

# Rana pitches for regularising NHM, ECRP COVID warriors

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Making a strong plea for regularization and absorption of contractual workers engaged under NHM and ECRP, former legislator and BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday made a passionate appeal for resolving the issues of Covid Warriors.

Rana lauded Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha for his proactive approach in the matter, he said "LG had walked an extra mile by visiting the agitating contractual workers, passing on instructions for resolving their issues".

He lauded the contribution of these workers during the times when there was hesitancy among kin to attend to their dear ones during pandemic emergencies, these workers



Contractual workers engaged under NHM and ECRP handing-over memorandum to BJP leader Devender Singh Rana.

remained steadfast in their duties, providing all necessary medical attention. This commitment and sentiment needs to be acknowledged and respected, as has been expressed by the LG too.

Expressing anguish over uncertainty about the future of contractual work-

ers engaged under National Health Mission, Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday said they should be respected and honoured because they are the heroes of the society.

Rana sought a compassionate view by the Government to take a humanitarian view of the

plight of these employees and hoped they would be allowed to continue or got adjusted against the available vacancies. Since they have attained experience in meeting challenges like pandemic, their services will be useful for the health sector and the public. The administration should find a way out in helping them, as their disengagement will make their families suffer during these difficult times, he added.

He said the pandemic is not yet over as the threat of virus is looming large and services of health workers at this crucial are needed more than ever before. He expressed solidarity with the suffering workers and their families, saying the extension of three months in the case of ECRP workers is almost over and this calls for priority attention by the concerned department to examine and order for further extension till the time they alone with NHM workers are regularised or recruited permanently through proper procedure with preferential treatment owing to their experiences.

Rana sought continuation of the services of the NHM and ECRP workers and demanded weightage given to them in the recruitment process, keeping in view their experience and commitment to the profession.

## Tax Bar Association calls on FM, LG at Raj Bhawan



Tax Bar Association members during meeting with Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

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JAMMU: A delegation of newly elected office bearers of Tax Bar Association Jammu on Tuesday called on Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and Lieutenant Governor, UT J&K, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday. The delegation consisted of Advocate Rakesh Kapahi President, Advocate Vikram Dubey Senior Vice President, Advocate Renu Verma Vice President, Advocate Dheeraj Bhasin General Secretary and Advocate Ishant Gupta Joint Secretary-cum-Treasurer. On the occasion, a number of issues and demands were highlighted by the visiting delegation, to which Finance Minister and LG both gave a patient hearing.

The delegation also handed over a memorandum to

Finance Minister highlighting numerous issues being faced by professionals as well as stakeholders under Goods and Services Act (GST) & Income Tax Act along with a charter of demands in larger interest of Tax Professionals.

Major demands and issues highlighted in the memorandum included launching of mechanism for revision of GST returns, simplification of GSTR 4 Annual filing related to composition dealer, matching of ITC shall be done on half yearly or yearly basis, establishment of GST Tribunals, extension of time-limit for revocation of Suo-Moto cancellation of registrations, granting new restoration under GST on fast track basis etc.

President, Tax Bar Association Jammu, Rakesh Kapahi also highlighted some

other issues faced under Income Tax Act especially regarding glitches faced after launch of new Income Tax Web Portal concerning about Digital Signatures, E-Proceedings, uploading and downloading of forms etc. "No doubt, new portal will take time to work smoothly but till the time, it becomes user-friendly, necessary measures may be taken so that assesses may not suffer for no fault of theirs and moreover, extension of dates will definitely attract more filing of returns and collection of revenue," he added.

Further, the delegation urged Finance Minister to kindly invite Tax Professionals and Advocates officially during GST Council meetings or on other platforms because they are working as a bridge between Public & Government and can represent public in a better way. The delegation also apprised LG about other problems being faced TAX Professionals / Advocates in J&K and requested him to direct JDA authorities for reserving some 'Parking slots' at Rail Head Complex, adjacent Excise & Taxation Building for advocates practicing in GST, Income Tax, Excise and other related matters.

## Alleged illegal demolition of house: CJM Samba seeks investigation by DIG JKS Range

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In a criminal complaint against the then Deputy Commissioner Samba, SSP, Tehsildar and SHO of concerned area, Chief Judicial Magistrate Samba has sought investigation by DIG Jammu Kathua Samba Range in an alleged illegal demolition of a house. The CJM, in his order, mentioned that complainant prayed for taking cognizance against aforementioned accused persons and their offences defined under sections 341, 352, 395, 427, 448, 452, 455 read with section 120-B, 149 and 34 of Indian Penal code.

