

PSC Lecturers' Association highlights career stagnation issues to Education Minister Sakina Itoo

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K +2 PSC Lecturers' Association met with Sakina Itoo, Minister for School Education, to discuss the career stagnation faced by +2 lecturers due to the absence of Non-Functional Promotion (NFP) and In-Situ Promotion.

The delegation, led by President Manjeet Chib, conveyed their concerns regarding the lack of structured career progression, which has severely impacted the financial growth and morale of +2 lecturers.

The delegation challenged the Minister's recent statement in the ongoing assembly session, where she responded to a question raised by MLA R.S. Pura, stating that there was no stagnation in the cadre.

According to her response, +2 lecturers are placed as Senior Lecturers and then promoted to Principals, CEOs, and higher administrative positions. However, the delegation clar-



Association members calling on Sakina Itoo, Minister for School Education in Jammu on Sunday.

fied that this placement as Senior Lecturer is not an actual promotion but merely a financial incentive in the form of two advance increments, unlike other departments that have a well-defined career progression scheme through Non-Functional Pay Scales (NFP) or Time-Bound Promotion (TBP).

The association further highlighted that only 7% of Senior Lecturers get elevated to the position of +2 Principals

(Grade Pay 5600) after 20-25 years of service, whereas the remaining 93% continue to stagnate in the same grade till retirement.

This, they argued, is a gross injustice to direct recruits, who constitute 50% of the cadre strength. The delegation pointed out that lecturers from the 2008 batch, despite their high academic and professional qualifications, are still working in the same Grade Pay of Rs. 5400, with no chance of promo-

tion even in the next ten years. Given these facts, the association stressed that their case for Assured Career Progression (ACP) is legitimate and must be addressed on humanitarian grounds and merit basis.

Chib expressed disappointment that no concrete efforts had been made so far to resolve this long-standing issue. However, he welcomed the recent statement by the Education Minister, in which she assured that the matter of ACP for +2 lecturers was under active consideration.

He also appreciated the formation of a sub-committee to examine the issue, seeing it as a positive step toward resolving their decade-long demand.

The delegation also informed the Minister that their file on service recruitment rules had been stuck in the administrative department for the past two years and requested her intervention in expediting the process.

Additionally, they raised concerns over the pay anomaly of +2 Principals, urging the government to enhance their grade pay to bring them at par with Principals of KV's and other states/UTs.

The association emphasized that the recent assembly statement by the Minister had caused distress and disappointment among lecturers, as it did not accurately reflect their concerns. Therefore, they approached her to present the true picture of their stagnation and lack of career progression.

Sakina Itoo patiently listened to the delegation's concerns and acknowledged that the cadre is indeed facing stagnation. She assured them that the department is committed to addressing these genuine issues.

Other office bearers present in the meeting included Sandeep Sharma, Sanjeev Gupta, Sunil Kalsi, Dr. Dhanvir Singh Chib, and Dr. Romesh Sharma.

OBC delegation discusses caste-based survey, social issues in J&K with Mir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the OBC Department of JKPC, led by Chairman Madan Lal Chalotra, along with Darshan Mehra (General Secretary, OBC Department JKPC), Prem Sagar and Des Raj Verma (Joint Coordinators, OBC Department JKPC), and Amit Mehra (State Coordinator, OBC Department JKPC), met with Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, AICC General Secretary (Incharge West Bengal), Member of the CWC, and Former President of JKPC.

The delegation expressed gratitude to Mir for his strong advocacy of a caste-based survey in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting that he was the first leader in J&K to demand a transparent, data-driven, door-to-door survey. During the discussion, the delegation raised concerns about the flawed reports submitted by the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Srinagar Municipal Corporation, which failed to conduct a genuine door-to-door survey despite Supreme Court guidelines.

They emphasized the urgent need for an accurate and transparent caste survey to ensure fair representation and policy formulation.

Additionally, various social issues concerning the OBC community were discussed,



OBC delegation meeting AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir.

including the need for better representation, welfare policies, and access to government schemes to uplift marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir assured the delegation that, under the visionary leadership of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress remains fully committed to restoring social justice in Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed the party's dedication to the struggle for equitable rights, representation, and opportunities for all underprivileged sections of society.

