



BJP leaders at 'Karyakarta Sammelan' at Jammu on Sunday.

BJP holds Karyakarta Sammelan Corporators have to share increased responsibility: Raina

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 18: BJP State president and MLA, Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Minister and MLA Sat Sharma, BJP State general secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul and other senior party leaders addressed the BJP Jammu West district Karyakarta Sammelan led by district president, Ayodhya Gupta and Samman Samaroh for newly elected JMC Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta and Councillors from Jammu West.

While addressing the meeting, Ravinder Raina, asked all to gear up for the future challenges for the BJP led corporations, councils and committees. He said that the newly elected councillors from Jammu West have the increased responsibility to cope up with the tasks of development and party responsibilities. He said that BJP is the party of the masses and it has to deliver on ground for meeting the expectations of common masses.

Discusses prevailing situation in State

PK takes dig at Kashmir centric parties for toeing separatist line

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 18: Panun Kashmir (PK) organised a meeting of its Executive Council here, today to discuss the current political scenario and reviewed



PK leaders during a meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

the organizational programmes. The meeting was presided over by Ashwani Kumar Churungoo, president, P K.

Kamal Bagati, general secretary (Org.) PK presented a brief of the last two months organizational activities in the State, Delhi NCR and other places. It was decided that the Delhi NCR team will lead a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits to the Gurudwara Sheesh Ganj, Delhi on November 25 on the occasion of the Balidaan Divas of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji Maharaj. The March will start from Gurudwara Rakabganj, New Delhi in this connection. The meeting paid rich tributes to India's War Hero, Brig. Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri of the 'Border' film reputation who breathed his last on Saturday. The members recalled his association with P K and observed two-minute silence in his honour.

Ashwani Kumar Churungoo, president, P K in his address said that the spate of terrorism, violence, kidnappings and threats in Kashmir have confirmed the fact that the radicalization of the society in the Valley has reached its climax. After the forced mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits, the forces inimical to the peace have ensured to convert Kashmir into a war-zone like Syria-Iraq-Afghanistan. The silence Kashmir centric political parties is motivated by partisan, communal and cowardice attitude which in turn encourage such unfortunate happenings.

He said the recently conducted Panchayat polls phase I is a slap on those political parties who boycotted the elections toeing the separatists line on the issue. Maintaining that "Kashmir is no issue, he said there are only two issues that need resolution in J&K, i.e. resettlement of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits in their Homeland as per Margdarshan Resolution of 1991 and the liberation of the illegally occupied territories of the State from

Power shutdown

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 18: Power supply to Sidhra and its adjoining areas fed from 33/11KV Sub Station Sidhra shall remain affected on November 19 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This was stated by Chief Engineer, Electrical Maintenance & R.E Wing, Jammu in a statement.

Farooq calls for united front against communal forces

Excelsior Correspondent

LUCKNOW, Nov 18: National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah today urged all the secular forces of India to put up a strong and joint front against the communal forces that are hell-bent to tarnish the secular countenance of India.

Dr Farooq while addressing various public meets at Lucknow, UP said that the communal forces are again raking up the poignant and sensitive issues in order to garner support and polarize the electorate in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. "The nation has had enough of it, the propensity of the situation demands for a progressive and secular Government at the Centre that can cherish and advance the secular values of our nation," he said.

Dr Farooq, who represents the Srinagar Parliamentary constituency, said that the name changing spree of cities and the fanning up of passions in run up to elections reflect, that the BJP led Central Government has

miserably failed to deliver on developmental front.

"People are well aware of the fact that how they keep throwing catchwords as development. The need of the hour necessitates for a Government which can deliver without much fanfare and slogan-mongering. The nation has had enough of it," he said.

The National Conference president impressed on the Governments of India and Pakistan to shun enduring hostilities and give peace a chance. "I am of the firm belief that the constituency of those who seek peace on both sides of the border far exceeds that of those who want war. Hawkish people and outfits ought to be sidelined," he said.

Farooq said that the increased levels of animosity and tension between India and Pakistan affects the political and economic activities of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is the common populace which is suffering on either sides of the border and the Line of Control.

Every time it lit up with fire common populace face the brunt of it. Innocents get killed, many resort to migration leaving their homes and fields," he said.

Dr Abdullah impressed upon the Gol to show empathy with the people of Kashmir, especially the youth who stand disenchanted with the present situation. "Gol should reconcile with the youth of Kashmir in order to increase the constituency of peace in the State. The iron fist strategy will push the already aggrieved and aggravated youth to wall," he said.

He urged the Gol to come up with people friendly CBMs to offer some respite to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The best Confidence Building Measure would be to implement the autonomy resolution which was passed by the State Legislature with 2/3rd majority. The step could go a long way in instilling confidence among the people of state. It will also advance unity and brotherhood in the State," he said.

Chief Secretary visits SKIMS assures funding for upgradation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 18: Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam today said the functioning of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura involves larger social issue linked to the public healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The immediate concern of the Governor's Administration is to restore the stature of this premier institution so that it comes up as a research-oriented healthcare facility," Chief Secretary said at a meeting with the staff, faculty and administration of the institute during his visit to SKIMS, on the last leg of his 3-day tour to Kashmir.

He asked the SKIMS administration to focus on improving professional and academic stature of this premiere teaching, training, research and healthcare institution for which he assured liberal financial assistance from the Government.

