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Admin Secys, DCs...

The General Administration Department (GAD) today directed administrative secretaries to furnish the details of public interactions/grievances redressed by them on weekly basis to it on every Friday for appraisal of the Lieutenant Governor.

"It has been desired that all administrative secretaries shall furnish details of action taken in this regard on weekly basis to the general administration department for appraisal of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor's secretariat," read the GAD circular. In another similar move, the deputy commissioners have been asked to submit weekly reports to the government about meeting general public/delegations for redressal of their grievances.

They have also been directed to remain available in their offices between 02:30 to 03:30 p.m. every day except on tour days for meeting general public/delegations for redressal of their grievances.

NIFT Srinagar campus...

besides, Director-General NIFT, MD SIDCO, and concerned officers participated in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed presentation on the NIFT Srinagar campus and course curriculum was made by the Director NIFT Srinagar.

It was informed that the campus of NIFT Srinagar with state-of-art facilities including labs, resource center, design studio, incubator, amphitheatre, and hostels at Ompora Budgam will be completed by May, 2022. Currently, the Institute is running two courses from temporary accommodation at SIDCO Industrial Complex Rangeeth.

The NIFT campus is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 325.36 crore on an expanse of 16.6 acres of land will be the biggest among the 17 such campuses in the country. Once completed, NIFT will resume functioning at full capacity with 7 dedicated departments and will enroll approximately 700 students, giving 35% reservation to the students having domicile in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

It was further informed that the construction works are nearing completion and the academic block, administrative block, auditorium, hostel building, incubation centre, and canteen block will be handed over in October 2021; whereas the rest of the infrastructure will be handed over by May 2022.

Emphasizing the need for better designs and proper branding for sustained growth of local products, the Chief Secretary asked the National Institute of Fashion Technology to take up purposeful engagement with the local artisans and self-help groups and train them in accordance with current market requirements in consultation with the Industries & Commerce Department.

Dr. Mehta urged the National Institute to establish a 'Centre of Excellence' for taking up J&K-specific projects for the revival of J&K's traditional products including Namdhara, Pashmina, Papermachie, tila, silk, and woodcraft.

Director-General NIFT mentioned that NIFT will be forming a team of faculty and experts from other Campuses to work on design intervention in crafts of J&K. He maintained that NIFT will also work towards training the artisans, weavers, and self-help groups in line with the Chief Secretary's advice.

Ensure quality disposal...

out eligible beneficiaries in PMAY-Urban Scheme, the Lt Governor issued directions to Divisional Commissioner Jammu and DC Kathua to address the matter on priority basis by holding a special camp within a week.

Giving details on the grievance put forth by Mudasir Katoch from Ramban, regarding low voltage and power cuts in Village Parnot-B, Deputy Commissioner Ramban informed the chair that the work for upgradation of the transformer has been incorporated after Back to Village 3 programme, and the issue will be resolved soon.

The Lt Governor directed the DC to ensure that there are no illegal power connections in the said village which could be one of the reasons for overload and low voltage.

While enquiring about the action taken report on the grievances put forth in the previous LG's Mulaqaat, the Lt Governor was apprised of the same by the respective DCs.

The Lt Governor also expressed satisfaction on the high rate of disposal of District-wise and department-wise grievances.

Pertinently, revamping the grievance redressal mechanism of JKIGRAMS and making the governance system truly accountable, responsive, and vibrant, the UT Government had started the unique initiative of LG's Mulaqaat in March this year, which provides feedback directly from the applicants on the resolution of public grievances and also gives them a platform to project their issues and concerns to the Lt Governor.

Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary Public Grievances gave a detailed overview of the overall functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS).

She also briefed the Lt Governor about the progress on disposal of grievances from March 2021 to August 2021.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, DCs, SPs, and other senior officers of the various government departments and agencies remained present throughout the interaction, in person, and through virtual mode.

Teenage Pak terrorist...

