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J&K must set..

online services reach the people, and they do not suffer for want of these services. Resolve bottlenecks of all the key infrastructure projects and projects under District Capex, centrally sponsored schemes and target for completion of the projects within given timelines, the Lt Governor directed the officials.

The Lt Governor also reviewed the winter preparedness of the administration and various departments in the district.

Directions were issued for preparing winter preparedness response plan at district level, including snow clearance from highways, major district roads, PMGSY and village roads and smooth functioning of hospitals, power and water supply schemes, educational institutions on priority.

The Lt Governor issued directions to the Deputy Commissioner to review the progress under JTM and other water supply schemes on a regular basis.

While reviewing the progress registered under the power sector, the Lt Governor directed for 100 percent coverage of electric meters in the district.

He also directed for effective implementation of the power amnesty scheme in the district and sought feedback on the scheme. It was informed that the department is receiving good response from the power consumers.

The Lt Governor underlined the need to take dedicated measures for improving the literacy rate and sex ratio of the district.

He also assessed the efforts made for promotion of tourism and culture and facilities created at tourist places.

The chair was informed that Gurez, Wular and other festivals received huge participation from the public and witnessed a substantial increase in the tourist footfall, which increased from 12,000 to 35,000 in 2022.

Detailed discussions were held on the employment and livelihood generation, self-employment, Public outreach programmes, skill development, sports and youth engagement programmes and activities being conducted in the district.

"We need to ensure support and requisite training to everyone planning to start his or her own business venture. I am sure with a helping hand from administration, the young entrepreneurs will keep the wheels of progress moving," said the Lt Governor.

Reviewing the status of development of the industrial sector, the chair was informed that 160 applications were received for setting up industrial units in the district. The Lt Governor asked the District administration and concerned departments to facilitate the speedy implementation on the ground.

Under Sports and Youth engagement, over 1,10,000 youth have participated in different events during the current year. Playfields were made operational in all Panchayats, and Polo was revived after decades in Gurez on the eve of Gurez Festival 2022, it was informed.

The Lt Governor directed for special focus on agriculture and allied sectors, and called for increasing awareness among the farmers associated with agriculture and allied activities regarding government schemes and programmes, and encouraging milk processing for value addition in the dairy sector.

"Diversification in agriculture has immense potential to make our farmers self-reliant and increase their incomes. Prosperity must reach every farming family to boost sustainable growth," the Lt Governor said.

Terming Drug addiction a curse for humanity, the Lt Governor asked the District Administration and Police Department to launch a crackdown on drug dealers and drug peddlers to make Bandipora drug free.

The Lt Governor also sought a detailed report on the vaccination drive for Lumpy Skin Disease, training of Pashu Sakhis, insurance of livestock, besides the action taken report on the outcomes and recommendations of the medical equipment audit.

Dr. Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora gave a detailed briefing of the District profile highlighting the achievements registered under various sectors and schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that Bandipora has achieved 100 percent digitization of Land Revenue records. A total of 94 Amrit Sarovars have been established in the district, he added.

He also briefed the Chair about Panchayat district index, functioning of rural BPO, transit accommodation, Status of tendering and allotment of works under Jal Jeevan Mission, besides implementation of various schemes and programmes like PMAY, Tjaswini, One District One Product, KCC, establishment of Dairy units, Swachh Bharat Mission, door to door garbage collection especially in villages, Anti-encroachment drives, distribution of land pass books, establishment of Patwarkhanas, Change of land use etc.

Later, the Lt Governor met with various delegations of PRI representatives, Tribal DDC members, Sports fraternity led by Padma Shri Awardee Faizal Ali Dar; District Youth Council, Fishermen Association and NRLM members and assured them of due consideration of the issues and demands projected by them during the interaction.

On his arrival, the Lt Governor took the ceremonial salute and inspected the stalls installed by various government departments showcasing their products.

Sanction letters, scholarships and keys of subsidized vehicles were handed over to the beneficiaries under various schemes by the Lt Governor.

