

Sikh Coordination Committee delegation meets LG



JKSCC delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee (JKSCC) led by its Chairman Ajit Singh, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan on

Thursday. The members of the delegation put forth various welfare issues of the Sikh Community. The Lt Governor assured the delegation of the appropriate action on the issues projected by them during the interaction.

Police recovers huge cache of 8998 liquor bottles, arrests 2 persons



Arrested drug peddlers and recovered liquor bottles in police custody.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police under the guidance of SSP Samba Vinay Kumar, on Thursday has recovered huge quantity of liquor of different brands and arrested two persons in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur.

PA police team of Police Station Vijaypur headed by SHO Vijaypur during vehicle checking at special Naka established near Rahya Morh, intercepted a TATA-

207 Mobile bearing registration No. JK02CA-2545 coming from Jammu side for its checking," police spokesperson said adding that during checking of the vehicle, 253 carton boxes were found inside the vehicle in which 8998 liquor bottles of different brands making a total of about 2277 litres of liquor were being transported in violation of DM Samba prohibitory order issued ahead of second phase of Parliament Elections-2024.

The accused persons identified as Kuldeep Raj, son of Girdhari Lal, resident of Channi, Trikuta Nagar district Jammu and Chaman Lal, son of Gain Chand, resident of Gujjaro Nagrota, tehsil Majalta, district Udhampur have been arrested, spokesperson said adding that a case FIR No. 60/2024 under Section 188 IPC, 48 (a) Excise Act was registered at Police Station Vijaypur and further investigation started.

AAP leaders, Muslim youth from Gujjar Nagar join BJP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dozens of youths having affiliation with AAP & the Muslim youth of Gujjar Nagar having affiliation with different political parties under Jammu East Assembly Constituency joined BJP at the party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here on Thursday.

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister wel-



BJP senior leaders with newly joined members at Jammu on Thursday.

new entrants to do the service to the society while keeping the mission and the policies of party in mind. Hari Om Sharma assured the new entrants that they would get full organizational support in their societal works. New entrants praised the Modi government for its focus on the welfare of the poor and the needy and the development at the grassroots level.

Sanjeev Verma, Rahil Nischal, Shammi Thakur, Lucky Gandhi, Naresh, Amit Gupta, Sham, Chain Singh, Sanjay Abrol, Sanjeev Sharma, Raj Kumar, and Parven Sharma, all office bearers of AAP, joined BJP on the occasion.

Sikander Khan, Nazhar Khan, Asif Anjad Chowdhary, Kartik, Aquib, Aamir, Arsnan, Muneer, and Sohail were among the prominent from Gujjar Nagar to join on the occasion.

comed the new entrants, whose joinings were facilitated by Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President, J&K BJP.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Media Incharge, Parmod Kapahi, District President Jammu, and Hari Om Sharma, Sanyojak, Jammu East Constituency also welcomed the new entrants on the occasion.

Kavinder Gupta said that the policies of the Modi government have directly benefitted the needy and the oppressed sections of the society, which were

deliberately neglected by the previous governments on one pretext or another: He said that Congress, along with NC and PDP had considered Jammu and Kashmir as their inheritance and took all those decisions which harmed this peaceful and beautiful state. He said that the people have witnessed their selfishness and their negligent attitude towards the development. He said that the people now, have belief on the policies of the Modi government and are joining the party in massive numbers. Yudhvir Sethi said

that people have witnessed the corrupt past and the present of Congress, and they have also witnessed the era of the Modi government, which has created a new benchmark of political working for the welfare of the poor: He said that the people have decided to support the Modi government and are coming forward on their own to join the party. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that they have joined the party which works on the principle of 'Nation first, Party second and Self last'. Parmod Kapahi asked the

Politics rooted in exploitation must end in J&K: Bukhari

Urges people to reject deceptive, exploitative traditional parties in elections

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, said that "the politics rooted in rhetoric, exploitation, and manipulation must end in Jammu and Kashmir." He appealed to people "to reject the deceptive and exploitative traditional parties and their leaders in the imminent polling for the Lok Sabha elections."



Apni Party President, S.M.A Bukhari with party workers at a public meeting.

against the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. At least these MPs could have resigned to protest the abrogation. Now, they are again coming to people seeking votes. Why should people vote for the same parties who have deceived them again and again over the years and decades?"

