

## Dr Nirmal Singh, others listen to public grievances

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. Chief Minister accompanied by Rajeev Sharma, former MLA and Anuradha Charak, Vice-President, J&K BJP listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dozens of people visited the party office to discuss their woes with the senior BJP leaders. People presented various issues related to the development of their respective areas and their various other concerns.

Among others, the BAMS PG aspirants also shared their issue with former Dy. CM who after talking to the concerned assured them that their issue will be soon sorted out. 114 persons of PDC employees demanding regularization presented their issue which was taken up with the concerned authorities. Sub-Inspectors of JKAP presented their issues regarding their promotions which were taken



Former Dy. CM, Dr. Nirmal Singh listening to public issues.

up with the concerned.

Dr. Nirmal Singh listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, while addressing on the occasion said that general masses in large numbers are visiting the BJP office to present their woes. He said that the people have developed faith in the BJP leadership that the party leaders are sincerely working to sort out the issues of the public. He added that the issues presented were immediately taken up with the concerned

authorities and pressed for their prompt disposal. He added that the BJP is working with the aim of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and the party leaders will leave no stone unturned to serve the masses up to their expectations.

Speaking on the ongoing issues of youth and temporary employees, he said that their issues shall be taken up with the government on priority basis.

He said that they will request the government to consider their claims with empathy as their children and other family members should not suffer.

## Indian Cartoonists pay tributes to Santoor Maestro Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma

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JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha in association with Indiatoons, Jammu gave an emotional tribute to Santoor maestro Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma in a function organized at Kala Kendra Jammu.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, while offering his tribute to world known santoor player hailing from Jammu region, recalled his everlasting memories with him and his association with Dogri Sanstha Jammu.

He said that his demise is not only a big loss to Indian Classical Music but a huge loss to Jammu also as he had always represented this pious land all over the world through his Indian Classical Music performances as a proud Dogra.

Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President, Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was very much concerned about rich cultural heritage of Jammu and mother tongue Dogri.

Seema Anil Sehgal, an eminent singer from the soil also



Cartoonist, Chander Shekhar and others during visit to an exhibition.

paid rich tributes to Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma and refreshed her own experiences with music legend. Arvinder Singh 'Amm', Additional Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages spoke at length about the great personality of the soil and his contributions for Indian Classical music.

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary, Dogri Sanstha while paying rich tributes said that a vacuum has been created after Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma which cannot be filled up and he will remain in memories till Indian Classical music exists.

Dr. Nasib Singh Manhas,

Ex-Director Dordarshan Kendra Srinagar and Jammu also spoke on the occasion.

Other eminent personalities from literature and art also paid their rich tributes to son of the soil. The program was anchored by eminent theatre activist and vocalist Raj Kumar Behrupia.

On this occasion, a national caricature exhibition was also organized by Dogri Sanstha Jammu with the support of India Toons, Buntoons and The Art Effect as a tribute in honour of Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma which more than 50 caricatures were exhibited and artists from different regions of the country paid their hom-

## Congress demands immediate restoration of tanker supply facility in various areas

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress has expressed great concern over the failure of the administration to provide water tanker services due to non-availability of funds.

JKPCC has termed it as sheer joke that Govt is unable to meet the drinking water needs of the several areas where there is shortage of water supply.

The LG administration is failing its primary duty to meet the drinking water needs of people even in the Jammu City areas and fails to provide tanker services for want of funds.

Several areas are not getting the regular, proper and adequate supply of water but the failure to meet the shortfall is total failure of the administration.

Congress demanded immediate restoration of tanker supply in various areas.

## POWERGRID distributes hygiene kits among students of GHS Raipur Satwari



Sr. DGM(HR), Sanjay Kumar Verma distributing hygiene kits among students.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of Swachhata Pakhwada action plan, and to contribute towards Swachh Bharat Mission launched by Prime Minister, Power Grid Corporation of India limited (PGCIL) distributed hygiene kits to the students of Government Higher Secondary School Raipur, Satwari on Monday.

The Hygiene kits were distributed by Sanjay Kumar

Verma, Sr. DGM(HR) and other senior officials from POWERGRID in presence of Saroj, Incharge-Principal and teachers of the school.

The Principal of the school lauded the efforts of the POWERGRID and said that this support is of great help which shall encourage the students of the school towards maintaining personal hygiene and cleanliness in the surroundings as well.

## Sadhotra seeks rollback of re-advertising posts of ReK, ReJ, ReZ, NYC at cost of in-service employees

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Monday criticized the anti-youth policies of the BJP Government and sought immediate rollback of the decision of re-advertising the posts the Rehbar-e-Khel (physical education), Rehbar-e-Janglat (forest department), Rehbar-e-Zirat, National Youth Corps (NYC) schemes, in view of the candidates working against these slots for the past nearly five years.

