

DPAP believes in inclusiveness, irrespective of religion, region: Azad

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, May 23: Democratic Progressive Azad Party Chairman and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today asserted that DPAP stands firm in its commitment to justice and inclusiveness, embracing individuals regardless of religion, region or caste.

While addressing party workers' convention in Udhampur today Azad said, his party will continue to fight for the rights of people irrespective of caste, religion and will have no space for those who resort to discrimination among people. Azad said that he can't tolerate social discrimination in his party as all are equal in his eyes.

"Our party is committed to respect the sentiments of all the religions and communities. When we need a blood in hospital we never ask who is its donor, so why to discriminate here," Azad remarked.

He lauded the people of Udhampur for showing tolerance among the communities and believing in brotherhood and unity.

"In other parts of country, some parties succeeded in dividing people in the name of religion but in Udhampur you have always rejected such forces. You deserve appreciation for it," he added.

Azad said that DPAP is a hope in these trying times which only believes in healthy politics unlike parties who have no agenda other than to divide people on religious lines. "It is due to our pro-people policies, thousands of people attend our public meetings. Because they know me for many decades and my credentials as politician. I have always been a staunch believer of peace and unity," he maintained.

Former Chief Minister said that he and his party are ready to face the consequences for the pro-people policies. Even we can face lathis on roads if needed to protect the interests of people," he added.

Azad said it was his party which fought a regressive anti-people move of land eviction by government in winters and forced to withdraw the order. He said such peaceful protests and political battles would be common to DPAP when it comes to the interests of poor and needy people.

Among others who were present on the occasion included party general secretary RS Chib,

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DPAP chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a party meeting in Udhampur on Tuesday.

Provincial president Jugal Kishore Sharma, Working Committee member Mohd Aslam Goni, Zonal president -Choudhary Gharu Ram, chief spokesperson- Salman Nizami, general secretary- Anita Thakur, secretary- Hira Lal Abrol, Brij Mohan Sharma- Provincial general secretary, Ashwani Khajuria- District president, Priti Khajuria- State secretary, Sanjeev Dubay- Zonal vice president, Provincial secretary -Anoop Khajuria, Neeraj Thappa, Raj Sharma, Pritam Kotwal, Kuldeep Manhas, Sachin Sadhotra, Ashok Sharma Sarpanch, Gautam Sharma Sarpanch, Sanjeev Chandial Councilor, Om Prakash Sarpanch and others.

Explaining the purpose of the Craft Bazar, Mehmoos Shah, Director Handicrafts, stated, "Setting up the Craft Bazar was a planned part of the event. It comprised two components - installation of stalls and live demonstrations. Delegates were encouraged to participate actively and experience the artistry firsthand."

Trial court bound to give cogent reason on rejecting police report: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 23: High Court took serious note of proceedings taken ahead by the trial court in a complaint despite the police inquiry declaring the allegations levelled in it as baseless.

A complaint was filed before concerned CJM accusing therein that the accused persons forcibly entered into her house and thrashed her mercilessly. The CJM before proceeding into the complaint directed for verifying the accusation made in the complaint by the police.

The enquiry was conducted by the police officer of the rank of SDPO and he submitted it to the trial Magistrate mentioning that the accusations levelled in the complaint are baseless.

The trial court despite the enquiry report observed that the report of enquiry is not reliable and that, prima facie, offences under Sections 452, 323, 506 RPC are made out against the petitioners and co-accused and issued process against the petitioners and co-accused.

Justice Sanjay Dhar quashed the trial court order and the complaint holding the same are not sustainable in the eyes of law. Court has expressed its concern over the proceedings initiated by

respondent in order to take revenge against the petitioners from the suit property pursuant to the order of the Civil Court.

Justice Dhar clarified that a Magistrate is at liberty to discard the report of enquiry and take an independent view on the basis of material available before him, but then, for discarding the report of enquiry, there must be some cogent reasons for the Magistrate to do so.

Justice Dhar said when after recording the preliminary evidence of the complainant, the Magistrate had directed enquiry as regards the veracity of the allegations made in the complaint, meaning thereby that the Magistrate was not sure about the genuineness of the allegations made in the complaint.

