Jammu Mayor inspects preparedness for Baisakhi fair at Ranbir Canal

Appeals public to maintain cleanliness, avoid poly-bags

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Mayor of Jammu city, Rajinder Sharma on Tuesday conducted on spot inspection and checked the preparedness of popular Baisakhi fair along the stretch of Ranbir Canal.

He was accompanied by Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria; Chairmen of different standing committees of JMC-Arun Khanna of Sanitation Committee, Gopal Gupta of Swach Bahrat Subash Committee and Sharma of Social Justice Committee. Apart from this Commissioner Sanitation, Health Officers, SOs and Safai Saathis also accompanied the Mayor who checked the Ranbir Canal right from Rajinder Park to Best Prize mall and issued directions to keep the entire stretch on which the fair shall

be organised clean



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma inspectiing preparedness for Baisakhi fair near Ranbir Canal.

Sharma gave strict instructions for special cleaning at the Ghats and removal of accumulated mud and silt

He said that JMC shall place dustbins at each of the Ghat along with garbage removal autos and Safai Saathis shall also remain present there while facility of drinking water from tankers

BJP thanks LG for deferring power tariff hike

will also be made on Baisakhi fair for the public convenience.

Sharma also said that the canal shall also be cleaned from under the bridges and roads wherever it passes from under the road.

The Mayor appealed to the people visiting the fair to avoid poly-bags and maintain cleanliness and take all precautions while entering water in the

He said due to concerted

efforts, peace and tranquility

has returned to Jammu and

Kashmir and the people are

living in harmony under

responsive and transparent

governance. This is a historic

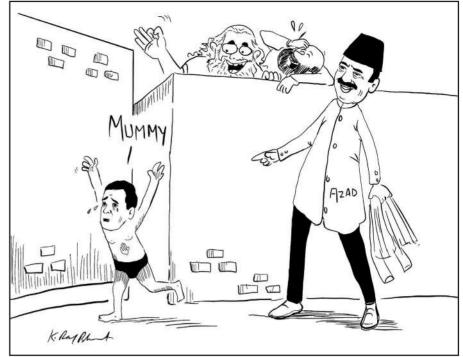
On being asked about the

the Election Commission of

canal for taking a dip. He extended Baisakhi wishes to all the Jammuites and said that JMC is working day and night for better facilities to the public.

Mayor Sharma lauded the public for cooperation during Saakh immersion on last Navratra and said that with the cooperation of public every big target can be achieved.

He said that he shall be available for the public round the clock and appealed to the Chief Engineer of Irrigation and Flood Control to ensure proper water supply in Ranbir Canal on Baisakhi and maintain water level there.



J&K Bank signs MoU with CIMSME to accelerate MSME growth

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Forging partnership with Chamber of Indian Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (CIMSME) to accelerate growth of manufacturing enterprises, J&K Bank on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the country's apex chamber of MSMEs that represents their interests and issues with the Government and Regulators while being active participant in MSME related policy-

General Manager (Corporate Banking/MSME/Agriculture) Ashutosh Sareen signed the MoU on behalf of the Bank, while as, President Mukesh Mohan Gupta put in his signatures representing CIMSME in presence of MD & CEO J&K Banl Baldev Prakash, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Manager Narjay Gupta, Director (CIMSME) Subhash Joinwal, DGMs and other senior Bank officials. Bank's Divisional Heads also joined the function through VC Mode.

While lauding the role of CIMSME in promotion of MSMEs, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash expressed pleasure over the signing of MoU. He said, "As a responsible



financial institution we understand that MSME sector plays a critical role in fostering entrepreneurship and generates huge employment opportunities thereby contributing greatly to the country's GDP. Moreover, MSME lending is profitable for banking industry and we need to translate this MoU into solid business growth especially in the rest of India because this is the sector which complements the large industries in the form of subsidiary units that are vital to the entire eco-system." "J&K Bank has always been on the forefront of creating employment opportunities and we have robust numbers to back our commitment towards encouraging the MSME growth in the country. There has been a growth of 440%

in the number of Bank's MSME

sector has witnessed 232% increase from Rs 4768 Cr to Rs 15872 Cr.", he added. Asserting that MSME sector will

bolster economy of the UT and the country alike, MD said, "We will ensure that bankable leads generated by the CIMSME are processed in a time bound manner.' occasion. Speaking on the

President (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta said, "We feel honoured for J&K Bank's acceptance of our request for the tie up. Having J&K Bank on board is great boost for us that will eventually help MSME sector a great

Citing the lack of awareness about various MSME schemes and

processes to avail the facilities. he stressed upon the need to educate lenders particularly at operational levels and borrowers of this sector. He further added, "We will soon be coming up with a web portal for ease of both MSME lenders and borrowers.'

