

200 Headmasters, Masters to be trained to improve quality of education: Mattoo

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Advisor to Chief Minister Prof. Amitabh Mattoo today chaired a meeting of the Committee constituted by Government to suggest measures to improve results and achievements of the Government schools besides raising overall literacy rate in the State.

The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education, Farooq Ahmad Shah, Director School Education Jammu, Ravinder Singh, Special Secretary Higher Education, Riyaz Ahmad, Joint Director Planning, School Education Department and other officers.

During the meeting, it was decided that 100 Headmasters and 100 Masters from the 200 educational zones of the State will be sent for training. They said that the initiative would help to improve quality of teaching in Government schools. It was also decided that public private partnership of few selected

schools would be made, which would also help to improve quality education in Government schools.

Prof. Mattoo stressed for improving quality of education in State-run schools. He said no education system can thrive anywhere in the world unless they take the ownership of State-run institutions. He said that it is the Government which has to create the edifice of a competitive education system and unless the State-run schools are on board, there is very little probability to achieve the desired results.

Secretary School Education briefed Prof. Mattoo about the steps taken by the department to improve the quality of education in Government schools. He said that extra classes for under-performing students, CM's Super 50 coaching and coaching for various competitive examinations including civil services are being presently conducted to prepare students for cut-throat competition at cutting edge level.



Dignitaries on dais during seminar on 'Fire Safety in Hospitals'.

Seminar organized on 'Fire Safety in Hospitals'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: A seminar on 'Fire Safety in Hospitals' was organized here today by Academy of Hospital Administration, Regional Chapter, Jammu, in association with Indian Institute of Public Administration, J&K Regional Branch, Jammu and 'Energy & Fire Technology' India Private Limited.

The seminar was attended by HoDs of Health and Medical Education Department, Medical Superintendents and other senior officers of the Government Hospitals of Jammu division, CEOs of Private Nursing Homes, life members of AHA-Jammu, IIPA Jammu and other senior functionaries of the Government departments.

Dr Abdul Rashid, Secretary to Government, Information Deptt and Science and Technology and Labour Commissioner, was the chief guest during the function. Speaking on the occasion, he laid stress on the 'Fire Safety in the Hospitals' in Government as well as the private sector and appealed to all concerned to have well documented fire manuals in their institutions, which should have all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for early detection of fire, its containment and training of

the staff, so that the hazards of fire are minimised in the hospitals and the staff is well trained for evacuation of the patients and their attendants during such incidents.

Dr Yashpal Sharma, Registrar Academics, Government Medical College, Jammu delivered his key note address during the symposium highlighting various aspects of the Fire Safety in the Hospital.

Rohit Vishal, Co-Founder/Director, Energy and Fire Technologies, India Private Limited, discussed the conventional and new technologies of the Fire Safety in the Hospitals.

M/s, Energy and Fire Technologies India Private Limited, a Gurgaon based company working in Fire Safety in public places and reviving old/ used lead acid batteries to help in reducing pollution and the cost of purchase of batteries, also gave a live demonstration of automatic portable fire extinguishers.

Earlier Er J B S Johar, Hony Secretary IIPA J&K Regional Branch, presented welcome address. The function was organised under the guidance of Dr C M Seth. Dr Jasbir Singh, Ex-Director, Health Services Jammu, delivered vote of thanks.

Dr Gaurav Vaid conducted all proceedings of the event.

Toyota enters Indian B-high segment with world-class sedan 'Yaris'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Toyota Kirloskar Motor today added to the excitement of Auto Expo 2018 with the unveiling of 'Yaris' - one of the most anticipated launches this year.

With Yaris the leading auto manufacturer marks its entry into the highly competitive B-



segment in India. Built on Toyota's renowned philosophy of QDR (Quality, Durability and Reliability) this world class sedan is as advanced as it is luxurious. Under the Development concept of "the New Value Pioneer" Yaris offers distinctive design, spaciousness, quality and comfort comparable to higher class vehicles.

Yaris, named after the Greek goddess Charis who embodies beauty and elegance, dons a premium fascia. The model has gained international reputation for its five distinctive attributes - advanced and emotional design, expansive comfort, superior ride quality and quietness, dynamic efficiency and class-leading safety and technology.