He also said the behaviour of the officers and jawans of the Indian Army with the locals who visit the camp where he was lodged was extremely good.

"I can hear the azaan (call for prayers) on the loudspeakers five times a day. The behaviour of the Indian Army is completely opposite to that of the Pakistan Army. This makes me feel that there is peace in Kashmir," Patra said.

"On the contrary, they take advantage of our helplessness in Pakistani Kashmir to send us here," he added.

Giving details of his initiation into terror ranks, Patra said he lost his father seven years ago and had to drop out of school due to financial constraints.

"I took a job in a garment factory in Sialkot where I met Anas who used to recruit people for the LeT. Due to my situation, I went with him. He paid me Rs 20,000, and promised to pay another Rs 30,000 later on," he added.

Patra also shared the details of the weapons training he underwent with the Pakistan Army and the ISI at Camp Khyber Delihabibullah.

Union MoS Home...

to time have percolated down to the people at grass root level. He said, "Development has given its deep roots and no power on earth can stop the prosperity of the region".

He said the Government headed by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has broader vision for development in Jammu and Kashmir and is committed to build a New Kashmir. He said people of Kashmir have whole heartedly supported prevalence of peace in the region. He urged upon the youth and all stakeholders to take advantage of new initiatives of development.

The Minister asked the people present on the occasion to be brave enough to inform him about clear picture of development taking place in their areas, adding that the sole aim of Union Government's public outreach programme is to assess the development at grass root level.

Expressing satisfaction over the positive approach and interest of youth in education, Shri Rai said that 13 youth from J&K including 9 from Valley have qualified the prestigious UPSC exam and urged upon the youth to take keen interest in education and development of their personalities.

While interacting with people associated with handicrafts and other stall vendors, the Minister stressed upon the need for enhancement of marketing avenues in addition to production, adding that the whole of India is a market place for products of Kashmiri origin.

On the occasion, the Minister distributed certificates of appreciation, Golden/E-Shram Cards, sanction letters for dairy units and walnut processing unit under One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

Chairman District Development Council Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpuri, Vice Chairman DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam ud Din, DDC Member Rajwar, Mir Suliman also spoke at the occasion.

Late in the afternoon, the Minister in a meeting with security agencies reviewed the security scenario of the area. High level officers of Army, BSF, CRPF, Police and Intelligence Agencies besides Deputy Commissioner Kupwara attended the meeting.

Fresh crisis in...

after Amarinder Singh was removed as chief minister and its chief Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned from his post ahead of the crucial assembly elections in the state early next year. Factionalism in Punjab Congress has come to the fore over recent appointments of the new cabinet and other top officials.

The Congress has seen a spate of defections recently with Faleiro and its former MPs Abhijeet Mukherjee, son of former President Pranab Mukherjee, and Sushmita Dev defecting to the TMC. A senior Congress leader from Kerala V M Sudheeran has also quit from all the AICC positions.

Some senior leaders from the party including Jyoti Raditya Scindia and Jitin

Prasada have left the party and joined the BJP and are now both ministers in the BJP's central and UP governments.

The internal feud within the party came to the fore again with Azad and Sibal demanded convening of a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), its highest policy making body, to discuss the party affairs.

Azad wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi on the current state of affairs where the party is facing crisis in some states with a number of its senior leaders quitting.

Amid the turmoil in Congress in states like Punjab and defections, Sibal demanded holding elections to the post of the Congress president, the CWC and the central election committee.

Expressing anguish over the developments in the party, he said all such issues need to be discussed at a party platform.

"In our party at the moment there is no president. So we don't know who is taking these decisions. We know and yet we don't know," Sibal said.

"One of my senior colleagues has written to the Congress president to immediately convene a CWC. So that at least some things that we can't speak publicly, we can have a dialogue in the CWC as to why we are in this state," he added.

