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Rajasthan Government scraps minimum education criteria for Civic Poll Candidates

Jaipur: The first meeting of the Ashok Gehlot cabinet took on Saturday many key decisions, such as forming an inter-department committee for farm loan waiver, increasing old age pensions, and removing educational qualification for contesting panchayati raj and urban local body elections.

Ratifying the Congress manifesto, the cabinet decided that the poll document will be the guideline for the government to formulate policies. The chief minister will form a cabinet committee for effective and timely implementation of the manifesto. Briefing about the cabinet decisions, energy minister BD Kalla and health minister Raghu Sharma said the chief minister has been authorised to nominate the members of the inter-department committee on short-term crop loan waiver.

This committee will decide the eligibility and criteria for waiver of farmers' loans taken from cooperative, nationalised, regional rural and land development banks.

At the two-hour meeting, the cabinet rejected the BJP government's decision on minimum educational qualification for contesting panchayati raj and local bodies' elections. "This provision has been put an end to for ensuring participation of each person in decentralisation of power, so that all citizens have the right to contest elections," Sharma said.

Direct election of mayor and chairman has been decided. The Congress had introduced direct election of mayor and chair-

man of local bodies, which the BJP government had removed. Sharma said old-age pensions will be increased to ~750 from ~500 and to ~1000 from ~750 per month. The government decided to reopen DrBhimraoAmbedkar Law University and ShriHaridev Joshi Journalism University, which were shut down by the previous BJP government.

The cabinet decided to use Rajasthan Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services Act, 2011 and Rajasthan Right to Hearing Act, 2012 to ensure hearing of common man with "transparency, answerability and sensitivity".

Sharma said all letter pads of the state government will have Ashoka Pillar at the centre, instead of DeendayalUpadhyaya's photo, which the BJP government had introduced. Effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the state will be government's priority for which the chief secretary has been directed to submit an action plan soon. The cabinet has decided to speed up work on Barmer refinery and complete the project on time. The project was started during the 2008-13 Gehlot government. A committee will be formed to resolve the problems of contractual, NRHM, LokZumbish and anganwari personnel as well as para teachers, Urdu parateachers, vidyadharimitra and panchayat assistants. "The government decided that the committee will hear the problems of these person-



nel and will take immediate decisions to resolve them," Sharma said. He said all ministers will ensure public hearing daily at their official residences from 9am to 10am.

GOVT TO REVIEW TEXT BOOKS- School education minis-

ter Govind Singh Dotasra said Saturday that the Congress government in the state will review textbooks and other reference material which were revised by the previous BJP government. Roles of national icons like Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister JawaharLal Nehru will be restored. It will be ensured there contribution is given due, Dotasra told reporters here.

"The government will review textbooks and other reference material that were revised by the BJP government," he said. After taking charge of the post, he has also directed officials concerned to prepare a status report on the revision of textbooks. He said decisions like providing 'saffron coloured cycles', posting Rss-backed officers on boards and councils and changing curriculum will also be reviewed.

Anandi the new Collector of Udaipur



Udaipur: Mrs. Anandi, a 2007 batch IAS Officer from Rajasthan, joined as a DM Udaipur after receiving transfer orders. Reason being that 26 December was the scheduled date when the voters list of the district is being published.

Anandi, hailing from Tamil Nadu, is from the same batch as Udaipur's erstwhile Collector, Bishnu Charan Mallick and is as strict. Anandi has served at Rajasamand, Sawai Madhopur and Bundi as Collector. She initiated her administrative services as Sub Division Officer, Jaipur. "Lakes are the identity of Udaipur, their beauty and cleanliness as well as development is of prime importance. All projects initiated for lake development need to be addressed immediately and monitored closely" – Anandi, District Collector, Udaipur. Good governance in sync with the vision of the State Government will be at the forefront of Anandi's tenure at Udaipur. She asserts that development schemes need to be implemented in time so that the public benefits from such schemes. Carelessness and negligence on the part of responsible officers and personnel will be addressed immediately and strict action will be taken, as per her standard working protocol. She added that works initiated and yet to be initiated towards the Smart City project needs to be completed in confluence with the projects of the municipality, to ensure completeness. Udaipur being a tribal belt, it is of paramount importance that tribal development plans of the government be implemented under continuous monitoring so that the tribals get full benefit of the schemes.

CM KEEPS KEY DEPTS

Jaipur: Inducted Rajasthan ministers have been allocated portfolios, with chief minister Ashok Gehlot keeping nine departments, including the key finance and home, to himself.

According to the orders issued by the Cabinet Secretariat here, deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot has been given the charge of public works, rural development, panchayati raj, science and technology and statistics departments.

The final allocation late on Wednesday was preceded by several rounds of meetings in New Delhi between CM Ashok Gehlot, his deputy Sachin Pilot and party president Rahul Gandhi. Gehlot also met senior Congress leaders, Avinash Pande and KC Venugopal, before the three went to meet party president.