"What an irony; those yearning for regularization are facing the ugly prospect of uncertain future despite having put in their best since their engagement or appointment and have overaged," Sadhotra said in a statement.

He expressed solidarity with the incumbents working

against these posts and their families, saying they cannot fall victim to the whims and fancies of the BJP Government, which has failed in evolving any policy towards youth.

While those engaged on daily rated, contractual and adhoc basis are also struggling for regularization over the years, the whopping number of educated unemployed are feeling perpetual sense of denial and despondency due to burgeoning unemployment problem, which has taken alarming proportions post pandemic times, he said.

He decried the 'use and throw' policy of the government while referring to retrenchment of various category of which worked during difficult times and served the people.

Sadhotra said thousands of youth were engaged as

Rehbar-e-Khel and Rehbar-e-Janglat, Rehbar-e-Zirat, National Youth Corps (NYC) in pursuance of a cabinet decision and such arrangements cannot be dispensed with at will.

The BJP Government must show some sort of sensitivity while dealing with such sensitive issues which directly relate to the future of the youth. He hoped that the whimsical and anti-youth attitude of the BJP Government will be taken over by sagacious approach.

Ajay Sadhotra said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are passing through most difficult time, not only with regard to unemployment but uncertainty about their exclusive claim on jobs as permanent residents on whatever little avenues are available here.

He asked the government to come up with a pragmatic

mechanism to address these important matters in tandem with the sentiments and aspirations of the youth of J&K, who are genuinely feeling a sense of denial, deprivation and politico-economic disempowerment.

The governments, both at the Centre and here are not walking the talk, which has created a situation for the youth, who are at the receiving end.

Sadhotra also appealed to the Government to address the issues of educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled workforce in general and Rehbar-e-Janglat, Rehbar-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Zirat and National Youth Corps (NYC) in particular.

They deserve immediate governmental attention, as they feel pushed to the wall and are forced to hit streets in support of their demands, he added.

## DB upholds quashment of premature retirement of Incharge AEE

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir Srinagar wing comprising Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Puneet Gupta upheld the judgment of Writ Court whereby, the premature retirement of Aijaz Ahmad Kirmani, then I/c Assistant Executive Engineer was quashed. While dismissing LPA filed by the State, DB observed that striking aspect herein is that respondent stands acquitted of charges leveled against him in criminal case, he was allegedly involved in. Though that is an event post compulsory retirement of the respondent, but foundation of the case had been removed prior to the compulsory retirement of respondent when the complaint in his deposition before the Court of competent jurisdiction had stated that accused did not demand money from him and had himself put Rs 5,000 in his shirt's pocket, and when accused had asked him what was it, he got nervous and fled from there. On this deposition before the Court, the complainant had been declared hostile by prosecution itself. It was obviously an important factor which ought to have been taken note of by Committee/Government, but that has not been. This is borne out by judgment dated December 13, 2013 delivered by the Court of Special Judge, Anti-corruption, Srinagar, in FIR no. 28/2007, a copy whereof has been placed on record of the writ petition. In such situation, there was no material or reason for Committee to suspect integrity of the respondent or to categorise him as a person of dubious integrity. "Writ Court holds that respondent could not have been prematurely retired solely by reason of the fact of registration of FIR against him. Resultantly, we do not find any irregularity or illegality committed by the learned Single Judge in passing the impugned judgment," the DB observed.

## Shrine Board staff pays homage to Head Priest Amir Chand



CEO SMVDSB, Anshul Garg and others paying tributes to Amir Chand, Head Priest.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The officers and staff of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board condoled the demise of Amir Chand, Head Priest at the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine who passed away at his home at Katra due to cardiac arrest on Saturday and cremation was held on the same day at Banganga.

In this connection, a condolence meeting was held at the Spiritual Growth Centre,

Katra on Monday, in which Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; other officers and staff of the Shrine Board participated. A two-minute silence was observed to

pay homage to the departed soul. Pertinent to mention that Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has already expressed grief over the priest's death and extended his condolences to the bereaved family and followers. Late Amir Chand, Head Priest belonged to the family of Pandit Shridhar, who is believed to have discovered the three-peaked cave shrine in Trikuta Hills several centuries ago. He was a renowned priest for devotees visiting the Shrine from various parts of the country and abroad.

## ACB nabs Junior Asstt red-handed while accepting bribe

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau have nabbed one Bashir Ahmad, Junior Assistant, working in Social Welfare Department, Sopore while receiving bribe to release financial assistance in favour of a handicapped person.

