

Itoo reviews progress on formulation of MRRs

Model Recruitment Rules for GMCs to be notified by September 30th

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 21

The Model Recruitment Rules (MRRs) for Non-Gazetted cadre in all GMCs of Jammu and Kashmir will be notified by the 30th September, 2026.

This decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today at Civil Secretariat here in the backdrop of protests by employees of newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Jammu and Kashmir regarding non-availability of recruitment rules.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary ARI and Trainings, Shabnam Kamili; Special Secretary, ARI, Narinder Khajuria; Director Health, Riyaz Ahmad; Additional Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Anil Kumar; Deputy Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Murtaza Rashid, as well as representatives of the protesting employees from GMCs of Anantnag and Baramulla.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the proposed recruitment framework aimed at ensuring a transparent, uniform and streamlined mechanism for filling various Non-Gazetted positions required for the effective functioning of the newly es-



tablished medical colleges and their associated institutions.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister emphasised that the recruitment rules should be comprehensive, practical and aligned with the functional requirements of the newly established GMCs. She called for close coordination among the concerned departments and directed that the exercise be completed within a stipulated timeframe so that the recruitment process for the required Non-Gazetted manpower can be taken forward without unnecessary delay.

The Minister directed the ARI Trainings and health department to notify the recruitment rules by 30th September to ensure career progression of employees working in these prestigious medical institutions.

She stressed the need to maintain uniformity across institutions while ensuring

that the rules adequately address the specific manpower requirements of different departments and services.

Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to undertake a thorough examination of the existing recruitment rules and relevant provisions before finalising the Model Recruitment Rules. She called for incorporating clear provisions regarding eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, recruitment methodology, promotional avenues and other service-related matters.

The Minister underscored that a well-defined recruitment framework is essential for strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring availability of adequate human resources in the newly established medical colleges. She called for expediting the process while maintaining due diligence and adherence to prescribed procedures.

“Recruitment rules must be clear, transparent and responsive to the actual requirements of our institutions. The newly established GMCs need a robust human-resource framework so that they can function efficiently and deliver quality services to students and patients,” the Minister said.

She further directed the officers to examine all aspects comprehensively and prepare the draft rules in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, ensuring that there is no ambiguity or scope for procedural delays at the implementation stage.

Later, the Minister also requested the protesting employees of all GMCs to immediately call off the strike, as they are the pillar of strength of the healthcare care system of Jammu and Kashmir. She assured them that their other concerning issues will also be redressed on priority.

Grand Sanskrit Shobha Yatra, Anti-Drug Rally Held in Vijaypur to build a drug-free society

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JAMMU, AUG 21

On the occasion of Sanskrit Month, a grand Sanskrit Shobha Yatra and Anti-Drug Rally was organized on Friday by MV International School, Vijaypur, in collaboration with Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, with the objectives of preserving and promoting Sanskrit, spreading awareness about Indian culture, and strengthening the resolve to build a drug-free society.

The rally commenced from near J&K Bank in Vijaypur Market and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, parents, representatives of social and religious organizations, and prominent citizens. Carrying placards and banners bearing messages on Sanskrit, Indian culture, and the harmful effects of drug abuse, the students spread awareness among the public. The rally passed through various areas of Vijaypur and proceeded towards the railway station.

The chief guest, SSP Samba Anuj Kumar, said that drug abuse is a serious



challenge facing society and that it can be tackled not merely through police action, but through the collective efforts of families, schools, society, and religious institutions. He said that young people can be kept away from drugs by channeling their energy into education, sports, good values, and constructive activities.

He urged parents to strengthen communication with their children and appealed to students to stay away from drugs themselves and encourage others to do the same. Speaking about the importance of Sanskrit, he said that Sanskrit is a cornerstone of India's rich cultural, spiritual,

and intellectual heritage. He emphasized that young people should remain connected to their culture and heritage alongside receiving modern education.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, described Sanskrit as the carrier of India's ancient knowledge tradition and cultural heritage. He said that along with preserving Sanskrit, it is equally important to focus on inculcating values and building character among the youth. He described the Sanskrit Shobha Yatra and Anti-Drug Rally as an inspiring confluence of social and cultural awareness.