During his visit, the Lt Governor also released e-Books including Literacy Rate Survey, District Skill Development Plan, District Employment Plan, District Tourism Plan, District Sports Plan, Success stories on Sheep farming from Bandipora and Tribal Survey Report.

The development projects inaugurated today included augmentation of capacity from 50 to 100MVA at 132/33 KV Grid Station Patushahi Bandipora at cost Rs 6.91 cr; 30 Bedded IPD at SDH Dawar costing Rs 3.52 cr; Mini Secretariat (Revenue Complex Dawaar) under R&R (KGHEP) worth Rs 3.50 cr; Upgradation of Tarbal to Kanzhau Bagtor Road, Gurez & Gardloora to Galkul Road, Bandipora with total cost of Rs 9.80 cr; 1X40 mtr. Span Trussed Girder Bridge at Dangithal Tulaif (Gurez) costing Rs 2.03 cr; 4X35 MTS Naidkhai Bridge costing Rs 14.73 cr; Double Storey building at MS Gashri Mohalla Naidkhai, Double Storey ACR at HSS Nowgami & Additional Accommodation Block at total cost of Rs 1.74 cr; Health Sub Centre at Hussiangan, Gurez & Health Sub Centre at Markoot, Gurez at total project cost of Rs 83.90 lakhs, One Stop centre for Women costing Rs 48 lakhs.

The projects for which Lt Governor laid foundation stone includes - Public Park at Hilalabad (Nesbal) & Public Park at Murkandal at total project cost of Rs 5.98 cr and Non Motorable Walkway around Wular Lake from Banwari Bridge to Naz Nalla at Rs 19.42 cr.

Abdul Gani Bhat, Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Bandipora; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department; Head of Departments and Corporations; Chief Engineers; senior officials of administration, Police Department and Army attended the meeting.

JMC Mayor, Dy...

Secretary, Jammu Municipal Corporation," it stated adding, "The nomination in Form-I filled and signed shall be delivered in the office of Secretary Jammu Municipal Corporation by or before October 17, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM."

Jammu residents for...

documents prescribed by ECI that can be accepted as proof of residence include water, electricity or gas connection for at least one year; Aadhaar card; current passbook of any nationalised/scheduled bank or post office; Indian passport; Revenue Department's land-owning record, including kisan bali; registered rent/lease deed in case of tenants; and registered sale deed if the person concerned owns the house.

The guidelines stated that in case none of the mentioned documents is available, "field verification is must". Citing the example of homeless Indian citizens who are otherwise eligible to become electors but do not possess documentary proof of residence, the guidelines stated that the electoral registration officer "shall designate an officer for field verification" in such cases. J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday said the guidelines are in accordance with the Representation of the People Act.

There is nothing wrong with people from outside J-K getting enrolled as voters in the Union Territory, a right that is given to them by the Constitution. After the abrogation of Article 370 (in August 2019), the Act came into force in J-K as well, he said.

He accused opposition parties including the National Conference, Congress and PDP of unleashing propaganda under a conspiracy to mislead the people.

The National Conference, PDP, Congress and other prominent political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have flayed the Jammu administration's order on facilitating the registration of new voters who are from outside the union territory, while the BJP defended saying it is in line with the laws.

While People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the Centre's "colonial settler project" has been initiated in the region, the National Conference urged the people of J-K to defeat these conspiracies at the ballot box.

Former Congress leader and Democratic Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said the order would increase social tensions in J-K, while the Peoples Conference termed the move as "highly suspicious".

"The ECI's latest order for registration of new voters makes it clear that GOIs colonial settler project has been initiated in Jammu. They will bear the first blow to Dogra culture, identity, employment & business," Mufti added.

Talking to reporters in Kulgam district in south Kashmir, Mufti said her party has been saying that the BJP has an illegitimate intent behind the abrogation of Article 370.

"Their aim is to change the population ratio in J-K. It will start in Jammu when a sea of people will come from outside, which will not only harm the Dogra culture there but the business, employment and resources there will be attacked. The crime rate there has increased manifold since they opened the doors for the outsiders," she alleged.

The National Conference (NC) claimed the BJP is "scared" of the elections and knows it will lose badly.