Sharing his thoughts on how Toyota is ushering in a new motoring experience in the nation, Takatomo Suzuki, Chief Engineer, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "We are delighted to mark Toyota's entry

into the B-high segment in India with the Yaris - "The New Value Pioneer". We see Yaris as a model that will introduce new customers to brand Toyota in the country."

Also present at the unveiling, Akito Tachibana, Managing Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Our successful and leading models in India - Innova

Crysta and Fortuner, have been a great learning experience and we are here today to take this learning ahead with the most celebrated world class sedan, the launch of Yaris for the desirous Indian consumers at focus."

Speaking on the new offering N Raja, Deputy Managing Director, Sales & Service, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Yaris is built on the Toyota philosophy of QDR offering 12first in segment features like Power Driver Seat, 7 SRS Airbags, Roof Mounted Air Vents, TPMS, Front Parking Sensors, All Wheel Disc Brakes. Yaris commands attention and connects emotionally with globalized young aspirational buyers with its cutting edge exterior design and state of the art interior design."

Testament to its unbeaten safety features, Toyota Yaris recently received 5-star safety ratings from the New Car Assessment Program for Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN NCAP). The bookings open for customers from April 2018.

'Pro-Pak slogans fuelled anti-nationalists'

BJP MLAs proved weak, coward: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Feb 12: While criticizing the NC MLA's pro-Pak slogans inside the Assembly and BJP Ministers for maintaining stoic silence, with no action initiated against the defiant Legislator for his highly seditious conduct, the NPP Chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh today alleged that BJP MLAs have proved coward and weak.

Addressing large public gathering in Ramnagar today, Harsh Dev Singh said that some feeble noises made by a handful of BJP MLAs had failed to convince the nationalist people of Jammu and even BJP workers who felt extremely embarrassed and humiliated over the pusillanimity of their mandated leaders vainly attempting to play to the galleries.

"Why has action not been initiated against the delinquent MLA for defying the constitution despite his solemn pledge to safeguard the same? Why is the Saffron flavoured GOC silent over the dastardly act of seditious while causing its C and D grade leaders to meekly oppose the NC MLA's statement and once again exhibiting its dual stan-

dards?" Harsh Dev said. Describing the ugly episode of Pak eulogy inside the Legislature by NC MLA, Mohd Akbar Lone, Singh said that BJP leaders had hurt the nationalist sentiment and Dogra pride once again by failing to respond appropriately to the situation.

Describing the episode as an affront to national honour, Singh said that such a seditious act had not only desecrated the temple of democracy but had emboldened and fuelled the anti-nationalist forces operating in the State. He said that with support to pro-Pak forces emanating from the floor of the Assembly and that too, in saffron flavoured Govt, the shockingly egregious episode was certainly a shot in the arm for the enemies of the nation.

He said that mere presence of NPP MLAs inside the Assembly would serve as a deterrent thereby restraining and keeping check on such legislators inside the legislature. Describing the BJP MLAs as an Army of chocolate cream soldiers, Singh said that they had inflicted the biggest dent upon Dogra pride by their cowardice act.

Police launches crackdown on bikers; 5 FIRs registered, 6 arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 12: Police launched a heavy crackdown on bikers performing stunts in and around the town, riding bikes rashly and negligently and avoiding crash helmets. Police registered multiple FIRs in this regard, seized over 30 bikes and arrested a number of persons in this connection.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishitwar Abrar Chowdhary, police received complaints during various public meetings that the youth in and around the town misuse the bikes by doing stunts on the roads, driving rashly and negligently and therefore endanger the lives of elderly persons, children and women. Moreover there were complaints that many youngsters ride bikes without driving licences and without the proper papers of the bikes with them, he added.

Acting on these complaints, police laid various nakas in the town and has arrested six persons, seized over 30 bikes and challaned a large number of motorcycles.

SSP further stated that police registered cases under FIR Number 28/18 under Section 279 and 336 RPC against Masarat Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmed of Lyne Kishitwar, FIR Number 30/18 under Section 279 and 336 RPC against Arun Singh, son of Ramesh Singh of Dool, FIR Number 31/18 under Section 279 and 336 RPC against Ghulam Mujtaba, son of Bashir Ahmed of Nagensi Kishitwar, FIR Number 32/18



J&K Bank's Zonal Head inaugurating business unit on Monday.

