

Union MoS reviews dev works in Samba; listens to public grievances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Union Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries, Krishan Pal Gurjar, as a part of central government's initiative of public outreach in J&K, on Monday visited border district Samba and assessed pace of progress on development works besides listening to public grievances and aspirations as well.

Union Minister, who is on a two day visit to Samba district, visited Bagoona village where he had an exhaustive interaction with the public representatives. He also inspected functioning of Power Grid Station, SIDCO, Samba.

He was accompanied by District Development Council Chairman, Keshav Dutt Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta and other senior officers.

MoS, while highlighting central government's initiatives of taking J&K development profile to new highs, said that focus is being accorded on regular assessment and review of development works while ensuring benefit of centrally sponsored schemes to all. In this regard,



Union MoS Power, Krishan Pal Gurjar during visit to Power Grid Station, SIDCO, Samba.

high profile tour programmes of Center government's representatives are being organized for UT of J&K. "A firm collaboration between the Center and UT government is yielding tangible results on all development fronts", maintained the Union Minister while reiterating commitment of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, towards transforming the development profile of J&K through numerous revolutionary initiatives. Earlier, MoS accompanied by

Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma, visited Bagoona village and paid floral tributes to Brigadier Rajinder Singh Jamwal, MVC, amidst patriotic sloganeering. MoS inspected the construction work on Primary Health Centre building, Rahya, being executed under NABARD at an estimated cost of 2.00 crore. The PHC will cater to healthcare needs of around 4000 locals and is expected to be completed by November 2022.

He also took stock of restoration works being done on local Pond near Brigadier Rajinder Singh Memorial Park. He had an interactive session with the locals at Community Felicitation Centre.

Krishan Pal Gurjar held a detailed interaction with deputations of District Development Council members, Block Development Council members, Councilors Urban Local Bodies and local youths at DC office.

He assured the participants that all the issues and concerns projected by them will be taken up with the concerned ministries for an early redressal.

Later, Union MoS inspected newly commissioned 220/66 KV, 160 MVA grid station at IGC, Samba.

He informed that, recently, the central government has sanctioned ₹12000 crore package for J&K, 6000 crore for each division, for improving power infrastructure ensuring adequate power supply besides plugging pilferage and reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

Kavinder meets CEO Tata Power, seeks investment in J&K's power sector



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta interacting with CEO, Tata Power, Aashish Khanna.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAIGARI: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Dy. Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today met the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tata Power, Aashish Khanna at Raigarh in Maharashtra here today.

The former Dy CM invited the CEO to invest in the Power sector in Jammu and Kashmir and become a proactive partner in the transformation of this Union Territory.

The former Deputy Chief Minister along with the Tata Power CEO visited the

Valvan Dam Power Project that is being run by the Tatas.

He discussed with the Tata Power Chief Executive Officer the immense potential of power generation especially the hydroelectric power in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kavinder invited Khanna to become partner in the development of Jammu and Kashmir by investing in the power projects across this Union Territory. He discussed at length the scope of the Business Giant Tatas investing in the power sector

in J&K as a result of which it would not only transform the power landscape in this UT but would also prove to be an economic booster for this region.

Kavinder, while appreciating the grand performance of Tatas in every sector and every dying business venture becoming highly productive after the takeover, requested Khanna to consider seriously the proposal and suggestion to invest in power sector in Jammu and Kashmir thus becoming an active partner in transformation of this fragile Union Territory.

The Chief Executive Officer of Tata Power, while responding to Kavinder Gupta's invitation, assured to consider the proposal and take a decision in this regard only after conducting a meticulous analysis of the pros and cons of such investment to tap the rich hydroelectric potential of J&K not only for this UT but going beyond that in making J&K the major power supplier for the nation at large.

Chairperson NCW holds first Monitoring Committee Meeting for 12 pilot Special Cells for Women

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson, National Commission for Women (NCW), GoI, Rekha Sharma, on Monday chaired the first Monitoring Committee Meeting of 12 pilot Special Cells for Women at Banquet Hall here.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda; DG-WCD, Mir Tariq Ali; DIG, Central Kashmir Range, Sujit Kumar Singh; Director, Social & Tribal Welfare, UT of Ladakh, Kunzes Angmo; Mission Director, ICPS, Harvinder Kaur; senior prosecuting officers, representatives from Kashmir University, Central University of Kashmir and other concerned officials participated in the meeting.

The Monitoring Committee was constituted under "Violence Free Home - A Woman's Right" project. During the meeting, demonstration of 12 pilot Special Cells for Women in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh located in Srinagar, Badgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Anantnag, Baramulla and Kupwara, Jammu, Rajouri and Udhampur districts of J&K and Leh and Kargil districts in UT of Ladakh.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairperson said that through these deliberations, we should be able to expand the services to all districts of the UT of J&K. She added that in coming days we need to strengthen the visibility through active engagement in communities on gender-based violence.

During the meeting, Member Secretary of the Committee, Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, TISS and team presented the work carried out on-ground since inception.