Attacking the party leadership, Sibal said there is no monopoly in the power structure of any country or political party and quoted Mahatma Gandhi to say that no school of thought can claim a monopoly of right judgment and we are all liable to err and are often obliged to revise our judgements.

"So, listen to our point of view. If you don't accept it, fine, but at least listen. We respect your point of view, but have the space to respect ours. Allow us that dialogue. There are no monopolies. No monopolies should be created in the power structures of any country or a party," Sibal said.

He said it is ironic that those who were considered their closest aides have left them and those who they thought were not close to them are still with them.

Congress general secretary Ajay Maken hit back at Sibal, saying such leaders should not denigrate the organisation and its leadership that gave them political identity.

Congress workers from Chandni Chowk, the constituency in Delhi that Sibal represented in Lok Sabha in the past, also protested outside his residence holding placards with "Get well soon" message. They also raised slogans against Sibal alleging that he never bothered to ask about the people who voted for him.

"My appeal to Mr Sibal and others like him is that they should not denigrate the organisation which has given them political identity by rushing to the media every then and now," Maken told PTI.

"Such remarks by leaders like Sibal, who have got everything from the organisation and the leadership, demoralise the party cadres and ordinary workers who continue to stand with the Congress ideology and are fighting the fundamental and fascist forces on the streets," he said.

After joining the TMC, Faleiro said in Kolkata, "I am a Congressman. I have same ideology and principles. Today when I am joining the TMC, my dream is to bring together this Congress family. I should try to ensure that the Congress family is again united. My main aim is to defeat the BJP."

Ahbijit Banerjee has also hit out at the party leadership saying, "There is a lot of difference in the working style of Congress then under Sonia Gandhi Ji and now".

"These days, with three power centres at 24 Akbar Road, it's difficult to identify the original pillar and in the melee, genuine workers are sidelined," he said.

He also said that "it is high time, the Congress should introspect why they are becoming or had already become "0" in most of the States. May be that may help."

Breaking his silence a day after abruptly resigning as the chief of the party unit in Punjab, Sidhu raised questions over the appointments of the director general of police, advocate general and "tainted" leaders.

Sidhu said he was ready to make any sacrifice but would always stand by his principles, after his resignation plunged the Congress into a fresh crisis.

IG of BSF...

different fields. He received his promotion order on Tuesday, the spokesman said. He said the officer joined the BSF in 1984 as Assistant commandant (direct entry) and served in eastern and western frontiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) such as Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Cachar, Jammu and Kashmir, North Bengal and BSF Academy Takanpur.

He also served in the NSG on deputation in 1995 to 1998, the spokesman said, adding he has been a research fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) Delhi.

The spokesman said Jamwal is also qualified for a course on Terrorist Assistance Programme at Washington, USA and International Border Security and Management briefing programme at International Defence Trg, in UK.

A recipient of the President's Police Medal for meritorious service in 2006 and the President's Police Medal for distinguished service in 2016, Jamwal has been conferred with 'Ati Utshirsh Seva Padak', Secretary commendation Roll and many Director's General Commendation Rolls and appreciations.

He said Jamwal commanded a very challenging frontier of Jammu for more than two years now and the frontier has achieved tremendous success operationally under his command. "The International Border has been kept well-guarded and the nefarious activities of adversaries were repulsed vehemently. He was instrumental in robust border management on the Jammu border," he said.

36 Tehsildars transferred...

District Kupwara; Saqib Saleem, Tehsildar Majalta as Tehsildar Chanpora, District Srinagar; Uttam Singh Palsar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted as Tehsildar Majalta, District Udhampur.

Intiyaz Amin Naik, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Larnoo has been transferred and posted as Tehsildar Recovery, District Srinagar. Sheikh Ansar Hussain, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Larnoo, District Anantnag; Saqib Murtaza, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Pattan, District Baramulla. He shall also hold additional charge of Tehsil Singhpora.

