



Minister for PHE, Sham Lal Choudhary meeting with Union Minister for Water Resources, Nitin Gadhkari at New Delhi.

Sham calls on Gadkari

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Sham Lal Choudhary today called on Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari and discussed the issues for effectively implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in the State.

The Minister discussed the issues with Union Minister in detail with regard to adequacy of budget, financial outlay and funds required by State Government from NABARD for completion of projects taken under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in the State.

The Minister also discussed issues pertaining to PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control sectors in the State and sought Central Government's assistance for timely completion of these.

Asking the State Minister for taking up and timely completion of projects under PMKSY, the Union Minister assured that the Central Government would extend every possible support to State Government for timely completion of projects undertaken under PMKSY. He said that the Union Government would also extend helping hand in taking up of new projects under PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control sectors for convenience of people and the development of State.



MLA R S Pathania addressing public during mass contact programme in Ramnagar on Thursday.

Pathania convenes mass contact programme

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Feb 15: Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA Ramnagar today convened a mass contact programme at Badakh, Kirmoo and Dak Bungalow in Ramnagar where a large number of public issues were raised.

During the mass contact programmes, directions were issued by the MLA to the officers of line departments for resolving common issues of general masses at an earliest. Pathania reiterated his resolve to leave no stone unturned for maximum development in Ramnagar Assembly constituency.

Earlier in the day a warm welcome was accorded to Pathania by members of BJYM Ramnagar Unit. A bike and car rally welcomed Pathania.

While addressing the gathering, Ramiz Shiekh, Youth president lauded the pro-Jammu, and pro-nationalistic stand taken by Pathania on the floor of Legislative Assembly. He said that anti-national rhetoric won't be digested at any cost.

Civil society of Ramnagar, cutting across party lines, also

welcomed and applauded the young legislators for his proactive approach on various issues of public interest and standing up for the cause of country and Jammu.

Rajinder Sharma, Mandal Pardhan, said that Pathania has used the platform of Legislative Assembly very effectively for raising important issues and getting them resolved. He said that it is due to the persistent efforts of Pathania that immediate focus shall be on the upgradation of this road. He said that name of 40 villages classified as backward area stands corrected now as earlier people were facing lot of difficulties. Pending cases of Social Welfare Department have been cleared. He hoped that shortly Basantgarh will have Model Degree College due to the efforts of Pathania.

Prominent among those present, were Mandal Pardhans of Ramnagar, Rajinder Sharma, Master Raj Gopal, Master Jagmohan Singh, Rameez Sheikh, Bhushan Modi, Virinder Singh, Rahul, Makhan Bandral, and a wide galaxy of local leadership.

Police solves murder case of tour operator

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH (LADAKH), Feb 15: District Police Leh has solved the murder case of a travel operator. SSP Leh, Sargun Shukla disclosed this at a press conference here today along with Additional SP, Stanzin Losal.

He said that a person named Stanzin Lawang a tour operator by profession went missing on December 20, last year. Initially his wife didn't lodge any police complaint assuming that he might have gone on tour some-

pect and with the assistance of District Police Jammu. He was apprehended and brought to Leh. On his disclosure the ATM card was recovered from Old Bus Stand Leh and accordingly case FIR No 14/2018 under Section 406, 420 RPC was registered in Police Station Leh, he added.

Shukla said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted under the overall supervision of Stanzin Losal, Additional SP Leh to investigate the matter in a professional manner. On further questioning the accused person confessed his involvement in killing of Stanzin Lawang and later disposing off the body in River Indus near Agli-ning, he added.



SSP Leh, Sargun Shukla and Additional SP Leh Stanzin Losal at a press conference at Leh.

where. However when he didn't return his wife Dechen Zangmo residing at Ibex Colony Leh lodged a complaint on the January 22 this year at Police Station Leh, he added.