Gaurav Abrol, School Manager, said that the ob-

jective of the school is not only to educate students but also to develop them into responsible, well-mannered, and socially aware citizens. He expressed gratitude to all the students, teachers, parents, the Trust, social and religious organizations, and the administration and police department for their support in making the event a success.

On the occasion, former DDC Shilpa Dubey, SP Samba G.R. Bhardwaj, DSP Dr. Sumit Sharma, former Councillor Ravi Kumar, Amit Jamwal, Honey Singh, Aman Sharma, Sanjeev Gupta, and several other prominent citizens were present.

JMC ex-corporators meet Bhalla, highlight bunglings in developments

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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A delegation of all party former corporators of Jammu Municipal Corporation met the former minister and Working President JKPC Raman Bhalla and Chief Spokesperson Mr. Ravinder Sharma and highlighted the bungling and pick & choose in the development works in Jammu city due to an alleged nexus of politicians and contractors, ignoring the ground realities and flood damaged infrastructure areas and flood affected people.

The ex-corporators had held a strong protest demonstration too, on this issue and brought the mat-

ter to the notice of higher authorities of Municipal Corporation and the administration and demanded an enquiry and for following the necessary guidelines while framing plans of development.

The group of ex-corporators brought the gross irregularities and bunglings in the selection of development works on political considerations, ignoring the sufferings of residents in different localities who are facing great hardships due to damages caused during last year's floods and neglect of required developments. The delegation highlighted the sufferings of individuals who suffered huge, but have not received the meager relief being provided to them for

huge damage to their properties.

They explained that the funds under SANSI scheme are being misused and allocated to the works at the behest of political - contractor nexus, whereas as per guidelines the funds are meant for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in the city. There is no voice of common people in the absence of elected corporators and funds are being spent on the instructions of MLAs only, who are ignoring certain most genuine and deserving areas, for political considerations.

They said the repairs and reconstruction of damaged nallahs, protections, roads, lanes drains and the priority of the political representa-

tives, which is very unfortunate and matter of great concern. They said only one sided development system is against the sufferings of common man and demanded a people centric approach for development, otherwise they would intensify the protests to awaken the common people of Jammu city.

Shri Bhalla also expressed great concern over the prevailing system of lopsided development and assured to highlight the genuine issues in the larger interests of common people of city.

He urged the government and authorities concerned to give priority to the most affected areas of flood damages and undeveloped localities.

Omar Govt committed to protect interest, welfare of working classes: Gupta

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta Friday said that the Omar Abdullah-led government, in keeping with the party's pro-poor and pro-worker legacy, is committed to protecting the interests and welfare of employees and workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors.

Gupta made these remarks while interacting with the delegation led by Thakur Nar Singh, President of the State Central Labour Union, accompanied by Senior Vice President Labour Wing Karan Singh, Provincial Secretary Labour Union Deep Mehra and other office-bearers of the union at the party's Provincial Headquarters, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The delegation apprised him of various issues confronting the working class and sought the party's intervention for their redressal.

“The Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to fulfilling the promises made to the people during its five-year mandate. The welfare of employees and workers remains a priority, and the government is working towards providing greater social security, dig-



nity and economic protection to the working class,” Gupta said.

Highlighting the measures undertaken by the government, Gupta said a phased and structured roadmap is being pursued for the regularisation of over one lakh casual, seasonal and daily-rated workers across various departments. He said a dedicated committee headed by the Chief Secretary has been constituted to examine the legal, humanitarian and financial aspects of regularisation.

“The government has taken important steps to strengthen the social security and welfare framework for contractual workers. Women employees working under various schemes have been provided 180 days of maternity leave, while efforts are being made to ensure enhanced

and timely honorariums for ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and vocational instructors,” he said.