Natrang stages Hindi play 'Uthal Puthal'



A scene from the play staged by Natrang.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang staged 'Uthal Puthal', a play in Hindi based on a short story written by Anton Chekhov and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre.

The emotional quotient prevalent in the plot of the play was much appreciated by the audience. The play speaks about how necessary is the faith and respect in relationships.

The play revolves around a young girl 'Malvika', who lives as a paying-guest in the house of one Maya. She

comes home from college one day to find the house in turmoil. When she walks into her room, she sees her mistress rummaging through her things. Maya leaves in a hurry and another maid tells Malvika that a very expensive brooch was lost and the ever suspicious and arrogant lady Maya is searching and screening each and every one to find that. She has no regards for anyone's honesty and all are thieves in her eyes. 'Malvika' is very disturbed that the land lady would look through her things, obviously assuming her a thief. Then, at dinner, Maya makes a comment

about how she will not tolerate thieves in her house. This pushes 'Malvika' over the edge, and she decides to leave the place. While she is packing, 'Nikhil', the master of the house and Maya's husband, comes into her room and begs her to stay. He then reveals that actually he stole the brooch as he was short of money and his dominating wife has captured all the possessions with her and turned him to be a beggar in his own house. This disturbs Malvika even more who stays with her decision to leave the home as there is no dignity in living at a place where there is no respect for your honesty and nothing else is more important than self respect and dignity for an honest person. Natrang's artists who presented a remarkable performance included Aryan Sharma as Nikhil, Vrinda Gajjar as Malvika, Priyal Ashok Gupta as Nisha, Kananpreet Kaur as Maya, Manvi Devi as Kaaki and Kartik Kumar as Kaka. The lights of the play were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was rendered by Adaksh Bagal. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

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JKTF applauds Education Minister's commitment to ReT Transfer Policy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), affiliated with the All India Secondary Teachers Federation (AISTF), has extended its profound appreciation to the Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo for her commitment to addressing the long-awaited Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) Transfer Policy.

The forum State President, Mohamad Ashraf Sheikh, has welcomed the minister's recent statement in the Assembly, expressing optimism for its swift and effective implementation.

ReT teachers, who have devoted decades of service to the same institutions, have long awaited a structured transfer mechanism to alleviate their hardships. The proposed policy, once implemented, will not only provide much-needed relief but also reinvigorate the teaching workforce by fostering professional growth and new opportunities.

While acknowledging this significant step, Ashraf Sheikh has strongly urged the government to take immediate action on



other pressing issues that continue to hinder the welfare and efficiency of the teaching fraternity. These include Expedited Promotions of Teachers to Masters, and Masters to Headmasters & Lecturers - The stagnation in career advancement has led to frustration among highly qualified and dedicated educators. A structured and timely promotion mechanism is essential to recognize merit, enhance motivation, and ultimately uplift the quality of education across Jammu & Kashmir.

Implementation of ATD and Swift Disposal of Marriage Ground Transfers Many teachers, particularly female teachers, continue to face undue hardships due to prolonged delays in their transfer requests on marriage grounds. The forum strongly emphasizes the need for a transparent, time-bound Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) to ensure fairness, work-life balance, and professional stability particularly for teachers posted in hard zones.

Resolution of Pending One-Time File Exemption Cases- Numerous deserving teachers remain in limbo due to procedural bottlenecks in their serv-

ice-related matters. M. Ashraf Sheikh specifically demanded immediate action on pending One-Time Exemption cases for teachers, whose files are awaiting necessary approvals. The government must intervene without further delay to streamline the process and facilitate rightful claims.

The JKTF leadership remains resolute in its advocacy for the rights and welfare of the teaching community. The forum strongly believes that addressing these long-standing issues will not only uplift morale but also enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the education system in Jammu & Kashmir.

The JKTF urged the Education Minister and concerned authorities to take prompt and decisive action in resolving these matters, ensuring justice, career growth, and stability for the teaching fraternity.