He said on receiving the missing report police initiated inquiry. On receipt of this information report was entered in Police Station, Leh and search started. Every possible step was taken to find a clue about his whereabouts and it was during this that some facts came to fore and they led to the person namely Sonam Dorjay son of Tsewang Dorjay resident of Chushot who had used the ATM card of the missing person to withdraw money, SSP added.

He said a team was deputed to Jammu to apprehend the sus-

Dry ports to improve quality, structure of local economy: Drabu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: Finance Minister Dr Haseeb A Drabu said that dry ports to be established by the Dubai Ports World and the J&K Government through Joint Venture (JV) at Jammu and Srinagar will immensely improve the quality and structure of the local economy.

Chairmen of PHDCCI Jammu and Kashmir said that Finance Minister played a big role in boosting the economy of the State and expressed that decision to build two dry ports in Jammu and Kashmir is a step in right direction.

He said the need of creating such a facility in the State was most essential element of logis-



The members of PHD Chamber Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), J&K Chapter honouring Finance Minister Dr Haseeb A Drabu in a function at Jammu on Thursday.

He said this during a function organized by PHD Chamber Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), J&K Chapter, here today.

Minister for Education Altaf Bukhari, Minister for Horticulture Basharat Bukhari and Minister for Industries and Commerce were special guests on the occasion. The function was attended by several other legislators and top officials besides members of the business fraternity from Jammu as well as Kashmir.

On the occasion, Dr Drabu was presented with a shawl and PHD Plate for doing great job in the society. The other cabinet ministers were also honored.

While speaking on the occa-

sions required to enhance the scope for growth of export oriented business, be that the export of handicraft, horticulture, agriculture, floriculture or any other allied product world-wide.

"The proposed Multi Modal Logistics Parks (Dry Ports) will facilitate faster movement of local produce to the processing centres and the markets outside. This will raise the income of farmers, industrialists, traders and businessmen and create a large number of jobs," Dr Drabu said.

He also expressed that in this year Government would be able to spend available funds to the tune of Rs 80,000 crore.

10 passengers injured in collision of vehicles

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 15: Ten passengers were injured in vehicle collision at Gund Adalkot area, falling under the jurisdiction of Banihal Police Station.

As per police sources, a Tata sumo bearing registration number JK19-7721 driven by Mohammad Yasin, son of Safudin of Amkot tehsil Banihal was on its way from Makerkot towards Banihal, when it collided head-on with a mini-bus bearing registration number JK06-1107 at Gund Adalkot, resulting into injuries to the 10 passengers including driver of the Tata sumo.

After getting information, police team rushed to the spot and with the help of locals shifted the injured persons to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Banihal, where they were responding to the treatment, when last reports came in.

The injured have been identified as Mashkoor Ahmed (39), son of Ahmadulla of Karwan Neel, Saira Banoo (16), daughter of Mohammad Yasin of Neel, Mohammad Shafi (30), son of Abdul Ghani of Amkot, 40-year-old Mohammad Yasin (Tata Sumo driver), son of Safudin of Amkot Banihal, Jaswant Singh (32), son of Ram Singh of Rajgad Ramban, Mohammad Hanief (45), son of Gulab Din of District Rajouri, Subreena Banoo (9), daughter of Shakeel Ahmed of district Ramban, Mohammad Shafi (30), son of Abdul Aziz of Chanderkot, Rashid Ahmed (30), son of Bashir Ahmed of Sherbibi and Abdul Qayoom (40), son of Mohammad Ibrahim of Chamalwas.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Banihal Police Station and investigation started.

Cleft Lip & Palate patients to get free treatment; camp at Jammu tomorrow

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar, in collaboration with American NGO- Smile Train, is going to organize free check-up camp for Cleft Lip & Palate patients at Jammu on February 17.

Dr Ravi Mahajan, Director, Smile Train Project, Amandeep Hospital, informed that special check-up camp is being organized on 17th Feb. 2018, Saturday from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM at Amandeep Multi-Specialty OPD Clinic, Marble Market, Greater Kailash Chowk, Jammu, wherein experts from Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar will check and identify the patient of Cleft Lip & Palate. After selection they will be brought to Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar for treatment. Needed patients can contact on mobile number 94191-29200 or 95011-02932 for further information or advance appointment.

