



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti interacting with a delegation at Jammu.

## Legislators, ex-legislators, other deputations call on CM Govt working for development of all communities in State: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: A delegation of representatives of Pahari community met the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today and thanked her for the historic decision of granting three per cent reservation to the members of Pahari community.

The delegation comprised legislators, Javed Hussain Beigh, Shah Muhammad Tantray, Raja Manzoor, Javed Mirchal and ex legislators, Mushtaq Bukhari, Shabir Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Rashid Qureshi, Mirza Abdur Rashid, Ashok Sharma and other senior representatives of the community.

The representatives described the decision as a step to establish the identity of the community which would go a long way in the social, political and economic empowerment of the community.

The representatives hoped that other issues of the community would also get resolved under her leadership.

Thanking the delegation, the Chief Minister said that she was happy to see that this decision of her Government would give a sense of identity to the community and also it was a promise made by successive Governments that has been fulfilled by her Government.

Mehbooba Mufti said that her Government is working for the development of all communities in the State. She asked the community leaders to play their role in the development and growth of the State and its people.

Meanwhile, several deputations and people from all walks of life called on the Chief Minister and brought several of their issues into her notice and sought their redressal.

A deputation of members of Gurdwara Prabandak Committee led by S. Janak Singh sought reservation for Sikh community in Government jobs, minority status for the community besides some other benefits as may be due to the community.

A deputation from Marwah, Kishtwar led by MLC, Firdous Tak sought formulation of a rehabilitation package for the affected people of Bursar project besides introduction of more cellular networks in the region.

The other demands of the deputation included setting up of a packaging unit at Marwah, developing eco tourism in the area, stabilisation of medical and health facilities and improvement in road connectivity in the area.

A deputation of farmers of Jammu also met the Chief Minister and demanded rational-

isation of rates of their productive land.

Deputations from Leh and Kargil demanded setting up of college at Nubra, opening up of Turtuk to tourism and raised some other issues.

A deputation of youth led by MLA, Yawar Mir and Waheed ur Rehman Parra also met the Chief Minister and complimented her Government for many of the pro people decisions, particularly the recent ones like reservation to Pahari speaking people and poorest among the poor.

Several deputations from Langate sought pacing up of developmental process in the constituency. Deputations from Pahalgam and Aishmuqam sought stabilisation of power distribution in the area, improvement in basic facilities and raised other demands.

A deputation from Karnah led by legislators, Raja Manzoor and Javed Mirchal demanded construction of tunnel at Sadhna Top on the Kupwara-Karnah road.

Deputations from Inderwal, Srigufwara, Homeshalibugh, Reasi, Bhaderwah and other areas also met the Chief Minister and projected their demands.

The Chief Minister listened to the deputations patiently and assured them to look into their demands in a time bound manner.

## MP, MLC, former LC Chairman call on Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Nazir Ahmad Laway, Member of Parliament, called on Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan here today.

Laway informed Governor about his assessment and suggestions in regard to dealing with several important issues relating to the obtaining situation in the State.

Surinder Ambarard, Member of the State Legislative Council also called on Governor and apprised him about the several important developmental and other issues which came up for discussion in the ongoing Legislative Session, issues relating to the Kashmiri migrants and the need for effective protection of the

properties left behind by them in the Valley.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rashid Dar, former Chairman of Legislative Council, called on Governor and discussed his concerns about the obtaining security situation and about issues relating to the growth and development of district Anantnag and the adjoining areas in South Kashmir.

Governor urged Dar to continue sustained efforts for promoting a peaceful environment which would be conducive for the development and welfare of the people of Kashmir and particularly asked him to engage the civil society in his area to promote the interests of students at all levels and protect them from getting involved in non-academic activities.

## HC directs SMC to stop encroachment of pavements

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 13: Taking serious note of traffic congestion and irregularities in traffic management, High Court today directed Srinagar Municipal Corporation to stop the encroachments on pavements and take action against the violators.