"If such prosecutions are allowed to proceed, then, the litigants would be encouraged to blatantly and brazenly violate the orders of the Courts by resorting to frivolous criminal prosecutions against the successful parties. This is a fit case where this Court should exercise its powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C to quash the impugned complaint as also the impugned order passed by the learned trial Magistrate", Court concluded.

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A delegate captivated by the meticulous Ari embroidery on display at a stall in SKICC.

Kashmir crafts showcased at SKICC during G20 TWG Meeting

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 23: The scenic venue of Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) came alive today as a vibrant display of Kashmiri handicrafts attracted the attention of foreign delegates attending the 3rd G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting.

Organized by the Handicrafts Department, the "Craft Bazar" featured an array of traditional crafts from the region. Numerous delegates showed a keen interest in exploring the unique items and had the opportunity to witness live demonstrations by the skilled artisans present at the event.

Explaining the purpose of the Craft Bazar, Mehmoos Shah, Director Handicrafts, stated, "Setting up the Craft Bazar was a planned part of the event. It comprised two components - installation

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of stalls and live demonstrations. Delegates were encouraged to participate actively and experience the artistry firsthand."

To ensure authenticity, Shah said, each showcased merchandise was affixed with a QR code that provided detailed information. "Some of the delegates even purchased crafts during the event, further demonstrating the skill and craftsmanship displayed," he added.

Approximately 25 stalls were set up, presenting the rich crafts of Kashmir. Throughout the day, the delegates remained captivated, leaving with a profound appreciation for the artistic heritage of the region.

Muhammad Maqbool Jan, an artisan specializing in papier-mâché, expressed hope that the presence of the delegates and the event itself would provide a much-needed boost to the industry.

"The delegates witnessed our crafts and gained insight into our artistic traditions. This exposure will greatly benefit the industry. We are confident that the Craft Bazar will lead to effective marketing and contribute to our growth," he said.

Sajad Ahmad, another artisan renowned for his expertise in Sozni craft, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the potential impact on tourism and the handicraft sector.

"Today, we represented Kashmir and showcased our crafts. We believe that the G20 event will have a lasting effect, opening new

avenues for us," he stated.

Mudasir Ahmad, associated with walnut wood carving, described the G20 event as historic and the first of its kind. "We have high expectations, as this platform has the potential to elevate our industry to the international stage," he expressed optimistically.

The officials said that the Craft Bazar proved to be a remarkable display of Kashmiri handicrafts, garnering significant attention from foreign delegates.

H&ME allocates Rs 18 cr for NAM

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, May 23: The Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department has allocated a substantial amount of funds, totalling over Rs 18 crore, for the implementation of the 'National Ayush Mission' in J&K. The funds comprise a grant-in-aid released by the Ministry of Ayush as well as the Union Territory (UT) share under the program.

Out of the total amount, Rs 16 crore 31 lakhs have been allocated as grant-in-aid, while Rs 1 crore 81 lakhs have been allocated as the UT share for the year 2023-24, bringing the overall released funds to Rs 18 crore 12 lakhs.

According to the directives, the funds have been disbursed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Ayush Mission (NAM)" and will be placed under the authority of the Director of Ayush, J&K. The funds have been allocated for both recurring and non-recurring purposes.

Of the allocated funds, over Rs 10 crores have been designated for general expenditure, while over Rs 6 crores have been earmarked for the creation of capital assets.

The Health & Medical Education Department has confirmed the advance drawl of funds by the Director of Ayush, Jammu and Kashmir, for e-transfer into the Single Nodal Account of the NAM Scheme (J&K Ayush Society) for utilization during the current financial year 2023-24.

Similarly, concerning the UT share of funds under the National Ayush Mission, the H&ME Department has authorized the release and advance drawl of over Rs 1 crore 81 lakhs under the Capex Budget 2023-24 as the matching UT share.