Gupta also highlighted the government's efforts to fill 30,000 existing vacancies transparently in coordination with the Public Service Commission and Service Selection Board, saying that employment generation and strengthening the workforce remain key priorities.

He, however, maintained that much more needs to be done to ensure that workers and employees receive the full benefits of the National Conference's pro-labour and pro-poor policies.

“Issues such as implementation of minimum wages, service conditions in public undertakings, regularisation of daily wagers, revival of closed public sector undertakings including J&K Cements, enhance-

ment of medical allowance from ₹300 to ₹1,000, revival of labour welfare units and strengthening of labour benefit schemes require sustained attention.

We are pursuing these issues and will continue knocking on the doors of the Centre and all concerned authorities for their redressal,” Gupta said. Gupta assured the delegation that the party would continue to raise the genuine concerns of the working class at every appropriate forum and work towards securing their rights, welfare and dignity.

Among others who were present included Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President YNC Jammu, Geeta Ji and others.

DC Budgam takes stock of arrangements for annual Hawan at Shiv Mandir Dainag

BUDGAM, AUGUST 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited Shiv Mandir Dainag in Budgam to take stock of arrangements for the observance of the annual Hawan programme.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the facilities being put in place for devotees and reviewed arrangements to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the religious programme.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with members of the local Kashmiri Pandit community, devotees and local residents, and enquired about the facilities and arrangements at the religious site. He directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted essential services, including electricity and potable water supply, for



the convenience of devotees.

He appreciated the efforts of the local community in making refreshment arrangements and extending support and hospitality to visiting devotees. Mem-

bers of the Kashmiri Pandit community also lauded the initiative and appreciated the cooperation and support extended by the local community during the religious programme.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner assured the devotees and organisers of all necessary support from the District Administration for the smooth, seamless and peaceful observance of the annual Hawan and other religious functions.

Handicrafts Deptt urges artisans to enroll kin in Craft MBA course at CDI

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, has urged the artisans and weavers to encourage their wards to apply for admission in two-year MBA course in the Craft Management & Entrepreneurship Programme at Craft Development Institute (CDI), Srinagar, affiliated with the University of Kashmir.

The Department stated that the specialised post-graduate programme aims to create a new generation of professionally trained craft entrepreneurs capable of taking Kashmir's world-famous handicrafts and handloom traditions to the national and international markets. The course integrates craft, design, technology, manage-

ment and entrepreneurship, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the craft economy and its emerging opportunities.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department stated that the programme would provide a strong edifice for craft entrepreneurship and enterprise development in Jammu & Kashmir. “We particularly urge the children and wards of artisans and weavers to avail this programme.

Our traditional crafts possess enormous economic and export potential and a professionally trained young generation can play a decisive role in converting this heritage into sustainable enterprises, creating employment opportunities and

globally competitive brands,” the spokesman added.

The spokesman further stated that the Government shall reimburse the tuition fee of the two-year PG course as per the prescribed eligibility criteria. “Interested artisans and weavers shall have to produce an Income Certificate issued by the concerned competent authority to establish eligibility for reimbursement of the tuition fee,” he stated.

Highlighting CDI's contribution to the handicrafts sector, the spokesman said the Institute has played a pivotal role in promoting professionalism, innovation and entrepreneurship, with its alumni venturing into businesses related to the traditional crafts of Kashmir. The Institute's integrated approach to de-

sign, technology and management equips students with skills in product development, branding, marketing and enterprise management.

The spokesman further stated that the Department is working towards creating a 'startup launch pad' for students successfully completing the MBA programme, enabling them to convert their professional knowledge into viable craft enterprises and employment opportunities.

The Department has urged eligible candidates and wards of artisans and weavers to avail this opportunity and apply within the prescribed admission schedule, reiterating its commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods in the handicrafts and handl