

8 years on, students in Polytechnic College IUST yet to get permanent campus

SRINAGAR: The authorities in Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) are yet to provide permanent accommodation to the students enrolled in its polytechnic college.

The university is running the polytechnic college from past eight years, but the students still take their classes in barks instead of properly designed classrooms.

An official said the enrollment of students pursuing diploma courses in the polytechnic college is around 500.

"But the college lacks all the basic facilities required for the students," an official said. He said the intake capacity of seats for diploma engineering programme is around 60 students per branch.

As of now the students of almost three batches are pursuing the said programmes.

"But these students are not provided the facilities which are given to other students in the university," they said.

The students said the University administration has constructed around a dozen tin sheds which are used as lecture halls for diploma students.

"Till date the classes for diploma candidates are being taken in steel sheds. We are facing inconvenience in summers as well as in winters," a group of aggrieved students said.

"We approached University administration with our request to shift us to a building but nothing happened till date," they said. The students enrolled in polytechnic college IUST accused the university administration of giving step motherly treatment to them.

"Few years ago two new academic blocks were made functional but we are attending our classes in steel sheds," they said.

The students said the university administration in past years claimed to construct academic blocks for students and polytechnic students will be shifted to permanent buildings on priority.

"But it was mere an eye wash for. Few academic blocks were made functional but we were not preferred to be shifted there," the students said. An official in university said the work on permanent building for polytechnic students has been completed by more than 80 percent. "It will not take much time to complete the left out work and will be made functional very soon," the official said. (KNO)

Recruitment In Govt Depts Badly Hit As Decision On Domicile Rights Nowhere In-Sight



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: As the Central government continues to keep suspense on the domicile rights of non-J&K UT residents, the recruitment process of J&K government has been badly hit as most of the departments are not advertising the posts, adding more to the rising number of unemployed youth in the five-month old UT.

According to the wire service—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the number of unemployed youth has risen up to 2.5 lakh as on December 2019. "This is the number of youth registered with the employment exchange," said an official.

In September 2019, the then Governor Satya Pal Malik had announced that 50,000 jobs will be filled on fast track basis. However, the entire recruitment process has got stuck due to the delay by the Government of India in clearing the air about domicile rights for the non J&K UT residents, who intend to work in the UT's government departments.

"Centre is very much working on this and there will be soon an announcement," a senior official in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs told KNO.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul said that BJP will ensure that land and job rights of

people of J&K UT are protected by all means. "We will ensure there is no tempering with it. As far the domicile rights, Centre is working on it and by February end, a formal announcement will be made," he said.

Simran Bashir, mental therapist at a private NGO, said that she has been waiting for the advertisements in government hospitals for the post she deserves, since past over three months, but there is a buzz that recruitment has been freeze given a row over domicile status. "Government must come up with the advertisements over the posts so that desired candidates can apply on time without wasting further time," she said. (KNO)

RELEASE OF MIAN QAYOOM:

Lawyers Club seeks intervention of Chief Justice of India

SRINAGAR: Lawyers Club of Kashmir Friday appealed Chief Justice of India and Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the release of prominent lawyer and president Bar Association Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom who is languishing at Agra Jail.

Mian Qayoom was shifted back to Agra Jail after treated at SN Medical College for his ailment. President Lawyers Club of Kashmir, Advocate Babar Qadri told Kashmir News Trust that Mian Qayoom should be shifted to Jammu and Kashmir and released from here. "He is not a criminal but a prominent and renowned lawyer. It is the moral responsibility of Government of India to release him in wake of his deteriorating health," Qadri said.

He sought personal intervention of Chief Justice of India and Chief Justice of Jammu

and Kashmir.

Pertinently, Mian Qayoom after developing chest pain recently at Agra Jail was shifted to a hospital. Lawyers' fraternity in Kashmir have expressed anguish over the deteriorating health of Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom. (KNT)

SHORT TAKES

BMO Bandipora transferred days after assaulting employee

BANDIPORA: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday transferred, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora and demoted to the position of Medical Officer, days after assaulting a para-medical employee in his office chamber.

According to sources, BMO Bandipora, Dr. Ashfaq has been transferred and posted as Medical Officer Primary Health Centre Nowgam, Hajin.

Several other health officials have also been transferred from other districts, however, as per sources BMO Bandipora transferred and demoted for his unruly behavior.

Pertinently, few days back BMO Bandipora Dr. Ashfaq had physically assaulted his sub-ordinate employee in his office chamber for coming late to office. He had assaulted and misbehaved with a pharmacist Iqbal Hameed for coming late to office. Iqbal Hameed was shifted to DH Bandipora as he had received injuries in his head and arm.

After the incident, health employees association held protest demonstrations and went on a strike, demanding actions against the unruly behavior of BMO.

