



Advisor K Skandan speaking at valedictory function of National Road Safety Week on Sunday.

Advisor Skandan calls for strengthening public transport network

*** 30th National Road Safety Week concludes**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Advisor to Governor, K Skandan today called for strengthening the public transport network for improved traffic scenario in the State. He said that public needs to be encouraged to travel more in public transport to reduce the traffic congestion.

The Advisor was speaking at the valedictory function of 30th National Road Safety Week organized by Motor Vehicles Department in collaboration with Traffic Police Jammu on the theme "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha" here today.

Principal Secretary, Transport, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, IGP Traffic, Alok Kumar, Additional Transport Commissioner, Ajaz Abdullah Saraf, Joint Transport Commissioner, Vikas Sharma, RTO Jammu, Deep Raj, Joint Director, Information, Jammu, Naresh Kumar besides senior functionaries of concerned

departments along with large number of students and parents were present to witness the impressive function.

While speaking on the occasion, the Advisor emphasized on developing the public transportation and encouraging people to travel more in public transport in order to reduce the traffic congestion that will ultimately play a crucial role in streamlining the traffic management in the state. He stressed on the need to study the places that are more prone to road accidents to provide these with more precautions and better medical facilities. He asked for putting focus on Jeevan Raksha along with Sadak Suraksha.

Underlining the importance of effective public policy, the Advisor said that a lot has already been done and more work needs to be done on the part of the policy formation like road design, traffic planning besides strict enforcement of regulations against the violators.

Entire Youth Cong unit Mathwar joins NC BJP compromised Jammu's dignity: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

JANDYAL, NAGROTA, Feb 10: National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today slammed Bharatiya Janata Party for letting down Jammu and compromising its dignity by superimposing personal interest over public welfare.

"The pretention of self-styled champions of Jammu cause fell flat

deceit of the BJP is haunting Jammu people who reposed their unflinching faith and support to it with the hope that Jammu may perhaps get a better deal as during the days of its wilderness in the opposition, the BJP leaders were crying hoarse over discrimination and neglect. He charged the BJP for reversing the initiatives and prestigious projects launched during the



National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana along with other leaders at a function in Nagrota Assembly Constituency on Sunday.

when it came to deliverance during its over three years misrule with the PDP, Rana said while addressing a function at Jandyal in Nagrota Assembly Constituency to welcome the entire Youth Congress unit of Block Mathwar into National Conference.

Dayal Singh (Lucky, who was President Youth Congress for Nagrota Assembly Constituency and General Secretary for Jammu-Poonch Parliamentary Constituency along with his functionaries and workers of Mathwar Block joined National Conference and pledged support to party, which he said, was tirelessly working under the leadership of Devender Singh Rana for development and upliftment of the constituency over the years.

Rana said the treachery and

tenure of Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister.

Referring to the issues facing the people in his constituency, Rana said that being their representative, he has been pursuing all those connected with development for giving push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of society.

"I will keep highlighting every issue, major or minor, to see this constituency progress and prosper, notwithstanding the odds", he assured the people and said that their support and cooperation has been serving as an inspiration for him to work for the betterment of the constituency.

Rana welcomed the new entrants and hoped their joining will further strengthen the party at grass roots level and enable it to meet the challenges confronted to the state with much more vigour.

More Congress leaders appeal for Azad to lead poll campaign

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Ex Legislators and PCC office bearers have unanimously supported the resolution passed by senior functionaries and legislators of the PCC requesting Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad to lead the party to victory in coming elections.

The leaders also expressed their faith in the leadership of AICC president Rahul Gandhi and said that under his able guidance, the Congress party will march towards victory.

Among those, who supported the resolution, included Ex MLA Mamta Khan, Ex MLA Delden Nangyal, Ex MLA Ashok Dogra, Ex Minister Jugal Kishore, Ex Minister Ab Majeed Wani, Aslam Goni, Aslam Malik, Altaf Malik, Asif Gattu, Sardar Amolak Singh, Adv Ashok Sharma, Vinod Mishra, Maheshwar Singh, Rajinder Prashad Sharma, Ashwani Khajuria, Ashok Gupta, Lovely Gupta, Vinod Sharma, Inayat Rather, Surinder Gupta, Ghulam Raza, Shakeel Shah, Gaurav Chopra, Vijay Manhas, Manzoor Ganai, Sanjay Manhas, Dr Mohd Syed, Nisar Khan, Ayaz Guroo, Imran Zafar, Choudhary Masood, Arun Raju, Shakeel Bhagat and others.

