



Minister for Forests, Mian Altaf Ahmad addressing public gathering at Kangan on Friday.

Altaf disburses over Rs 18 lakh among 101 families

Excelsior Correspondent

KANGAN, Sept 6: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Mian Altaf Ahmad today disbursed over Rs. 18 lakh among 101 beneficiaries of Kangan block under IAY scheme besides inaugurating Zonal Soil Conservation Office Complex at Kangan completed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Mian Altaf said that every effort is being made by the Government to increase the allocation under the IAY scheme in order to bring maximum families under its ambit. He said the number of families, deserving benefit under

IAY, are increasing, adding that "it is not possible for us to extend the benefit of the scheme to everyone, at a time, in view of limited financial resources available with the Government".

The Minister said that Government of India has increased the amount from Rs. 45000 to Rs. 75000 to be provided to every family in three equal instalments and asked concerned to evolve a mechanism so that the beneficiaries will not have to face any difficulty in collecting the money.

Main Altaf asked people to monitor the development works coming up in their respective areas and bring into

the notice of the Government through their representative about any discrepancy or poor quality of work so that corrective measures are taken by the Government in time.

The Minister said that Rs 10.84 crore have been earmarked for 770 works being taken up in Kangan block out of which 200 works stands completed so far. He said 3 Panchayat Ghars have been completed out of 14 while work on remaining Panchayat Ghars is at different stages of completion in the block. He said Rs. 2.42 cr have been allocated under the scheme for current fiscal.

Chief Conservator Forests, Nisar Ahmad Darzi, Director Soil Conservation, U. Pachnada, Chief Conservator Forests, Roshan Jaggi, Joint Director Soil Conservation, Ali Mohammad Dar, Additional

Development Commissioner, Mr Gasi, District Soil Conservation Officers Srinagar/Ganderbal, Firdous Ahmad, Zonal Soil Conservation Officer (ZSCO) Srinagar/Ganderbal, Shahzad Ahmad Mir besides senior officers from Rural Development and other departments were present on the event.

Release funds for Panchayats or face agitation: AJKPC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: Hitting out at the ruling National Conference for rendering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) defunct, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) today requested the Government of India (GoI) to take cognizance of the State Government's failure in effective implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes in rural areas.

It also urged the Central Government to directly release the funds under various Centrally sponsored schemes to block level officers to expedite developmental activities at village level.

In a press statement issued here, Anil Sharma, general secretary, AJKPC regretted that the Government has not released even a single penny to Panchayats under the Centre's flagship programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) despite the fact five months of current financial year has lapsed.

Despite substantial demand from the people for job under

MGNREGA, the Panchayats have not been provided funds for the development works except Rs 50,000 per Panchayat under 13th Finance Commission, Sharma said.

"We also strongly condemn the Government decision to take the control of submission of Utilization Certificates regarding expenditure made on various developmental works under MGNREGA from district level officers," the AJKPC leader said.

The AJKPC leader urged the Central Government to take cognizance of it and release the funds directly to block level officers so that funds are utilized in a better and transparent manner.

Nothing significant has been done to implement other Centrally sponsored schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Shashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) in the State," the leader said.

Sharma warned that they would intensify their agitation if the State Government does not release funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions within 15 days.



MD Housing Board, Ram Pal Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

Ram Pal reviews progress of Housing Board projects

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: Ram Pal Sharma, Managing Director today chaired a meeting of Housing Board officers including engineers and reviewed the progress of ongoing Housing Board works. He asked the officers to gear up their men and machinery in completing the projects within stipulated time frame.

He asked the officers of the JKHB to pay regular visit to the sites to monitor the quality of material and plan of projects. He asked the officers and officials to work hard and

come up to the expectations of the general masses. He urged them to use Government funds judiciously by constructing JKHB projects. He said JK Housing Ministry was committed to provide durable assets to the people across the State.

Mr. Sharma said under the guidelines of Minister for Housing Raman Bhalla, the JKHB is developing new colonies, recreational parks, self-financing housing flats, shopping complexes and Government buildings across the State, adding that in this regard, there is no constraint of funds.

Panthers party MLC rejects concert invitation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 6: Member Legislative Council (MLC) and President of State Yuva Panthers Party, the Youth Wing of party, Syed Rafiq Shah rejected the invitation of music concert of Zubin Mehta, scheduled to be held on September 7.

The party workers organized a peaceful sit in protest alleging that the concert is the conspiracy against Kashmiri culture, tradition and diverting

the attention on Kashmir issue. Rejecting the views of the Jammu and Kashmir Government on the concert to be performed by renowned music conductor Zubin Mehta here, the Youth leader of Panthers Party said that it was wastage of crores of rupees.