"While we have finest and talented medical professionals available in SKIMS, the need is to just think out of box to bring it up as a world class tertiary care facility," he said and assured that funds are not an issue for the Government. "SKIMS shall not suffer for want of funds. But don't be incremental. Think big and think grand, we in the

Government are there to support you," he maintained.

Chief Secretary observed that while infrastructure upgradation is critical to providing improved healthcare facilities, there should be matching thrust on advancement of academic and research activities at the Institute. "There has to be renewed focus on streamlining SKIMS functioning to secure the trust and esteem of the public at large and all stakeholders," he said and added that to achieve these objectives it has to be ensured that the services and the quality of healthcare are significantly improved.

Chief Secretary asked SKIMS administration to focus on tertiary care and set up a process for screening of patients at district level before they are referred to SKIMS. "You can set up Outreach Clinics in districts to reduce the load of patients while focussing on promoting more research with external funding and capacity building in medical care," he said.

Chief Secretary remarked that the matter of referring files regarding the infrastructure development and other issues at SKIMS to the Civil Secretariat frequently must stop. "The interface of the SKIMS with the Government should be limited to Governing Body meetings. We will explore ways for delegation of financial powers and

restructuring of various committees for making SKIMS a truly autonomous institution," he said.

Chief Secretary also visited wards, some facilities and interacted with the faculty of different departments whom he complimented for their dedication and untiring efforts to provide best possible healthcare facilities to common people.

Director SKIMS Umar Javed Shah, administrative officers of the tertiary care facility and senior faculty members of the institution also accompanied the Chief Secretary during his visit.

Old age widow pension disbursed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 18: Home for Aged and Infirmit (Vridh Ashram), Ambphala, in collaboration with Residents Welfare Association, Gangyal, disbursed old age widow pension among 10 ladies for the amount of Rs 500 per month, who belong to BPL families from Gangyal.

Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, president of Resident Welfare Association, took this initiative and contacted such beneficiaries who were most needy and poor.

The pension was disbursed by I D Soni, president, Vijay Bhagotra, general secretary of Vridh Ashram and S C Gupta,



World's first glaciated road constructed at 17860 ft height in Ladakh by Project Himank.

Excelsior/Shakeel

BRO cuts glaciers on world's highest road near China border

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 18: The Border Roads Organization's (BRO) Project Himank is carving out world's highest mortarable road by cutting glaciers near the China border to connect Daulat Beg Oldi military base.

The road is being constructed at an altitude of around 18000 feet road and Sasoma to Saser La will be a vital link paved over glaciers which are unstable and frequently change their physical nature.

The present under construction road length is over 54 kilometers which passes through world's highest glaciers in Eastern Ladakh. This was the most difficult portion of the road and is almost done. Around 50 more kilometers of road length will connect it with the Daulat Beg Oldi.

The road emerges from Nobra and is shortest road to Daulat Beg Oldi. The construction of the road is special due to challenges posed by glaciers and presence of moraines in the area.

Besides adverse weather, biting cold, bone chilling winds, there is always lurking danger of crevasses and avalanches while

the road is being constructed. Since the temperature dips to minus 50 degree Celsius during winter and in the peak summers the temperature hovers around 12 degree Celsius in the region.

Working in such extreme weather conditions is a herculean task and glaciers which shift constantly as snow melts add to the difficulty of construction workers.

An official of the Hemank said that as the working period is

quite short and the BRO makes prior preparations and chalks out a working strategy to achieve its targets in the limited available time.

"The short working period needs to be utilised to the maximum thus requiring effective management of manpower and resources to meet out the challenges. Planning of work starts four to five months prior to the start of the working season", the official said.

BJP supported Municipal Council formed in Rajouri

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 18: With the support of BJP, advocate Arif Jat, who contested as an Independent candidate, was today elected as chairman of

Rajouri Municipal Council.

Senior BJP leader Bharat Bhushan Vaid, was elected as vice chairman. With this, the process for the formation of Municipal Council in Rajouri town has been completed.

Out of the total 17 MC seats, Congress had bagged 7, BJP 6 while independents 4. BJP offered support to Independent Adv Arif Jatt, who was said to be basically a Congress man. Six BJP and three Independents supported Arif to ensure his suc-

cess. Addressing people on this occasion, MLC Vibodh Gupta congratulated new Municipal team and hoped that this will prove another milestone in overall development of Rajouri.

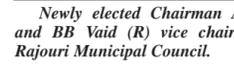
He said that with this victory, an era of development and prosperity has been ushered in this area.

"There is a lot to be done for ensuring overall development of the town, we have to reach out to the people living in the margin of the society".

"BJP made huge victory in south Kashmir and came out to be victorious in 9 Municipalities which is also a decisive blow to the existence of Congress in J&K," he added.

Arif Jat extended gratitude to the people of Rajouri for reposing faith on him and assured everyone that he will do his best to give Rajouri town a professional Municipal team.

Bharat Bhushan Vaid in his address termed the formation of Municipal Committee in Rajouri with support from BJP as a historic step which will transform Rajouri town.



Newly elected Chairman Asif Jat and BB Vaid (R) vice chairman of Rajouri Municipal Council.

Rajouri Municipal Council.

Senior BJP leader Bharat Bhushan Vaid, was elected as vice chairman. With this, the process for the formation of Municipal Council in Rajouri town has been completed.

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