The forum

SNM Branch Jammu organizes Samagam



Rev Jyoti Prasad Gyan Pracharak SNM delivering religious sermons.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Sant Nirankari Mission's (SNM) Jammu branch has been actively organizing grand samagam to promote spiritual enlightenment and communal harmony.

One such notable event took place at the N FARMS Banquet hall in village Mandaal. The congregation attracted a large number of devotees from various walks of life. The samagam was presided over by Rev Jyoti Prasad ji Gyan Pracharak SNM while speaking on the occasion he said that The Sant Nirankari Mission promotes the message of "Oneness, Human Unity, and Universal Brotherhood." It emphasizes that God is

one and can be realized through the guidance of a True Master (Satguru). The mission encourages people to rise above differences of caste, religion, and nationality, fostering love, peace, and selfless service in society. In the Nirankari Mission, Satguru is the one who blesses seekers with Brahmgyan. The mission believes that without the guidance of a True Master, the realisation of God remains incomplete. Once a person attains Brahmgyan, they are encouraged to live a life of humility, love, and selfless service while staying connected with God in every moment. Ajit Singh, Zonal In-Charge of Sant Nirankari

Mandal Zone Jammu welcomed all and presented the vote of thanks. The event featured spiritual and ethical discourses, devotional hymns, and communal meals (Guru Ka Langar), symbolising unity and devotion. Devotees from various branches, including Doman, Gura Brahmana, Khara Madana, Bishnah, Miran Sahib, Pounichak, and Akhnoor, participated, reflecting the mission's inclusive approach. On this occasion Ravinder Kumar officer from Narcotics Control bureau Jammu awared public regarding the drug abuse as part of MOU signed between Narcotics Control Bureau Ministry of Home Affairs and Sant Nirankari Mandal.

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J&K EJAC (R) urges Govt to redress issues of employees

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Government Employees Joint Action Committee (R) strongly opposed the heavy-handed approach of the UT Administration and called upon the government to ensure justice for employees.

Addressing a press conference Babu Hussain Malik, State President, along with senior trade union leaders Yashpaul Sharma, Bharat Blushan, Munish Sharma, Kulwant Singh, Seva Ram Rathore, Arun Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Meenakshi Sharma, and several other prominent members, urged the administration to reinstate disengaged Home Guard employees immediately.

The committee demanded immediate regularization of all daily wagers, casual laborers, contractual and consoli-



State President, Babu Hussain Malik briefing media in Jammu.

dated employees, including Home Guards, Rehab-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Janglat, Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, cooks, and NHM employees.

The association also raised concerns over delays in the disbursement of GP Fund, Leave Salary, commutation, and other pension-related benefits, stating that such delays defeat the very purpose of retirement security. The employees called for equal

benefits in terms of Medical Allowances and House Rent Allowance (HRA) for Jammu & Kashmir government employees, bringing them at par with other Union Territories in the country.

The committee demanded correction of pay discrepancies in the clerical cadre in accordance with SRO-333, ensuring notional benefits from January 1, 1996, and monetary benefits from

February 2003, as per the Hon'ble CAT's judgment dated 4th October 2024. Additionally, they sought the restoration of two additional increments for those who cleared the Secretariat Assistant Examination Course, which was stopped under SRO-333 dated 2nd August 2018. The association urged the government to release two annual increments that were withheld during the probation period for SRO-202 Gazette and Non-Gazetted employees. A major demand was the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), which has been a long-standing issue affecting government employees across the region. The association pressed for the immediate resolution of all pending cases under SRO-43 and SRO-120, ensuring that justice is delivered to the

affected employees without further delays. The J&K Government Employees Joint Action Committee (R) reiterated that these demands are long overdue and essential for the welfare of government employees. They called upon the UT Administration and the Union Government to act swiftly and address these grievances, ensuring fair treatment for government employees who play a vital role in the functioning of the administration. The press conference was concluded with an appeal for urgent intervention from the authorities.

