

Lal Singh reviews performance of SFC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Minister for Forests, Environment and Ecology, Ch. Lal Singh today chaired the 67th Board of Directors Meeting of State Forest Corporation (SFC) at Van Bhavan here.

Minister of State for Forests and Vice-Chairman of the Corporation, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Legislatures and Directors of the Corporation Dina Nath Bhagat and Yasir Reshi, MLA Ravinder Raina, Commission Secretary Forests Sourav Bhagat, Principal Chief Conservator Ravi Keasar and Managing Director SFC, S.K Gupta along with senior officers of the concerned department were present in the meeting.

The Minister took review of physical and financial achievements of the Corporation for the last four years. He also reviewed the progress on various projects and issues pertaining to the development of the Corporation. The Minister emphasized on proper utilization of human resource for increasing the overall production, which in turn would boost the sale of timber.

He was informed that Corporation has shown growth in physical achievement by extracting 39 lakh cft timber in 2017-18 against 37.40 lakh cft timber in 2016-17. He was informed that SFC has sold 18.75 lakh cft in auctions and 10.10 lakh cft of timber through concessional sale depots till end of December 2017, adding that, till the end of financial year SFC will meet the sales target of 45 lakh cft.

While expressing satisfaction on the working of SFC, the Minister enjoined upon the management to re-double their efforts towards making the Corporation more profitable. He also approved the diversification activities to be initiated by the SFC for generating additional revenue to improve the financial health of the corporation.

He asserted that serious efforts are being initiated to preserve ecology and environment of the State. "Government has prioritized the protection and preservation plan of forests and wildlife by taking up systematic demarcation of forest and wildlife land across the State", he added.

Minister further said that directions have already been issued to the officials of the department that there shouldn't be any compromise on the protection of wildlife, environment and ecology of the State.

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Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti handing over a key of motorised scooter to handicapped person at Jammu.

CM hands over motorised scooter to handicapped

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today handed over a motorised scooter to a handicapped Rakesh Sharma of Khokyal Nagri, Kathua.

The person had met the Chief Minister during her Public Outreach Programme at Kathua where the Chief Minister had promised him to issue a motorised bicycle to him.

All arrangements made for Maha Shivratri celebrations: Veeri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Revenue and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Abdul Rehman Veeri today said that all the arrangements were made in the migrant camps at Jammu and other places for smooth celebration of Maha Shivratri festival.

Addressing a meeting of Kashmiri migrants organized by A K Sidha, president Minority Cell PDP, the Minister said that instructions were given to all concerned officers to ensure essential commodities especially walnuts, flowers, milk, cheese, vegetables etc on controlled rates on the occasion of holy festival.

He said that the Maha Shivratri is the major festival of Kashmiri Pandits, who celebrate it in a unique way by maintaining the age old traditions. To remain linked to their roots the displaced Pandits kept this tradition alive after their migration.

"It is the earnest desire of the present Government to ensure return and rehabilitation of Pandits in Kashmir and many steps have been already taken in this regard to restore the age old pluralistic character of the Valley", the Revenue Minister said.

Other Minority Cell leaders who were present in the meeting included S K Raina, Bal Ji Baht and Sunil Bhat.

Plus-2 Lecturers' Forum appraises Education Minister of its demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: A delegation of All J&K Plus-2 Lecturers' Forum called on Minister for Education Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari and discussed various issues confronting Plus-2 community and sought his personal intervention in redressal of the same.

The delegation, under the chairmanship of Deepak Sharma, president of the Forum, hoped that as announced in the budget proposal, the Government will soon give practical shape to the Running Grade/Time Bound



Plus-2 Lecturers meeting Education Minister on Tuesday.

Promotion in favour of Plus-2 Lecturers.

The delegation also demanded regularization of all incharge incumbents, including Joint Directors and equivalents, CEOs and equivalents, Principals and Lecturers pending for years together. The Forum also sought Minister's personal intervention in release of Promotion Lists of Principals and Sr Lecturers at the rate of 1/3rd of the cadre

DC, SSP take stock of people's grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 13: Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Angrez Singh Rana along with SSP Kishtwar, Abrar Chowdhary, today visited Marwah Sub-Division to take stock of the problems of people in view of heavy snowfall in the area.