Only Cong can bring J&K out of turmoil: Tara

Excelsior Correspondent

AKHNOOR, Feb 10: Former Dy Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Tara Chand has said that only Congress Party can bring the State out of turmoil created by the previous BJP-PDP Government and give a stable Government in the State.

Addressing a public meeting at Chak Malal in Khour tehsil today, former DyCM said that the collapse of opportunist alliance of PDP-BJP has left a vacuum in the State, which has to be filled by the Congress Party to serve the people. He said only Congress party has the capacity to bring this State out of crisis created by the previous unholy alliance.

T R Gupta forms Charitable Trust for helping needy

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: On his 91st birthday, T R Gupta, Chairman of the TRG Industries Pvt Ltd, Engineers & Contractors, who is known for his benevolence and help towards the society, poor, needy and destitute, decided to launch a Charitable Trust with name and style as "T R Gupta Public Charitable Trust".

The trust will work for regularizing and streamlining the mission of T R Gupta, in alleviating the suffering of humanity and promoting the health case, education and spiritual activities of the society.

T R Gupta, Chairman of the

Altat Bukhari demands free air services for stranded passengers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 10: Expressing serious concern over plight of stranded passengers due to the continuous closure of Jammu-Srinagar highway, former Finance Minister Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today urged the Governor to seek help of Indian Air Force for evacuation of thousands of passengers who are desperate to reach to their respective destinations.

In a statement issued here, Bukhari said the official reports suggest that there are thousands of passengers who are stuck at various places on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and are distressed to reach their destination without any further delay.

He emphasized on formulation of a robust plan by the administration to deal with the crisis like situation that has surfaced because of heavy snowfall and occurrence of landslides at various locations on National Highway.



Justice Tashi Rabstan speaking at the valedictory session of workshop on Sunday.

Workshop on mediation for lawyers concludes Justice Tashi for establishing conducive environment to constructive negotiations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Justice Tashi Rabastan, Judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court today underscored the significance of mediation in judicial dispensation, saying this is a viable mode to resolve disputes without going into litigation for years.

"The mechanism of mediation is needed to be made robust and attractive for the parties involved in disputes", Justice Tashi said while speaking at the conclusion of the 3-day Refresher Workshop on Mediation for Lawyers, organized by the Mediation and Conciliation Committee of the High Court in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Tashi Rabastan laid emphasis on the need for establishing an environment conducive to constructive negotiations, describing this as the core mantra for successful outcome of mediation process. He exhorted upon the participants to identify and take up all their issues regarding effective implementation of mediation with their Presiding Officers and other concerned for redressal. He said efforts would be made to reach the district level courts with such programmes to ensure ground level implementation of Mediation.

Justice Sindhu Sharma while delivering valedictory address, traced the roots of mediation in the Indian ethos and culture and observed that this mode of justice dispensation could emerge as most effective tool to achieve dispute resolution.

"By switching over to media-

tion in optimum number of cases, we will not only be connecting ourselves to roots but also changing the overall perception about justice delivery system", Justice Sharma said.

Justice Sharma described the Mediator Lawyers as the pioneers of the concept and hoped that by putting in their best for its success they will inspire the posterity as also leave an indelible mark in the judicial world. She emphasized the crucial need of generating awareness on mediation saying this is most important ingredient towards success of this ground-breaking initiative.

"Contribution of lawyers towards societal welfare in terms of amicable solution of rising issues will go a long way in bringing about harmony and ending acrimony in the society", she said and added that efforts should be made to make mediation a fully developed tool for resolution of disputes.

Speakers and resource persons,

while elaborating on their specified topics, emphasized the need for promoting mediation as the way forward to dispute resolution in appropriate cases. They pointed towards cases which involve personal, commercial, human relationships and observed that only mediation can sort out the issues to keep those relationships alive and healthy.

Internationally known resource persons for the concluding day sessions were J.P. Singh, Sudhanshu Batra, Sadhana Ramchandran, Veena Ralli, Amita Sehgal and Anuj Aggarwal.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Registrar General, J&K High Court, Sanjay Dhar, Judicial Officers, senior advocates of Delhi Bar Association and High Court, Registrar Rules, Registrar Judicial, Registrar Vigilance, Registrar, Secretaries of DLSA Udhampur, Ramban, Samba and Reasi besides Judicial Officers were present on the concluding day of the workshop.



Senior NC leader Ajay Sadhotra during a function in Marh constituency on Sunday.

Anti-youth policies of BJP led to disappointment: Sadhotra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Anti youth policies of BJP at the Centre and State led to disappointment and alienation among youth. BJP has utterly failed to fulfill genuine urges and aspirations of the youth, said Ajay Sadhotra, Senior leader National Conference and Former Minister while addressing a meeting at Alora and Gole Gujral in Marh Assembly Constituency.

