests were made to the authorities and people also raised developmental issues. But the abrupt imposition of the property tax is illegal and it must be withdrawn," he said.

He further said that the PDD top officials have threatened people asking them to clear their pending bills otherwise their electricity connections will be disconnected.

"The dictates issued against the general masses are unfortunate. The LG Manoj Sinha should personally intervene into the issue and work for the public welfare," he added.

He said that if the anti-people decisions are not taken back, the people will come on the roads. "We will not tolerate the policies which are against the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Manjit Singh said.

He said that the early Assembly elections must held in J&K without further delay and accordingly the restoration of statehood is also important as per the desire of the people from both the regions.

Prominent among those who were part of the protest include District Samba president, Raman Thappa, Block president, Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhry, Block president, Rajpura, Raman Sharma, Block president Vijayapur Ex-Capt Mohan Lal Sharma and others.

recruitment rally at locations decided by respective AROs, where they will undergo physical fitness and measurement tests in stage II.

"Finally, in stage III, the selected candidates will undergo a medical test at the rally location," said Col Singh.

He further said that the online registration on JIA website is open from February 16 to Mar 15, 2023.

He said candidates can register using their Aadhar Card or their class 10th certificate.

"As part of continued automa-

tion, the Join Indian Army website has now been linked with Digilocker for greater transparency," Col Sumit Singh said.

According to him, the online CEE is being conducted at 176 locations across India, and candidates have the choice to select five exam locations.

"The fee for the online CEE is Rs 500 per candidate, with 50% of the cost being borne by the Army. At the end of the registration process, candidates will be directed to a payment portal. Candidates are required to pay Rs 250 along with associated bank charges, and once their payment is successful, a roll number will be generated that shall be used at all stages of recruitment," Col Sumit Singh said.

He added that the admit cards for the CEE will be available on Join Indian Army website 10-14 days prior to the examination.

The online CEE is a computer-based exam, and there is no change in the syllabus and pattern of the exam. To assist the candidates to prepare for the online CEE, practice tests for all categories have been

developed, and candidates can practice appearing in the exam from their homes.

"Based on their performance in the online CEE, shortlisted candidates will be called to nominated venues for recruitment rallies. The procedure of recruitment rallies remains unchanged, and the final merit will be based on the online CEE result and physical test marks," Col Sumit Singh further said.

He said that a helpdesk has also been established to clarify any doubts of the candidates, and for queries related to online CEE, they can also be clarified on mobile No 7996157222.

"The changed procedure will focus on enhanced cognitive aspects during recruitment and will result in wider and better outreach across the country. It will also reduce large crowds assembling at Recruiting Rallies and reduce the administrative arrangements therein. The process will become more streamlined, simpler for candidates to appear, and is in synchronization with current technological advancements of the country," he said.

Meanwhile, candidates are advised not to fall prey to touts, as the recruitment into the IA remains completely unbiased, impartial, and merit-based.

Parul University becomes youngest to receive NAAC A++ accreditation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 24: Parul University, located in Vadodra, has made history by becoming the youngest private university in India to receive a NAAC A++ accreditation in its first assessment cycle.

The University has implemented academic policies, distinctive and best practices, and salient features that include developing a multidisciplinary campus, a robust student support system, an ecosystem for building entrepreneurs, gender inclusiveness, an eco-friendly environment, a robust research policy, delivering holistic health & healthcare for all among others.

The University's President, Dr Devanshu Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Amit Ganatra, and Vice-President, Quality, Research and Health Sciences, Dr Geetika Patel, expressed their pride and commitment to reinforcing the University's practices and policies in maintaining this standard of quality education.

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