

# Panchayat polls opportunity to make beginning: Sham

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Describing grass-root level democratic institutions pivotal for transformation of rural areas in terms of development, PCC senior vice

dence that the sagacious voters would elect dedicated and public spirited representatives who would change the rural scenario by their innovative ideas. Notwithstanding the spirit of Panchayati Raj System having

Coalition Government.

He referred to the amendment in the Panchayati Raj Act 1989 mainly to have indirect election of Sarpanchs and said this will weaken the system and give rise to manipulations. He said Jammu and Kashmir had an indigenous Panchayati Raj System that empowered people to actively participate in the process of planning, executing and monitoring of development at village levels.

Speaking on the occasion PCC general secretary Shah Nawaz Choudhary said that conducting indirect elections and centralizing Panchayats will lead to weakening of the institution. Instead of strengthening the institution, the Government has disturbed the basic values of democracy. The previous Government had tried to strengthen the Panchayati Raj in the State by passing the Bill in the Assembly as per the provisions of 73rd amendment. But, the PDP-BJP Government instead of implementing it, has further diluted even the old State Panchayati Raj Act, he added.



Senior Cong leader Sham Lal Sharma addressing workers' meeting at Akhnour on Friday.

president and former minister Sham Lal Sharma exhorted upon the cadre to gear up for upcoming Panchayat elections and said that it was a big opportunity for them to make another new beginning.

Addressing party workers meeting at Akhnour today, Sham Lal Sharma said that participation of youth and women is imperative for ensuring their effective involvement in decision making at local levels. He exuded confi-

been trampled by the PDP-BJP dispensation by amending the Panchayat Raj Act 1989, Sham Lal Sharma said that Congress believes Panchayats as engine of political empowerment of the people at large and development of rural areas as per local aspirations. He said the ensuing elections will give new dimension to political discourse in the State with politically sagacious people signaling a change to undo the wrongs committed by the present



IGP Jammu Dr SD Singh expressing his views during security review meet on Friday.

## IG reviews security arrangements for Republic Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: IGP Jammu Zone Dr SD Singh held a meeting and reviewed security arrangements for forthcoming Republic Day, here today.

The meeting was attended by the officers of intelligence agencies, Army, BSF, CRPF, Armed, District Police and Civil Administration.

IGP stressed upon all the officers that proper briefing be given to the officers and officials deployed for Republic Day duties in view of the present security scenario in the State and continuous ceasefire violations from across the border on IB and LoC.

He stressed upon all the participants for effective and co-ordinated efforts at gross road level for smooth conduct of the national events. He further advised that adequate security arrangements be made in and around the venue of Republic Day function which will be organized at MA Stadium Jammu. He advised the officer of District Police and CID SB that census of the inhabitants residing in and around the stadium, checking of hotels and other lodgings be under taken on pri-

ority. Joint nakes be established at selected places so that no anti-national or anti-social elements could sneak in the Jammu city. Dr Singh further directed all the intelligence agencies including SSP Jammu to activate their all resources available with them to generate intelligence in advance so that anti-national and anti-social elements could not succeed in their nefarious designs. He further said that supervisory officers be directed to remain alert in their respective jurisdictional areas.

On the border management front, IGP stressed upon the DIG JSK Range and District SSP Jammu to lay joint nakes on all the infiltration routes. He emphasized upon SSP Jammu and SSP Traffic City Jammu to make adequate parking slots for the people visiting to witness the Republic Day celebrations.

The officers who were present in the meeting include DD IB, Jammu DIG JSK Range, DIG Armed, Jammu, DIG CRPF North Jammu, DIG BSF Jammu, DC Jammu, Deputy Commissioner SB Jammu, SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic City Jammu, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, SSP Security, etc.



BJP senior leader and State Incharge All Cells Varinderjit Singh interacting with media persons at Jammu on Friday.

## BJP giving due recognition to Sikh community contributions: Varinderjit Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: BJP is giving due recognition to Sikh community contributions.

This was stated by BJP senior leader and State Incharge All Cells Varinderjit Singh while talking to media persons.

Singh threw light on the major issues concerning to the Sikh community and said that previous successive Governments have only exploited minority community although history has been flooded with incidences of exemplary valour and pride during the sacrifices made by community in the times of distraught, foreign invasions and other events in war and peace.

He said that the Sikh community has been viewed as peculiarly optimistic and respected community in whole world, who always take the lead in social causes with love for those in dis-

stress on the principles of Saint Soldier Guru Gobind Singh and setting an example of how a person must incorporate the feeling of donating instead of seeking from the world. The contributions from the community being given due recognition by BJP, he added.