The complainant, in his preliminary statement, recorded on oath supported the said facts and prayer. The allegations pertain to act of removing alleged encroachment by complainant, as per pleadings of complaint and statement of complainant recorded in presence of a

witness. "Before proceeding, further investigation under section 202 of CrPC is required under law to ascertain whether there is any commission of cognizable offence by alleged accused herein. Considering the nature of allegations and ranks of alleged accused, the investigation is required to be done by DIG Jammu Kathua Samba Range. Copy of complaint along with this order shall be sent to DIG Jammu Kathua Samba Range through APP of this Court for information and compliance. The investigation report shall be submitted on or before next date of hearing, which is November 24, 2021," reads the order.

Pertinent to mention here that the house of complainant was demolished by then DC Samba on February 17, 2020 in Thandi Khui area, opposite Radha Swami Ashram (Vijaypur).

Mandi as administrative inertia is not allowing renewal of the leasehold rights to approximately 130 fruit merchants, dedicated budget to augment Transport sector and Yard conditions, clearing ambiguity in land laws regarding 'Gair Mumkin Khad' nomenclature, focused attention on tourism dependent trade stakeholders, revamping existing power infrastructure, waiving off interest on all sorts of trade loans, cash credit limits etc, atleast till March 2022, rescheduling of loans, re-capitalisation of small accounts, framing trade policy and start-up environment on lines of Industrial Policy, single window clearance, dedicated budget for promoting religious tourism, abolishment of bank charges or reducing the same especially while using debit/credit cards, simplifying GST rules, review of tax rate for footwear and Textile sector etc.

## CAIT delegation calls on Nirmala Sitharaman, submits memo

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint delegation of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), JKL and Chamber of Traders Federation Jammu, led by President CAIT, Neeraj Anand called on the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and highlighted a number of issues being faced by the traders, seeking early resolution of the same. Welcoming Union Minister on her visit to the 'City of Temples' the delegation expressed gratitude towards the Minister for various landmark decisions of the Government like 'One Nation One Tax' which proved of immense benefit for traders. The delegation members also hailed efforts of Modi Government for taking various steps to provide a major boost to the industrial sector of Jammu & Kashmir.

After the meeting, the delegation



CAIT President Neeraj Anand led delegation presenting bouquet to Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

also submitted a memorandum to the Finance Minister and urged for early resolution of all highlighted demands and issues, in the larger interest of the trader fraternity.

Major issues highlighted in the memorandum included ensuring ease of doing business and liberal handholding by financial institutions, renewal of lease hold rights of Narval Fruit

## Shocking data: J&K's unemployment rate further dipped to 22.2 pc

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) figures, J&K has a 22.2 percent unemployment rate, which is even higher than the national level unemployment rate of 7.1 percent, recorded across India.

The higher unemployment rate in J&K is a cause of concern as there seems to be no improvement in job scenario across Union Territory. In comparison to September, the unemployment rate has increased further. In September, CMIE has pegged unemployment rate in J&K at 21.6 percent which further lowered to 22.2 percent.

The unemployment rates are generated by CMIE using its Consumer Pyramids Household Survey machinery. As CMIE has pegged India's unemployment rate at 7.1 percent, it means Union Territory of J&K has much higher unemployment rate than national average. It clearly indicates that present administration is not taking effective

measures to control the increasing unemployment rate in J&K despite tall claims made by administration regarding various initiatives being taken to control unemployment rate in J&K. The rising unemployment rate in J&K continues to be a lingering problem for youth who are forced to run after government jobs in absence of a strong private sector. Though the government claims that outside investments worth Rs 50,000 crore will come to UT, but till day no such development has been observed on ground.

It is quite understandable that youths and others, who were in private sector lost their jobs due to COVID-19, which also lowered GDP rate in the country. Automobile and textile sectors were first to cut their job policies due to economic downturn. As far as tourism sector is concerned, which was earlier backbone of J&K economy, it is already facing huge losses and hotel sector is also in a bad state due to unrest in Valley over

past several years. According to economists, it can be counted as one of the major reasons for significant rise in unemployment rate across J&K. Besides official figures, there are other data sources which indicate severity of unemployment in J&K. For example, the employment registrations carried out by the Directorate of Employment last year witnessed three lakh registrations, including several post-graduates and PhD degree holders. Last year, J&K Service Selection Board's advertisement for 8,000 class-IV posts saw a whopping participation of 5.4 lakh aspirants. Official figures suggested that J&K administration has advertised around 10,000 jobs, out of which 8,575 were Class-IV posts. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the combined unemployment rate of J&K and Ladakh hit the highest 17.8 per cent in October-December of 2020 against national average was 7.11 per cent.

## Jitendra inaugurates separate Bench of CAT at Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday inaugurated a separate Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) at Srinagar to deal exclusively with service matters of government employees. While the CAT Bench at Jammu started functioning with effect from 08.06.2020 and now with the issuance of notification (dated 17.11.2021) of jurisdiction of Srinagar Bench is also made functional. The Minister said with today's historic decision, now all three important agencies of DoPT- CAT, CIC and CVC are fully functional in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Dr Jitendra Singh said Jammu and Kashmir is the only State/UT in the country to have two CAT



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurating a separate Bench of CAT at Srinagar.