Pertinently, the Commission in collaboration with RCI-VAW, TISS and support from UT of J&K and Ladakh Police and Department of Social Welfare will demonstrate the Special Cell for Women approach, an initiative of providing psycho-social-legal services to women survivors of violence, by placing trained social workers located in the Police system with a clear understanding that violence against women is a crime and it is the responsibility of the State to prevent and counter the same.

Some in J&K administration creating controversies to defame BJP , says Raina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina on Monday alleged that a lobby is working to defame his party as he tried to pacify angry workers protesting the re-advertising of posts under three schemes where these people were employed.

The government had on Friday re-advised 'Rehbar-e-Janglat', Rehbar-e-Zirat' and Rehbar-e-Khel' posts through the Service Selection Board and had said additional weightage and age relaxation will be given to those already working on these posts.

Hundreds of people employed under these schemes on Monday assembled outside BJP headquarters and staged a demonstration demanding revocation of the order under apprehension of end of their services.

I talked to Lt Governor (Manoj Sinha) and Chief Secretary A K Mehta on the issue and was told that there is no such order and the news is fake.

Whenever there is a talk of elections, some people in the administration deliberately come out with

such types of controversies to defame the BJP which is all set to form the government after the next assembly elections, Raina said, addressing the protesters.

He said those found responsible for such rumours should be dismissed from the service, and sought an enquiry into the matter.

There is no government order about your termination. I am saying this with full responsibility, he said.

He also referred to an order issued by the higher education department in January directing active participation of teachers and students to perform Surya Namaskar'.

This was also a deliberate attempt to create a controversy, he said.

Raina said a committee formed by the government in 2020 had made some recommendations but the final decision will be taken by the administrative council headed by Lt Governor.

It was our government which engaged you through proper channels. There are no backdoor appointments and we will not allow any injustice with you, he said.

He asked the protesters to form a delegation of at least 10 members,

and promised them he will arrange a meet between them and the Lt Governor.

Raina, who was accompanied by a strong posse of policemen, was greeted with slogans like we want justice by the angry protesters.

They said they were not satisfied with Raina's arguments and said they will continue their protest till the government issues a written clarification.

We want revocation of the order forthwith to safeguard our future. We have served our departments over the past four years and were gifted with this order at a time when we were hoping to get regularised on the completion of our probationary period, a protester said.

He said it was the previous PDP-BJP government that came out with these schemes to provide employment to over 3,000 well-qualified people, and the selection process was done in a fair manner by the concerned deputy commissioners.

Meanwhile, several opposition parties including National Conference and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) extended their support to the

protesting workers and demanded revocation of the government order.

National Conference provincial president, Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta decried the supposed move to disengage the employees.

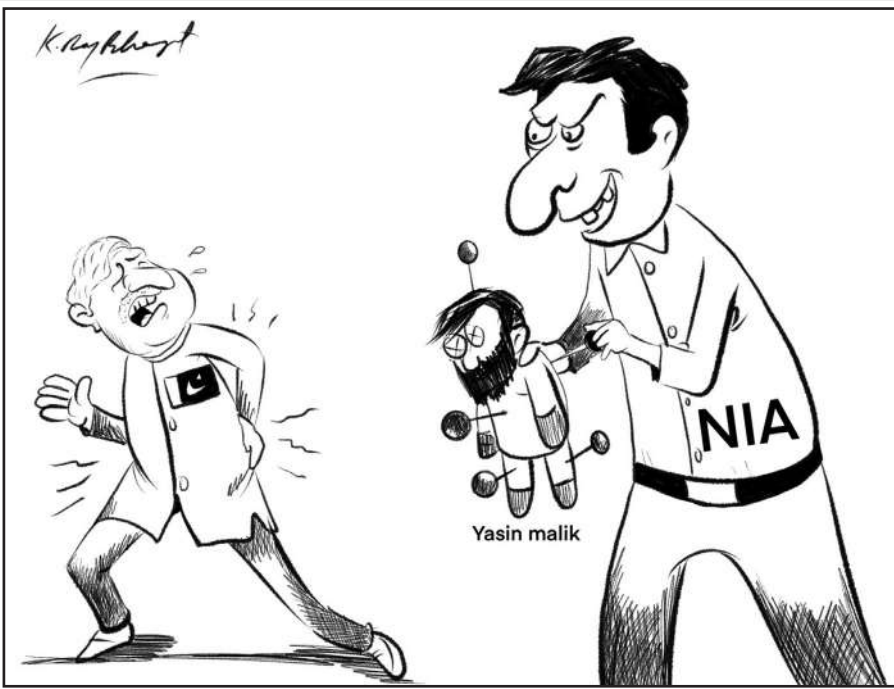
He said, The motive behind this unprincipled step is clear that the LG's administration is paving way for outsiders at the cost of local youth.

Opposing the order, senior NC Leader Ajeet Bhagat said that his party will come to streets in support of the Rehbar employees and vociferously raise its voice against this highly malicious move of the J&K UT Administration to destroy career of thousands of youth of this trouble torn region.

Former Minister and senior AAP leader Harsh Dev Singh also condemned the supposed decision, and said educated were not disposable .

