

Redouble activities to strengthen party further: Koul to BJP workers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a District Jammu South meeting, which was attended by party senior leaders regarding the upcoming future course of plans including booth Sashaktikaran here at Trikuta Nagar, party Headquarters

Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, Prabhari BJP Jammu North, Vinay Gupta and Dy Mayor, Baldev Billawaria.

All the senior leaders of BJP hailing from Jammu South participated in the meeting, comprising district office bearers, Mandal presidents, Morcha presidents, Yuva Morcha and

on strengthening the party at the booth level with the Assembly election in J&K slated to be announced any time soon. He urged them to redouble their activities to strengthen party further. He notified the party leaders to contact the ground-level workers and the common masses hailing from their booth area to apprise them of the works done by the BJP Government, both in State and Center, and discuss their issues in detail alongside.

He asked them to do their task diligently and ensure their work to the full expectations of the organization. He also inquired about the full organizational detail layout in the length of Mandals that falls under district Jammu South.

Kavinder Gupta in his address urged the party activists to frequent their visits to every booth, Ward and Mandal respectively in coordination with Mandal president and Shakti Kendra in charges. He laid special emphasis on the booth Sashaktikaran. Party activists in conjunction with local leaders should contact every prominent person in the booth in order to increase the party's base and endorsement of its policies and works Kavinder added.

Rekha Mahajan said that to further augment the process of development, the BJP activists need to work even harder and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. She also set up the slogan of "Booth Jeeta, Chunaav Jeeta" to the party cadre and asked them to allocate responsibility sensibly to strengthen the Mandals, Wards and booths respectively.

The proceedings of the meeting were also concluded by Rekha Mahajan district president BJP Jammu South.



BJP leaders at a meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

Ashok Koul J&K BJP general secretary, organization addressed the meeting which was also addressed by former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, BJP district, Prabhari Jammu South, Ayodhya Gupta, president

other senior leaders. Rekha Mahajan gave a detailed account of district Jammu South works undertaken by the district and also threw light on various local issues.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, asked the party cadres to lay emphasis



Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing BJP workers on Sunday.

Slathia slams successive Govts for being inimical to people's interests

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: BJP Pradesh Vice President and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia today slammed the so-called mainstream parties for being inimical to the legitimate interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the Refugees, Gujjars, SCs and Paharis.

"They are jittered over the BJP's massive outreach to last person in the society in a bid to ensure their welfare and progress besides eliciting their participation in the implementation of various schemes tailored for their overall empowerment," Slathia said while interacting with the people during the meeting of the BJP's Refugee, Legal and Human Rights Cell for Arnia and Jammu here.

Slathia, who is the Prabhari of the Cell, exhorted the Conveners and Co-Conveners to generate awareness about various schemes launched by the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre and the UT administration for their welfare and progress. A sizable population of the targeted segments has already benefited, he said and referred to the welfare measures taken for the empowerment of these marginalised communities in the past several years.

The Prabhari also referred to the concern of the Prime Minister with regard to emanci-

pation and empowerment of these communities, saying that a leap forward has been taken for their empowerment and emancipation yet more is still to be done. Unlike the mindset of the successive Governments in the UT about the weaker sections to be provided just basic amenities, the BJP is committed towards their active participation in governance and bringing them into mainstream as equals, he added.

"The people in general and the weaker and marginalized segments in particular can see for themselves the strides taken over the years by the BJP for elevating their standard and ensuring the benefits of development and welfare schemes reaching the last person in the society," he said and added that the Start Up scheme has helped the young entrepreneurs a lot and similarly several other schemes are in the pipeline for addressing the issues of youth.

Prominent among those present on the occasion, included Convenor and Co Convenor of all the three Cells Arvind Khajuria, Ishab Sharma, Sarfraz Hamid Rather, Ashok Khajuria, Shashi Pal Vaid, Ravi Kant Sharma, Sunil Shastri, President BJP Bishnah Rajinder Singh Chib, Prabhari Jammu Border Ramesh Saini, President Municipal Committee Arnia and others.

Cong must clear stand on Art 370, PAGD before 'Bharat Todo Yatra' enters J&K: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Castigating the Congress for messing up the situation in Jammu and Kashmir during its misrule for decades, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today asked Rahul



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana meeting a deputa-tion in Jammu.

Gandhi to clarify his stand over the repeal of Article 370 before entering into the Union Territory for his 'Bharat Todo Yatra'.

