

Bhalla, Refugee Congress leaders accuse Modi Govt of betrayal with DPs of 1947, 1965, 1971



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JKPCC Working President and Former Revenue Minister Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson and former MLC Ravinder Sharma along with Refugee Congress leaders Pawan Raina Secretary JKPCC, Sahil Sharma Spokesperson JKPCC and Amrit Bali Vice Chairman Refugee Cell have strongly criticised the Central Govt. for closing the ongoing relief package for PoJK, Chhamb DPs and termed it clear betrayal and backtracking of the promises with them by the Modi government and BJP.

Addressing the press conference at PCC HQ here on Thursday, Raman Bhalla along with other senior leaders reacted sharply to the recent notice of the government closing the relief package from 10th February

Birthday of mother of Baba Ballo Dev celebrated in Akhnoor



Dignitaries performing Hawan during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The birthday of mother of Baba Ballo Dev was celebrated with religious gaiety and fervour; amid COVID SOPs, at Dev Sthan Akhnoor on Thursday. On the occasion, a number of people thronged the religious place and paid obeisance besides praying for early end of COVID pandemic. The celebrations started with Havan-Yagya which was also attended by Head Priest of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. Continuing the tradition of showering flowers, brought from Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, over Dev Sthan, this year also a special chopper from Katra was arranged for the purpose which showered flowers over the premises. Pertinent to mention here that every year on February 2, the birth anniversary of mother of Baba Ballo Dev is celebrated at Dev Sthan, which is believed to be 700 years old and is visited by a number of devotees from various parts of the country. Speaking on the occasion, Maham Yashpal Sharma informed that birthday of Baba Ballo Dev is celebrated on Basant Panchami and this year also, the day will be celebrated, with proper COVID protocols, on February 5, 2022.

JMC holds standing committee meeting on 'Housing for All' & 'Skill Upgradation & Self Employment'



Dy Mayor Purnima Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Deputy Mayor JMC chaired 10th 'Housing for All' & 'Skill Upgradation & Self Employment' Standing Committee meetings held in conference hall of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

During the meeting, Dy Mayor informed all participating Councilors regarding ICICI Academy which will help in skill empowerment of youth along with 85-90 percent placement and a visit to Women Polytechnic College along with members of Committee, where ICICI Academy is holding free

training programmes for unemployed youth, so that Corporators can help youth to enhance their skills and get jobs with acquired skills.

Others issues raised during the meeting included deployment of additional 25 Safaikarameharis for emergency purpose, construction

of toilets under JCSL, deployment of extra supervisors in large wards, attending grievances of people in a proper manner, issuing notice to all malls and restaurants over parking issue etc.

During the meeting, it was proposed that many

installment of 5.5 lakhs per family, which was described as first installment but with the closing of the package, it is clear that there is nothing more for them, which is clear betrayal with them.

He said after long struggle of refugees of PoJK, Chhamb, and hot perusal by the Congress, a package was worked out on the direction of Dr Manmohan Singh government in 2014 and recommended to the centre by state government.

Bhalla said that BJP and Modi Govt. befooled the PoJK Refugees and sanctioned only the meagre amount of Rs 5.5 lakh per family against Rs 30 lakh per family recommended by the State Govt.

They questioned the closing of the ongoing package when all eligible families could not be even covered with the

said package was not only endorsed by the all party joint parliamentary committee.

tee but also enhanced the relief amount to Rs 30 lakh per family, however the Modi Govt. and BJP failed to sanction the package. Only a meager amount of Rs 5.5 lakhs was sanctioned but that too has not been disbursed to all eligible families because of various hardships in the procedure and documentations for them. There are several hundred claimants pending and large number of others still deprived of the ongoing relief package.

Demanding sanction of full package of 2014 for them, without further delay, they announced that Congress shall fully support the struggle of the refugees of PoJK, and Chhamb for their due rights especially to get full benefits of the entire package endorsed by the parliamentary committee.



Waiving 50 pc passenger tax progressive move: CCI



CCI President Arun Gupta chairing a meeting of office bearers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu on Thursday termed the move of J&K Administration to waive off 50 percent passenger tax chargeable on various vehicles for one year as progressive and demanded that same should be abolished in J&K UT as it is not applicable in other UTs of the country.

