

Creation of tourism infrastructure apace at Suchetgarh, Chamliyal: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture, Raman Bhalla today said that Government is making all out efforts to promote tourism in border belts of the State, adding that in this regard various initiatives have been taken to create modern line facilities for tourists at Suchetgarh and Chamliyal.

This was stated by the Minister, while addressing a gathering at Chatha after laying foundation stone of Multipurpose Community Hall, here today.

Director Tourism, Soujanya Sharma, besides other senior officers of Tourism Department were present on the occasion.

Mr. Bhalla informed that the hall would be constructed at the available site near Bharon Nath Temple Chatha with the facilities like dormitory, fabricated shed, kitchen, toilet blocks and compound wall at an estimated cost of Rs. 67 lakh by Tourism Department.

The Minister informed that Central Government has provided Rs.6.39 crore for the development of tourism infrastructure at Suchetgarh in Jammu district and Chambyal in Samba district.

He said that both the projects are under progress on war-footing and would be completed by Tourism Department within stipulated time frame. He said the project includes building of tourist facilitation centres, rooms, restaurants, flower stalls, construction of pathways, toilet blocks and view decks, besides

conservation and development of the Shri Raghunath ji temple and Peer Baba Ziarat at Suchetgarh. He said over 80 per cent development work has been completed till date.

Mr. Bhalla said that Government would promote border tourism to attract more visitors to the State. He said that besides creating employment, the initiative would help to develop border areas. He advised local youth to engage themselves in the tourism-related industry, which offers plenty of opportunities in the form of tour operator, travel and adventure sport guides, guest houses and other self employed units.

For boosting tourism in Bahu Fort area, the Minister said that Government has created modern line wayside facilities for pilgrims and tourists in the area like recreational garden, aquarium, balidan stumb, landscaping, view points, tug shop, toilet blocks, fencing, illumination, drinking water besides construction of Darshani Deodi near Kalika Colony, adding the place would become a source of major attraction for those visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji and other tourist spots of the State.

The Minister informed that a comprehensive plan has been formulated for up-gradation and expansion of Jammu airport to provide all infrastructural facilities to the passengers, adding that Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 70 crore for this purpose. He sought cooperation of the people in implementing the development programmes



Food and Allied Workers raising slogans during protest at Jammu on Monday.

Food & Allied Workers Union holds protest, highlights demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: Food and Allied Workers Union today held a protest demonstration against the Government and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Department for not redressing their long pending demands.

The workers assembled outside CAPD office at Ware House under the banner of Food and Allied Workers Union and raised slogans against the Government and CAPD Department, demanding early redressal to their demands.

Addressing the gathering, president of the union Bishan Dass said that all the labourers have become frustrated with the discriminatory attitude of the Government and CAPD Department.

He said that the union has served memorandums and also held meetings with the CAPD

Department officials, but nothing has been done till today in favour of workers.

He demanded implementation of PF on complete FCI pattern, benefits of minimum wage guaranteed to all the labourers and stoppage to direct delivery and release of pending arrears.

The workers are also deprived of their basic amenities including drinking water, public conveniences and labour sheds, he added.

If their demands were not redressed at the earliest, they will come on roads and hold massive protest against the Government and the CAPD Department and for any untoward incident, the Government will be responsible, Dass warned.

Among others who spoke were Nazim Din, Harminder Singh, Om Parkash and Pyare Lal.

Shaheen reiterates demand for GDC

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, Sept 2: Reiterating his demand for establishing a Government Degree College (GDC) at Ukharhaal, National Conference leader Sajjad Shaheen has said that providing higher education facilities at remote and backward areas is imperative for social, economic and educational transformation of rural areas.

He said this while addressing a public gathering at Ukharhaal today, which was attended by people from all walks of life including party workers and prominent citizens of the area.

