

Major setback to Apni Party in Jammu; state women's president, several leaders resign

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major setback to Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, its women's wing state president Namrata Sharma and several of her women colleagues resigned from the party on Wednesday.

"My whole team has tendered resignation from the party on April 18 to protest ignoring of Jammu leadership and unnecessary curbs to stop us from raising the public issues like the demand for restoration of statehood before assembly elections and holiday on account of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday," Sharma told reporters here.

Flanked by several party colleagues including provincial vice president Jyoti Ved and provincial secretaries Parvinder Kour, Sapna and Ritu, the woman leader said it was a very difficult decision for them to leave a party for which we have given our sweat and blood over the past



Namrata Sharma flanked by other women addressing a press conference at Jammu.

two years.

You might have seen many other leaders like Jammu district president Pranab Shagotra, provincial youth president Gourav Kapoor, Kashmiri pandit leaders Vinod Pandita and Sanjay Dhar and Kashmiri leader Irfan Naqeeb leaving the

party in the recent past along with many elected panchayat members. It is all because the leaders are being ignored and they are unable to raise public issues, she said.

"The party is accused of being the B-team of BJP which invested in the party after failing to make inroads

in Kashmir whenever we tried to speak against the administration for its anti-people policies, we were asked by the leadership to keep silent which shows that the party is in hand-in-glove with the saffron party," Sharma said.

She said the party was formed on the slogan of

restoration of statehood to J-K after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 but it has failed to keep its promises and done nothing to raise the demand.

On April 17, Bukhari called for release of former MLA Engineer Rashid (arrested in a case related to terror funding through Hawala) but on the other we are not allowed to speak in support of the demand for holiday on account of birthday of our last Dogra ruler who is our pride.

We were feeling strangulated in the party, she said, adding the people in Jammu are nationalist by core and can go to any extent to safeguard the national interests and the Dogra pride.

Asked whether she is planning to join any other party, Sharma said she has not taken any decision yet but would like to speak to her people before making up her mind.

Farmers hope agri-revolution through PM visit

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Different farmers bodies under the chairmanship of Tajinder Singh Wazir, President J&K Kisan Council and member J&K Kisan Advisory Board welcomed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Panchayat Day at Jammu. In a handout issued on Wednesday, Wazir said it is for the first time in history any PM comes to J&K specially for boosting the rural economy of J&K through this mega awareness meet. "J&K UT has a tremendous potential in agriculture for creating million jobs and billions of dollars and hope this visit will mitigate the unemployment crisis of UT," he said. He added that no doubt from last two years under the leadership of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and on field initiatives of Principal Secretary



Agriculture Navin Choudhary tries their best for revival of agriculture and allied sectors achieved various milestones in agriculture and dairy sector which was also listed in three Nitri Ayog Survey for making agriculture sustainability.

"We the farmers demand the veterinary university for J&K to meet out the day-to-day worries of dairy farmers and processing dairy entrepreneurs," he said.

Jammu Basmati has a recognition worldwide, he said adding that farmers demand for the start of Satellite Centre of Basmati Export Development Foundation under Agriculture Processing Export Development Centre on the pattern of Modipuram in UP. Welcoming the initiatives of Dr Jatinder Singh for trapping potential of Shahpur Kandi dam to irrigate 1000 hectares of barren land, Farmers said that J&K needs a special package and incentives under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sanchai Yojna at least 75% to irrigate 70% area of J&K UT.

Farmers appealed to the Prime Minister for timely release of funds for the rural economy and priority may be given that this year funds will be released at block level on time.

"We can save these animals and birds from the plight of summer months by putting a bowl of water outside our homes at prominent places and offices," the JMC commissioner said.

Lavasa further pointed out that lack of water induces aggressive behaviour in animals and putting water bowls outside homes and offices can keep them in check.

She appealed to the people to let humanity prevail in these tough times by caring for these voiceless creatures.

The winter capital Jammu recorded the season's hottest day on April 11 at 39.6 degrees Celsius, which was 7.5 notches above normal.