"The Government gives false impression that the concert is essential for development of the State. Such costly programs are not essential for a society where lakhs of youth are unemployed," Shah said.

Sham visits Zeashta Devi Temple, takes stock of basic amenities

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 6: Minister for PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma today visited Zeashta Devi Temple and took stock of the basic facilities there.

He interacted with the management of the temple and enquired about the facilities for the devotees.

The Minister was apprised that during the summer months the temple witnesses heavy rush of devotees due to which water requirement increases manifold. The management requested for adequate supply of drinking water to the temple. They also demanded upgradation of other

basic facilities, like sanitation, regular supply of power, provision of solar lights, medical facilities etc.

The Minister issued on-the-spot instructions to the Chief Engineer, PHE, to ensure water supply to the temple as per the requirements. He assured the management regarding improving other required facilities. He appreciated the efforts of the management for creating and maintaining good infrastructure for the devotees who may wish to stay in the temple.

The Minister also paid obeisance and performed Pooja at the temple and prayed for the peace and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nomination of members to KAHDC by NC undemocratic: Vakil

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 6: Former Minister and Member AICC Abdul Gani Vakil today said that Congress has always stood for the high principals to maintain sanctity of coalition dharma in Centre as well as in States whereas our coalition partner in the State always takes coalition into the wrong direction, which is evident by the unilateral move of National Conference (NC) to nominate its members as the members of the 'Kargil Autonomous Hill Development Council (KAHDC) in an undemocratic manner.

In a statement issued here Vakil said that this act is a symbol of favouritism and deceiving the coalition partner. He reiterated that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC Ministers have hidden agenda to weaken the coalition particularly Congress Party in the State. Not consulting alliance partner, which emerged victorious in KAHDC polls, is a matter of serious concern, Vakil added.



Students raising slogans during protest at Jammu on Friday.

Students boycott classes, demand action in sexual exploitation of mentally retarded girls

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: Students of Government SPMR College of Commerce and Degree College, Paloura today boycotted their classes and held a massive protest demonstration against the sexual exploitation of the mentally retarded girls of Rotary Club Inner Wheel Home for Mentally Retarded Children at Channi Himmatt.

Hundreds of students after boycotting their classes assembled in the premises of Government SPMR College of Commerce under the banner of National Panthers Students Union (NPSU) and raised slogans against the Government.

The students were demanding immediate actions against the persons involved in sexual exploitation of the mentally challenged girls.

Later, the students in a shape of rally marched towards Government Degree College, Paloura, where the student leaders in their speeches termed the recent case of sexually exploited girls as heinous and unpardonable.

While speaking, Chitwan

Khosla, a student of Government SPMR College of Commerce alleged that the Government has failed to look into the affairs of such homes, where girls were sexually exploited by the staff and other people.

"Girls/women should be respected by every citizen and not exploited by any means, as they contribute 50 per cent of the total population and also play an important part in everyone's life", Khosla added.

She demanded strict action against the people behind sexual exploitation of the girls in the aforesaid home.

Partap Singh, State president, NPSU in his speech said that the rape cases in the State are on the rise and the Government has failed to control the same.

He demanded strict punishment against the people behind sexual exploitation of mentally retarded girls and also against those, who were behind the rape of a girl in 2008 at Narwal.

Anjali Chowdhary, Sanjay Sharma, Nitish Sharma, Sunil Mandla and Anup Bhandral also spoke on the occasion.

CCA demands CBI probe into PMSSS 'scandal'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 6: Following protests by students against the Government for failing to allot fee through Prime Ministers Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) in Kashmir, Coaching Centres Association (CCA) has warned of colossal tragedy arising out of shady dealings of the scheme.

CCA has demanded a CBI probe in this multi crore scandal as it involves not only local NGOs, but touts and some officials from both J&K and New Delhi.

In a statement, CCA has PMSSS has jeopardized careers of thousands of students in Kashmir from which neither the Centre nor the State Government can wash off their hands from the mess created by it.

"It is a deep rooted conspiracy under which Government has tacitly allowed the Rs 1200 crore scheme to be hijacked by a well organized 'Scholarship Mafia,'

comprising of many NGOs, consultants and intermediaries. There was a criminal silence from Government quarters when this mafia started to dupe local students in the name of PMSSS," the statement said.

The statement claimed more than 9,000 forms have been submitted by these touts against the vacancy of just 5,000 scholarships. And all of them have been assured of the scholarship, and thus fleeced between Rs 25000 to Rs 1.5 lakh. CCA warned the Government to brace up for influx of thousands of frustrated students who will be kicked out of their colleges, as these touts have placed them in shady colleges and against the norms of PMSSS.