The Division Bench of Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir and Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed the SMC to stop the menace of encroachments by shopkeepers on pavements. "We impress upon SMC authorities in particular the Commissioner to ensure that anti encroachment squad discharges duties with dedication and commitment so that the menace of extending shops on the pavement by the shopkeepers is totally stopped and a strict action is taken", DB directed.

Court said, "if on the next date of hearing the position is not brought to the notice of the court then Chief Enforcement Officer, SMC shall have to remain personally present and explain as to how it is happening."

With regard to the color coding of vehicles for different routes, DB has been informed that once it is introduced and operated, it shall be easy to identify the vehicle which are plying in violation to the permission and action of seizure and fine will follow.

Court directed Assistant Regional Transport Officer to impress upon concerned President of Sumo-Taxi owners to furnish the list of the registered Sumo and

Taxi Cabs, which are plying on different routes and in default he must take swift action which may include seizure of the vehicle.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation stated that its enforcement wing had continued the anti-encroachment drive against the street vendors and the shopkeepers in the Central Business District (CBD) and Pantha Chowk, areas under the supervision of Anti Encroachment Officers headed by the Chief Enforcement Officer.

"Numerous street vendors had been removed from the roads and pavements in and around Jehangir Chowk, Hari Singh High Street, Naaz Crossing, Batmaloo and also from Residency Road, Poloview, Lambert Lane, Abi Guzar, Amira Kadal, Regal Chowk etc", reads the report of SMC.

Development Authority was directed to extend all possible help to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the anti encroachment drive and to ensure that the trade is not allowed on the footpaths and on roadside anywhere in the city of Srinagar.

Advocate Ateeb Kanth, who is assisting the amicus in the PIL in his report states that even at present it is clear to everyone that in the adjacent areas like Hari Singh High Street, Jehangir Chowk and other areas, street vendors are occupying the pavements and are doing business on the road.

He says that the already existing shopkeepers have kept their merchandise on the pavements, however, no action has been taken.

## Aspirants demand postponement of KAS mains exam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 13: A group of Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) aspirants held a protest at Press Enclave against Public Service Commission (PSC) for putting them under tremendous stress by denying them enough time for sitting in the mains examination today.

The protesters accused the PSC of playing with their carrier by abruptly announcing the dates of the examination.

A group of aspirants said that in 2016, PSC advertised 277 KAS positions and the prelims were conducted in March 2017 but there were some discrepancies in the result.

They said the result was then revised by PSC and 429 aspirants were ousted who were included in the first list. "These 429 aspirants went to the court and the court directed the Commission to allow them to appear in the main exams on 'equal footing' on December 31,

2017," they said, adding "for one month, the aspirants were not notified by PSC to submit the forms. But on 8th February, eight days before the mains exam is scheduled the Commission notified them to submit their forms along with all the documents within two days."

The aspirants said it is sheer injustice that they are expecting us to get ready for mains in just six days. "There was no preparation time for us as all the aspirants were busy with the case and at the last moment we were informed about the forms," they alleged.

An aspirant said the case is still pending and there was an uncertainty in other candidates whether the exams will be held or not.

"The aspirants are suffering from mental trauma due to this uncertainty and we are not able to prepare for the exams," he said.

The aspirants appealed that the exams should be deferred till the final verdict and they should be given at least two months to prepare for the exams.

## DB directives in PIL regarding drug abuse

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a law student namely Arthav Mahajan seeking initiation of a special drive by J&K Police to check growing menace of drugs, Division Bench of State High Court comprising Chief Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur has issued certain directions to SSP Jammu.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocate Venu Gupta and Advocate Deepika Mahajan for the PIL, Division Bench observed, "pursuant to the directions given by this court Standard Operating Procedures have been put in place with regard to the recovery and investigation in the cases of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", adding "moreover, two Monitoring Cells have also been established at the provincial level by an order dated 06.02.2018".