The employees association had also submitted a memorandum to deputy commissioner Bandipora, director health, and higher officials' health department, demanding transfer of BMO and strict action for his unruly behavior. (KNO)

Bio-digesters being installed in Houseboats on pilot basis

SRINAGAR: Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) has started the process of installing bio-digesters in households of the catchment area and some houseboats.

The DRDO designed Bio-digester are being installed on pilot basis and their efficiency shall be under trial.

A team of scientists from DRDO are on a 3-day visit to ascertain the functioning of four bio-digesters which have been installed in the houseboats. The team from DRDO along with vice chairman, J&K LDA and engineers of LDA took an extensive visit of the areas including Dole Demb, Teilbal and interiors of Lake. The process of installation of Bio-digesters is being directly monitored by the Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by High Court J&K.

Director Jammu & Kashmir Bank calls on Lt Governor

JAMMU: Dr. Rajeev Lochan Bishnoi, Director, Jammu & Kashmir Bank today called on Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu here at the Raj Bhavan.

Dr. Bishnoi discussed with the Lt Governor wide ranging issues pertaining to the efficient functioning of the bank.

The Lt Governor stressed on the high importance of ensuring close monitoring of the fiscal health of the bank, besides maintaining transparency and accountability in its functioning.

High speed, broadband remain suspended in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The high speed mobile internet of all Cellular companies and broadband remained suspended in Kashmir valley since August 5, when centre scrapped Article 370 and 35 A, besides downgraded and divided the state into two Union Territories (UTs).

Students, media persons and professionals besides traders continued to suffer though authorities on January 25 restored 2G mobile internet after over 170 days in the valley.

However, 2G internet hardly makes any difference as the users could not even check their mails as the speed was very low. However, they said no site, including the white listed sites, could be opened. "Since Monday morning, we are receiving messages that following instructions by the administration, internet service in your area has been temporarily suspended," Air-



tel customers alleged.

This morning similar message was received at 0625 hrs by Airtel subscribers which reads "Dear Customer as per government instructions, the internet services have been temporarily stopped in your area."

Fixed line internet service also remained suspended even after authorities announced resumption of

the service on January 25. However, the government had announced that only white listed sites in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir could be approached from January 25. All social media sites remained suspended, the order said.

The government order had listed 300 white websites, including email service, banking website, education

related websites, job platforms, entertainment, tour and travel and weather website. White listing of websites shall be continuous process.

People, particularly media persons, doctors, students and other professionals continued to suffer as broadband and high speed mobile internet service remained suspended since August 5, when all communication networks were snapped in Jammu and Kashmir and UT Ladakh. Meanwhile, media persons and other professionals and students alleged that restoration of 2G mobile service has hardly helped them as they cannot have access to any site despite repeated attempts.

Media persons continued to file their stories to their respective media organization from a facilitation centre set up at Information Department here.

SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL SRINAGAR:

No adequate facility of elevators for the patients

SRINAGAR: Twelve years after it was conceived, the much hyped Super Specialty Hospital (SSH) of Kashmir in the summer capital Srinagar, here has no adequate facility of elevators for the patients.

Kashmir's only Super Specialty Hospital (SSH) in Srinagar is facing various issues including the lack of elevator facility.

The SSH located at Shireen Bagh, runs under the administrative control of Government Medical College (GMC). Srinagar is catering to hundreds of patients on a daily basis. The hospital has failed to maintain their lifts, leaving patients and their attendants suffer.

Long queues of patients, along

with their attendants, can be seen in the hospital on the daily basis. Insiders said that there are two lifts in the hospital, but only one is functional. Some attendants claimed that most of the time, both the lifts meant for carrying patients do not functioning properly. "Looking at the poor maintenance of lifts at the super-specialty hospital, there is possibility that these might stop midway. There are no liftmen deployed for help. Also, there are no arrangements for making emergency calls in case the lifts stop suddenly," an attendant Yawar Majeed who was carrying his ailing uncle from Awantipora, said. "The real difficulty is for emergency patients and their atten-

dants who rely on lifts to reach the departments concerned. For example, lift is necessary for critical patients to reach the units on upper floors in the hospital," he added.

Pertinently, the hospital was started "partially" in 2016 when three departments were shifted from SMHS Hospital to the new premises. In the course of past two years, five surgical departments, out of the total eight, were also shifted to the hospital but lift facility is "below the mark".

People said that due to non-functioning of the elevator, critical patients are taken to the wards by their attendants climbing stairs which poses high risk to them.

People friendly budget would help us: Traders and Transporters

SRINAGAR: Traders and Transporters from Kashmir Valley Friday urged upon the government to keep their interests in account while declaring the budget.

Joint Transporters and Traders Association President Pir Imtiyaz while addressing a press conference said that traders and transport suffered heavily on account of the uneasy situation that prevailed in Valley post abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. He said this time it was government that forced people to shutdown their business activities. "The traders and transporters are not at fault. It was the government that is to be blamed for the mess. So we urge upon the government to have people friendly budget this time so that traders and transporters could get a breather," he said. (KNT)

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