Om Prakash, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Rajpora, has been transferred and posted as Tehsildar Machail, District Kishnwar; Subash Chander, Tehsildar, Lohia Malhar, as Tehsildar Rajpora, District Samba; Anil Kumar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Lohia Malhar; Romesh Singh, Tehsildar Mahanpur, as HQA in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur; Arti, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar HQA in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur has been transferred and shall await further posting in the office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K, Jammu.

Radhika Sohan, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted as Tehsildar Mahanpur; District Kathua; Lekh Raj, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar, Arnas as Tehsildar Kastigarh, District Doda; Azhar Majid, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Arnas, District Reasi; Naser Javidi, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Ukhral, District Ramtan; Rouf Ahmad Lone, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Chilli Pingal, District Doda; Syed Muiz Qadri, JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Kokernag, District Anantnag; Mhd. Tahir, JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Harmain, District Shopian; Shakil Ahmed, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Keegam, District Shopian; Khalid Zaffar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Doon, District Anantnag; Shakeel Ahmed, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Awantipora, District Pulwama; Amir Suhal, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Aripal, District Pulwama; Mohd Iqbal Zargar, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Yaripora, District Kullgam; Umar Farooq, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Wakura, District Ganderbal; Amandeep Singh, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, as Tehsildar Khoi, District Baramulla; Umar Bashir, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, is posted as Tehsildar Keran, District Kupwara; Anamul Maqbool, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, is posted as Tehsildar Sogam, District Kupwara; Malik Aasif Ahmad, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, is posted as Tehsildar Dangerpura, District Baramulla; Sayed Mazhar Ali Jafri, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted as Tehsildar Khag, District Budgam.

100 new COVID...

recorded a maximum of 49 fresh COVID-19 cases, followed by Baramulla district which registered nine infections. Jammu and Kashmir has 1,388 active cases of the novel coronavirus, while the number of recoveries has reached 3,23,510, the officials said. The death toll from the pandemic stands at 4,422 in the UT.

The mucormycosis (black fungus) infection tally remained unchanged at 46 in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported.

Amid speculation over...

After the Singh-Shah meeting, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that Amit Shah's residence has become the centre of anti-Dalit politics.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, he said, "the arrogance of the those sitting in power has been hurt. Because if a Dalit is made the Chief Minister, then they ask who is making the decisions in the Congress."

"The centre of anti-Dalit politics is nowhere else but Amit Shah's residence," he alleged.

He also alleged that "Amit Shahji and Modiji are burning in the fire of vengeance...They want to take revenge on Punjab as they have so far failed to serve the interests of their capitalist friends with the black anti-farmer laws. BJP's anti-farmer conspiracy will not succeed #NoFarmersNoFood."

Singh's meeting with Shah has added another dimension in politics in Punjab where no party is being seen as a clear favourite in the polls, expected to be held early next year.

Amid speculation that the former chief minister may join hands with the BJP, a senior BJP leader said such a possibility cannot be ruled out.

A lot will depend on whether the Centre makes a climbdown on the contentious farm laws, other sources said.

If the Modi government works to resolve the farmers' issue then it will smoothen Singh's path to either join the BJP or support it, they said.

With the farmers' protests also seen to be affecting the BJP's prospects in western UP, the Modi government may intensify efforts to end the stir. Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are among the five states going to the assembly polls early next year.

Sources close to Singh said the former chief minister is learnt to have also discussed the internal security situation in Punjab with Shah.

Singh has been claiming that instability in Punjab may give Pakistan a handle to create disturbance in the border state.

He has also accused Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu of being "close to (Pakistani Prime Minister) Imran Khan" and alleged that he is "dangerous" for the border state.

Singh arrived in the national capital on Tuesday.

There are reports that Amarinder may call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but there is no official confirmation.

According to the sources, the veteran Congress leader may also meet some of the 'Group of 23' leaders, including Kapil Sibal and Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Singh's meeting with Shah assumes significance as the Congress leader has not divulged his future plans but had asserted that he has not quit politics and would fight