



Industries Minister, Chandar Parkash Ganga inaugurating upgraded Health Sub-Centre in Samba on Saturday.

Ganga inaugurates upgraded Health Sub-Centre

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Minister for Industries and Commerce Chandar Parkash Ganga today inaugurated the upgraded building of Government Health Sub-Centre at village Patti in Samba constructed at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister said the Government is committed to provide better healthcare facilities to the people at their doorsteps especially in rural and remote pockets of the State.

CMO Samba Rajinder Samyal, Deputy CMO Rakesh Magotra, BMO Purmandal Dr.

Mehboob Iqbal Khan, Executive Engineer PWD Kuldeep Singh Nathyal, BDO Vikram Sharma, staff of Health Sub-Centre and large number of villagers were present on the occasion.

The Minister asserted that Government is paying focused attention towards health sector and its top priority is to provide best medical facilities to the people at affordable prices.

Later, the Minister flagged off a batch of 50 farmers for an awareness tour from Sarore being organised by Department of Agriculture, Samba for providing them training on latest interventions and technologies in the field of agriculture.

Vibodh discusses developmental projects of Rajouri with CM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU Mar 24 : BJP senior leader and MLC Vibodh Gupta today called on Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti and discussed various developmental projects for Rajouri with her. During this meeting, Vibodh appreciated the public outreach programmes of Mufti which has given common masses a chance to directly connect with the top leadership of the State.

He also complimented Mufti for giving due consideration to various development projects for Rajouri proposed by BJP delegation during her recent public darbar at Rajouri. He informed the CM that the work on the Circular Road, connecting Abdullah Bridge to Tariq Bridge via Anandpur Ashram is in full swing.

This is the result of liberal funding provided for this project and for strict directions by CM to complete this project in a set time frame. Vibodh also apprised the CM about the ongoing work on the Jogging track, community hall at Jawahar Nagar and various parking slots. At the same time, Vibodh also highlighted various other projects which need immediate funding for the overall development of Rajouri town.

He informed that Town Hall Clinic building in Rajouri is in bad shape and needs immediate

renovation. He also demanded that a new bridge which connects old town Rajouri with new bus stand should also be constructed. Moreover, Vibodh proposed to the CM that the status of municipal committee of Rajouri needs to be upgraded to Municipal Council. Raising the issues of development of the nearby areas, Vibodh said that as per already issued administrative order the Dungi area has been declared as a tehsil but till now no Tehsildar has been posted to operationalize the same. He also demanded allocation of funds for Gandola project between DKG and Shadrasharif.

While raising the issue of contaminated water being supplied to the Rajouri town Vibodh said that this issue was also raised during her public darbar at Rajouri. Acting on this a detailed DPR to replace the old and damaged water supply pipes and other infrastructure has been prepared. For the complete implementation of this project an amount of Rs. 47 crore has been requested to be funded by ERA. Vibodh requested CM to take up this issue with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) so that this project can also be initiated on priority. This he said is very important as Rajouri town gets water from the same pipes which were laid in the city about 40 years back.

Anganwari workers' protest enters 13th day

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 24: The protest dharna of Anganwari workers entered into 13th day, today.

The Anganwari workers drawn from various parts of the district have been sitting on protest dharna for last many days to stress upon the Government to fulfill their demands. They are demanding the minimum wages of Rs

15000 per month. While addressing the protesting workers, Renuka Kumari said how an Anganwari worker or helper may survive with monthly wages of Rs 300

* Watch video on www.excelstionews.com

or 600. She said that all the schemes are implemented with the support of Anganwari workers but they are not given the wages as per their works.

"Even they are not covered under Minimum Wages Act. The women are largely being discriminated by the State Government despite the State having women CM," she said and warned the Government of intensifying the agitation if their monthly wages are not enhanced.

Victim not satisfied with police investigation in burglary case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: "I am not satisfied with the investigation being carried out in the theft case, which had taken place in my house", says Harpreet Singh, a social activist.

He stated this while interacting with media persons here this afternoon.

Divulging the details of the case, Singh said that on March 6, a daylight burglary took place in his house at Ajeet Colony, Gole Gujaral.