"Had they been warned of any mafia beforehand, they would have simply withdrawn their forms. But it seems some Government officials deliberately delayed the notification to allow that mafia to have a field day," it said.

Speeches, cultural activities mark Teachers Day celebrations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: Speeches on the life of Dr S Radha Krishnan and cultural activities marked Teachers Day celebrations.

Kawa Institute of Management and Technology and **Kawa College of Education** celebrated Teachers Day. Principal Dr Anita Bali and Managing Director Abhimanyu Katoch in their speeches threw light on the life and teachings of Dr S Radha Krishnan. Teachers were honoured by the students.

Government Higher Secondary School, Chiralla celebrated Teachers Day. On the occasion, Shamim Ahmed, Acting Principal of the institution and Omkar Singh threw light on the life of Dr S Radha Krishnan. An inter-house quiz competition was also organized in which Nehru House bagged first position.

Teachers Day was celebrated with great gusto in the **Air Force School, Jammu**. Air Commodore PE Patange, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Jammu was the chief guest, while Mamta Patange, President AFWWA (L) was the guest of honour. The students displayed variety of programmes included dance items, songs and skits. Mamta Patange presented gifts to all the teachers to appreciate their efforts. Vikesh Sandhal, Principal, Air Force School was also present. The event also marked the release of the Annual School magazine.

Little Flower Higher Secondary School celebrated Teachers Day. Principal Meera Soni felicitated the teachers and

threw light on the life and teachings of Dr S Radha Krishnan. Students presented dances, songs and skits to entertain the audience.

JK Montessorie School celebrated Teachers Day with great zeal. On the occasion 11th and 12th class students played the role of teachers and taught in the classes. Managing Director Sanjeev Gupta, Academics Director Rajni Gupta, Vice Principal Geeta Dixit, Co-ordinator Vandana Gupta and students threw light on the life and teachings of Dr S Radha Krishnan. Management committee also honoured the teachers for their sincerity and dedication.

Mothers Pride and Joy Pre-School celebrated Teachers Day. On the occasion, various activities were organized, in which students and teachers participated actively.

Mahamaya Commerce Tutorial, Udhampur celebrated Teachers Day, where in students

presented beautiful dance items and group songs highlighting the importance of teachers in one's life. Head of the institute Sanjay Sharma was also present.

Rashtriya Rifles stationed at Kalakote under the aegis of Reasi based Rashtriya Rifles Headquarters celebrated Teachers Day at **Government High School, Bamaliya**. On the occasion, teachers from Government and private schools were invited for a get together and refreshment organised. Prem Pal Singh, School Teacher Bamaliya and students delivered speech on Teachers Day. Consolation prizes were distributed to 18 students by Abdul Kayum Malik, Headmaster of the School. A street play by Kalakote Jan Jagran Manch was also organized on theme "Adverse Affects of Cheating in Exam and Women Empowerment".

HC dismisses petitions seeking quashment of corruption charges

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: High Court today dismissed four petitions filed by Dr Kulbhushan Nahar and Others, Lalit Aditya and Satish Kumar seeking quashment of corruption charges framed against them by the Anti-Corruption Court.

While resisting the petitions, ASGI K K Pangotra appearing for the CBI argued that as the petitioners/accused were involved in the commission of crime FIR was rightly lodged against them. During investigation material documents were seized by the investigating agency and prima facie it came to the conclusion that the petitioners/accused were involved in the commission of offences.

Accordingly, charge sheet in terms of the mandate of Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was presented before the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu. Trial Court, after examining the final report, the evidence collected during

investigation, framed charges against the accused for the commission of offence punishable under Section 5(2) read with Section 5(1)(d) of the PC Act and Section 120-B read with Section 420 of the RPC.

After hearing ASGI K K Pangotra for the CBI and battery of lawyers for the petitioners, Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir observed, "the court is of the considered view that no case for interference is made out. It pains me to record that the petitioners have stalled the proceedings of the trial court right from the last about two years—with effect from September 16, 2011, which is against the concept of speedy trial".

"Court deemed it proper to dismiss all these petitions with costs of Rs.50,000 each. Let the amount of costs be deposited within a period of one month from today to be utilized for the welfare of orphans by the Social Welfare Department", Justice Mansoor said.

Govt Employees' Union calls for 3-day strike

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: Alleging that Jammu and Kashmir Government is "backtracking" on its promise made to Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), the outfit has given a call for a three-day strike and today appealed Government employees to make it a "grand success".

"We appeal employees' fraternity to observe the strike from September 9. Government is backtracking from its September 15, 2011 agreement," EJAC president S Kulwant Singh told reporters here.