North India's premier Joint replacement, trauma, Plastic surgery, Neuro, ENT, Laparoscopic & General Surgery centre- Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar, is not famous only for the treatment of these mentioned specialties but it is also famous for the social cause activities being taken up by this group.

As a group initiative, Amandeep Hospital has already treated more than 6,000 Cleft Lip & Palate children free of cost with the help of renowned American NGO- Smile Train. Amandeep Hospital is an associate of this US based NGO. All these activities are not just limited to treating such patients but the biggest challenge is to rehabilitate these children so that the society can accept such children and these children can live a life of a normal child.

GCPF highlights demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: General Category People's Forum (GCPF) today stressed for ending caste based reservation, terming it illegal and inhuman.

Addressing a meeting of the Central Working Committee of the Forum, its chairman, Raj Kumar Banathia, said that educationally and economically well developed ST/SC families should be excluded from the quota of reservations.

He said that Governments snatch out of the poor's and middle class's pockets to provide privileges and concessions to rich through caste based reservation, which is illegal and inhuman. This practice should be undone,

he asserted.

Ram Pal Seth, president of Aarakshan Virodhi Manch, said that the provisions of reservation should be reviewed and it should be provided on economic basis to educationally and economically backward families of all caste and religions.

Yash Sharma, president, GCPF, demanded immediate steps to remove the step-motherly treatment being meted out to the poor, needy and deserving people of so called Sawaran castes since 1955. He demanded removal of cap on annual income of Rs 1 lakh and extended it upto Rs 3 lakh. He also emphasized to increase 6% quota of reservation upto 14%.



Minister for Tribal Affairs and FCS&CA Ch. Zulfkar Ali addressing a gathering at Ramban.

Zulfkar lays foundation of Gujjar & Bakarwal hostel at Maitra

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 15: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs Choudhary Zulfkar Ali accompanied by Vice Chairman (VC) Gujjar and Bakarwal Development Board (G&BDB) Gulzar Ahmed Khattna and MLA Ramban Neelam Langleh laid the foundation stone for construction of Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel worth Rs 3.25 crore at Maitra here.

Minister, while addressing a public gathering on the occasion, said that Government is committed for over all development of tribal community and other weaker sections of society. He said that education is the key for development of any society and stressed upon the people to focus on the education of their children.

He announced five thousand more BPL ration cards for deserving people of district Ramban and directed the concerned authorities to provide ration under PHH and BPL to SC, ST community besides issuing the ration cards to residents of Bakshi Mohalla Maitra.

Minister informed that all 46

including 23 new Gujjar and Bakarwal hostels would be developed as residential schools which will benefit 4400 students.

He asked the MLA to monitor the opening of 120 ration shops at identified locations across the district so that poor people can take advantage from these shops at their door steps.

Zulfkar directed the district administration to identify the land for construction of Girls Hostel and ensure the construction of shelter sheds for tribal community. He assured the people that he would take up the issue of release of pending installments of IAY and PMAY with the concerned department.

VC, G&BDB Gulzar Ahmed Khattna, while lauding the efforts of Ministry for development of tribal community, expressed hope that the department would continue to work for socio-economic empowerment of under privileged segments of the society with the same spirit.

MLA raised several public issues and demanded scholarship for Gadi-Sippy community, HP Gas Agency for Ramban and opening of fair price shops.



Members of Sant Pura Danna Charitable Trust led by Balvinder Singh addressing press conference in Jammu.

Grand 'Gurmat Samagam' being held at Domana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: A grand religious function (Gurmat Samagam) is being organized by Sant Pura Danna Charitable Trust in the loving memory of Sant Gurbaksh Ji Dana, on February 18, 2018 (Sunday) at Gurudwara Sri Guru Arjan Dev ji, Akhnor road, Domana, under the patronage of Sant Tejwant Singh, Head Dera Sant Pura Danna.