Accordingly, DB directed respondents to file a status report indicating whether the Standard Operating Procedures have been implemented in letter and spirit and the results yielded by this step.

"Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi, appearing as an Amicus Curiae, has submitted that drugs are being supplied to the school and college students and are available in particular areas within Jammu city. He is ready to give the information with regard to these areas", DB said while directing the respondents to ensure that the locations pointed out by Amicus Curiae are monitored. A report shall be submitted with regard to the action taken, the DB said.



Devotees offering prayers before Shivalingam at Ranbireswar temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Tuesday.

## Mahashivratri celebrated with religious fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Mahashivratri was celebrated today with religious and traditional fervour amidst offering of prayers in Shiva temples across the State.

Huge rush of devotees of all age groups was witnessed in all the Shiv temples waiting for their turn to offer holy water and fruits on the Shivalingam. People thronged to the temples since late midnight and long queue of devotees were seen at Aap Shambhu temple in Roop Nagar, Ranbireswar temple near Shalimar Chowk, Peer Kho on the banks of Tawi river and other Shiv temples and Shrines.

All the Shiv temples and shrines were fully decorated giving a festive look while some devotees and organizations had arranged food stalls for general public. At some places, Shiv-Barat was enacted.

Some of devotees observed ritualistic fast to please their beloved deity with their devotion. They woke up early in the morning and after taking bath went to the temple with several offerings. They performed

the ritualistic Shiva Abhishekam with milk, honey, ghee, curd, and sandalwood paste amidst chanting of 'Om Namaha Shiva'.

They also offered fruits like Ber, Bel leaves and flowers to the Shivalingam.

At various places, religious processions were also taken out to mark the occasion of Mahashivratri. Large number of devotees took part in such procession wherein Gas Balloons

\* Watch video on [www.excelsionews.com](http://www.excelsionews.com)

with Shiv message were also released in the sky.

Kashmiri Pandits, living in Jammu, were abuzz with the festive mood on the occasion of Mahashivratri, which is considered to be most significant religious festival of the community and celebrated with much fervour and enthusiasm.

In maximum Kashmiri Pandit homes, family members woke all night and chanted prayers and songs in honour of Lord Shiva. A festive look was visible in the KP migrant colonies, where the administration had made special arrangements on the occasion of

Shivratri.

Besides various socio-religious groups, the District administration had made elaborate arrangements to facilitate the devotees visiting the temples. Keeping in view of the security situation, particularly in the wake of terror attack on Sunjwan Army camp and purported attempt to target another Army camp at Domana, elaborate security arrangements were also made around all the religious places, particularly famous Shiv temples here.

Reports from Shiv Khori at Ransoo in Reasi district said that thousands of devotees visited the cave shrine on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Langer Prasad was served to the devotees, who came from different parts of the State as well as the country.

Mahashivratri was also celebrated in other parts of the State, where the auspicious occasion, which is celebrated to mark mythological marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati, witnessed prayers in temples with devotees offering water on Shivalingam, taking out religious processions and organizing of Langars etc.

## Big jolt to Govt in premature retirement cases

### DB dismisses 3 LPAs of State

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: In a big jolt to State, Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Justice M K Hanjura has dismissed three appeals filed against the judgment of Single Bench whereby premature retirement of three officials namely Bashir Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmed and Subash Raina was quashed.

The DB, in the judgment written by Justice M K Hanjura, observed, "may be the observations made by the Single Judge may not cut much ice and may not be of much significance and relevance in the case but the sphere of the jurisdiction of the committee was to consider each such cases for compulsory retirement in which the charges of corruption were leveled against each employee".

"How is that a few employees were picked up for such consideration and the others were allowed to go scot free and break through? The societal concerns of administering law and justice are not legal luxuries. The State cannot indulge in the luxury of legal sophistry with purposes more ulterior than transparent, concealing more and revealing less and masquerading as if fighting for principles", the DB said.