"The thieves including two girls break open two almira's and decamp with cash and gold items worth several lakhs as said by an eye witness to me. He (eye witness) thought that my wife and daughter are talking with each other and he avoided it", Singh said, adding that luckily his wife and daughter were not at home otherwise anything untoward incident could have taken place as burglars carrying sharp edged weapons and other tools with them.

He informed that the whole incident was reported to police post Pounichak and accordingly a case under relevant Sections was registered at Police Station Domana and investigation started, but till date no headway has been made.

Singh appealed to the Police Department to accelerate the pace of the investigation and arrest the burglars, before they enter into another houses in different areas and decamp with valuables.

Horticulture key to J&K's economic growth: Kohli

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Terming horticulture as the backbone of State's economy, Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Abdul Ghani Kohli today said the Government is paying focused attention to rejuvenate the horticulture industry in the State.

He further said that the horticulture sector has a vast potential of changing the socio-economic condition of the people and providing employment opportunities to the youth of the State.

The Minister was speaking after distributing saplings of various varieties including apple and walnut among progressive farmers in a function organized by Horticulture Department at

Ghaibass in Kalakote. He urged the functionaries of the department to be proactive and synergize their efforts to ensure frequent farm visits and explore the possibilities to promote production of high quality fruits in Rajouri.

The Minister directed them for holding awareness camps at Panchayat level for disseminating information and sharing expertise with the orchardists.

Stressing that there is need to reach out to the farmers and take the technological innovations and research to the field, the Minister said it is vital that the farmers are kept well abreast with the advancements in the agriculture, horticulture and floriculture sectors to enhance their produce.



Balbir Ram Rattan, VC, SC, ST, BC Corporation being presented Dr B.R Ambedkar Award at Jammu on Saturday.

Balbir gets Ambedkar Award for service to weaker sections

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: In recognition of his service to the weaker sections of the society and concern for their socio-economic upliftment, Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Corporation, Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, has been presented Dr. Ambedkar National Award-2017.

In an impressive function held here, today, International & National Awardee and Managing Director of Dr. Ambedkar Group of Convent Schools, Gian Chand Dogra, presented the Dr. Ambedkar National Award-2017 to Balbir Ram Rattan, in presence of Dr. Ashwani Jotra, national president, Sehyog India, J&K, Ravinder Kumar Pandita, Managing Director, J&K, SC, ST, BC, Development Corporation and Chetna Dogra, Principal, Dr. Ambedkar Convent School, Rajpura, Jammu. He was presented a memento, a shawl and a certificate as a token of honour and respect.

A large number of social activists and prominent citizens from different walks of life had gathered to shower their blessings on the new awardee.

NMC for expediting 7th PC implementation process

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: National Mazdoor Conference today urged upon the State Finance Minister to expedite the process of issuance of SRO/notification regarding implementation of 7th Pay Commission report in respect of Government employees and pensioners so that the benefits of the same may be given to them from April 2018.

"The process of fixation of pay/pension will be time consuming and it becomes necessary to issue such notification in view of closure of financial year 2017-18," NMC president, Subhash Shastri said while addressing a meeting of workers here.

Shastri expressed concern over the delay in issuing of SRO/notification, saying that the same is creating confusion in the minds of salaried class and pensioners. He said that the issuance of the notification needs to be expedited to put to rest any misgivings on the issue.

The NMC president urged the Finance Minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari to arrange payment of arrears of 7th Pay Commission accruing with effect from 01-01-2016 in one go, as was implemented in respect of central and several state Governments' employees and pensioners. He further said that the adequate funds for this purpose should be placed at the disposal of the departments.

Drug peddler arrested with cannabis

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 24: Police arrested a drug peddler and recovered 500 grams of cannabis from his possession.

As per police sources, on reliable information, a team from Ramban Police Station laid a naka and intercepted a pedestrian, who was moving under suspicious circumstances.

During checking, police recovered 500 grams of cannabis from his possession and arrested him. The arrested person has been identified as Balbeer Singh, son of Lal Chand, a resident of Bajmasta. A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Ramban Police Station and investigation started. Police team led by SHO Ramban Inspector Rajeshwar Singh made the arrest under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Ramban Tusiff Ahmed, Additional SP Ramba Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary and SSP Ramban Mohan Lal.