The people present in hundreds at Nawapachi put forth a number of grievances. The meeting was held in the snow-clad ground near helipad. The main demands of the people included the cancellation of the proposed Bursar Dam, uninterrupted supply of ration and other essentials, vaccination of the cattle, availability of the mobile phone connectivity and internet, functioning of CIC Marwah and enquiry of embezzlement of ration by the TSO.

Besides, they also demanded frequent operation of heli services and attendance of officers and officials in the Government offices. They requested that all those who obtained job from Marwah and later shifted along with post to Kishtwar or else-

HC quashes DC's order issued against Revenue Act

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 13: High Court today said that the concept of rule of law would lose its essence when authorities of the State are not held responsible for discharging their duty in fair and just manner.

Quashing the orders of Deputy Commissioner, wherein directions were passed for removing all structures erected on a big chunk of land for purpose of developing the land into an orchard, Justice M K Hanjura said these orders have been issued in clear disregard to the provision of Land Revenue Act as development of orchard is not a non-agricultural purpose.

Court did not stop here and said there is no bar to use this land even for residential purposes as the orders of Deputy Commissioner have been issued in breach of clear terms of Sections 133-B, 133-C of the Land Revenue Act.

Making clear that authorities should function in a fair and just manner, court said, the requirement of acting judicially in essence is nothing but a requirement to act justly and fairly and not arbitrarily or capriciously.

"In recent years the concept of quasi-judicial power has been undergoing a radical change. What was considered as an administrative power some years back, is now being considered as a quasi-judicial power", High Court said.

The petitioner asserts that he is in possession and occupation of 138 kanals of the land as the lawful attorney situated in Estate Singhpora and Estate Dever Yakhmanpora, Pattan, Baramulla.

The kind of soil of the said land, according to the petitioner, is maidani and a few kanals of the land are recorded as swampy.



NPP activists staging protest outside DyCM's residence in Jammu on Tuesday.

NPP conducts 'gherao' of DyCM's residence

BJP has lost moral authority to represent Jammu: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Outraged by the Pak sponsored 'Fidayeen attack' on Army camp in Sunjuwan in Jammu recently besides the seditious echo of pro-Pak slogans inside the J&K Legislature, NPP activists led by party chairman Harsh Dev Singh gheraoed the residence of DyCM, Dr Nirmal Singh here today.

Staging a strong protest, amidst clashes with the police the angry activists held the sinister coalition responsible for the deteriorating situation in the State and sought the resignation of the DyCM as well as the BJP MLAs for maintaining the stoic silence while the anti-national slogans were raised on the floor of the House.

Addressing the gathering, Harsh Dev said that the frequent terror attacks on the camps of the security personnel had rocked the entire State and shaken the belief of the civilians on the present regime as far as the credibility, efficiency and the intentions of the incumbent Government were concerned.

Paying homage to the martyred brave hearts of 36 Brigade Sunjuwan besides conveying sympathies to the bereaved families, he said that the Indian Army had once again proved its mettle by fending off the terror attack and eliminating the JeM militants to avert the possibility of a heavy casualty. Recalling similar

This land, it is affirmed, is not agricultural land within the meaning and contemplation of Section 133-A of the J&K Land Revenue Act. The petitioner has proceeded to state that he planned to develop the land, which is barren in nature into an orchard and accordingly, he erected a boundary wall, besides laying the service roads for the proper management and convenient passage/carryage of the produce.

Petitioner submits that authorities have caused undue interference with the developmental activity undertaken and carried at the site which is not in tune with the provisions of Land Revenue Act.

In this connection Deputy Commissioner Baramulla by his orders bearing no.DCB/SQ/608-10 dated 14th June 2012 and no.DCB/SQ/598-602 dated 14th June 2012, directed his subordinates to remove all kinds of structures/roads constructed on the land and submit the report.

Court said that the dividing line between an administrative power and a quasi-judicial power is quite thin and is being gradually obliterated. For determining whether a power is an administrative power or a quasi-judicial power, one has to look to the nature of the power conferred, the person or persons on whom it is conferred, the framework of the law conferring that power, the consequences ensuing from the exercise of that power and the manner in which that power is expected to be exercised.