Division Bench further observed, "looking at the instant case from this perspective, an important facet which cannot be lost sight of is that the committee has given a complete go by to the Regulation 226(2) of the J&K CSR read with the instructions buttressed to it in considering compulsory retirements".

"These lay great emphasis and spell out the need and demand to consider the entire service record of the public servant available in the shape of APRs, service book, personal file giving the details of the complaints received against him from time to time and so on and

so forth", the DB further said. While considering the desirability of the retention or otherwise of a public servant, whose conduct has come under a smoke of cloud, the criminal case or cases registered against him can be considered on the parapet and the bulwark of the chain of the documents/service particulars, the DB said, adding "but to say that an FIR can form the sole basis to retire a public servant compulsorily is neither in tune nor in line with the scheme and mandate of Article 226(2) of the J&K CSR read with the guidelines and the judicial pronouncements holding the ground".

"Taking such a view that an FIR only will form the basic structure of an order of compulsory retirement of a public servant will be repugnant and averse to the very concept and object of compulsory retirement. In order to attach a semblance of fairness to such an order, the entire service record of a public servant, more significantly the service record of the previous years preceding the decision, has to be assessed and evaluated", Division Bench further said.

"These cannot be skipped and shelved in formulating such an opinion by taking umbrage under the plea that the same were not available as stated by the committee. If these are disregarded and omitted in the matter of the accord of consideration to the case of the compulsory retirement of a public servant, the whole exercise will get vitiated under the colour of the non application of mind", the DB said, adding "how can the conduct of a public servant be put through the wringer when there is no definite material to substantiate so".

"This is a fundamental flaw in the order issued against the respondents whereby they were shown the door. Merely that a case or cases has/have been registered against by the Vigilance Organization cannot form the basis of compulsory retirement", the DB said.

## Young girl abducted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: A young girl was abducted here from Gujjar Nagar.

According to a police official, a girl belonging to Kishtwar and presently living with her family in a rented accommodation in Gujjar Nagar area went missing on the night of February 11. He said the family members searched for the girl everywhere but did not found her.

"Meanwhile the family members came to know that the girl was last seen with a young boy named Aijaz Ahmed son of Mohd younis, resident of Mendhar, presently residing in a rented room in Gujjar Nagar", he said, adding, on the complaint of the family members, a case under Section 366, 109 RPC was registered at police station Peer Mitha against the boy, who was also missing and his phone switched off.

## No talks with Pak till militancy ceases: BJP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: State BJP has rejected the idea of immediately initiating dialogue with Pakistan for resolution of Kashmir issue and said that talks with the hostile country were not possible at this stage.

"Amidst the sound of bullets and spilled blood, certain class is advocating for the talks between Pakistan and India and saying that India must take forward step for talks, which is not suitable at the time when Pakistan is openly supporting militant attacks in the State, said BJP State Chief Spokesperson, Advocate Sunil Sethi, while talking to media persons, here today.

He said that the whole Nation stands with the security forces and talks at this time with

the rogue State will only serve to down the morale of Indian security agencies. He further said that the talks with Pakistan on any matter and at any time are totally the matter of concern for



State BJP Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

Central Government with no scope of interference by any other.

"And this can only be considered, if it will be, when Pakistan pulls back its hand

from supporting the subversive acts in the region and environment is conducive for the matter on the Parliamentary Resolution", he added while maintaining that the Parliamentary Resolution clearly states that there is only single issue which is to be considered and discussed at any forum with Pakistan and that is regarding the taking back "Possession of Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK)" from the clutches of Pakistan.

Sunil Sethi also criticized Akbar Lone for hailing Pakistan in the Legislative Assembly. "This is an extremely serious matter, as not only due to his anti-national utterance but due to a bid to divide the population," Sethi said. Emphasizing that the Speaker should have taken action on the erring MLA, Sunil Sethi demanded that the Speaker should refer the matter to privilege committee as this is clearly the matter of breach in privilege of the House. He added that the Speaker can also debar the member, till the report of committee is out. "Akbar Lone has insulted the whole Muslim community and tried to put question mark on their nationalism," he added.