J&K Bank opens business unit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Jammu and Kashmir Bank opened its 903rd business unit (Branch) at Chamalwas, a remote area in district Ramban.

The Bank's Zonal Head Jammu (North-I) Khurshid Ahmed Fazili inaugurated the business unit in presence of Cluster Head Vijay Kumar amid large number of valuable clients, senior citizens and local residents, the spokesman said in a statement.

Zonal Head reiterated the bank's commitment for provid-

ing the world class banking products and services to people belonging to all the regions of J&K State.

"Public in general and customers of the bank in particular will be immensely benefited with the opening of new business unit, as it has brought the banking services to the door steps of inhabitants of Chamalwas and its adjoining areas," he said.

Zonal Head also advised the Head of business unit to make sure that customer service of highest quality is provided to the residents of the area.

Motorcyclist, pillion rider killed in road mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 12: A motorcyclist and his pillion rider were knocked to death when their bike was hit by an unidentified vehicle on the National Highway, near Mode Ground, Battal Balian, here last night.

The deceased were identified as Raghubinder Singh (20), son of Krishan Singh and pillion rider Lokinder Singh (21), son of Bansil Lal, both residents of Kambal Danga, Udhampur.

The accident took place around 11.55 p.m last night when the motorcycle, bearing registration number PB10CD-3502 was hit by unknown vehicle. The motorcyclist as well as the pillion rider reportedly died

on the spot. Police shifted the dead bodies to District Hospital Udhampur for the postmortem and other legal formalities. Later, the dead bodies were handed over to the respective families for last rites.

Udhampur Police has registered a case in this connection for identification of the vehicle involved in the accident and further investigation was going on.

Meanwhile, a female pedestrian was hit by a car JK02BT-8692, near Falata, National Highway Udhampur. The injured victim, identified as Poonam (50), wife of Bodh Raj of Ghari Udhampur, was shifted to District Hospital Udhampur for treatment.



A senior Army officer paying tributes to martyr.

Army bids farewell to martyr

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: A wreath laying ceremony was organized in honour of the brave heart Gunner Kishore Kumar Munna, who laid down his life guarding the Nation's frontiers while serving at the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector.

A military send off was organized, wherein, military

dignitaries laid wreaths on behalf of Lt Gen D Anbu, Army Commander, Northern Command and Lt Gen Saranjeet Singh, GOC White Knight Corps.

Later, the mortal remains of the martyr were dispatched to his native place, village Barmaha in district Chautham, Bihar, where his last rites will be conducted.



Dignitaries during launch of Datsun redi-GO AMT in Jammu on Monday.

Datsun launches best priced AMT model in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Datsun India today launched the highly anticipated Datsun redi-GO AMT, equipped with the iSAT engine, which features more power, style and convenience for customers in Jammu. Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive Auto has been launched at an introductory price of Rs 3,80,600.

Datsun redi-GO AMT was launched by the chief guest Liaquat Choudhary, SSOP, JKP in presence of Owais Guroo and Bilal Guroo, Directors of Shuhul Nissan Jammu and officials of Nissan Motors Indian Private Limited namely Gurjeet Singh, RM, Chandar Mohan Singh, ASM and Neeraj Sharma, ASM at Shuhul Nissan in Jammu.

The new Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive Auto comes with new Dual-Driving Mode and Rush Hour Mode to provide an ultimate driving experience with best in class ground clearance (185 mm), cabin space, boot space and head room.

With the new Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive, Datsun also introduces new Bluetooth Audio System (with hands-free calling and Audio Streaming) across its range of redi-GO model in T (O) and S grades.

Jerome Saigot, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India Private Limited, "Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive Auto combines the

convenience and flexibility of dual-driving mode with best-in-class ground clearance, cabin space, boot space and head room. In line with our commitment towards our customers, we are launching the new redi-GO Smart Drive Auto at an attractive introductory price and rich features in its segment."

Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive Auto is powered by Intelligent Spark Automated Technology (iSAT), 1.0L three-cylinder fuel efficient engine, all black interiors, central locking system with remote key for convenience. The car is available in five colours--Ruby Red, Lime Green, White, Grey and Silver.