As such court made clear that the Collector or any other authorized officer not below the rank of the Assistant Collector of the first class, under Section 133-C of the Land Revenue Act, is the exclusive authority to act and deal with the case(s) concerning contravention to provisions of Section 133-

R S Pathania addressing convention of SC Cell at Majalta on Tuesday.

Pathania assures early break-through on reservation in promotion

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Feb 13: Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA Ramnagar, while addressing a one day convention of Schedules Caste Cell of tehsil Majalta, assured that the stalemate over 'reservation in promotions' shall be worked out early in a constructive, conducive and plausible manner. He took a dig at certain vested interests who are out and out to polarize the situation and play petty politics over it.

The MLA further informed that it is first time in history that Govt. has come up with a bill spelling out reservation for 'poorest of poor'. He also evoked consensus and support on excluding 'creamy layer' from the benefits of reservation.

Pathania dwelled in detail the various developmental initiatives he has taken for SC and ST habitations of the area of Ramnagar. He alleged that in last few decades, selective development has been resorted to in the area of Ramnagar with SCs and STs lagging far behind. Maintaining that his endeavor has been to take the neglected and deprived sections/areas along with in the developmental journey of Ramnagar, the MLA,

Darshan Darshi nominated to Sahitya Akademi Board

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Eminent Dogri poet, scholar and columnist Darshan Darshi has been nominated as convener of Dogri Advisory Board of National Academy of Letters, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

The nomination was made in the first meeting of newly constituted General Council of the Sahitya Akademi held at Ravinder Bhavan yesterday.

JKAEA deputation meets DG Accounts

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: A deputation of J&K Accounts Employees' Association (JKAEA) today met DG, Accounts and Treasuries, J&K, Dr Ishak Wani, at Secretariat Complex and put forth its demands.

The deputation led by Nayaz Ahmed Qadri and Kulwant Singh Sambyal discussed various demands and issues related to Accounts personnel. The main demands put forth by the deputation include creation of new posts, declaration of Accounts Cadre as professional service, cadre review,

switch over of the pay and accounts system, removal of pay anomalies of Accounts cadre, welfare fund, confirmed promotion and full salary to employees undergoing training.

Besides, the deputation members also stressed for filling up of vacant posts of Accountant, implementation of SRO 272 like other departments, withdrawal of clarification SRO-160 of 2006 and creation of examination system of Accounts Personnel on the pattern of Planning department.

Dr Ishak Wani assured the deputation to solve their demands as early as possible.

Dr Jitendra announces Rs 1.2 cr for Shiv Khori

Excelsior Correspondent

RANSOO (REASI), Feb 13: On the occasion of "Shivratri" today, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the Lok Sabha MP from here, announced Rs.1.2 crore from MP Fund (MPLAD) and other sources for various development works in Ransoo, where the holy shrine of Shiv Khori is located.

Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing a meeting of public representatives and State Administration after participating in the Shivratri procession which marched through the main streets of the Ransoo market.

Out of Rs.1.2 crore announced by him, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Rs.60 lakh will be spent on a Community Toilet Complex, which according to him, was a dire need, because of thousands of pilgrims visiting the Shiv Khori shrine, around which dozens of "Langars" are hosted, but there is very little public toilet facility.

Another Rs.40 lakh, he said, would be spent on building a "Yatri Niwas" to provide cost-effective lodging and boarding facility for the visitors. In addition, he said, he had earmarked Rs.20 lakh, out of which Rs.10 lakh he would arrange immediately for installing tube wells, in response to a public demand.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that in the last 3 to 4 years, the far-flung districts like Reasi had received the attention that was not given in the earlier decades.

Many of the tasks and projects achieved in the last 3 to 4 years, Dr Jitendra Singh said, have been possible because we have given highest priority to the far-flung areas and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is always responsive to our sensitivities. In this regard, he cited the example of four-times hike in the monthly honorarium of terrorism effected migrants from Talwara, for which the proposal



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public gathering on the occasion of Shivratri at Ransoo / Shiv Khori in Reasi on Tuesday.

was presented and passed at a meeting of the Union Cabinet.