Singh informed that he has written a letter to PM Modi in which he has elaborated about Vagal Singh, Jassa Singh Alhluwalia and Jassa Singh Ramgarhia who uprooted the Mughals from India and unfurled the Kesri flag on Red Fort on 11 March 1783 and said that their status should be established at the public place so that justice could be done to their contributions for the nation.

Kulwant Singh Bhatti, Gurdial Singh Bali, Malvinder Singh, Gurdeep Singh Bali, Harpal Singh Bali, Inderjeet Kour and many others were present in the press conference.

## Valley doctors threaten to go on strike

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 12: Doctors in Kashmir today threatened Valley-wide strike if the Government does not reinstate Director of premier hospital SKIMS who was removed following a sting operation by a private TV channel or explain reasons for his removal.

On January 6, the Government attached, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Director A G Ahangar to the General Administration Department and placed under suspension three senior doctors for allegedly violating the ban on private practice, which was purportedly shown by the sting operation.

"We will have to go on a strike all over Kashmir if he (Ahangar) is not reinstated or a logical explanation is not given by the Government for his removal," Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK) General Secretary Owais Ahmad told reporters.

He said the DAK supported the strike by the Resident Doctors Association SKIMS and would chalk out the future strategy after a meeting of the SKIMS governing body, which is headed by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in Jammu.

On the occasion, Mir Mushtaq, spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir Doctors Coordination Committee (JKDCC), an amalgam of various doctors associations in the State, said while they fully supported the



MPs Jugal Kishore Sharma and Shamsher Singh Manhas chairing a meeting at BSNL office, Bahu Plaza, in Jammu.

## Jugal, Shamsher review working of BSNL

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat and Chairman, BSNL Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC), Jammu along with Shamsher Singh Manhas, MP Rajya Sabha, reviewed working of BSNL in a meeting of TAC held here at BSNL office, Bahu Plaza.

During the meeting, Jugal Kishore discussed the issues regarding the poor service of BSNL and directed the staff to

work hard to improve the service among the people. He said that most of the people nowadays are switching to the private companies which is the matter of great cause and put a serious note over it. "The service should be better and satisfactory and should content the customer", he stressed.

He also put a check to the progress report of the officers and said that soon a meeting will be organized which will involve all the concerned staff and departments required to cope up with all the issues regarding poor signal and call drop as per complaints of the people.

The MP urged to the staff to interact with the public efficiently for expansion of the BSNL connections and to improve the facilities by their feedback. Moreover, he added that the BSNL is the largest service provider all over the India and it is the duty to take care about the mobile tower signals provided to the border area people. He also discussed the upcoming projects and installation of new mobile towers in Jammu.

Shamsher Singh Manhas, Co-Chairman, TAC BSNL, said that BSNL is the first mobile as well as landline service provider and people have deep faith on them. "The staff members should work hard to cope up with the issues raised by the public and should maintain best deals to team", he asserted.

P Vinodchandan, GMTD, BSNL Jammu, assured the MPs that he will put his best efforts to improve the BSNL service in future. OP Jhangir, DGM Planning, Kulbhusan Sharma, DGM City, Randhir Singh, DGM Technical with their wing staff and Vinay Saraf, TAC member, were also present at the occasion.

## Govt failed to dispense even most basic responsibilities: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Former Minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla has said that PDP-BJP Coalition Government has become untraceable and public grievances are increasing manifold in the State.

Addressing public meeting at Narwal Bala in Gandhi Nagar constituency today, Bhalla said, "poor people are going through tough times due to indifferent attitude of the Government as the quota of ration and other essential commodities are being denied to them. Soaring prices have made the life of people extremely difficult and the Government should immediately ensure that people get their share of ration".

"Priority of this regime is not to empower people by strengthening democratic institutions but those at the helm of the affairs want to accomplish their nefarious designs by controlling such institutions through undemocratic means", he observed and cautioned that such attitude of the ruling party would be proved dis-

astrous for the State.

Bhalla said that after passing nearly three years in the Government in the State they are not in a position to implement their Agenda of Alliance which is totally eyewash for the people of our State. Law and order position is out of control in the State and security of common people is badly affected.

"No payments to MGNREGA workers have been cleared while employees and workers are agitating for wages. There is discrimination in PSC/SSB selections against Jammu candidates for different posts", he alleged.

The former Minister maintained that Government's tenure so far is marked by gross non-delivery, acknowledged failure to fulfill the promises given to the people of State and a betrayal of the people, particularly the poor, disadvantaged and the unemployed.

"This Government till now has singularly lacked the vision to galvanize economic growth and has chosen instead to create a smokescreen making boastful claims," said senior Congress leader.