Executive Director, Sudhir Gupta said that signing of the MOU with the apex chamber is akin to forging a partnership that will go a long way in promoting the culture of enterprise across the country while adding to the Bank's business profile. Earlier, GM Ashutosh Sareen said that under the tie-up CIMSME will not only source the MSME/Start-up proposals across the country but will conduct due diligence of these proposals as per the Bank policy and RBI Guidelines. And once CIMSME is satisfied with the financials and track records of the company/firm, the leads will be shared with the Bank for further processing.

Notably, the Bank provided benefits of employment to around 92000 youth till March 2023, under the J&K Government's flagship programmes 'Back to Village 4.0' and 'My Town My Pride' - a feat that has been hailed by the UT Government and people alike.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday expressed his party's gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for positively responding to the plea taken up with regard to the proposed hike in the power tariff and assuring against any such move in the near future to increase the rates to every category of consumers across Jammu and Kashmir in the larger public interest.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here this morning, Rana said that this important issue, flagged by a deputation of Federation of Industries Jammu to the Pradesh BJP Trade and Industry Cell, was taken up with the Lieutenant Governor, who responded very positively keeping larger public interest in view.

Devender Rana, who also oversees the working of Industries, Tourism, Trade, Transport & Cooperative Cells, flanked by Conveners & Coonveners of the respective cells said that the Federation of Industries had vehemently sought the intervention in getting the issue resolved as any move by the Jammu Power Development Corporation to

increase the power tariff would be detrimental to the growth of Industry. They had pleaded that the further increase to the already hike of 25 to 38 per cent in the power tariff effected in October, 2022 was not desirable as Jammu and Kashmir was bearing a little less than the tariff structure in neighbouring Punjab and more than Himachal Pradesh. he added. Rana said that the Lieutenant Governor has been agile to the genuine problems of the people and whenever approached, he has examined and decided the issues keeping in view the public interest. He also lauded the efforts being made for holistic development, rapid industrialization, massive infrastructural interventions post August 5, 2019 political developments, as part of the Prime Minister's mission of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka

"With all these efforts in mission mode, Jammu and Kashmir is destined to be topping the north Indian states in respect of development and progress in the next five years", he said, adding that the day is not far when the Union Territory will be a shining part of the nation becoming Vishwa

achievement of the BJP under the dynamic leadership of the statesman Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, he main-Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana briefing media. conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Rana said holding of polls is the prerogative of

> India. As far as the BJP is concerned, the party remains in the election mode 24x7x365, he asserted. To a question about some opposition parties claiming that the BJP doesn't want elections due to fear of losing, he retorded, "Who are they? The Congress which I believe is responsible for the murder of democracy in J&K. It is the party which is singularly responsible for the present day situation in J&K", he said. He exuded confidence that

the BJP will emerge victorious in the elections, whenever held, at the strength of the pro-people policies and path-breaking initiatives taken in the recent years on all the fronts, especially development and security situation.

He said the people's mandate to the BJP will be yet another blow to the self centric political Kashmir, who have exploited the people all these decades. He held the Congress responsible for all the mess and uncertainty created in Jammu

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI SRINAGAR: As violence

due to terrorism is ending fast, the focus should now be shifted to crack a whip on drug mafia, while experts have called for stringent measures to keep a check on drug violence. To stop further menace of drugs growing exponentially and engulfing people of all age groups in Jammu and Kashmir, the law enforcing agencies and people working on drug deaddiction are taking strict measures to overcome the issue of drug menace. The gravity of the problem can be guessed by the fact that seven gruesome murders within

Need to focus on elimination of drug abuse in Valley months, three of them involving sons killing their mothers. These incidents have shaken the very essence of Kashmiri society and disturbed every thinking individual. Since then scores of drug abusers have been arrested in a Kashmir-wide crackdown against the substance abuse. This is for the first time in the history of Kashmir that such gruesome cases of violence have been reported and that too repeatedly. It is widely observed that the drug addiction has led to an increasing rate of crime in Kashmir. Besides, the very nature of drug addiction in Kashmir is also

changing.