This use-and-throw policy is highly unjustifiable and shall be fought tooth and nail, he said.

Lamenting that the unemployment rate in J&K had become the highest in the country, Singh urged the Lt Governor to personally intervene in the matter.



CCI urges ADRM NR to woo tourists through advertisements, information counters



President CCI Jammu, Arun Gupta and other dignitaries during a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu on Monday appealed to Northern Railways to extend help in promoting tourism in Jammu as trains and railway stations have much potential to showcase the charming beauty of the region and the places of tourist interests.

The issue was taken up during a meeting of CCI office bearers with ADRM Northern Railways Baldev Raj and former MLCs Romesh Arora and Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, when the latter visited the Chamber House Jammu to hold threadbare discussion on business and tourism prospects of the region.

The visiting guests were received by CCI office bearers headed by Chamber President Arun Gupta, who laid stress on promotion of tourism in Jammu by making use of edifice available with the Northern Railways. He urged the ADRM to extend help to people of Jammu by promoting tourism destinations of the region through hoardings, advertisements in trains and railway stations besides opening tourist information

centres at various railway stations in collaboration with the tourism department.

Arun Gupta said that Railways has much potential to boost the tourism scope in Jammu region as thousands of travelers use this mode of travelling and if things will be managed systematically, trains and Railway stations in the region and even outside the UT can bring tourism boom in Jammu region which is the need of the time. He said that business in Jammu was affected after the trains started chugging directly for Katra as was the case of Pathankot decades ago.

"This has marred the businessmen fraternity of Jammu and to cover up the losses, it is necessary that tourism should be given a boost and for this, Railways can play a bigger role", he said and added that people of Jammu have high hopes that Railways will help them to get more business through tourism promotion by adopting a prolific policy in this regard.

During meeting, former MLC Romesh Arora urged the ADRM Railways to speed up the project of revival of Old Railway Station at

Bikram Chowk in Jammu.

He said that businessmen have lots of hopes over this project as the same has the potential to woo tourists coming from outside the UT. He however insisted on taking care of traders working in the vicinity as rehabilitation of these businessmen is vital because development which causes business loss is no development at all.

Arun Gupta said that CCI has pinned high hopes from the Railways as it is anticipated that this department will bail out the ailing trade in the region through its far-sighted steps.

After giving a patient hearing, ADRM NR assured that he will take up the matter with higher authorities and will soon come up with a proposal to accommodate all the demands raised in the meeting.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General CCI, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary CCI, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer CCI, Jagdish Langer, Ashok Gupta and others.

Congress seeks regularisation policy for all categories of contractual, adhoc, daily-wagers, casual workers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Alleging that several anti-youth decisions have been taken by the UT administration post August 5, 2019 and the ruling BJP is behaving as mute spectator, JKPCCC demanded framing of time bound regularization policy for different categories of contractual, adhoc, consolidated daily wagers, casual workers, need base and other temporary employees working in different Govt. and semi Govt. institutions for years together on meagre wages.

Addressing a press conference at party HQ here, JKPCCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma Ex-MLC said that proxy govt. of BJP is totally insensitive to the plight of educated unemployed, semi employed and self employed youth, ever since Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded to UT. One after another order is issued by LG administration against the interests of the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir but the ruling BJP leaders have been in the hiding, watching helplessly the exploitation of our youth and sheer injustice with them.

Reacting Sharply to the highest ever unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that it is the result of several arbitrary decisions of the UT administration regarding the unemployed youths and temporary adhoc, contractual, daily wagers, need based workers and



JKPCCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma talking to reporters.

other wrong policies of the Centre Govt. and UT administration.

Sharma said that all decisions and orders post August 2019 have gone against the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that all posts advertised and referred to the selection agencies were recalled back putting thousands of educated candidates to lurch after three years or more in an arbitrary manner which is great injustice. Several categories of temporary and contractual employees NHM were disengaged after utilizing their services during Covid. Similarly different categories of contractual, adhoc, temporary and daily wagers are facing disengagement and uncertainty after putting in years of services and these youth were expecting their regularisation after completion of required period and length of services on temporary basis. This is total betrayal with the youth of J & K, who have rendered their services on meagre wages for years

together.

He said that there are different other categories of daily wagers, need based, contractual, adhoc, consolidated and temporary employees but are being denied the fair right of continuation, regular wages and right of regularisation after completion of required length of service. The different HODs and administrative secretaries issue their orders of choice with regard to these contractual and temporary employees. There is no uniform policy of their continuation of services and it is the sole discretion of respective bureaucrat.

The BJP Leaders taunt the daily wagers, need based, casual workers as the sin of past governments which is adding insult to them. They have rendered services for longtime on meagre wages and it is great injustice to them. The party fully supports the right of regularisation of all these youth working for all these years on meagre wages that too irregular payments after months together, only on the hope of regularisation.

Congress demanded that government should come out with a regularisation policy for all categories of such employees be they contractual, daily wagers, casual, need based or other temporary employees working by different nomenclatures. The Congress extended full support to all such categories of temporary employees.