"This is all the more important as the Congress bandwagon is joining the PAGD Gang in this sensitive part of the country, which is hand-in-glove with those openly supporting the radical Jihadis and beating chests for the terror mentor of Pakistan, responsible for mayhem and blood bath in the Kashmir Valley and parts of the Jammu region", Rana said while interacting with various deputations here this afternoon.

He said it will be interesting to watch Rahul Gandhi hoisting the tricolor in Srinagar, as announced by the Congress, on January 28 while being flanked by the leaders like Mehbooba Mufti, who is on record having stated that there will be nobody to raise Tiranga if the Article 370 is tinkered with.

The tricolor, however, is flying high, as high as 100 meters in picturesque Gulmarg, as also in the rest of the Valley by the enthusiasts, ready to sacrifice their lives for its sanctity and glory. The combination of those believing in breaking India, therefore, will be yet another provocation to the compatriots, who have been keenly watching

the sinister Congress plan of dividing the society, he added.

Rana said the unholy alliance of the dynasts is a sign of frustration, who want to regain their lost power by hook and crook? The people of Jammu and

brink of disaster. He said none of the dynasts ever appreciated the genuine aspirations of the Paharis, Gujjars, Refugees, Balmikies and Ex-servicemen, who are witnessing their empowerment for the first time ever since independence of India.

He said the BJP has infused a sense of belonging in every segment of the society and heralded a new era of peace and stability. Even the worst adversaries are confessing privately how the malady of stone-pelting and hartal culture has ended in Kashmir with people enthusiastically participating in the odyssey of progress and development. He said fillip in Kashmir economy due to record influx of tourism showcases the sincere efforts of the BJP in bringing normalcy and exposes the trio pseudo secularists for their machinations of keeping the Valley in boil, he said, adding that J&K is at the threshold of becoming part of India's growth story.

Deputations from across the UT - Doda, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kishtwar, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri besides delegation of Rehber-e-Khel, Reserved Category Employees Association, Patwaris Association and scores of individuals met Rana.

The Senior BJP leader reminded the Congress of its blunders in Kashmir, saying that but for the course correction being made by the BJP, the paradise on the earth was at the

Contractors suffering due to delay, lack of staff PHE Div Baramulla fails to upload security deposit claims on JKIMS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 8: The PHE Division Baramulla is giving headaches to the contractors as it has failed to upload the interim security deposit claims of the projects that have served the Defect Liability Period (DLP) on the JKIMS portal.

It is to be noted here that on December 2, 2022, the J&K Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) Ltd issued a circular, asking the concerned to upload the interim security deposit claims for the projects whose DLP is over or is about to be over.

However, despite the passage of over a month now, the claims have not been uploaded by the PHE Division Baramulla due to which the contractors are suffering while the officials at the said Division are also turning a deaf ear to the repeated requests of the contractors who are seeking compliance to the directives issued by the JKIDFC.

The contractors told Excelsior that the security deposit remains withheld till the completion of the works and once the DLP period is over, the department is bound to release the same and this time, they said, it was to be done by uploading the interim security deposit JKIMS portal so that the same is cleared. "But so far, it has not been done with the result we are suffering," the contractors said.

A contractor who wished not to be named said that he has executed works to the tune of Rs 2.5 Cr under JJM said that he has

nearly Rs 25 lakhs pending with the department as an interim security deposit.

"If they would have uploaded the same on the portal, I would have received the money which I could have used to take up other works; but due to inefficiency and lethargic approach of the authorities, we are suffering," he said.

The contractors said that the concerned Nodal Officer who has been directed to ensure compliance with the JKIDFC directives was needlessly delaying the process with the result, they said, the claims are yet to be uploaded on the portal since December last year.

While the official who is tasked to upload the interim security deposit did not respond to repeated calls, the Executive Engineer, PHE Division Baramulla Masood Ahmad told Excelsior that he was not aware of the matter and will get the same checked.

Meanwhile, the contractors also said that around 40 works are in progress, while works on the bigger projects have not been taken up under the JJM while noting that the DPR of works at Delina has not been accorded and the works are held up due to what the officials have stated, lack of staff.

They also alleged that a motorman has been given the table and has been tasked to carry out the indent work while on contrary, they said, the same should be done by a professional. "We want to work and ensure development, but we do not get the necessary support on the ground," they said.