The meeting held here today at the Chamber House was chaired by President CCI Jammu, Arun Gupta and attended among others by Sr. Vice President, Anil Gupta; Jr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta; Secretary General, Gaurav Gupta; Secretary, Rajesh Gupta and Treasurer, Rajesh Gupta welcomed the recent decisions headed by LG Manoj Sinha to waive off 50 percent Passenger Tax Chargeable on various vehicles for one year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 asserting that the same will address genuine demand of operators of

commercial vehicles.

The Jammu Chamber appealed to the government to abolish the passenger tax once and for all as the same is not applicable in other UTs of the country.

The Chamber also appreciated the LG Manoj Sinha for constituting a 3-tier committee to demarcate "Gair Mumkin Khad" especially in 3 districts including Jammu, Kathua and Samba and for seeking report within three months.

"This will give a major relief to the people who are suffering because of erroneous/ misleading entries of such water bodies in their revenue records", the meeting said adding that the LG's initiative in this regard is quite appreciable and Chamber thanks him for showing magnanimity over the issue.

The CCI members anticipated that by redefining the Gair Mumkin Khads, the avenues for investments as desired by the LG Sinha will take a big leap as confusion

over the issue was marring the scope of the same over the last many years.

After threadbare discussion on the impact of continuous lockdowns in different forms in the UT of J&K, Chamber made a fervent appeal to J&K Administration to revisit the decision under the light of PM Modi's suggestion that the restrictions on account of COVID should not hinder the business activity and people's livelihood.

Arun Gupta appealed to the J&K Administration to completely lift all the restrictions which are hampering the business activity in Jammu Province as the same has become significant to ensure sustenance of businessmen fraternity in the region.

He said that COVID cases have also started showing considerable downfall therefore it is needed now to make an end to weekend lockdowns and give the businessmen a fair chance to earn livelihood and the trade to come back on rails once again.

Adv Vishal Sharma's tenure as ASGI extended for three years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has extended term of Advocate Vishal Sharma as Assistant Solicitor General of India for a period of three years for Jammu Wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

An order to this effect was issued by the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India. Earlier in January 2019, he was engaged as the Assistant

Solicitor General of India for a term of three years for Jammu Wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, which expired in January 2022 and now his term has been extended by President of India for a further period of three years. Advocate Vishal Sharma started practicing in High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in 1997 and has also served as Additional Advocate General for the then State of Jammu & Kashmir in 2015.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) at Jammu comprising Dr Bhagwan Sahai (A) and Rakesh Sagar Jain (J), directed to appoint petitioner Tajinder Kour as Assistant Professor in Geography under open merit category. CAT after hearing Sr. Adv. Abhinav Sharma with Adv. Abhimanyu Sharma observed that even if executive instructions in form of Govt. Order No. 62-SW of 2001 dated January 13, 2001 are ignored, the respondent cannot apply the roster at his own sweet will, caprice and whims, as the Reservation Rules, 2005, with particular reference to Rule 5(2) stipulates that the roster shall be maintained as a running account from year to year and even if stand of the PSC is to be accepted in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court, in that eventuality also the first vacancy was required to be offered to handicapped category candidates in 2007, when 3 candidates were appointed and second was

required to be offered in 2014, when 43 vacancies were advertised, raising the total to 50 and, who knows at that point of time in 2014, handicapped category candidates were available or not and even if available, who knows to which category he or she belonged whether OM, SC, ST, ALC or RBA. Therefore, in no circumstances, the right of applicant could have been taken away by respondent.

With these observations, CAT allowed the petition and directed respondent PSC to recommend name of the applicant to Higher Education Department for her appointment as Assistant professor in Geography under OM category, pursuant to her selection made by J&K PSC vide notification No. 03-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated January 5, 2021 with all consequential benefits including notional seniority, and fixation of pay, though without any arrears of salary w.e.f. the date other selected candidates were appointed as Assistant Professors in other disciplines.

NC District Vice-President, prominent persons from Kishtwar join BJP



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kartar Singh Rathore, Senior District Vice-President of NC from Kishtwar, Nath Ram Retired Horticulture Officer, Surjeet Singh Retired Government Employee, Rumal Chand Retired Naib Tehsildar and Sonam Narbo Buddhist Leader were amongst the prominent political and social personalities from Kishtwar to join Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu Kashmir at their party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, former Dy. Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, party General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul and party General Secretary & former Minister Sunil Sharma welcomed the new entrants into the party fold. Former District President Kishtwar Akshay, Raj Kumar Badyal, DDC Harikrishnan and others were also present on the occasion.