"The Government is going ahead with its plan to add 25 lakh non-local voters in J&K and we continue to oppose this move. BJP is scared of the elections & knows it will lose badly. People of J&K must defeat these conspiracies at the ballot box," the NC said in a tweet.

NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the fresh order was an extension of what then Chief Electoral Officer Hrithik Kumar had said at his press conference in Jammu.

The party had opposed it then and continues to oppose it now, he said.

"The only antidote that will defeat all these controversies is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir that includes Dogra Muslims, Kashmiris, Gujjars, Paharis and other sections need to register themselves as voters and when the election comes, they should come out and vote in large numbers," Dar told PTI.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), headed by NC president Farooq Abdullah, had on Saturday announced the formation of a 14-member committee to chalk out a strategy on the issue of any attempt of manipulation and inclusion of non-locals in the revised electoral rolls.

The panel has members from the five PAGD constituents and several other political parties such as the Congress, the Shiv Sena, the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) and the Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS).

The panel's convenor, NC leader and MP from Anantnag, Hasnain Masoodi, said the order reinforces the party's apprehensions of disempowerment of the local people of J-K.

He claimed the application of the Representation of People Act 1950 is under a cloud as the Reorganisation Act 2019, under which the step has been taken, has been challenged in the apex court.

The order is open-ended and designed to pave the way for the inclusion of non-locals not ordinarily residing in a constituency in the voter list. The committee will shortly meet and discuss the matter and decide on a response and strategy to meet the challenge, he said.

The Peoples Conference said in a statement that the Jammu DC order "reinforces the apprehensions in the minds of locals that outsiders are being enabled to register as voters to change the demographic profile of J-K".

It urged the Election Commission of India as well as the J-K administration to come clean on the matter:

"We will always oppose making a non-resident a voter because Article 370 biggest benefit was that outsiders will not become voters here. This is not right, not right for the state and it will increase social tension," Azad told reporters.

Senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami alleged the order is the beginning of a wider plan to give voting rights to non-locals to reduce the weightage of locals and change electoral demographics.

All parties and civil society groups must reject this arbitrary inclusion of non-locals. BJP's designs must be defeated, he wrote on Twitter.

The Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls was started in the Union Territory on September 15 for the registration of new voters, deletion, correction, and transposition of voters who have migrated or died since the last summary revision.

"The cat is out of the bag finally and we will not allow this (giving voting rights to non-locals) to happen. We are against such a move because it is a conspiracy hatched by BJP to divest locals of their rights and control power with the support of outsiders," J-K Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani told reporters in Jammu.

The Congress leader also denounced the recent government order allowing departmental stores to sell beer and Ready-to-Use drinks and said such an order should be immediately revoked to honour the religious sentiments of the people.

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh, however, accused the BJP of misrepresenting and misinterpreting the Representation of Peoples Act (RPA) to justify the inclusion of non-local voters.

He said that nowhere does the RPA state that the voter of one State/UT can get himself registered as a voter in some other State/UT for elections to the legislative assembly of that State/UT. In the absence of an express provision in RPA to the effect, the existing law is being misinterpreted by the vested interests to subserve their political motives, he alleged.

Singh said uniform yardsticks cannot be applied for Parliamentary and Assembly elections. What right do the outsiders have to decide as to who should represent J-K as its MLAs or ministers, Singh asked.

"We welcome giving voting rights to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Balmiki and Gorkha community, but the decision to give voting rights to non-locals camping in Jammu and Kashmir for just one year cannot be tolerated," Shiv Sena leader Manish Sahu said.

He said all the opposition parties are united over this issue and warned that a mass movement will be launched against any such attempt.

Meanwhile, a national news agency late night tweeted that Deputy Commissioner Jammu has withdrawn the notification which authorised all Tehsildars to issue certificates of residence to people residing in Jammu "for more than one year".

Rafale, Chinook take...

Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Officer Commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Air Vice Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra and other senior IAF, military and civil dignitaries also attended the show.

"As part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of headquarters AOC Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the motive is dominating Himalayas and that is what they have been doing for the last 60 years. AOC J&K was established back in 1962 and they moved here to Udhampur in 1964," Prabhakaran said.