Datsun customers also have access to 'Datsun CARE', a comprehensive service package for new customers of redi-GO that assures complete peace of mind by 100% coverage of parts and 24x7 roadside assistance. The Datsun CARE package covers not only scheduled services and their associated spare part costs, labour charges and taxes, but also other important value additions. These include replacement of brake and clutch components, replacement of wiper blades once a year, wheel alignment and balancing, extended warranty with roadside assistance, exterior washes and interior cleaning. Datsun Care is acceptable at all Nissan and Datsun network pan India will also be available for Datsun redi-GO Smart Drive Auto.

17 hurt as two buses collide

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Feb 12: At least 17 passengers were injured when two buses collided in Chingus area of Rajouri today.

A police spokesman said that mishap took place when the bus bearing registration no. JK02AH/8925 was on way to Jammu from Poonch while another with registration no. JK02BL/7185 was moving from Jammu to Poonch. Near Tariq Bridge at Rajouri, both the vehicles collided at a curve causing injuries to at least 17 passengers on board. The injured were shifted to

District Hospital, Rajouri. They were identified as Santosh Devi from Sangioat, Mohd Farooq from Fatehpur, Vidhyawanti from Patara, Shaheen Akhtar from Bhatta Durian, Mohd Latief from Mandi Poonch, Zahoar Ahmed from Rajdani, Mohd Yousof from Kallar, Mohd Arif from Kattarmal, Muneera Begum from Bhatta Durian, Mohd Nadeem from Deri Lalyot, Mohd Azhar from Surankote, Fezan from Darhal, Irshad Iqbal, Dilshan, Waseem from Dandkote, Mohd Qasim from Baji Morh and Azhar from Thanamandi. The police has taken cognizance of the matter.

Wazir Masih remembered on death anniversary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Christian Minority Welfare Association organized a function to pay homage to Late Wazir Masih, Ex-MLC on his 20th death anniversary. He was a prominent political leader at Christian Colony Residency Road Jammu. GA Mir, President JKPC was the chief guest on the occasion and Vikram Malhotra, General Secretary JKPC was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion PCC chief said that Masih had the missionary zeal for his com-

munity and has done a lot to uplift this down trodden community.

Malhotra while speaking on the occasion said that Christian community always remained loyal to the Congress party even in its black days but remained ignored and neglected so far. This community needs special attention in every sphere of life, he added.

Nasir Masih, Chairman of the Association, Michael Wazir, President of the Association and many others were present on the occasion.

JKPRM urges VC to introduce Pahari in JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Pahari Revolutionary Movement (JKPRM) today called on Jammu University Vice Chancellor Prof R D Sharma and demanded introduction of Pahari language as an open subject in Post Graduate Courses in JU.

State president of JKPRM told the Vice Chancellor that "around 3-4 lakh students of the Pahari community are supporting their demand.

The VC gave a patient hearing to delegation and assured that on fulfillment of the required conditions, University will introduce the Pahari subject. The members of JKPRM also assured the VC that Cultural Academy and Advisory Board will provide syllabus, books, dictionaries and literature of the subject.

The JKPRM delegation comprised of Zakir Ahmed, Rajib Mehraj, Qazi Abrar Ahmed, Zaheer Khan, Rameez Malik and Hamid Hashmi.

India has 35% Chief Ministers with criminal cases: ADR

NEW DELHI, Feb 12:

In India, around 35 per cent Chief Ministers have criminal cases against them and 81 per cent of the total are crorepatas, according to an ADR report released today.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of current Chief Ministers (CMs) in State Assemblies and Union Territories across the nation.

These were the latest affidavits filed by them prior to contesting the elections.

"Out of the all 31 Chief Ministers analysed from State

Assemblies and Union Territories, 11 (35 per cent) Chief Ministers have declared criminal cases against themselves," the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report noted.

Further, 26 per cent CMs have declared serious criminal cases, including related to murder, to murder, cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, criminal intimidation, among others.

Interestingly, as many as 25 CMs, or 81 per cent, are crorepatas, with two of them having assets to the tune of over Rs 100 crore. The average assets of CMs are worth Rs 16.18 crore.(PTI)

HEM for handing over murder case to CBI

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 12: The activists of Hindu Ekta Manch (HEM) held a meeting at Hiranagar today and warned the authorities of harassing the members of the community.

The Manch headed by advocate Vijay Sharma reiterated that the case of the murder of a minor girl be handed over to CBI to ascertain the facts as they are not satisfied with SIT probe as first the police has arrested a juvenile and later an SPO. Now two youth are being harassed and asked that the need of suspicion falls on them also.