These Aspirational Panchayats shall be developed through convergence of various ongoing District / UT Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes / Programmes. Besides, an additional financial assistance

of Rs. 10 lakh shall be provided to the selected Panchayats under the scheme for its further development after achieving saturation in several parameters like Soil Health Cards, Land Pass Books, Kisan Credit Cards, Shram Cards issued to eligible laborers, 100 percent Institutional Births, 100 percent vaccination of children in the age group of 9-11 months, Zero Percent Out of School Children, 100 percent Solid Waste Collection and Treatment, Aadhaar Seeding with MGNREGA Cards, Issuance of Golden Cards under PMJAY SEHAT.

About 285 most backward Panchayats shall be selected from 4291 Panchayats of J&K (One Panchayat per Block), on the basis of least aggregate score obtained on the selected 100 parameters in the Panchayat Development Index in the concerned block.

The data shall be analyzed in PD&MD and most backward panchayat in the block shall be identified, the details of which shall be shared with all respective District Development Commissioners for authentication."

Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP) Dashboard shall be developed by the IT department for uploading the data of all Panchayats on the selected indicators/parameters. Subsequently, APDP Dashboard shall be used to monitor progress on these Aspirational Panchayats on Key Performance Indicators. Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme will be implemented under the overall supervision of the District Development Commissioner (DDC).

For smooth implementation of the programme, a Nodal Officer shall be designated by the DDC at district level from the Rural Development Department.

Moreover, access of people of these Panchayats to various schemes available for improvement of poor shall be improved/saturated which shall bring overall improvement in their living conditions. This will be a move forward towards inclusive development of these areas ensuring benefits to the last man in the last row.

J&K Govt all set to introduce Panchayat Development Index

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 8: Jammu and Kashmir Government is all set to introduce Panchayat Development Index to develop and replicate best practices that drive improvement across the socio-economic themes of Panchayats under newly approved Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP).

The identified Panchayats will be given special focus to saturate inclusive development schemes which would serve as model Panchayats, an official said.

He added that the J&K Government will select the most backward 285 Panchayats (One Panchayat per Block) under APDP for holistic development.

An array of key parameters for preparation of Panchayat Development Index to rate various Panchayats of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on socio-economic indicators concerning lives of the people residing in the rural areas has already been identified.

This exercise will be taken on the analogy of Aspirational Block Development Programme being implemented by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 100 measurable indicators have been identified across 9 sectors namely Agriculture and allied Activities (06 indicators), Health and Nutrition (11), Education (13), Rural Development and Sanitation (07), Beneficiary-Oriented Schemes (04), Skill Development (04), Basic Infrastructure (17), Environment (05) and Good Governance (33), which shall give insight into existing status and incremental progress over a period of time.

On the basis of importance of these sectors, weights shall be assigned to each sector and sub-indicators as per relevance in the life of rural population.

These Aspirational Panchayats shall be developed through convergence of various ongoing District / UT Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes / Programmes. Besides, an additional financial assistance



JKPC working president Raman Bhalla addressing party workers in Jammu.

BJY to hold Govt accountable on public issues: Bhalla

* BJP doing everything for electoral gains: Sawhney

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: The JKPC working president Raman Bhalla accompanied by former minister Yogesh Sawhney, District Rural president Hari Singh Chib, Corporator Dewarka Choudhary, Corporator Rittu Choudhary, OBC Vice Chairman Sandeep Dogra convened series of Block level meetings at Block Nagrota, Block-7 Prem Nagar, Gandhi Nagar Block-9 and Nanak Nagar Block-10 with regard to preparations for forthcoming Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, working president Raman Bhalla said the Bharat Jodo Yatra has been successful in achieving its objective of raising people's issues and going forward it will ensure that the Government is held accountable. He also asserted that "untruths" spread about Rahul Gandhi to malign his image have been "demolished" by the Yatra and his "reality" has come to the fore before the country.

"When it started, there were a lot of questions about whether people would come or not or whether we will be able to cover 25 km every day. The last 60 days have passed in a jiffy now," he said. "Yatris have gone beyond physical pain. Yatra has achieved its first objective and people know that it is being undertaken to highlight their issues, he said. The yatra has achieved its first objective," Bhalla said.

Seeking mass support for Yatra Bhalla said, "Don't consider yourself alone, the Congress is your voice, and you are Congress' strength. We have to fight with every decree

of the dictator, every attempt to suppress the voice of the people. For you, the Congress party and myself have been fighting, and will continue to fight," he said.

He asked people of J&K to support Congress to fight together against the "wrong" policies of the BJP-led Union Government. He said people of Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed the worst due to the wrong policies adopted by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Government at New Delhi.