He said the headquarters AOC has worked as a link between the IAF's Delhi-based western command and the northern command of the Army.

"And thanks to the headquarters AOC, the northern command of the army and western command based in Delhi, we work very closely and it is this headquarters which has helped in coordinating all activities between the Army and Air Force," the IAF western commander said.

He said they have also been actively involved in all the air maintenance.

"We execute, especially in the northern sector that is J&K sector, Siachen Glacier. In the winter months when the roads are blocked, our brave soldiers up at the front depend on the air maintenance," he said.

Prabhakaran said the headquarters AOC has built good liaison with the Army and the soldiers on the frontline are looked after well and all their needs, whether related to rations or ammunition, especially during the winter months are fulfilled.

"And not just coordination with the Army, headquarters AOC also maintains very close liaison with our civilian counterparts, whether it is the earthquake which happened in J&K earlier, floods in Srinagar and the issue which we recently had at Amarnath cave.

"In all these activities, thanks to the close liaison and coordination between civil authorities and IAF through headquarters AOC, we have been able to save many lives and we are happy that during times of peace, IAF has come for the benefit of fellow countrymen," he said. He said the headquarters has always lived up to its high values and traditions.

"It has been actively involved in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, in the Kargil conflict and of course, it really came into prominence during the eastern Ladakh standoff which is in some way still continuing," he said. Extending good wishes to the AOC J&K and his team, he said, "We will do even better in the times to come."

Cabinet clears amendments...

The Bill will incorporate the provisions of the 97th Constitutional Amendment.

Thakur said the amendments seek to improve the ease of doing business, bring greater transparency and enhance governance in these societies.

Explaining the reasons behind the amendment Bill, he said there have been cases of mismanagement like financial fraud, delay in holding elections and the same person continuing to occupy for a long period of time. Multi-state co-operatives subject comes in the Union list, he said, but added that the amendments are being proposed after the consultation with all states.

The government plans to bring the amendment Bill in the upcoming winter session of Parliament, Thakur said.

At present, India has more than 1,500 multi-state co-operative societies spread across the country promoting economic and social betterment of their members based on the principles of self-help and mutual aid.

CBI registers another...

(now ACB) is re-registered against Chanchal Dass, son of Basti Ram; Jyoti Prakash, son of Mast Ram, and Shadi Lai, son of Chandu, all residents of Sutain, Udhampur and unknown officers/officials of revenue department Udhampur under sections 5(1)(d), 5(2) of J&K PC Act 2006 read with section 17 of J&K State Lands (Vesting of ownership to the occupants) Act 2001 and section 120-B RPC.

GMC-J doctor...

multiple show cause notices have been served to him on June 14 and September 25, 2021, and February 7, 2022 with the categorical directions for resumption of his duties," reads an order issued by the Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar.

"Principal, GMC Jammu vide communication dated June 30, 2022 submitted that final show cause notice was served to Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi but he has not resumed his duties in response to the notice and requested for necessary action in the matter; the case has again been examined in the Department in light Article 128 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Service Regulations and it has been found that Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi has remained on unauthorized absence from his duties and, therefore, has lost his service in view of the import of Article 128 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Service Regulation."

"Now, therefore, the services of Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi as Incharge Assistant Professor in the discipline of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Jammu, are hereby terminated with immediate effect," the order added.

HCs can order...

case so demand, the inherent powers under Section 482 CrPC could be exercised to direct

further investigation or even reinvestigation, the verdict said.

Penning the 44-page verdict, Justice Meheswari said the CrPC provision, empowering the magistrate to order further probe or re-investigation, do not limit or affect the powers of the High Court to pass an order for further investigation or reinvestigation, if the High Court is satisfied that such a course is necessary to secure the ends of justice.

The apex court, however, said the power to order further probe or reinvestigation is to be exercised sparingly, with circumspection, and in exceptional cases.

PWD launches Hamari...

road quality status. The app is available on www.jkpwdoms.in and play store.

Pertinently, the JKPWDOMS web portal