Raina welcoming the new entrants into the party fold said that these prominent persons have joined the BJP leaving their earlier affiliations with a strong belief in the BJP's ideal-

ogy and the working pattern. He said that prominent persons from all over the region are joining the party on the regular basis due to the "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas" principle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that these people want to serve their people and the region by joining the BJP and the party welcomes these persons with the open arms with a belief that we will together serve the Nation and the Society in accordance with the principles of the party.

Sunil Sharma termed Kartar Singh Rathore as the leader of the masses from the region. He welcomed him showering praises upon his style of working and said that he will strengthen the party activities in the region.

New entrants thanked the party leadership for putting faith in them. They said that they will serve the organization with all their might. They said that they will now work with increased energy to serve the people for their welfare with the support of a Nationalist organization like BJP.

MJR-47 resents imposing cut-off date on submission of relief claims, seeks revocation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Movement for Justice for Refugees of 1947 (MJR-47) has sought immediate withdrawal of notice for fixing a time-limit on submission of relief claim of Rs 5.5 lakh by PoJK and Chhamb DPs. In a press statement issued here on Thursday, Chief Spokesperson, Suchwant Singh urged Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction department to withdraw notice imposing cut-off date for submission of claim of Rs 5.5 lakh in view of prevailing COVID pandemic and non-tracing of records by 4th-5th generations of PoJK and Chhamb DPs. The notification informing that no claim shall be entertained by DPs after Feb 10, 2022 is not only harsh and irrational but is arbitrary in nature as Govt cannot deny bare minimum relief installment to suffering DPs under a specific scheme, they added.

The MJR-47 members further said that notice is quite unexpected and is contrary to

the spirit of Supreme Court which has suo moto waived limitation period under all Acts during COVID pandemic. "Govt has already arrived at Rs 5,49,692 instead of Rs 5.50 lakh due to division of fixed sanctioned amount within 26,319 families from PoJK then how such family, in whom favour amount has been settled, be debarred of such relief amount. Apart from above, 5,300 PoJK DP families are residing outside J&K and 9,500 unregistered families have not been considered for the relief under scheme. Further, the Union Minister PMO, during a visit to Jammu along with the then Union Home Minister had promised on behalf of Prime Minister that relief amount of Rs 5.5 lakh not full and final. The recommendations in packages made by then State Govt in 2014 as well as by DRPSC on Home Affairs in Dec 2014 have still to be sanctioned. Unless same are granted, no DP family can be considered to be settled and adequately compensated," they added.

Progress work on Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote inspected

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Harbans Lal Sharma on Thursday inspected progress on construction of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Yatri Niwas here at Chanderkote. Executive Engineer, Jal

Shakti, Sunil Sharma, Dy. SP, Pardeep Kumar, Tehsildar Ramban, Rafiq Ahmed and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The ADC was informed by the site engineers that the required Men, material and machinery are available at

CAT directs appointing petitioner as Asstt Prof Geography in open merit category

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) at Jammu comprising Dr Bhagwan Sahai (A) and Rakesh Sagar Jain (J), directed to appoint petitioner Tajinder Kour as Assistant Professor in Geography under open merit category. CAT after hearing Sr. Adv. Abhinav Sharma with Adv. Abhimanyu Sharma observed that even if executive instructions in form of Govt. Order No. 62-SW of 2001 dated January 13, 2001 are ignored, the respondent cannot apply the roster at his own sweet will, caprice and whims, as the Reservation Rules, 2005, with particular reference to Rule 5(2) stipulates that the roster shall be maintained as a running account from year to year and even if stand of the PSC is to be accepted in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court, in that eventuality also the first

vacancy was required to be offered to handicapped category candidates in 2007, when 3 candidates were appointed and second was taken away by respondent. With these observations, CAT allowed the petition and directed respondent PSC to recommend name of the applicant to Higher Education Department for her appointment as Assistant professor in Geography under OM category, pursuant to her selection made by J&K PSC vide notification No. 03-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated January 5, 2021 with all consequential benefits including notional seniority, and fixation of pay, though without any arrears of salary w.e.f. the date other selected candidates were appointed as Assistant Professors in other disciplines.