

JMC faces unprecedented crisis

Failure To Pass Budget May Hit Payment Of Salaries In April

Akhilesh Sourav Jha | TNN

Jaipur: Following postponement of Jaipur Municipal Corporation's (JMC) second general meeting (sacharan sabha) on Saturday which was to pass the annual budget for 2010-2011, many fear a major crisis in the JMC as the corporation will not be able to release salaries of its regular employees from April 1. Indications are not good. The mayor has asked for permission to hold the meeting on March 13 from the Vidhan Sabha secretariat. However, the

BJP is opposed to the proposed budget.

Criticising the BJP leader and deputy mayor Manish Pareek, mayor Jyoti Khandewal told TOI that the BJP has been thoroughly exposed. "We came up with budget proposals that could have given the development goals a start, now they have stalled the meeting, people know how serious Manish Pareek and his BJP councillors are for city's development. The BJP has not been able to digest the victory of a Congress mayor," she said.

According to some JMC senior officers, if the budget is not passed before March 31, regular employees of the JMC would not get their salaries. "We are heading for a great crisis for the first time. Forget about development work now the salaries are at stake," said a top official. The mayor said, "Yes, we are facing difficult times and the BJP has not been cooperating ever since the board was constituted.



IN HAPPIER TIMES: Mayor Jyoti Khandewal, her deputy Manish Pareek

but we will not let this happen, something will be done."

Meanwhile the BJP is sticking to its guns. Manish Pareek says that the entire budget exercise has been illegal. He said, "The proposed budget meeting is an eyewash. How can the budget be tabled before the house without the sanction of the finance committee? Sections 86, 87, and 88 of the Municipal Act clearly suggest the finance committee shall sanction the budget before it is tabled for consideration of the house."

It seems that the budget would not be passed as the BJP, which says it will oppose the budget in toto with its 46 members. "We will oppose the budget," said Pareek.

When asked about the possible rejection of the budget by the BJP, the mayor said, "People will know how anti-development and anti-Jaipur BJP has been. We are trying to work for the city's development, but the BJP is all for the petty politics."

'Artists living abroad should not forget India's composite culture'

Syed Haider Raza, an eminent artist, a French national of Indian origin and Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee, spoke to *Shoeb Khan* on many issues, including painter M F Husain's exile, artistic freedom and on the need for understanding inter-disciplinary approach on various forms of art.

with India?

Never, I am proud to be an Indian. I have deep roots in this country. It is reflected in my paintings and personality. I profess our centuries old Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb (tradition) by visiting mosques and temples and by reading the Bible, Gita and the Quran.



Syed Haider Raza

think inter-disciplinary approach in all forms of art is important for producing painters of your calibre?

Indeed yes. An artist should understand the inter-disciplinary forms of art, including films, theatre, literature, dance, poetry, music and paintings, which are inter-related with each other. An artist should ask himself on

how much he knows about other forms of art. They should visit different schools to see how others are doing. If one remains in one's studio without knowing how others have done excellent work, he/she will tend to lose the inspiration.

Do you think that Indian artists have made a phenomenal rise internationally in the past few decades?

Yes, I am very happy to see a glorious phase of India art. Many new artists have created a niche for themselves abroad in recent years. I have travelled across India and am delighted to see youths coming forward and picking up centuries old artistic legacy.

Where do you see yourself five years down the line?

I will spend my last days in India. I am planning to open a cultural centre for various artistic activities.

Some respite from heat in state

Jaipur: There is some respite from the sweltering heat for the state for next few days. A fresh western disturbance and a strong north-westerly wind brought down the maximum temperatures by a few degrees Celsius bringing relief to the people. However, the met office says the condition may be confined to a couple of days after which the temperature would rise again.

In Jaipur, the maximum temperature dropped to 29 degrees Celsius after it peaked at 34 degrees a few days ago. The minimum temperature, however, continues to be high at about five degrees above normal at 19 degrees Celsius. However, Met office says dry weather conditions with partly cloudy conditions will prevail for some time in the state.

According to the Met data, Ajmer reported a maximum of 29.2 degrees Celsius while Kota recorded 32.1, Dabok 32, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur recorded 31.5 degrees. TNN

UN official visits Bhilwara

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administrator and former prime minister of New Zealand, visited Bhilwara on Saturday to oversee the work done in the rural areas of the district in cooperation with the UN agency.