Every member of Police force should have exceptional integrity: DB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 23: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotiwar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi has observed that every member of the Police force should have an exceptional integrity and if a candidate, aspiring to become a police personnel, indulges in fraud at the very initial stage of his service, he cannot be expected to become a good police officer if a lenient view is taken for the fraud committed by him.

The observation has been made in an LPA filed by Farooq Ahmed Parry whose selection and appointment as Police Constable is alleged to have been cancelled during his probation for having produced a fake driving license in order to secure few additional points in the selection process so that he gets selected and appointed against the post of Constable.

After hearing both the sides, the DB observed, "it needs no

reiteration that every selection and the consequent appointment is subject to scrutiny of the credentials submitted by the aspiring candidates during the process of selection", adding "once the document, on the basis whereof the selection and appointment has been secured, turns out to be fake, the natural consequence would be the cancellation of such selection and appointment and in doing so, the respondents were neither required to conduct any enquiry nor afford any opportunity of hearing to the petitioner".

While dismissing the appeal, DB observed, "the petitioner's selection and appointment has been cancelled on the basis of a fraud played by him and not by having lesser number of points", adding "the petitioner has indulged in fraud, the subject matter of the entire controversy does not relate to a wrong marking but to the cancellation of a particular selection and appointment already made".

"Furthermore, the appellant during the selection process has submitted a duly sworn affidavit stating therein inter alia that his services will be liable for termination and registration of criminal case against him in case any of his claims/certificates are found to be invalid at any stage", the DB concluded.

Appointed 2 years ago, 38 employees of JSD without salaries in Baramulla

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 23: Appointed over 2 years ago, 38 Class IV employees of Jal Shakti Department in north Kashmir's Baramulla are without salaries with officials giving out the reason of 'some confusion' that caused the issue, resulting in the non-payment of the salaries of the aggrieved employees.

"First, the appointment was made after nearly 14 years, and after the appointment was done in 2020, we have not received a penny in the name of the salary even as all the formalities have been done; there is no respite despite the matter was taken up with the concerned authorities," the employees said.

As per the details available, a selection list was published on December 16, 2020, for the Class IV posts in Baramulla while these posts were advertised through a notification (no. 04/dcb of 2006) issued by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla on October 18, 2006.

Subsequently, aggrieved employees said that the appointment process took place with the selection order (no. dcb/ps/22/2020) dated December 16, 2020, and the continuation of the appointment order (no. dcb/ps/23/2020) dated December 17, 2020.

As a result, they said, 184 candidates were appointed across nine different departments which include, Agriculture Production Department, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Forest Department, Jal Shakti (PHE)

"We are also not subscribing to the view that the petitioner has been prejudiced by such cancellation of selection and appointment as he did not deserve to continue in service and occupy the post in a disciplined force", the DB said, adding "every member of the Police force is required to have an exceptional integrity and if a candidate, aspiring to become a police personnel, indulges in fraud at the very initial stage of his service, he cannot be expected to become a good police officer if a lenient view is taken for the fraud committed by him".

"Furthermore, the appellant during the selection process has submitted a duly sworn affidavit stating therein inter alia that his services will be liable for termination and registration of criminal case against him in case any of his claims/certificates are found to be invalid at any stage", the DB concluded.

Department R&B, Revenue Department, Rural Development Department, School Education Department and Tourism Department.

These 38 employees are working in three divisions in the district which include Sopore, Tangmarg and Baramulla. "All those who have been posted in these departments are drawing their salaries, except for the 38 appointed in the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) in district Baramulla," the employees said.

It is to be noted here that the matter is currently lying with the Principal Secretary and has been there for nearly two months without any development whatsoever, leaving the employees who work regularly to fend for themselves.

"We are marking our attendance regularly and have completed all the other formalities; the employee codes have been generated while the necessary CID verification has also been carried out but, we never received the salary," the employees said.

While the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Department did not respond to calls from Excelsior, the concerned Superintendent Engineer, Muhammad Hanif said that they have forwarded their case and that they are hopeful that their matter will be resolved soon. "We were asked to file a report in this regard, which we have given; I think the matter will be resolved," he said, adding that there was some confusion which resulted in the non-payment of salaries to these employees.

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