Minister for Forests, Ch Lal Singh interacting with officers during a function at Mandli Billawar on Saturday.

Lal Singh for development of villages at par with urban areas

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Mar 24: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Choudhary Lal Singh today said the Government is making all out efforts to develop villages at par with the urban areas.

He said the Government is providing adequate funding under R&B, PHE, RDD, PDD and health sectors to equip villages with modern facilities.

The Minister was addressing a function organised by Shri Narsingh Gowshalla at Mandli in Billawar.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to create awareness among the people about welfare schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, Swachh

Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bema Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana, Mudra Yojana and other social welfare schemes.

He informed that numerous projects have been launched by the Government in core sectors like PHE, PDD, PWD(R&B), UEED, Health and Education to provide safe drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, better sewerage, education and health-care services to the people.

Responding to the demands put forth by the locals, the Minister said that durable roads and infrastructure tops the development agenda of the present dispensation and focus is being laid on upgrading and improving the road network in rural and remote areas of the State.

Survey depicts grim education scenario in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: A survey conducted in Central Kashmir's Budgam district today revealed that 21 percent females as compared to nine percent males are not enrolled in the educational institutions.

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), a Central non-Government organization today released its annual survey report 'Beyond Basics' and depicted gloomy picture of education in Budgam district.

ASER surveyed a total of 60 villages, 936 households and 1154 youth under age group 14-18 with help of 87 volunteers in partnership of DIET Beerwah.

The main highlights of the survey are that in the district, 86 percent youth are still in schools, only 4 percent are in colleges, 10 percent are not enrolled anywhere and the more worrying thing is that 21 percent females are not enrolled anywhere, as compared to 9 percent males and 16 percent

youth are not enrolled in the age group 17-18.

When it comes to vocational training, it reveals that only 4 percent of the youth are taking vocational training, while only 2 percent in the 14-16 age-group take such courses, it increases to 6 percent for 17-18 year olds.

"It was found that only 44 percent of all youth can do division problems and males perform better than females on ASER reading tasks by 3 percent. However, 82 percent girls and 84 percent boys could read the sentences and 67 percent of the youth can add weight correctly," the survey read.

One of the surveyors said that 70 percent youth can read fluently while as 54 percent can read and follow the written instructions. "When we asked about the access and awareness to digital world we found that 44 percent males and 78 percent have never used the internet," he said.

Pensioners urge Govt to implement 7th Pay Commission

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: A meeting of State Pensioners Association was held under the chairmanship of Madan Lal Abrol for highlighting various demands and issues of the pensioners.

The Association urged the Government to issue formal SRO for implementation of 7th Pay Commission in the State

Woman commits suicide

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: A young woman allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance in Arnia area of city outskirts.

According to a police official, the woman identified as Kuljeet Kour (25) wife of Babu, resident of Sai Tajali (Arnia) allegedly consumed some poisonous substance at her residence this morning following which she was rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu by the family members.

However, the girl expired there in the afternoon. The body of the deceased was shifted to mortuary of the hospital and will be handed over to its legal heirs tomorrow after postmortem. The concerned police had taken cognizance of the matter and started investigation.

Congregation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: The annual congregation of Jamwal Sherkhanian Biradari is being celebrated on March 25 at Devsthan of Bawa Ji at Toph Sherkhanian, Jammu.

All the Biradari members have been invited to attend the congregation along with their families and seek the blessings of Bawa Ji.

The programme will start with Havan from 9 AM to 11 AM and will be followed by Satsang from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bhandara will be served to the devotees from 1 PM to 5 PM.

Bali inaugurates Swastik ultrasound unit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24 : Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat inaugurated an ultrasound unit in the multi-specialty Swastik Nursing Home at Janipur here today.

SDM North, Mohammad Iliyas Khan, Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Turki, Proprietor of Nursing Home, Dr. Rajinder Sharma,

agency medical services, ambulance are available round the clock in the Nursing Home.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister congratulated the management of the Nursing Home for adding another important service of ultrasound for the patients. He called upon the management to provide health services to the poor patients on concessional rates. Lauding the private sector



Health Minister Bali Bhagat inaugurating Swastik ultrasound on Saturday.

prominent personalities of the area, doctors, para-medics and other management staff were present on the occasion.