As per an official statement, the ACB received a complaint alleging therein that Bashir Ahmad working as clerk in tehsil social welfare office, Sopore is demanding bribe from complainant for release of financial assistance. The complainant alleged that he is a resident of Adipora, Sopore and his wife is a disabled person. She was getting financial assistance from Social Welfare Department. "The financial assistance was stopped a few years back. He contacted Tehsil social welfare office Sopore. He was informed to get a fresh medical certificate of his wife. On this complainant submitted the fresh medical certificate. In spite of submitting requisite documents the financial assistance was not restored by the concerned officials. He constantly kept on visiting Tehsil Social Welfare office for the restoration of financial assistance. Thereafter Bashir Ahmad, Junior Asstt demanded bribe of Rs 5000 for processing his case," he alleged. "On receiving complaint, ACB prima facie found commission of offence punishable under section 7 of PC Act 1988 by accused public servant. Accordingly FIR No. 16/2022 was registered in Police Station Anti-Corruption Bureau Baramulla. A trap team was also constituted which caught the accused official red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant. He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. Searches were also conducted in the residence of the accused," said official, adding that accused was already under facing trial in case FIR No. 22/2004, which pertains to 'Misappropriation of Govt. funds for disbursement among beneficiaries under National old age pension' scheme.

## Court awards one & half year imprisonment in theft case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Excise Mobile Magistrate Jammu, Umesh Sharma awarded simple imprisonment for a period of one year and six months to one Mohan Lal, son of Late Mela Ram, resident of Barnota, Tehsil RS Pura, District Jammu in a theft case registered under section 379 of IPC at Police Station, Gandhi Nagar vide FIR No 195/2021.

Special Excise Mobile Magistrate Jammu, Umesh Sharma after hearing Advocate Mayank Gupta, for the convict and Yogesh Bamba, AJP for UT, observed that while sentencing a convict in a crime, like the one in present case under section 379 of IPC, appropriate punishment proportionate to crime committed must be awarded. The rights of victim/complainant, the offender/convict and the society at large are also required to be simultaneously considered and balanced. "Court is conscious of the fact that accused is an under-trial prisoner and involved in many FIRs but at the same time, the Court cannot close its eyes towards fact that convict has confessed crime in present case. Keeping in view overall circumstances, convict Mohan Lal, son of Late Mela Ram, resident of Barnota, Tehsil R S Pura is sentenced to simple imprisonment for a period of one year and six months," the Court directed, adding that as convict was arrested in on July 6, 2021 and has not been admitted to bail till date, the period of detention already undergone by him will be considered as a term of imprisonment and he shall be liable to undergo imprisonment for remainder period only.

## DB expresses displeasure over malfunctioning of Sonamarg Development Authority

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir Srinagar Wing comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, expressed displeasure over malfunctioning of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA).

DB observed that if authorities like Sonamarg Development Authority are not in a position to take any development work, the Court will recommend the Government for winding-up the same as there is no use to keep white elephants only for siphoning of public money which is provided to them either by UT administration or by Union of India.

When PIL came-up for hearing, the Division Bench headed

by Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal observed that in furtherance of last order dated October 20, 2021 passed by this Court, Chashoo AAG has submitted a compliance report on behalf of Commissioner Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. In the report, it has been stated that demarcation work on Sindh Nallah (river) in collaboration with the I&FC Department has been completed and as per demarcation about 258 Kanals and 12.75 Marlas of land of Sindh River is under encroachment and in possession of unauthorised occupants.

DB, after going through the report, observed that department is taking effective steps for retrieving aforesaid land but what steps are proposed to be

taken or have been taken, had not been indicated. DB further observed that the manner in which demarcation has been done and whether any boundary pillars have been erected or not, has also not been disclosed. In absence of such information, it is not worth believing that demarcation process has been completed or that effective steps are being taken to retrieve the encroached land. DB directed AAG appearing for the Government departments is directed to file a better affidavit in respect of aforementioned aspects. DB also asked Amicus Curiae, may go through reports and file objections/suggestions in response thereof.

DB further directed Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority is

directed to come out with a white paper on development work so far done by the Authority and the action plan they have drawn for future development and also directed him to file his personal affidavit in this regard on or before next date of hearing.

The Advocate General D C Raina was requested to ensure compliance of the directions contained in order dated August 11, 2021 with regard to convening of meeting with the officers and to submit a report thereon, after which the Advocate General requested for grant of time.

The DB allowed the request of Advocate General and granted a month's further time to convene meeting and to submit report thereof.