Talking to media- persons members of the organising Committee, Balvinder Singh, Manjit Singh, Dr Bhupinder Singh, Harjinder Singh Raina- Member DGPC, said besides local Raghi Jathas various prominent Raghi Jathas, Parcharaks and other religious personalities from outside the State shall grace the occasion. And prominent among those are Bhai Sahib Bhai Jagtar Singh Ji Additional Head Granthi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji Head Granthi Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Bhai Onkar Singh Ji Hazuri Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Taadi Jatha Bhai Amrik Singh Ji Pathankot Waley.

Hans elected SBISA president

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: SL Hans has been elected as president of State Bank of India Staff Association (SBISA), Chandigarh.

In Trade Union history, it is first time that a Trade Union leader of State Bank of India from J&K has been elected to the top position of president of SBI Staff Association of Chandigarh circle.

A warm and rousing reception was given to SL Hans at Bahu Plaza, Jammu. All the employees of the SBI from the State participated in the reception to newly elected president and wished him all the success.

Newly elected president of SBISA for Chandigarh circle, SL Hans, receiving a warm reception at Jammu.

Association (SBISA), Chandigarh circle, which comprised of four northern states and Union Territory of

Besides educationist prominent religious personalities like S. Manjit Singh G K president Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee along with Manjinder Singh Sirsa general secretary DSGMC. Prof Jashpal Singh Ex-Vice Chancellor Patiala University Punjab, S Jagjit Singh Dardi, Chairman Chardikla Time TV are also coming to grace the occasion.

The programme will start at 10 am and is being organized with the cooperation of various Sikh organizations and prominent personalities specially Joginder Singh Bali (Hong Kong Waley). Tarlochan Singh Wazir Chairman State Gurudwara Parbandhak Board, Baldev Singh, CEO Peaks Auto Ltd, advocate Surinder Kour, all District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committees of Jammu division.

It was revealed that Trust has also made arrangements to pick and drop the devotees from different locations like Digiana Camp, Bandhu Rakh, Baba Deep Singh Nagar, Seora, Nanak Nagar, Preet Nagar, Jammu etc.

Knowledge Initiative: Mattoo, Altaf chair Working Group meet

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: Advisor to Chief Minister, Prof Amritabh Mattoo, today chaired a meeting of Working Group constituted to chalk out modalities for the operationalization of Knowledge Initiative in Jammu and Kashmir

higher education and create world-class institutions and spaces for excellence. He also added that there is a proposal of setting up of 6 cluster universities in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Altaf Bukhari appreciated the suggestions and recommendations projected by the Working Group



Minister for Education, Altaf Bukhari and Advisor to CM, Prof Amritabh Mattoo chairing a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

for education sector. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to Higher Education Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Vice-Chancellors and senior Professors of all Universities of Jammu province and Director Indian Institute of Technology Jammu were present in meeting.

The educationists held a detailed discussion and made recommendations for the uplift of the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Vowing to make the Knowledge Initiative a huge success, Prof. Mattoo said that the Working Group is taking all necessary steps to look for the best possible practical activities to revamp education system across J&K. He added that aim of this process is to develop best human resource in the State and to generate excellence in research and innovation in

and said these reflect their deep understanding of problems in education sector and ability to suggest effective remedies. He said the department was indebted to them and it would try to implement most of their suggestions on the ground.

He also informed that the Government is seriously working to establish a Horticulture University in North Kashmir- the area with maximum potential for this vital sector.

During the meeting, suggestions were axised around the strengthening of skill development and job-oriented courses based on the modern curriculum. The academicians suggested that there is a need to look for the subjects which have great market potential.

During meeting the suggestions were also given to maintain and adopt quality education in the state. Stress was also laid on the strengthening of primary level education for raising the overall quality.