Swastik Nursing Home is a prominent name in the field of healthcare in Jammu city and providing multi-specialty services under one roof on reasonable rates. The services like Gynae, Surgery, ENT, Eye, Cardiology, dental, physiotherapy, X-rays, lab tests, emer-

in the field of healthcare, the Minister said that private sector is doing good job and supplementing Government efforts in providing healthcare to the patients of the State. He said it is endeavor of the Government to promote the private sector to ensure best possible medicare facilities to the people at their doorsteps across the State.



BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi flagging off annual Chandi Mata Yatra from Panjirthi, Jammu.

Yudhvir Sethi flags off annual Chandi Mata Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Vice President Yudhvir Sethi today said that Goddess Durga who is also known by the name Maa Kaali or Maa Chandi never tolerates evil acts or evil doers and becomes terribly angry on seeing them.

Sethi was speaking after flagging off annual Chandi Mata Yatra from Panjirthi. Organized by Chandi Mata Jagran Committee, the yatra passed through Panjirthi, Chowk Chabutra, Pacca Danga and Dhounty Bazaar which was attended by a large number of devotees. The tableau was well decorated and several devotees walked barefoot in entire route.

Special prayers were held at Maa Laxmi Narayan Mandir where traditional Jyoti was also lighted.

Maha Yagya held at Durga Nag Shrine

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: A Maha Yagya was solemnized on the occasion of Durga Ashtami at ancient Durga Nag Shrine here today as usual.

The hawan started yesterday evening and culminated with Puran Ahuti this afternoon. A large number of devotees, drawn from different parts of the Valley participated in the religious function and paid obeisance in the temple of Goddess Durga.

The devotees were served prasada after Puranahuti. The hawan was performed under the supervision of Trust general secretary, Dr O P Nakasi and Ravi Takoo, Makhan Lal, Bansi Lal Raina, Ravi Ji Bhat and Krishan Ji also participated in the function.

On the occasion prayers for world peace, normalcy and prosperity of the people of the State were held.

The Yagya was organized by Durga Nag Trust led by Vijay Bakaya former Chief Secretary of the State.

Youth commits suicide

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 24: A youth committed suicide by hanging himself with a tree in village Dhar Dueueeno falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Billawar.

He has been identified as Anil Kumar S/o Raj Kumar of Dhar Dueueeno. His dead body after postmortem at PS Billawar was handed over to family members for last rites. The Billawar Police has registered a case under Section 174.

Later the committee organized jagran at Panjirthi in the evening. Renowned religious singers enthralled the audience with their melodious bhajans and Mata Bhaints.

The main stage depicting Maa Ka Bhawan was well decorated with flowers and colorful lights besides proper arrangement of lighting were made by the organizers.

Chandi Mata Jagran Committee, Panjirthi presented a robe to Yudhvir Sethi and honored him.

Prasad was also distributed among the devotees on the occasion.

Among other present were Ramesh Kumar, Rajesh Bali, Ashwani Gupta, Kewal Verma, Pradeep Barua, Subash Dogra, Nipun Malhotra and Gopal Singh.

Pregnant lady dies on way to hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 24: A pregnant lady died on way to Basholi Hospital today.

According to reports, a pregnant lady after complaining labour pain was shifted by her husband to SDH Hospital Basholi as the village being delinking has no transport facility so the duo started the journey on foot. But the lady suffered a heavy pain and she died on way to hospital.

She was however brought to Basholi Hospital by her husband where doctors declared her as brought dead.

The Basholi police has registered a case under Section 174.

Fire Services Deptt holds lecture, demonstration

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Fire and Emergency Services Department today organized a lecture and demonstration on various aspects of fire fighting at NCC camping ground Nagrota.

The lecture was delivered by Divisional Fire and Emergency Officer Sub-Command City Jammu Tej Krishan Raina under the supervision of Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services Command Jammu R C Raina.

During the lecture and demonstration, the NCC cadets were apprised about the techniques and equipment being used in fire fighting operations.