## Man charred to death

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 13: In a tragic incident, a young man was charred to death in a devastating fire in his house at Sadota in Panchari tehsil, here this evening.

The deceased was identified as Rashpal Singh alias Choudhary (40), son of former Sarpanch Badhota Jeet Singh. He was burnt to death in the major fire that broke out in his house due to leakage of cooking gas cylinder. Even as other family members were safely rescued, Rashpal Singh was charred to death in the flames, which engulfed the entire house as well as a shop. Property worth Rs 2 crore, approximately, was also reduced to ashes in the mishap.

The incident took place around 8:30 pm.

## Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: To execute work for shifting of 630 mm2 1-Core XLPE Cable already laid on existing poles to the newly erected 16 MTR Long ST Poles from the construction site of Multi Level Car Parking Cum Commercial Complex at General Bus Stand Jammu, the shutdown of 33 KV Company Bagh-Parade line is being observed.

During the shutdown, the power supply to Purani Mandi, Afgan Mohalla, Parade, Moti Bazar, Pacca Danga and adjoining areas will remain affected from February 14 to February 20 from 10.30 am onwards.

## Jugal sanctions Rs 15 lakh for development works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP Member of Parliament from Jammu Poonch Lok Sabha constituency, today visited village Raipur and Bhalwal in Raipur-Domana constituency and sanctioned Rs 15 lakh for development works.

During the visit, Jugal also paid obeisance at the holy Temple of Lord Shiva at Raipur Mandi and prayed for the peace and development of the whole community.

While addressing the gathering, he highlighted the policies and programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has been taking the country forward in every arena. The MP also listened to the problems and demands of the people of the area and assured that all their demands would be re-addressed and fulfilled.

As the gathering demanded a

community hall in the area, the MP sanctioned Rs 10 lakh for the same from his MPLAD scheme.

Jugal Kishore also visited village Bhalwal and redressed the demand of inhabitants by sanctioning Rs 5 lakh for the development of cremation ground.

Pandit Prabhakar Khajuria, Bakshi Singh Jamwal and locals of village Raipur and Bhalwal accompanied the MP. They said that sanctioning the amount from MPLAD scheme for various development works would greatly help the people.

District president Rural BJP, Omi Khajuria, Yash Pal Seth, ex-Sarpanch Bhaninder Singh, ex-Sarpanch Narinder Singh Jamwal, Booby, Raju Singh, Shakti Dutt, Sheesh Pal, Harsh Vardhan Singh, Pt Ravi Sharma, Nitul Verma, Gulshan Kumar, Sunil Rakka, Gulsinder Bhagat and others accompanied the MP.

## Do not deny benefits to people for want of Aadhaar: Prasad

NEW DELHI, Feb 13:

The statement from Prasad comes within a week of report that a civil hospital in Gurgaon denied admission to a pregnant woman as she was not carrying her Aadhaar card and she had to deliver baby outside the hospital.

Prasad said that many times finger print of elderly do not match and he has directed the department to note their Aadhaar number in a register but they should not be denied benefits if they are entitled to.

The Minister said the Government is working to link Aadhaar with motor driving licence and cited an example to explain that the move will help in identifying offenders.

He said that State Governments should start using digital technologies in delivering services to people and outsource some of their work to BPOs being opened under India BPO Promotion Scheme. (PTI)

"Many times ration is not given at ration shop. It should not happen. You should think about it. No one should deny ration to poor," Prasad said.

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Date: 20th February, 2018 (Tuesday)

Timing: 10:00 to 01:30 pm

Venue: Lajwanti Hospital  
Kunjwani Bye Pass Road, Opposite Greater Kailash  
Colony, Near Yellow Chilli Restaurant, Jammu

Contact for registration: 990622269 / 8715910888

Please bring all your record

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