Yogesh Sawhney, appealed the people of different shades of the society to come under the umbrella of Congress party in order to strengthen the social and secular fabric of the UT. He asserted that BJP Govt is punishing people under the garb of inflation and many other wrong policies have thrust upon the them citing different reasons. Sawhney said the matter of the fact remains that BJP Govt is doing everything for electoral gains only, so people need to realize their emotions and sufferings have no meaning for BJP Govt, they must rise to occasion to give befitting reply to it (BJP) in coming times.

Hari Singh Chib said that unemployment is at its peak, inflation has pushed people to further backwardness, developmental scenario has received severe setbacks, besides absence of popular Govt in J&K has disconnected people completely while adding woes to them. BJP Govt is talking about democratic rights of people, but J&K is exception, where democracy has been uprooted and people left at the mercy of Bureaucracy.

Water supplied after 6 days and that too for 30 minutes

Many parts of Ward 65 lack proper lanes-drains, roads

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 8: Many parts of Ward number 65 of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) lack ed



development and the residents there have openly flayed the concerned authorities for this.

Areas of the Ward include Nagbani, Gajansingh Pura, Patoli Brahmana, Barnai, Gurah Brahmana, Dream City Muthi, Dhamal, Mohalla Manhas and Chibba Chack.

An interaction with some of the residents of the Ward revealed the resentment they have against the authorities responsible for the pathetic conditions they are living in.

Dream City Muthi resident B.L Dhar, 61, a retired government employee said his locality lacked metalled road and proper lanes and drains.

"Lane number 1 to 3 of Dream City have no street light and we brought the issue into the notice of the Councillor and also met Executive Engineer concerned in this regard but nothing fruitful emerged so far."

He informed that land for a park in the locality has been encroached.

Dhar also said that they have given a memorandum listing problems of their area to JMC Mayor, Rajinder Sharma,

Commissioner, Rahul Yadav and have also sent it to the Lieutenant Governor by putting it on government portal.

It is pertinent to mention here that though more than four years of the mandatory tenure of five for the elected body of JMC have passed, many developmental works have not been completed yet while many of such works have even not seen the light of the day.

MUNICIPAL WARD UPDATE

Utma Devi, 52, a housewife at Bhadarwahi Mohalla in Gurah Brahmana said that water is supplied in their locality after 6 days and that too for 30-40 minutes.

She claimed that there are many other problems in the Mohalla like poor lanes and drains etc.

Bagh Singh, 83, a retired teacher, said that Safai Karamcharis rarely visit their locality for cleaning the lanes.

He said that women of the Mohalla visit tube-well to get water while most of the people pay to water tankers and get water at their homes.

"We left our homes in Doda due to militancy and settled here but we are facing unwanted problems here due to lack of basic amenities," Singh maintained.

Om Raj, 68, retired employee from the same Mohalla said that lanes and drains in his Mohalla are not yet constructed

because of which household waste waters comes on Kuchha lanes making them slippery.

He also said that Street Lights are not there in most of the area of his Mohalla.

Anuradha Puram Barnai resident Ram Singh, 62, a retired government employee informed that his locality in Ward number 65 is suffering from poor lanes and drains and drainage system is totally collapsed there.

"Roads here are in very bad condition and there is a pond which overflows in rainy season leaving the gushing water into residential houses thereby inflicting damages," he further said.

Other residents of the area informed that some street lights in their locality are not working and none has visited there to repair them.

They also said that the auto collecting garbage by moving from door-to-door visits their locality on alternate days.

Many more residents of the area had complaints regarding leakage of water supply pipes.

They informed that their locality has no Public Bathroom though there is a structure like that but it has been not put to public use so far.

More residents of the locality informed that Shishu Smadhis in the area have been encroached.

People from other parts of the Ward informed that there are many hanging wires and damaged poles and there are many active drug addicts and peddlers in the Ward for which the police should take a cognisance.

The Ward also needs some high mast lights.

Some Ward residents informed that with efforts of the Councillor, Anita Sharma almost all the residents of the Ward have made their Ayushman Cards and most of the eligible Voters have got their Voter Cards and same is the status of Domicile Certificates there.

They said that the Councillor also helped many people including widows, physically challenged and old age persons of her Ward to get pension but the newly introduced rule for these pensions exclusively to Below Poverty Line people is creating problems for others. When contacted, Anita Sharma, Councillor of the Ward who won an Independent candidate and is a first time Councillor said that lack of funds remained the reason for poor developments in the Ward.

She also informed that the contractors engaged with the developmental works are not taking their work seriously due to which the public is suffering.