Villagers of Khatan Mandal protest

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Sept 2: The villagers of Khatan Mandal in Purmandal area today protested in front of DC Office, Samba against the proposed move to set up a garbage/waste management disposal plant in the village.

The protest was led by Gautam Singh, Sarpanch. The protestors said that thousands of pilgrims visit the holy shrines of Purmandal and Utterbeni and construction of garbage/waste management plant for disposal of garbage of Jammu city there would add to pollution in the area. They demanded the same be shifted to a secluded area keeping in view the religious sanctity of two shrines.

Exploitation of people un-abated: SDP

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: Socialistic Democratic Party (SDP) leader Dr Darakshan Andrabi has alleged that exploitation of the innocent people from neglected areas of Budgam area has continued by the political people in power.

While leading party workers' procession during her door-to-door campaign programme at Kenura in district Budgam today, Dr Andrabi said that under the big political controversy, this whole area of Budgam district has been left unattended. The people were

being exploited for the vote bank and they were deprived of the basic amenities. The political representatives of the area and all the previous Governments are responsible for the apathy miseries of the people and their backwardness, she maintained.

The SDP leader lauded the will of the people of this area for seeking political change in the coming Assembly elections. They promised full support to the SDP leader in coming polls.

Provincial secretary Dr Nissar Ahmed, district president Mohd Akram Dar, youth leader Mohd Amin Beg and others also accompanied and addressed the gathering.

120 kg Nagshatri seized, 3 arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Sept 2: Police today arrested three smugglers and sized 120 kilograms of Nagshatri (a rare herb) from their possession.

Police spokesman said that on the basis of specific information a police party from Assar Police Station under the direct supervision of SP Doda Arif Rishu intercepted a Xylo vehicle bearing registration number JK02W-5392 near Assar and subjected the same to checking.

From the vehicle, police recovered 120 kilograms of Nagshatri, which was being smuggled from Kishtwar to Jammu. All the three smugglers were arrested and the vehicle was seized.

The smugglers have been identified as Vipran Kumar, Nazir Ahmed and Sher Mohd. A case has been registered against them at Assar Police Station.

Liquor haul in Katra, 2 held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: Katra police today arrested two bootleggers from holy town of Katra, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi ji shrine and recovered 94 pouches of liquor from their possession.

The arrested bootleggers have been identified as Madan Lal of Jammu and Ankush Kumar of Katra.

They had been smuggling liquor from Jammu to Katra when police arrested them. A case has been registered against the accused at Katra police station. Police parties under the supervision of SP Katra Pawan Parihar made the arrests and seizure.

Taj inaugurates neuro surgery ward, physiology lab at SMHS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: Minister for Medical Education, Youth Services & Sports, Taj-Mohi-ud Din today inaugurated the neuro surgery ward at SMHS Hospital today.

With this an important super specialty has been added to SMHS for which the patients earlier had to go to either SKIMS or outside the State. The neuro surgery ward is also equipped with fully equipped operation theater.

The services of renowned neurologist of the Valley, Dr. Afzal Wani have been requisitioned for supervision of the ward.

During his visit to the hospital today, the Minister also inaugurated an ultra modern physiology lab for post graduate students. The lab is having integrated computerized diagnostic system whereby all the physiological parameters of a

patient would be examined at a time.

The Minister asked the hospital administration to immediately fill all the vacant positions of Junior Nurses and Female Multipurpose Health Workers immediately on the analogy adopted by the GMC, Jammu.

Mr. Taj also visited the under construction biochemistry lab and directed making it like the physiology lab.

The Minister also visited the triage unit of the casualty and took stock of the medicines and facilities available there. He appreciated the arrangements put in place to save precious human lives.

Principal, GMC, Srinagar, Dr. Rafiq Pampori, Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dr. Nazir, Medical Superintendent, Lal Ded Hospital, Dr. Mushtaq, senior faculty and other officers accompanied the Minister.



Amrit Malhotra participating in Baba Badbakh Singh Ji's birthday celebrations on Monday.