No road in Jammu is as worse as road leading to Channi Rama in Ward 49 from NH 44

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: If someday there is a competition of the worst roads in Jammu the top rank will be secured by the road leading to Ward No. 49 from NH 44 opening just adjacent to Wave Mall. Looking into the abysmal condition of this road one can say with confidence that no road in the City of Temples is as worse as the aforesaid because there are stretches on this so-called road which resemble the shape of Nallah flowing adjacent to this road and those unfortunate commuters who have to pass through this road got the feeling of driving their vehicles inside the Nallah as big stones and king-size potholes are the specialty of this road and often cars and other vehicles used to break down while moving on this road stretch.

This road comes under the realms of JDA, which unfortunately could not do anything to macadamize this road in the last over 9 years. The JDA which was initially known as Jammu Development Authority has forgotten that in its name there is a word starting with alphabet 'D' viz development because this civic agency has changed its meaning from development to demolition



because more often the name of JDA comes in demolition drives rather than development of the areas falling under its ambit. The story of JDA's demolition drives is also quite intriguing because at the time of construction of illegal structures the men and machinery of this agency used to go into hibernation and years later the same woke up from slumber and held 'destruction' in abundance.

As far as the road in question is concerned, the same leads to many important establishments like

Nallah flowing adjacent to this road is in tatters due to inundation during rainy season and there are places where Bandh wall has been damaged due to floods and electricity poles are about to fall thus posing a risk of tragedy but the authorities concerned are least bothered and there is no one to take care of this degradation of civic infra.

Kamal Singh Jamwal, Councillor Ward No 49 told STATE TIMES that authorities sitting at the helm of affairs are giving deaf ears to the people's issues and this road stretch is the biggest cause of headache for the stakeholders but the JDA is adamant not to act on improving the condition of this road. He said that despite several representations nothing concrete has come to fore as JDA has other interests. He said that despite allocation of sufficient funds the JDA is reluctant to repair this road which is annoying and unacceptable.

The Councillor said that JDA should mend its ways and focus on this as soon as possible and start the work on this road so that the same could be completed before the onset of monsoon this year.

PM should take concrete steps for return of KPs in Valley: Vikrant

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing deep concern over the targeting of Hindus by pro-Pakistan terrorists in the Kashmir Valley, State President of Hindustan Shiv Sena Vikrant Kapoor has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take concrete steps for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Kashmir Valley.

He said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu here today.

Vikrant Kapoor said that the recently released film 'The Kashmir File' was welcomed by the Hindustan Shiv Sena.

He said that this has given the whole world an opportunity to know the ground reality of Kashmir.

He said that this has informed the whole world about the atrocities committed

against Kashmiri Pandits as this truth was not exposed yet.

Expressing his concern over the incidents of selective targeting and killings of Hindus in the Kashmir Valley, Vikrant said that people working on the instructions of ISI, the intelligence agency of neighbouring country Pakistan, are trying to worsen the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and are making every efforts to create the hurdles in the peace.

He said that Hindustan Shiv Sena would not allow any such effort to succeed at any cost.

He also expressed concern over the recent attacks targeting Hindus.

He has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Gupta calls for accelerating development works in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta, on Wednesday chaired a meeting to discuss annual action plan proposals submitted by various heads of departments. Principal Secretary acknowledged that more projects could have been executed and finished in the last financial year and directed executing agencies to pump up their performance in the current year. He assured that there are sufficient funds lying around for development works and all viable and genuine projects should be immediately started with seed money and technical sanction.

Principal Secretary directed all heads of concerned departments to submit monthly progress report on progress of schemes of their respective jurisdictions. He encouraged development authorities of Jammu and Srinagar cities and J&K Housing Board to submit fresh project proposals and gave nod to allocation of funds for master plans. Dheeraj Gupta also spoke of instating Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms, its database monitoring and the benefits of their implementation in developmental works. He directed all urban local bodies to gear up for the Swachhata Startup Challenge. Principal Secretary interacted with the HoDs and told them that 80 percent of the works have already been approved and funds have been released respectively. He also had a detailed discussion on J&K Mass Rapid Transit Corporation projects during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer and heads of various departments and developmental bodies.