He appealed to people to reject the traditional parties and their leaders in the imminent polls. He said, "I request you to use the power of your vote to put an end to their exploitative politics. Don't allow them to deceive you yet again through fake promises and emotional sloganeering."

The Apni Party president termed the Home Minister's

recent statement an eye-opener, in which he revealed that parties like NC, PDP, and Congress were responsible for killings in fake encounters in the past.

He said, "Although we already had an idea of how ruthless these traditional political parties and their leaders can be in pursuit of power and political gains, the revelation by none other than the Home Minister of the country serves as an eye-opener for all."

Bukhari appealed to people to vote for the Apni Party in the parliamentary elections. He said, "I promise you that if you grant us your mandate, we will never disappoint you. Our party is the newest, and this marks its debut in the Lok

Sabha polls. I assure you that we will represent the sentiments of the people in parliament."

He promised that when party secures a mandate in both parliamentary and assembly polls, it will ensure to eradicate all the major issues afflicting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bukhari promised the people of Budgam that once the Apni Party comes to power, it will develop several tourist destinations, including the Tosa Maidan meadow, to create new employment opportunities. He also promised that the Apni Party will provide 500 units of electricity free to every household once the party comes to power.

J&K class 8th result declared, 95.91 pc pass

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), on Thursday, announced the Middle Standard Result for the academic year 2023-24. This marks a significant moment as it is the first time the government has implemented a unified academic calendar in J&K UT and conducted exams during the March-April session. Approximately 1,69,351 students from both government and private schools in all the 20 districts of took the examination of the second term of the academic year 2023-24. The UT of J&K was divided into two zones: Soft and Hard, to ensure a smooth and efficient examination process.

"The results have been overwhelmingly positive, with a total 1,62,440 candi-

dates qualifying, resulting in an impressive overall pass percentage of 95.91," the Joint Director said.

The Jammu Division saw a total of 86,336 candidates appearing for the exam, out of which 83,976 candidates qualified, with a pass percentage of 96.25 for government schools and 98.93 for private schools.

In the Kashmir Division, a total of 83,015 candidates appeared for the exam, out of which 78,464 candidates qualified, with a pass percentage of 92.21 for government schools and 96.92 for private schools.

Overall Pass percentage of Government School students was 94.46 while Private School students was 97.82. Middle Standard Examination (MSE) Session 2023-24 concluded on

16th March, 2024 for both hard and soft zone areas of JK UT. In total 2471 examination centres (903 Kashmir Division + 1568 Jammu Division) were constituted at Cluster/Complex level for smooth conduct of the Examination across the UT of J&K.

Immediately after the culmination of examination, evaluation was done at Complex level under the supervision of Complex Heads and respective Principal DIET of the concerned District. The whole evaluation process was completed within 4 days after the culmination of the examination across the UT of J&K.

On 24th of April, 2024, after compilation of the Middle Standard Examination Result Data, all the 20 DIETs of JK UT declared the result in respect of Hard & Soft Zone areas.

Amended Roshni Act also provided for giving freehold rights to official Residential Lease Holders too

Has Roshni Scheme - ACT No XII of 2001 been unfairly treated disreputing even All Administration & J&K Legislature ?

DAYA SAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No. XII of 2001, an Act of J&K State Legislature had received the assent of the Governor on 9th November, 2001 and published in Government Gazette dated 13th November, 2001. Section 1 (1) of the Act said "This Act may be called the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants) Act, 2001". This Act is and has been mostly referred as Roshni Act in discussions / debates / public meetings although it has been no where referred as Roshni in the body of the text of the Act. No doubt in 'The Statement of Objects and Reasons' for the enactment of said Act it has been said that "In view of the above, the Finance Minister proposed the scheme called "Roshni in his Budget Speech 2000 where under it was suggested that the Proprietary Rights be given to the persons holding unauthorized till 1990 on payment of the cost equivalent to the prevailing market rate of the year 1990." May be since in the introductory para the Government Gazette publication mentions it "An Act to provide for vesting of ownership rights to occupants

of State Land for purposes of generating funds to finance Power Projects in the State" so in that reference the said Act was nick named as Roshni Act.