BJP crossed all limits of appeasement: Manohar

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Feb 15: Former minister and senior Congress leader Dr Manohar Lal Khawar has alleged that BJP and its leadership has crossed all the limits of appeasement for remaining in power.

Addressing meeting of Congress activists at Mandli today, Sharma said that BJP scarified all political ethics and their so-called nationalism for the sake of power. He said that the BJP talk much on nationalism to teach other, but did not act in reality.

Dr Sharma said that why the State BJP-PDP Government is completely silent over the grant of ex-gratia to the next kin of soldiers who attained martyred while fighting either with militants or Pak shelling on LOC and IB ? It is either because of their coalition partner PDP to remain in power. He strongly demands an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh and a job in favour of the next kin of each martyr who scarified their lives in the service of mother land. He said that it is our prime

duty to respect and take care of martyred families.

The Congress leader said that Modi and his Government failed to act in reality in each and every issue. They have only words jumlas and nothing concrete on the ground. He said that the Modi's Government is more concerned to rehabilitate surrendered militants, militants killed by security forces and their families, stone pelters, but they are least bother for rehabilitation and taking care of martyred families.

Dr Sharma said that BJP has left no stone un-turned to please PDP and Mehbooba Mufti where it may be the case of allotment of five marlas plots to people living near border, rehabilitation on stone pelters and surrounded militants, discrimination with Jammu in selection list issued by PSC and recruitments of SPOs and other posts like teachers and allotments funds. He said that it is question mark on BJP for remaining complete mum on issue related to Jammu and compromising the interest of Jammu.

JU organizes national seminar on Mathematics

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 15: Department of Mathematics, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu Mathematical Society, is organizing a 3-day national seminar on "Recent Advances in Complex Analysis and Operator Theory", from today.

The inaugural was presided over by Prof R D Sharma, Vice Chancellor JU, who emphasized the importance of Mathematics and stressed upon the youngsters to work hard so as to meet the international standards. He also stressed upon the college teachers to carry out research of international standard so that their colleges are recognized as research centers.

Prof A P Singh, Professor Emeritus at Central University of Rajasthan and Prof Rajaram Bhat (Bhatnagar Awardee), Head of Mathematics and Statistics Unit at ISI Bangalore, were guests of honour. Dr Ramesh Kumar, Head Department of Mathematics, JU, and president of Jammu

Mathematical Society, gave the introduction of the Department of Mathematics and various activities carried out by the society since 1990.

Prof A P Singh and Prof Rajaram Bhat, while addressing the delegates, deliberated on the importance of Mathematics and presented recent developments in Mathematics. Both the Professors stressed upon the young researchers to take the lead and try to meet the international standards of research in various areas of Mathematics.

Dr Narinder Sharma, Incharge Secretary of Jammu Mathematical Society, presented a report of the Society and announced an academic calendar of the Society. Prof. Bhopinder Singh, vice president of the Society & Dean Faculty of Engineering Sciences at Cluster University of Jammu, presented vote of thanks. Dr Shalun Sharma, Assistant Professor of Department of Mathematics conducted proceedings of the inaugural function.

4 police personnel injured in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 15: Four police personnel were injured, when the tempo traveller they were travelling in collided head on with a truck near Chanderkote, here today.

As per police sources, a tempo traveller bearing registration number JK01X-6178 was on its way to Jammu from Srinagar, when it collided head on with a truck bearing registration number JK03A-5534 near Chanderkote, resulting into injuries to four police personnel.

The injured cops were shifted to District Hospital Ramban, from where two were later referred to GMCH Jammu for advanced treatment.

The injured cops have been identified as Mohammad Yaqoob, son of Mohammad Maqbool, a resident of Nuner, district Ganderbal, Ravinder Choudhary, son of Tarlok Singh, a resident of RS Pura, district



Ill-fated vehicle after accident near Chanderkote in district Ramban.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Chanderkote Police Station and investigation started.