Several youth join Congress Party



Senior Congress leaders welcoming newly joined members in a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspired by the policies and programmes of the Congress party several youths of Jammu City joined Congress party.

They were welcomed in the party by Working President JKPCC Raman Bhalla, Yogesh Sawhney General Secretary JKPCC and Incharge District President Jammu Urban JKPYC President Uday Bhanu Chib, and JKPYC Ex. Youth President Pranav Shagotra, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Pawan Dev Singh, Chander Sheikhar Sharma, Atul Sharma, Mulak Raj, Gopal Sharma and others.

Welcoming them in the

Congress party, Raman Bhalla said that with the emerging political scenario in the regions of the J&K UT, where Congress Party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive policies, democratic and secular values being strengthened by the party.

The secularism is the strength of Indian Nation and only Congress can lead the UT and the entire Nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthening secular fabric, he said.

Those who joined Congress party said that they were impressed with the working

HC issues show cause notice to Comm Secy Finance, DC Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, issued show cause notice to the Commissioner Secretary Finance and Deputy Commissioner Kathua, as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against them for creating obstruction/hindrance in the implementation of the judgment.

This significant order has been passed in a contempt petition filed by Sunil Kumar & others for not implementing the judgment dated March 26, 2014.

When the contempt petition came up for hearing, Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that this is an application seeking modification of order dated 15th March, 2022, passed by this Court, whereby this Court while granting four weeks further time to the respondents to comply with the judgment, also made it clear that in case the judgment was not complied with, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government Jal Shakti, shall appear in person and shall not withdraw his monthly salary, till the judgment was complied with.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that from

the reading of the application, it clearly transpires that the judgment passed by this Court on 26th March, 2014, is yet not complied with by the respondents.

During the course of hearing M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti, Department, appearing through virtual mode, submits that he has taken up the matter with the Commissioner Secretary Finance, as well as the Deputy Commissioner, concerned for releasing the requisite funds, but he is not getting any positive response from the said authorities.

He shows his inability to comply with the judgment in absence of requisite funds being made available to him by the aforesaid authorities. He further submits that he is also divested of the charge of Commissioner/Secretary to the Government of Jal Shakti, and, therefore, cannot be the relevant person to comply with the judgment.

Court directed Registry to issue notice to the Commissioner Secretary Finance, and Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, to show cause as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against them for creating obstruction/hindrance in the implementation of the judgment.

Parmar reviews flood management plan for Jhelum, Tawi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, I&FC Department, Ashok Kumar Parmar on Wednesday held a meeting to review the flood management works of the Jhelum and Tawi rivers here being taken under Prime Minister's Development Plan (PMDP).

The meeting was attended by Secretary Technical (PWD), Joint Director (E&S), Jal Shakti and SE Hydraulic Circle Srinagar.

The Principal Secretary enquired from the officers about various components of this vital project. He took cognizance of the pending works and the reasons thereof. He maintained that all the works are of essential nature and should be taken in hand for early completion.

Parmar instructed the officers to reconstitute the committee and include a member from Central Water Commission in the High Level Committee. He impressed upon them to implement all the conditions put forth by the Administrative Council. He urged them to take up the funding issue with central government again.

The meeting was informed that the comprehensive plan for flood management works were broken into 2 phases. It was also given out that the phase-I of the plan has already



Principal Secretary, I&FC Department, Ashok Kumar Parmar chairing a meeting.

been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 399 crores and phase-II of the plan is under process of implementation. The meeting was also apprised that part-A of the comprehensive plan consists of works to the tune of Rs 1623.43 crore and under part-B works to the tune of about Rs 3630 crore are under implementation. It was given out that the financial concurrence from the department has also been secured for part-A of the second phase and is about to be tendered out after completing the formalities. It was further apprised that after culmination of the whole plan the threat of flood in J&K would abate to a larger extent.