Birth anniversary of Baba Badbakh celebrated with religious fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: The birth anniversary of Baba Badbakh Singh Ji was celebrated here today

Woman attempts self-immolation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: A woman attempted to commit suicide in Budgam district last evening, police said.

A police spokesman said a 28 year old woman of Waripora Magam, Budgam, set herself ablaze by sprinkling kerosene oil on her body. She has been shifted to SMHS Hospital in critical condition. Police has registered a case in this regard.

with religious fervour and enthusiasm. The Gaddi of Babaji is situated at Purani Mandi, here and his original abode lies in Himachal Pradesh.

Chairman J&K Legislative Council Amrit Malhotra paid obeisance to Babaji and prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the State.

The Sewadar of the 25 year old Gaddi Pramod Kapoor appraised Mr Malhotra that a mega fair is being organized every year which is attended by large number of devotees. He said that over five thousand devotees offered prayers and sought the blessings of Babaji.

Mr Malhotra announced a water refrigerator for the Devasthan out of his Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Devil Records organizing 'Mega Talent Hunt Show' on Sept 29

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: Devil Records Private Limited, a London based production house is organizing a "Mega Talent Hunt Show" at Government MAM College on

September 29. This was disclosed by Prince Gill, Country Head, Devil Records Private Limited during a press conference here today.

He said that the talent hunt show will be organized in six categories including dancing, acting, singing, comedy, music and modeling.

"We will choose 12 winners (one male and one female) from each category,

who will get a chance to work with their running and future projects", Gill added.

He said that on spot forms will be given to the participants, who are willing to participate in this talent show to showcase their talent.

About Devil Records, Gill informed that they are having 32 branches overseas and two in India at Chandigarh and Nabha.

He added that this is for the first time, that any production house is directly going to pick the artists.

JKEDI holds loan fair programme

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) held a loan fair and entrepreneurship awareness programme for the youth of Rajouri to attract them towards self-employment.

A spokeswoman of the institute claimed at least 150 persons participated in the camp held in Kalakote area of Rajouri, including Sarpanchs, Naib Sarpanchs, senior citizens and unemployed youth of the district.

"The programme is aimed to aware the people about the term loan scheme of the institute under the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) in which financial assistance for projects costing up to Rs.10 lakh is provided to backward sections among minorities with concession interest rates," the spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman quoted Tehsildar Kalakote, Abdul Majid Tantray, as saying, "Rajouri has a good potential for agriculture entrepreneurship and can especially benefit from the NMDFC term loan scheme. You must recommend unemployed youth to avail the benefit."

HC upholds JU refusal to re-evaluate answer scripts in MCA course

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: High Court today upheld the order of University of Jammu whereby it had refused to re-evaluate the answer scripts in MCA course.

The order of the JU was challenged before the High Court in a petition filed by Pawan Kumar, who termed the order as violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

After hearing Advocate CM Koul appearing for the petitioner whereas Advocate WS Nargal for the University of Jammu, Justice B L Bhat observed, "applying the dictum of Apex Court to the facts of the case on hand, it is manifestly clear that MCA Course, being a professional course in respect whereof a high standard of excellence has been provided by experts of University Council to equip the candidates to meet the cut throat competition in Private/Corporate Sector, has consciously been excluded from the purview of re-evaluation of Answer Scripts with further object of avoiding complications

arising out of such re-evaluation in a highly technical subject".

"Moreso, it may not be possible to dismiss the respondents' plea offhand that re-evaluation in highly technical subjects like MCA Course would be a very difficult exercise. It cannot be said that relevant statute is arbitrary and discriminatory in character and, thus, hit by Article 14 of Constitution of India", Justice Bhat said.

"The object sought to be achieved by classifying MCA Course as a technical course wherein re-evaluation of Answer Scripts would not be permitted, such classification bearing nexus with the object of making computer professionals of immaculate standard available to the Private/Corporate Sector, the statute satisfies the test of constitutionality that the same is based on an intelligible differentiation to achieve the object", the High Court said.