Benches and this is because Prime Minister Narendra Modi accords special priority to J&K and he takes a keen interest in the matters and issues related to the new Union Territory. He said, two Benches for J&K will go a long way in not only reducing the burden of various Courts, but would also provide to the persons covered by the Administrative Tribunals speedy relief in respect of their grievances and service matters.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Jurisdiction of Jammu Bench of CAT extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and one district (Leh) from UT of Ladakh, while the



## 'Special Job creation policy' need of hour & unavoidable: Bhalla

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Vice President and former Cabinet Minister Raman Bhalla on Thursday claimed that BJP Govt has created such an atmosphere in J&K that people are not able to live peacefully and comfortably.

He said people are in trouble because of BJP Govt's wrong policies.

This was observed by former Minister while interacting with aggrieved people of Gandhi Nagar. He said highest unemployment rate of 21.6 percent recorded in Jammu and Kashmir, which is highest in the country is very serious issue while the country's latest hunger index falling below Pakistan and Bangladesh has shown the failure of the Modi Govt's economic policies.

Referring to highest unemployment rate of 21.6, percentage in Jammu and Kashmir as well as country falling in the international hunger index, Bhalla termed it very alarming and a total failure of Modi Government's economic policies. He said this shows the plight of the common man in India due to wrong economic policies and unprecedented price hike in the country.

The people are dying of hunger and can't have full stomach meals under Modi Government, which is evident from the survey now. Under Congress led



JKPC Vice President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

UPA Government, 27 crores of citizens were brought out of poverty whereas 23 er people have reportedly slipped into poverty line under BJP regime, reflecting the poorest performance of Modi Government. Expressing grave concern over the highest unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir in the country, he said that it is the gift of BJP to educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir for seven years.

The unemployed youth of J&K are a neglected and frustrated lot due to wrong policies of the BJP Government.

Bhalla regretted that BJP and Government makes false claims and boost of great achievement in various fronts but their own official surveys prove them wrong and false.

He charged the Government of misleading the people and making false claims whereas the data has proved that Modi

Government has totally failed on economic front.

Bhalla further said that unaffordable vegetable prices bringing tears in eyes of common man. Most of them can't afford the vegetable and essential items at a high price at present. But common man does not have the choice to pick alternates because these are essential items and they can't live without these items. The commodity prices also rising from months and pulses price gone up in the last few days. The edible oil prices also went up in last few months.

Bhalla asked the people that if they want to mitigate their sufferings, they must come under the banner of Congress Party whose leaders have sacrificed their whole life for the upliftment of poor masses of India.

Senior Congress leader accused the BJP Government of fooling the people of J&K by its false claims of development.

## SDA seals under-construction building at Nowgam



SDA officials sealing a petrol pump at Srinagar.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In continuation to its demolition drive, the Srinagar Development

Authority (SDA) on Tuesday sealed under-construction illegal and un-authorised structure at Nowgam,

Byepass and re-sealed Petrol Pump at Kandizal, Pampore.

The drive was successfully executed under the direction of Vice Chairman SDA Dr.Bashir Ahmad Lone and in coordination with concerned Station House Officers.

Meanwhile, the general public is advised not to indulge in any illegal/ unauthorized construction. Any structure raised without obtaining building permission shall be sealed and demolished as per the provision of COBA Act 1988.

cable since the abolition of Article 370 and 35A on 5th August 2019 for the benefit of people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and now they enjoy same rights as people from the rest of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, with the notification of Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 on 13.8.2021, the process for filling up of vacancies of Members in CAT has been started. Presently, the post of Chairman, CAT is occupied by Ms. Manjula Das and it has been the constant endeavour of the Government to strengthen the infrastructure in all the Benches of CAT for their smooth functioning. Referring to high disposal rate of cases, the Minister informed that since its inception in 1985 and up to 30.6.2021, the Central Administrative Tribunal received 8,56,069 cases for adjudication (including those transferred from High Courts), out of which 7,86,647 cases have been disposed of, leaving a pen-

dency of 69,422 cases. On average, more than 91.89% of the cases instituted are disposed, he added.

It may be recalled that after the abrogation of the Article 370, the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh became two separate Union Territories and according employees of erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir became the employees of the Union Territories. As such the disputes pertaining to their service matters are now being adjudicated by CAT. At the time of Inauguration of CAT Jammu Bench 30,000 service matters were pending including 17363 received from High court. Out of received 17363 cases, CAT Jammu has disposed 4371 cases (2452 of Srinagar Wing and 1919 of Jammu Wing). As of now 12992 case are pending (7610 of Srinagar Wing and 5382 of Jammu Wing). 7610 cases are being sent to CAT Srinagar from CAT Jammu. Almost 13000 cases are still in High court which will come to CAT.