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Sunil Prajapati denounces decision of NC Govt to close OBC Welfare Board and to merge with SC Welfare Board

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sunil Prajapati President BJP OBC Moreha J&K, denounced the controversial decision of newly elected J&K UT Govt to windup the J&K OBC Welfare Board and ordered the Secretary OBC Welfare Board to shift the Office in the Office of Scheduled Caste Welfare Board, which is a great conspiracy and discriminatory decision of the National Conference (NC) Govt to betray the OBC Category people of J&K, who have already suffer irreparable loss for 70 years due discriminatory rule framed for OBCs by the previous NC State Govts which always compromised the rights of OBCs and diluted OBC reservation by diverting OBC reservation to RBA and ALC unconstitutionally, as OBC reservation is meant for the backward classes as per Article 15(4) and 1(4) of the Constitution. The OBC Category with 41 Castes/Classes is the largest



one amongst Reserve categories with around 35% as per Census 1931 as also appeared in the various reports of J&K Govt from time to time, which have calculated the OBC population in J&K around 32%. Neglecting OBC category and ordering to wind up the OBC Welfare Board is a partiality decision of NC Govt against OBC Category, which will inflict a great loss to the OBC people. The attitude of NC State Govt always remain violent against OBCs which denied them reservation as per Centre Govt orders, as prevailing in all States of the Country, since from the beginning on implementation OBC Reservation in the Country during 1993 and adjusted

them under Social Caste (OSC) category with mere 2% reservation to such a large population. The B-JP Union Govt abolished the OSC Category and implemented OBC reservation in J&K through parliament decision of 2023 and accordingly the OBC reservation was implemented in J&K UT vide SO 176 of 15 March 2024. Agitated by the Union Govt decision of OBC reservation in J&K, the NC Govt is now bent upon to take every step to deny the constitutional rights and to decrease the reservation of OBC so as to inflict grievous loss to the category. Winding up the OBC Welfare Board is the one of the step of present NC Govt to damage the future of the lakhs of OBC of J&K who reside in both the regions and are in both the religions in equal ratio. It is added that as per census 2011, the population of SC and ST 1 comes to around 8% and 7%, respectively after excluding ST population of Kargil

and Leh of erstwhile J&K State. However these categories are having well functioning office with adequate staff, being allotment sufficient Funds and all other requisite resources made available, but the OBC category which is having around 35% population is being neglected severely and denied the very constitutional rights by the NC Govt with vicious decisions, which is not only great injustice and discrimination but also violation of Article 14 of the Constitution which confer right of equality to every citizen, caste and creed without any discrimination. Sunil Prajapati accordingly requested the Lieutenant Governor J&K UT and the Union Home Minister to take serious note of the controversial decision of the present NC Govt to close the OBC Welfare Board and order for cancellation of such order and also to provide adequate Staff and allotment of sufficient funds to run the Board Office smoothly.

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Modi Govt committed to transforming J&K into industrial hub: Nitish

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, J&K, has emphasized the need for the present government to extend all possible support to investors establishing industries in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that proactive assistance to investors will not only boost industrialization but also create substantial employment opportunities for the youth in the region. Welcoming the significant inflow of investments, the BJP leader highlighted the official data indicating that over 200 investors from outside J&K have been allotted land in various industrial estates over the past decade. He attributed this surge in



Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, J&K, and others during the programme.

interest to the abrogation of Article 370, which has opened new avenues for economic development and industrial expansion in the Union Territory. Nitish Mahajan pointed out that a majority of investors, primarily from Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab, have chosen Jammu region, especially the districts of Kathua

and Samba, as their preferred destinations for setting up business units. He asked the NC government to ensure that these investors receive seamless support in terms of land acquisition, infrastructure, and policy incentives to facilitate hassle-free business operations. Emphasizing the role of industries in employment

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generation, Nitish Mahajan called for greater coordination between the administration and industrialists to expedite the establishment of units. He also urged local youth to capitalize on the emerging job opportunities by acquiring relevant skills. Nitish reiterated that the BJP-led government at the Centre remains committed to transforming J&K into an industrial hub, fostering economic prosperity, and ensuring long-term benefits for the people of the region. He called upon the administration to streamline approval processes, provide necessary incentives, and strengthen industrial infrastructure to maximize investment benefits.

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