The meeting, which was attended by the prominent people of the area including Sarpanchs and Panchs of various villages said that first police framed a story that the juvenile

tried to rape the girl and later killed her with stones and now another story is being floated and more people being arrested.

The meeting said that to ascertain the facts the case be handed over to CBI as they have lost faith in the police which is day in and day out changing the stories.

It may be recalled that a body of eight year minor girl who was missing for a week was found in the forests of Rasana in Hiranagar belt on January 17 evoking a protest from the minorities. Later the police arrested a juvenile saying that it has solved the murder case.

However some days later a SPO was arrested in connection with the murder and now two youth are also being questioned by the police.

EDB to launch 100 PoS machines this month: Bharti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Taking another leap forward on digital platform, Ellaquai Dehati Bank (EDB) launched service of its own Point of Sale (PoS) machine with the support of its sponsor Bank i. e State Bank of India (SBI) for its customers.

The first such machine was installed at Orzu Multi Specialty Dental Clinic, Talab Tillo here. Extending such services will be great aid to the customers of the Bank under changed digital scenario which being the thrust area of DSF (Go).

Launching the service at the

Clinic the chairman of the Bank, Parvinder Bharti said that EDB is extending the services to 100 more customers during the current month. He said the ancillary digital services of mobile banking and UPI are already on the radar of the Bank for extension to its valued customers.

Speaking on the occasion, Regional Manager of the Bank, R P Pandit complimented the customers for reposing faith and trust with the Bank and assured them best services in the future.

The Branch Head Bharat Nagar Branch Naresh Fotadar also spoke on the occasion.

National SC Corp AGM calls on Balbir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Dr. K.C. Mahato, Assistant General Manager, National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSCFDC), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, who was in Jammu to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors of J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation Limited, called on Corporation Vice-Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan here, today.

He apprised Balbir Ram of the welfare schemes being run by the Union Government for the socio economic upliftment of the members of Scheduled Caste community across the country.

Dr Mahato informed Balbir Ram that different types of earning units are being setup by the

unemployed males and females belonging to the Scheduled Caste category by availing the financial assistance in the form of loan provided by National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation through local agencies in their respective states.

Balbir Ram Rattan, while interacting with the AGM, said that Corporation is making all efforts to reach every nook and corner of the State and provide financial assistance to the unemployed members of the reserved categories with a motive of making them self reliant instead of becoming burden on their families. He also discussed the schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and expressed hope that the NSCFDC would adopt more liberal approach while providing funds for the SCs in the State.

Ganderbal people warn agitation over shifting of CU campus

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: The people of Ganderbal have expressed serious concern over the reported move of the Government to shift the Central University campus from Ganderbal to some other area.

Criticizing the move, the people of the area said that crores of rupees were spent on the construction of various structures including leveling and fencing of land identified for the establishing of the CU campus in the district during last about one decade and sudden decision to shift the campus means that this entire public money has

gone down the drain.

In a statement Senior Citizens and Pensioners Welfare Society President, Mir Ghulam Rasool Butwani said that there is lot of public resentment in the area and if the University campus were shifted from the district people will be forced to launch the agitation.

Mir has urged the concerned authorities to review the decision and not force the people to come to streets as they will not allow the shifting of CU campus to other areas as this way the people of entire district feel cheating through the hands of Government.

One arrested with illicit liquor pouches

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 12: Kanachack police arrested a motorcyclist and recovered large quantity of illicit liquor pouches.

As per police sources, on reliable information, a team from Kanachack Police Station laid a naka and intercepted a motorcycle.

During checking, police recovered 44 pouches of illicit liquor from the vehicle and arrested the rider.

The accused has been identified as Devinder Singh, son of

Rattan Singh, a resident of Chatha Gujra, Gajansoo.

He was carrying the illicit liquor pouches to his native area for selling among the people to make illegitimate profits.

A case under FIR Number 19/18 under Section 48-A Excise Act has been registered at Kanachack Police Station and investigation started.

Police team led by SHO Kanachack Inspector Neeraj Choudhary made the arrest under the supervision of SDPO Domana Sandeep Gupta and SP Rural Shivdeep Singh Jamwal.