Officials said that in such a situation, the entire focus of the government has come to dealing with this menace of drug addiction and cracking a whip on the drug mafia. The experts have suggested several strict measures to overcome the issue of drug abuse and take steps for counseling the youth who have gotten involved in drug abuse.

has also launched the Nasha-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan - an initiative started by the Ministry of $_{
m Justice}$ Social and

in 272 districts across India. "Large-scale awareness programmes have been held in schools, colleges, universities, and within the communities," officials said. They further added that besides carrying a crackdown on the drug peddlers, they were carrying out regular awareness programmes about drug abuse. "We are concerned about these The LG Administration murders and its fallout more than anyone. " said a senior Police official. He said that they were putting in every effort to nip the evil of drug abuse in the Empowerment on August bud. Police has been

menace of drug addiction

Kashmir to come forward and support their campaigns to prevent destruction of youth through drugs.

In context of recent murders and other killings in Kashmir. Registrar Institute of Mental Health Neurosciences (IMHANS), Kashmir said that most of the violence in the world was because of 'so-called sane people'. According to experts, the mental illnesses were predominantly associated with 'self-harm' 'harm "Homicides because of mental illness are rare and are not a prototype of men-

15, 2020, to eradicate the repeatedly urging people of tal illnesses," they added. Those entering Gazetted Engineering Services in 'J&K' have reasons to complain of 'unfair' discrimination

Why no Non-Functional Grade promotions for Engineering Gazetted Services in UT of J&K and like? amendments if made at some levels after

edia had reported on 12th May 2018 that in the Cabinet meet-Ling chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on May 11, 2018 'sanction' was accorded to the implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme in respect of the Gazetted Service of Engineering which was to ensure a minimum of 3 Time Bound promotions in a span of 20 years for the members of J&K and the Cabinet had authorised the Finance Department to notify the Scheme and issue necessary orders in that regard. But no such scheme had been notified after that and no denial of the media report too had been there.

In case the May 11, 2018 media report was based on facts the decision of the then popular government for ordering provision like Non Functional Garade Promotions to Gazetted Service Engineering Cadres J&K / Ladakh should be atleast ordered by the LG Administration now.

There used to be pinching stagnation cases(still are there) also in other Gazetted Services in J&K. But some relief has been provided to some of the Gazetted services in the shape of time bound grade promotions like has been for Health & Dental (G.O 595-HME of 1988 dated: 2/07/1988, GO No.388-HME of 2005 Dated: 30-06-2005, G.O. HME-Actt:-DHSL 04-05 Dated 29-07-2005) / Animal Husbandry / Sheep Husbandry - SRO-13 of 17-02-2004;

SRO 43 and OM no. A/98(2001)-115 dated 17th November 2005, G Order No.3- ASH of 2010 dated 1st January 2010 / ISM (1st. 2nd and 3rd Time bound Promotion pursuant to Govt, order 493-HME of 1999 dated 05-10-1999 and Govt. Order No. 242-HME of 2008 dated 31-12-2008) . Even J&K Administrative Service {SRO 198 dated 25-04-2018 Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) $\}$ and J&K Police Services { SRO. 215 dated 18 May 2018) have been favoured with Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme

Even for non gazetted employees in J&K Government somewhat similar provision is already there since 1996 under SRO -14 of 15-01-1996 (Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Higher Standard Pay Scale Scheme) Rules, 1996). But the engineering cadres have not been cared so far is the general complaint. May be such like are the reasons and for assured career securities and assured progress with time that even the cream from the talent folk / top engineers from IITs/ Medical professionals have been showing preference for taking to IAS services where once in at Jr scale Grade L-09 (8000-275-13500/53100-157100) directly through UPSC one can progress without much stress with adhered time slabs

from Level-9 to level -11 (10650-325-

15850/67700-208700) Senior Time

Scale (5h yr), to Level-12 (12750-375-

Junior

16500/78800-209200)

Administrative Grade (10th yr) to Level-13 Selection Grade (15100-400-18300/118500-214100) (123100 -(215900)). $(13th\ yr)$ to Level -14 Super Time Scale (.8400-500-22400/-

144200-218200) (17th yr) to Level - 15 First Above Super Time Scale (22400-525-24500/182200-224100;

i.e Principal Secretary to the State Government. (26th yr) to Level -17 grade of Chief Secretary (26000: (fixed)/ 225000 fixed apex) (31st yrand Rs. 30000 (fixed)/ 250000 fixed only for the post of Cabinet Secretary in GOI (Guidelines for promotion to various grades of IAS officers issued under 20011492-AIS-II of 28-03-2000 ,see Annexure-I) by GOI Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions Department of Personnel).