Earlier on Wednesday, two senior BJP leaders had mocked the delay in portfolio distribution after the ministers were sworn in on December 24. Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said there are two governments in the state, one headed by Gehlot and the other by his deputy, Pilot. State BJP president Madan Lal Saini said the two parallel governments in the state were fighting each other. Rajasthan governor Kalyan Singh allocated the portfolios to the council of ministers on Wednesday night. The chief minister kept nine departments with him, including finance, home, excise, planning, personnel, state intelligence, information technology and general administration departments. Thirteen cabinet and 10 ministers of state were allocated portfolios. The cabinet expansion took place on Monday. BD Kalla has been given energy, public health engineering, groundwater, art, culture and archaeology departments, and Shanti Dhariwal got urban development and housing, law and parliamentary affairs.

Parsadi Lal Meena has been named the industries minister, and Bhanwar Lal Meghwal got social justice and empowerment department. Lalchand Kataria received the agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries departments. Raghu Sharma has been given the medical and health, and information and public relations portfolios. Pramod Bhaya is the mines minister and will also handle the gaopalan department. Vishvendra Singh got tourism and devasthan departments.

Harish Chaudhary was allocated revenue and Ramesh Chand Meena got food and civil supply. Anjana Udailal was made cooperative minister and was also given Indira Gandhi canal project department, Pratap Singh got the transport and soldier welfare departments while Shale Mohammad minority affairs and waqf. Among the ministers of state, Govind Singh Dotasra has been named the education minister with independent charge, and Mamta Bhupesh is the minister for women and child development (independent charge). Arjun Singh Bamaniya got tribal area development department as independent charge and Bhanwar Singh Bhati is the minister of higher education (independent charge). Sukhram Bishnoi got the forest and environment portfolio and Ashok Chandra is the new youth affairs and sports minister.

Tika Ram Jolly has been named the labour minister and Bhajan Lal Jatav is the minister for home guards and civil defence.

Rajendra Singh Yadav was named the minister with independent charge for state motor garage, and RLD MLA Subhash Garg was allocated technical education and Sanskrit education (independent charge).

Every possible effort for the uplifting of Vedic University



Nimbahheda: Cooperative Minister Rajasthan Udailal Anjana said that every effort will be made for the academic development of Shri Kallaji Vaidik University, being set up to keep the Vedic culture alive. Cabinet Minister Anjana on Friday expressed his gratitude to Thakurji for the victory of Assembly and getting cabinet birth in Government during the Sandhya Maha Arti.

He said that the imagination of Vedic Vishwa Vidyalaya from a small place like Nimbahra will be made possible by the trustees of the university to make the exemplary work. State Government would also make every possible contribution. He said that full efforts will be made to allocate land for proposed Kalyan Goshala in Kalyan Lok Camp. He said that the name of Thakur Shree Kallaji Kalyan Nagar has become an important place in the Vedic map of the nation as a result of Vidyapeeth and Vedic University, which is dedicated to every section of the society as well as industrial establishments, religious and social organizations also need to do every possible collaboration so that this Vedic University can start with full speed in the coming education session.

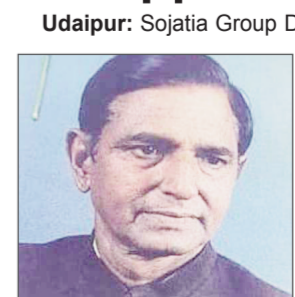
On this occasion, by the trustees of the Vidyapeeth, greeted Minister by offering Upamatsiki mala presented the photo of Thakurji. The minister was accompanied by Purushottam Mal Zanwar, Manohar Lal Meena, Ravi Soni, Bhopraj Tank, Banshilal Raival, Mukesh Ahir and others.

Efforts to restore Vedic culture are exemplary – Balayogi Maharaj.

Bhagwat penetrating and narrative reader Sant Balayogi said that the effort of establishing Vedic Vishwa Vidyalaya from Vedpeeth to provide protection to the Vedic culture that is enduring and maintaining life is not only exemplary but also praiseworthy. Balayogi was on Friday to visit the Vedpeeth campus after the evening Mahaarti of Thakurji.

He said that studying the Vedas is a difficult task in the present context. However, Thakur Shree Kallaji, recognized as a lok devata, has been accepted by the Kalyan people as the great knower of the Vedas and has taken reconciliation, like Vedic University, from which this place will be able to establish their own identity in the map of the world. He said that in order to make this unflinching effort to revive the Indian Vedic culture, every section of society and all saints should cooperate with full commitment. He assured that they would also strive for the all-round development of the University at their level. On this occasion, Kusum Lata Bhatnagar and members of the Bhagwat trust Organizer Board were present in Madhuvan Vatika.

Mahavir International's unopposed president



Udaipur: Sojatia Group Director Veer Ranjeet Singh was elected unopposed president for the year 2019-21. Dr B L Baser, Ramesh Chandra Bhatnagar, Suresh Sisodia, JS Pokhara, Snehlata Sabla, Ashok Kumar Khurdia, Parschandra Hingad, Sushil Kumar Singhvi, Ravindra Surana, Prakash Chandra Samar, Ashok Singhvi were also elected for governing body.

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