Reasi is the only district other than Kathua, Dr Jitendra Singh said, which has been elaborately referred by PM Modi in his popular monthly radio broadcast "Mann Ki Baat". While Reasi block was the first officially declared "ODF" block in the State, the Katra town was included in the list of "100 Icon Towns" under "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan".

As for connectivity, Dr Jitendra Singh said, tenders have been floated for construction of local Tanda-Ransoo road at a cost of Rs. 90 lakh. For PMGSY roads, while the State of J&K was given highest - ever package of Rs 2400 crore, nearly half of it has been allocated for Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency and out of that, Reasi and Udhampur have received maximum after Kathua.

Responding to a demand for extending the railway line to Shiv Khori, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he would discuss the feasibility of this suggestion, but added that the world's highest Railway Bridge, which is even higher than the world famous Eiffel Tower, is also coming in district Reasi. He suggested to Tourism Minister Priya Sethi to

highlight this spot as a tourist point.

Dr Jitendra Singh also referred to the State's only "War Memorial" dedicated to commemorate Golden Jubilee of the 1965 War which was set up from his MP fund, near the DC office complex in Reasi. He said, the survey is already in process for construction of Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor and once that becomes functional, the number of pilgrims and visitors to Shiv Khori and Vaishno Devi will increase manifold.

MoS Tourism Priya Sethi described the details of the proposed tourist circuit being worked out by the Government involving Ransoo, Shiv Khori and other neighboring points of interest. She also gave an update about the status of the proposed rope-way project in the area and the new terminal of Tourist Reception Centre.

MoS Ajay Nanda gave a detailed account of the development projects undertaken in the last 4 years.

Also present on the occasion were Divisional Commissioner Hemant Sharma, District Development Commissioner Prasanna Ramasamy, Senior Superintendent Police Tariq Bhat and others.

Spl DG CRPF inquiring about health of soldier's injured wife at MH Satwari in Jammu.

HM lauds bravery of forces, families Spl DG CRPF felicitates soldier's injured wife

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has expressed his condolences for the martyrs of attack on Army camp Sunjuwan in Jammu on Feb 10 and their families. He has appreciated the bravery of the soldiers and their families.

During the encounter Shahzada Khan, wife of Rifleman Nazir Ahmed was seriously injured and was rushed to Military Hospital, Jammu where she was saved and also gave birth to a healthy girl child.

As a mark of respect to this brave woman and to bless the new born baby, SN Shrivastava, Special



DIG, J&K Police, Rafiq-ul-Hassan and officials of Shuhul Hyundai on the launch of new Elite i20. —Excelsior/Rakesh

Shuhul Hyundai launches new Elite i20

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 13: Shuhul Hyundai today unveiled the new Elite i20 that embodies premium look, sporty styling and a robust rear stance.

The unveiling was done by Rafiq-ul-Hassan, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), J&K Police, in the presence of Owais Guroo and Bilal Guroo, directors of Shuhul Hyundai, Jammu and other staff members of the showroom.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafiq-ul-Hassan emphasized that road safety measures should be followed. He suggested that dealerships must educate the safety measures to customer during the delivery of the cars.

Owais Guroo and Bilal Guroo said, "The new Elite i20 with premium, sporty and stylish design equipped with hi-tech and convenience features offering uncompromised safety along with advanced dynamics. The new Elite i20 is

aesthetically designed with premium interiors and modern looks that make it truly appealing."

During the launch ceremony, Shuhul Hyundai today booked 10 Elite i20 cars.

Commenting on launch of the new Elite i20 at Auto Expo, YK CEO, Managing Director and CEO, Hyundai Motors India Ltd said, "The Elite i20 has been a global success, with over 400,000 happy customers since its launch in 2014. The new Elite i20 is a product of our continuous R&D efforts to bring out a premium, sporty and stylish design equipped with hi-tech and convenience features."

The design of new Elite i20 follows an evolved premium look, sporty styling and a robust rear stance based on Hyundai Motor's advanced design philosophy. The modern design of the new Elite i20 flows naturally from front to the rear reflecting beauty in motion inspired from power and elegance of nature.