Whereas going by SRO 297 Dated 14-09-2006 PWd/Coord/42/2006 J&K Public works Department a Graduate Degree Engineer who enters gazetted service through JKPSC as Asstt. Engineer (8000-275-12950/ 9300-34800 GP 5200 / 53100-157100) Level-8Ais to move after 2vrs as AE to level of AEE(9000-300-14100/15600-39100 GP5600 Level-10) then can move to the Level of Executive Engineer service (10000-325-15200/15600-39100 GP 6600/67700=208700 Level -11) after 4 yrs working as AEE and total 8 yrs Gazetted and from Ex Engr to SE (12000-375-16500/15600-

39100GP7600/78800-209200 Level 12) with 17 yrs gazetted service with atleast 3 yrs experience as Ex. Engr and then with min 20vrs gazetted service with at least 1yr years as SE to C.E A Look through (14300-1400-18300/ 37400-67000 GP the Mist 8700/-123100-

> But even for so unfair career sealing at L-13 only, timely progress on ground very rarely tests to criteria laid. There is no promotion in status after one 'reaches' level of Chief Engineer, Level -13 (123100-215900/) only where an IAS officer reaches after 13 years of entering Gazetted service.

215900/-1level-13).

With the intervention of Court J&K Government with SRO-403 of 14-09-2018 amended the JK Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 1992 by adding to the Schedule proviso 2nd, saying "The SE only shall be deemed to have been placed in Pay Scale of 4500-5700 in place of 3150-4500 notionally w. e. f. 01-04-1987 and monetarily from 01-04-1990". With the issue of SRO-403 the pay scale of SE is now equal to Level -13 but the CEs too are in Level -13Grade. Why has Government not made the needed correction for pay scale of CE also at the time of issue of SRO-403in 2018 itself? Should not governments apply correction without waiting for someone from affected cadres to run for judicial remedies? The pay scales mentioned herein are as per VII PC Gazette notification and may not be covering all

that. Even CAT had on 22.03.2021 conveyed somewhat a positive view in favour of the Chief Engineer post in (Central Administrative Tribunal disposed of TA No. 3749/2021 with order We, therefore, dispose of the T.A., directing the competent authority, i.e. respondent Nos. 1 and 2, to pass appropriate orders on the representations submitted by the applicants on 03.09.2018 and subsequent thereto, within three months from the date of the receipt of a copy of this order. We, however, make it clear that we did not express any view on the merits of the matter. Any benefit, which may result on account of such revision, shall be prospective in nature." Which was also challenged in J&K & Ladakh HC through the medium of WP(C) 1722/2021 and the High Court on 09.09.2021 passed order as : "Meanwhile, respondents shall consider the representations of the petitioners submitted on 03.09.2018 and subsequent thereto, within three months from the date copy of this order is received for the benefit sought and the portion of the order impugned to the extent of rider is stayed and shall not come in the way of the respondents" but still the Administrative Department / Government disposed the application of Chief Engineers with no convincing note under order No 319 F of 10-12-2021.

With Manoj Sinha as LG of J&K and

A.K Mehta (who himself is Engineer) there as head of the Administration it could be hoped that like a number of other reforms/ corrections made (like undoing unfair& frustrating service conditions during 2 yr probation for new government employees under S.O 192 of June 2020 of the earlier governments / popular governments) hopes have been expressed by the engineering cadres that atleast Non Functional Grade Promotions will also be sanctioned for Gazetted Engineering Cadres like has been done for even JKAS {SRO 198 of 25-04-2018 - Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) }, JKPS { SRO-195 Dated 18-05-2018 Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme Immediately and the award of L-14 (144200-218200) or atleast L-13A grade (131100-216600) be sanctioned in favour of Chief engineers even if it has be be as an exception to others as has been with the case of Superintending Engineers vide SRO-403 14-09-2018 (amendment in the JK Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 1992, In the Schedule appended, following shall be added as proviso 2nd, "The SE only shall be deemed to have been placed in Pay Scale of 4500-5700 in place of 3150-4500, notionally w. e. f. 01-04-1987 and monetarily from 01-04-1990.

(The author is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).