Clark had a meeting with chief minister Ashok Gehlot in the morning here before leaving for Bhilwara, accompanied by local MP and union minister C P Joshi, where she oversaw the joint IT innovations that UNDP has done with rural development ministry in two villages of Bhilwara.

Under the project, a touch-screen and an automated teller machine (ATM) have been installed in Suwana and Kanda villages to monitor the work progress and individual work done by workers in a particular area. Reading the thumb impression of the workers, the touch-screen give details of the work done by them while the ATM rolls out the amount due to a worker.

In her four and half hour visit, Clark saw the functioning of these installations and held meetings with local panchayat representatives and women workers employed under NREGS. "I am impressed by the work done by UNDP and the ministry, I pledge all support and cooperation from our side in similar initiatives," she said.

Joshi said, "She was pleased to see the work done under NREGS with UNDP's association. Her emphasis was on developing the capacity building programme at the local level."



UNDP administrator Helen Clark with Union minister C P Joshi in Bhilwara on Saturday

Joshi added that if the two installations work successfully over a period of time, similar ones will be installed across the country for effective management NREGS.

Along with UNDP, the ministry plans to conduct a two-year experimental project on alternative mode of governance under panchayati raj system. In this pilot project, the ministry and UNDP will observe the functioning of a parallel governance model in Bhilwara. "It is a proposed programme and the fine print will be prepared shortly. We will then assess the effectiveness of such system in our traditional set-up," said Joshi.

Clark later left for Udaipur. During the end of her five-day visit to India, she will meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi. On her agenda will be the implementation of UNDP innovations across the country.

Govt claims HC accepted its stand on women's quota

Abhinav Sharma | TNN

Jaipur: A day after the Rajasthan High Court declared the 50% reservation for women in local self-government as unconstitutional, the state government still feels that its stand has been conditionally accepted by the court that "if women are proportionately less than the population of men, then reservation extended in favour of women can be maintained in proportion to the population ratio which, otherwise, shall be ascertained in the manner it is provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution."

According to officials of state government, a division bench headed by Chief Justice Jagdish Bhalla and Justice M N Bhandari has not actually "quashed" the provision made for reserving 50% seats in the

municipal elections in favour of the women but has rather added a qualification that a reservation is permissible only if it is based on "proportionate women ratio" vis-a-vis male population.

The state government is said to have taken a clue from an observation of the court that, "If women are proportionately less than the population of men, then reservation extended in favour of women can be maintained in proportion to the population ratio which, otherwise, shall be ascertained in the manner it is provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution."

"We have examined the order of the high court. It is clear that the court has approved the scheme of reservation but the same has been conditionally held ultra vires i.e., the court did not found any statistics for justifying the scheme of women's reservation for which the state government is free to make the exercise at any point of time. The court has rather permitted us to find out the areas and constituencies in the state where women are proportionately less than the males and to apply the 50% reservation of schemes in those areas which can be done as per court's order," additional A-G Nasir Ali Naqui said.

Extortion racket awakens police to SIM card study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Exposure of an extortion racket operating out of the Jaipur Central Jail seems to have made police to take seriously the impact of mobile phone use in the barracks.

The issue of studying calls details of SIM cards seized during raids has been raised earlier as nearly 400 mobiles and 250 SIM cards have been seized from the barracks in the past one year. But due to lack of seriousness and

scuttling their orders outside. It is being probed whether senior jail officials were involved.

"As getting calls details of each SIM card number may take over 24 hours, we have given the task to SOG. The agency will be able to complete the work sooner. An SOG team is exclusively working on this," said a senior police officer.

This is important for some Jaipur blasts terror accused and SIM sympathisers are lodged in the jail, he added.



MASKING UP

Arvind Sharma

RBSE debars 381 teachers from evaluation work

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ajmer: The Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education on Saturday debarred 381 teachers from evaluation work for three years. Two others are removed

ination, 160 were debarred from senior secondary and two from special examination," said Sharma.

Out of this, 42 are from arts stream, 12 from commerce and 56 from science stream. Simi-