This Act was passed by J&K Legislative Assembly during the times of National Conference lead government which had come to power with reasonably large majority in Legislative Assembly. The government had said that as per rough estimates there were about 20 Lakh kanals of government lands under unauthorized occupation of some residents in J&K State of which a large volume (may be more than 97 to 98 percent) was in rural areas being used for agriculture/ cultivation and releasing of which may be cumbersome/ involve litigations/ socio economic complications so better such lands if not so particularly needed by government should be given to the occupants (permanent residents of J&K) on cost basis. The volume of likely fund generation was estimated around as Rs.25000 Crore (on average @ Rs.124000 per Kanal in 2001) which could be used for purposes of generating funds to finance Power Projects in the State. Keeping in view the onset of militancy in 1989 the then government had kept the cut off date for land in occupation as not after



A Look through the Mist Part-II

1989. The Act was enforced in the State w.e.f. 01-03-2002 vide SRO-94 dated 01-03- 2002, except in Ladakh and Kargil Districts.

The incorporation of Act No XII of 2001 was in principle also aimed at settling a very large number of cases (some thousands of cases) of encroached government lands which as per reports with government were estimated to be nearly more than 97 to 98 percent in rural areas & majority being used for agriculture purposes (may be some lands for a few decades before 1989). May be there were also some lands in the urban areas which also included some 'earlier' rural areas which had become urban due to change of civic environment over the years but that were very less in proportion to rural lands.

Later on during CONG/PDP Government the said Act was amended two times, 1st vide Act No. XVI of 2004 w.e.f. 21-05-2004 {the Cut Off Date was changed to the date of the commencement of the Jammu and Kashmir

State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) (Amendment) Act, 2004} and 2nd Vide Act No. III of 2007 and SRO 64 dated 5th May, 2007 The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Rules, 2007 made in terms of Section - 18 of the Act published in Government Gazette dated 5th March, 2007, after which as a policy change it was decided that all the unauthorized occupied lands being used for Agriculture/ farming purposes would be given to the occupants as Agriculture land @ Rs.0 cost per Kanal plus Rs.100 only as documentation cost per Kanal (Rule -13 IV).

In the amended Act in 2004 the then Existing clauses (a) and (b) of Section-2 'Definitions' were substituted by clauses (a), (b), {c - "Occupant" means a person who is in actual physical possession of any State land on the commencement of the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) (Amendment) Act, 2004, personally or through an authorized agent; } , (d), (e) and (f) vide Act No. XVI of 2004 w.e.f. 21-05-2004, s.2. where under even those permanent residents of J&K who had been officially

allotted/granted (under the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960 or any other law) government lands on lease (40 yrs/60yrs) by taking premium for residential purposes/ society purposes / trust purposes/ were also brought in the scope of Act for giving them ownership instead of extension of lease {Section 4-1-A -State land in possession of - (i) an authorized occupant may be converted into freehold rights by the Committee in favour of the occupant unless he opts for exercising his lease hold rights}. So treating all the beneficiaries as unlawful encroachers and taking decisions against even the 40yr/60yr residential lease holders of 1950s/1960s without giving them opportunity to express their case/ rights surely appears unfair/ unjust. In a way the case of said 40yr/60yr residential lease holders of 1950s/1960s / or earlier was like the way lands are allotted in present days in JK HB/ JDA/SDA colonies on 20 yr lease basis and have also been given ownerships/ free hold rights on payment of nominal additional cost. For instance In Channi Himmat of JKHB colony plots are allotted for residential lease of 20 years only since 1984 and it has been in 2021 that JKHB had

through a general notification published under DIP/J-4354-P/20 Dated 20-02-2021 offer to give the ownership/ free hold rights to lease holder and rights were given even to many expired residential lease where even the original 20 yr lease had not been further renewed by then after having lived for 20 years and as per information available the conversional charges taken for free hold were much less (may around Rs.15000/ Marla or less than Rs.60/ sq ft) than the lease conversions taken from residential lease holders under Roshni Scheme 2007. It is not out of place to mention here that some residential lease holders who had been served demand notes for taking ownership rights under Roshni Scheme had not made the payment protesting that the cost being demanded was more even when the Committee / revenue department had charged only from 25 to 40 percent of the assessed market price from residential occupants and that was also one of the reasons for the recoveries being less than the total demand notes of even just around Rs.300 or raised by the Revenue Department.

To be Continued
(The writer is Sr Journalist and social activist)