## HC quashes dismissal of cop after 14 years

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: High Court has quashed the termination of a cop, which was ordered in the year 2003.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocate Venu Gupta for the cop, Justice M K Hanjura observed, "the penalty imposed upon the petitioner cannot stand", adding "the conduct of a denovo enquiry under the facts and circumstances of the case where a lot of water has flown down the River Tawi and the Sword of Damocles has been kept hanging high on the head of the petitioner during the period spreading over more than a decade by now will not serve any purpose when sim-

ilarly circumstances police personnel have already been reinstated".

While quashing the termination order, High Court directed the respondents to reinstate the cop. "The respondents shall accord consideration to the payment of the arrears of salary/allowances in favour of the petitioner from the date of his dismissal up to his reinstatement in service", High Court added.

According to the petitioner, he was falsely implicated in the case of an alleged custodial death of three persons, as a consequence of which two FIRs were registered against him at Police Stations Nageen and Sheri Baramulla. Later, he was terminated by the Government.

## Swami Vivekananda Jayanti celebrated with fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated across Jammu region with fervour and gaiety today. The day is also observed as National Youth Day.

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) led by its State president, Dr. Suresh Ajay Magotra in presence of BJP State vice-president, Yudhvir Sethi and BJP State secretary & State Prabhari, BJYM Sanjay Baru celebrated the birthday of Swami Vivekananda at a function here today.

Yudhvir Sethi, while terming the Swami Vivekananda as maker of modern India said that in order to inspire youth of country towards philosophy of Swami Vivekananda, his birthday is commemorated as National Youth Day. Swami Vivekananda was a great person who always believed in youth power to nourish culture of country and carry advancement required by country to be developed.

Sanjay Baru while addressing said that the PM Modi is working on the vision of Swami Vivekananda to make India as Vishav Guru.

Dr. Suresh Ajay Magotra, said that every year BJYM activists celebrate the National Youth Day with great enthusiasm as it is the great way to wake up the eternal energy of the youth as well as their big efforts to make the country developed.

BJYM State general secretary Tarun Sharma carried the stage proceedings whereas vote of thanks was presented by Jammu district President BJYM Hari Om Sharma.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) also celebrated 147th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The organizers

presided over the function. Anshul Abrol said that Swami Vivekananda is one of the most admired spiritual leaders of India. An inspiring spiritual and social leader, Vivekananda left an indelible mark in history with his teachings, which are studied around the world.

Dr Vikas Sharma while addressing the gathering threw light on the life and preaching of Vivekananda. He said that Swami Vivekananda's inspiring personality was well known both in India and in America during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth.

The Program was led by City Secretary Karan Sharma and Akhil Gupta. The Speakers on the event said India always guided the world and acted as Vishva

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Guru.

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar organised "Vivekanand Sandesh Shobha Yatra" on the eve of National Youth Day, the birthday anniversary of Swami Vivekananda today. The march started from Vidyarthi Bhawan, Ved Mandir, Amphalla via Panjirthir, Chowk Chabutra, Pacha Danga and ended at Parade Chowk. The students from various educational institutions attended the march.

Those who addressed the gathering were State secretary, Deepak Gupta, State joint secretary Anubhav Sharma, Jammu Maha-nagar secretary, Piyush Khajuria. The vote of thanks was given by Agriculture University president, Ali Haider Shah.

National Secular Forum (NSF), organized a programmed in Jammu University on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

Amid slogans "Swami Vivekananda - Amar Raha" "Bharat Mata ki jai", they paid tributes to Swami Vivekananda and garlanded his portrait.

Anshul Abrol former member BCCI and Working Committee Member JKCA, was the chief guest while, Dr.Vikas Sharma State president NSF

## 2 IOs promoted as ADS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Government today ordered placement of two Information Officers namely Shakeela Shawl and Bhagwan Dass Sharma as In-charge Assistant Directors in their own pay and grade, with charge allowance as admissible under rules.

Consequent to their placement, Shakeela Shawl has been posted as In-charge Assistant Director in the office of Joint Director Information Kashmir while Bhagwan Dass Sharma, has been posted Incharge Assistant Director (Publication) in the Directorate of Information.

## Justice Tashi Rabstan inspects courts in Rajouri

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 12: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Administrative Judge for District Rajouri conducted inspection of the Courts at Headquarter Rajouri, Sub Judge Court Nowshera, Munsiff Courts at Kalakote and Sunderbani, respectively.

He also interacted with the members of Bar and took stock of their demands and problems.

Justice Rabstan impressed upon the Presiding Officers to ensure disposal of pending cases

in a time bound manner and also to make optimum use of information technology, including updating of files in CIS, so that timely dispensation of justice is ensured.

Justice Rabstan also asked the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri for identification of land for construction of Munsiff Court Sunderbani, and to provide racks and chairs for the courts. He also issued instructions for immediate construction of toilet and supply of fresh water within the premises of Munsiff court Kalakote.



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