While holding the statutes as intra-vires, the High Court dismissed the petition as without merit.

Backward Classes Union flays Congress, NC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: All India Backward Classes Union (Social) has taken serious note of the Congress stance at its recently held convention at Hotel Ashok in Jammu in which AICC general secretary Ambika Soni was chief guest.

In a meeting of the Union held here today, it was pointed out that the State Congress under the presidency of Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz has five resolutions but failed to raise the issue of reservation to the OBCs in the State. This proves that Prof Soz has been doing false propaganda deliberated against the State OBCs and alluring the State OBCs on the name of OBCs Advisory and Development Board, a useless machine yielding nothing for the OBC community.

It is again surprising that despite taking up the issue by

Vice Chairman of the OBCs' Advisory Board, Master Kuldeep Raj Verma with Mrs Soni at State Guest House on August 30, the matter of reservation for the State OBCs was not taken up in the convention. All the speakers in the meeting stressed for providing 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs as recommended by Mandal Commission.

They also condemned the attitude of the State Government for its indifferent attitude towards the OBCs. They also appealed the members of the community to boycott the National Conference and Congress for working against the interests of the OBC community members. Prominent among those present in the meeting included Prof Kalidas, Mohd Iqbal, Khadim Hussain, Puran Chagotra, H D Betab, Abdul Razaq, Santosh Chand and Swarn Singh.

JKSAC highlights demands of displaced persons

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 2: Jammu and Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) held a meeting under the chairmanship of its president Gurdeep Singh Pandey and discussed various problems being faced by the displaced persons of 1947, 1965 and 1971.

While speaking, Pandey highlighted the long pending demands of the displaced persons. He said that displaced persons have remained neglected, discriminated and unattended from the strategic, political, economic, social and constitutional angles.

Pandey said that State and Central Governments have

proved total failure in redressing the problems of the displaced persons. He alleged that both the Governments are misleading them for the sake of votes.

Ronik Sharma, general secretary and spokesperson of JKSAC in his speech demanded reservation/concession for DP families in education and employment, trade finance for at least 10 years, additional compensation for delay in settlement assistance and token ex-gratia on the basis of 1960 norms.

Meanwhile, JKSAC also submitted memorandum of demands of the displaced persons to Rajnath Singh, president, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during his visit to the winter capital recently.



Doctors examining patient during free medical camp by JAIAR at Poonch.

JAIAR organizes free medical camp of Ksharsutra

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Sept 2: Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research (JIAR) in association with AYUSH unit of District Hospital Poonch arranged a free Ksharsutra camp for Piles and Fistula in District Hospital Poonch.

Medical Superintendent Dr Niaz Ahmed along with Dr Bharat Bhushan inaugurated the camp wherein a team of doctors headed by Dr Vishal Khanna treated the patients who were applied Ksharsutra procedures. Medicines for a week were distributed among the patients numbering around 200.

After the successful conduction of camp Dr Roop Lal Sharma, Chairman JIAR showed his gratitude for Director of Health Services Jammu for assisting in arrangement of camp and said that such camps would be organized in near future in all districts of J&K.

Others who attended the camp included Dr Himakshi Raina, Dr Shivani Bansal, Dr Sonu Balhdotra, Dr Abhineet Raina and Dr Deepanchi Kapoor.

BCD holds drug awareness camp

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 2: Baramulla Civil Defence (BCD) organised an awareness camp on ill-effects of drugs and other narcotics at AGS, Boniwar.

Dr Inayat Mir, Dr IPS Bali along with other employees conducted the camp in which 92 students from along participated.

The speakers dwelt upon in details about the ill effects of drugs and narcotics on human lives.

He told the youth to stay away from drugs, tobacco and its products, emphasising the need to inculcate moral values in children in order to make them better citizens of tomorrow.