On September 9, the employees will also hold demonstration at all district headquarters, he added.

Further course of action will be decided after September 11 in Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting, Singh said.

The employees demands include enhancement of retirement age from 58 to 60 years, removal of pay anomalies of different cadres and policy for regularization of daily wage workers who have completed 7 years of service after 1994, settlement of grievances of public sector employees, ReTs, Anganwari workers, regularization, promotion of different cadres and implementation of DA order in favour of PSU employees.

Mr Singh appealed the employees to hold the demonstrations at their respective district headquarters on September 9 and observe complete Kaam Chhoddo Hartal throughout the State on



JKEJAC leaders talking to reporters at Jammu on Friday.

September 10 and 11.

The employees will decide the future course of action on September 11, he added.

The EJAC leaders also made an appeal to people as well as members of civil society to bear with them, during the fight against anti employee and anti people policy of the Government.

The others EJAC leaders who were present in the press conference Shahid Hussain, Rohit George, Raju Kumar, Ranjit Singh, Suresh Kumar, Ravinder Singh, Yash Paul Singh, Subash Chander, Achit Kumar, Amrik Singh, Tanvir Singh, Balbir Singh, Tilak Raj, Mohan Lal, Kamaljit Singh, Parveen Kumar, Parshotam Lal and Jagmit Singh, Kulesh Kumar, S Manjit Singh, Gaganvir Singh, Manzair Ali, Pal Ram, Parminder Singh, Naresh Kumar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ragbir Singh, Naresh Kumar, Gurbachan Singh, Randeve Singh, S Manjit Singh, Ajit Singh and others.

Confederation, others for single screening test SC candidates

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: R. K. Kalsotra, President of the State unit of the All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organizations has appealed the Chairman SSRB to accord consideration to the SC category candidates on the basis of marks obtained by them in one screening test for all other districts so that the benefit of exemption granted to the SC category, to apply from all districts, by virtue of the Civil Services Decentralization Act, 2010 percolates down to this category.

The request finds its force due to same screening test to be conducted on single date for all districts and a candidate belonging to SC category who applies from different districts will not be able to appear in all the tests simultaneously hence this proposal is available option. A large scale panic grips the candidates belonging to the SC category in the wake of screening tests on same date in

other districts and this proposal was discussed with the Chairperson, SSRB Shagufta Parveen to allay the fears of SC candidates who gave a positive response.

Mr. Kalsotra also apprised Tara Chand, Deputy Chief Minister, of the benefits of inter-district recruitment and also requested him to take the matter with SSRB.

Meanwhile Kishwari Unit of All J&K SC /ST Retired Employees Forum, general secretary, J R Aryan while expressing concern over calling of interviews for the posts of teachers in all districts on September 14 and 15 by SSB, has said that this way the candidates of SC category will be put in problem as they can't appear in interview on a single day in other districts.

He demanded that the merit of SC candidates in the district where they have appeared in the interview should be taken as yard stick for his selection in another district.



Army officer providing books to a girl student during NIIT course at Thanamandi.

NIIT conducts IT course for girls in Thanamandi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 6: NIIT, Jammu is conducting an IT Certificate course for girls at Thanamandi in district Rajouri.

This course is being conducted with the aim of teaching basic computer skills and the use of internet is a part of the endeavour being made by the Rashtriya Rifles Battalions under Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo) to empower women in the region.

14 students of class XI and XII of the Government High School, Thanamandi are attending the IT course being conducted from September 6 to September 21, 2013. On successful completion of the course, a certificate will be issued to all the participants by

NIIT, Jammu. Rahul Sharma, Director NIIT, Jammu inaugurated the course and appreciated the efforts being made by the Army for educating girls in this remote area.

Further maintaining that women were playing a major role in development of the IT industry all over the world, he advised the students participating in the course to treat this as a stepping-stone to attaining further expertise in this field.

Sayima Parveen of class XII expressed her delight on getting selected for this course, which she described as a golden opportunity for her to learn computers as there were no facilities of this standard available in the area.

Bar Association for raising infrastructure of Munsiff Court

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, Sept 6: Keeping in view the large area under jurisdiction of Munsiff Court, Banihal, Bar Association Banihal today demanded to expand the infrastructure of the Court besides jurisdictional powers.

The members said that despite tremendous litigant pressure and population growth of this area by leaps and bounds, the court sans proper infrastructure,

The Court has become subject to fair weather court as there are no provisions for litigants shed and chambers for lawyers. During harsh and inclement weather conditions, both lawyers and litigants are made to face hardships.

Even after repeated requests before the Government, nothing has been done till now to expand the infrastructure of the Court and both litigants and lawyers have been left to suffer.