National Conference leader said the fast growing alienation among youth is very dangerous trend. He said BJP has utterly failed to provide and create avenues of employment for the unemployed youth. False promises of BJP to provide employment to 2 crore youth per totaling 10 crores in 5 years has badly failed and such policies with youth has pushed them towards wall.

Sadhotra said the unprecedented rise in unemployment during BJP rule has created atmosphere of

deceit and mistrust and it has housed into the hearts and minds of common youth, resulting in fast growing alienation among the youth. He asked BJP not to make joke of youth as they are invaluable wealthy of the country.

He said National Conference has youthful leadership and under the leadership of Jb. Omar Abdullah, adequate steps will be taken to create more and more avenues of employment for youth.

Sadhotra asked youth to rise to the occasion and give befitting reply to the BJP which does not even spare youth.

He appealed youth to come forward and strengthen the hands of Omar Abdullah as he is the only hope for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who spoke on the occasion were Raghubir Singh, Darshan Singh, Inder Pal Singh, Sub Dev Raj, Harinder Singh, Yog Raj, Shakti Kumar and Mohan Lal.



Cong leader Raman Bhalla addressing public gathering at Qasim Nagar in Gandhi Nagar area on Sunday.

Bhalla cautions Jammuites against BJP's hollow slogans

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Former Minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla today said that power politics has been BJP's trait since its inception and is least concerned with the welfare of the people of the State and has no political ideology.

Bhalla, who was addressing Youth Congress launched 'Chalo Panchayat Chalo Ward Abhiyan' at Qasim Nagar in Gandhi Nagar constituency on Sunday, said AICC has given this unique program to connect the people directly with Rahul Gandhi and build up their leadership qualities by understanding the politics from grassroots level. He cautioned the people about the nefarious designs of the BJP, which he said are aimed at dividing people for their vested interests.

He said that BJP has survived on deceit and falsehood so far and now the party is fully exposed before the society. "All and one have observed its double standards and double speak to gain power for personal ends", he added. He said that the commitments made to the people remained unfulfilled and equitable development of all regions and sub regions proved mere slogan. He said the party and its cadres will politically fight the gimmickry of BJP which is indulging in malicious, dubious, divisive politics and defeat them.

Accusing PDP and BJP of betraying people to get benefitted politically and to save their sinking

boat, former Minister said that people of the State would never forget for what PDP-BJP have done to the State and people by misleading them on the name of so called agenda of alliance.

He said both the parties have played with the emotions of people for the sake of power by playing emotional cards in the elections. Describing PDP-BJP alliance a complete failure, Bhalla said that people in all the three regions were suffering badly due to political drama staged by PDP-BJP after leaving people midway on mercy of God.

He cautioned against attempts of trampling the inclusive spirit of Jammu, saying the people won't spare those trying to break their time tested unity. He lashed out at the BJP for ditching people of Jammu and said its pretensions have fallen apart during the past nearly four years, as this region has suffered the most. By exploiting sentiments of innocent Dogras for decades, the BJP stands exposed for the self-centric approach of its leaders, whose greed has superimposed public interest in every arena.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included PDC president Udhay Bhanu Chib, Block president Jatinder Singh Chib, Vishal Samyial, Dewan Chand, Gopal Sharma, Latish Sharma, Happy Randhawa, Sahil Langeh, Harvinder Kour, Gagan Brai and others.



Three J&K silkworm rearers and other awardees along with Union Ministers Simriti Irani and Sushma Swaraj at a function in Delhi.

3 J&K silkworm rearers, reeler get national awards

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: The Union Minister of Textiles Simriti Zubin Irani presented national awards to three silkworm rearers and one reeler of the State for their outstanding performance in pre and post cocoon sectors at a function held here on Saturday under "Surging Silk" accomplishments and way forward at Vigyan Bhawan.

Union Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj was also present on the occasion. The awarded silkworm rearers include Raj Mohammad Gejee of Uri in Baramulla, Rashida Banno of Baramulla, Anantnag, both

belonging to Scheduled Caste category and Rattan Lal of Thandapani, Rajouri. While as Maajid Hayat Bawan of Wanbal, Srinager has been awarded as a young entrepreneur under reeling sector.

The three award winning silkworm rearers have been honored under the highest productivity category despite belonging to remote and downtrodden areas of the State. Braving the hardships and challenges they have drastically increased their cocoon production during recent years and have created motivation among their fellow villagers for the silkworm rearing. Likewise, the role of Bawan has been remarkable in promoting the post cocoon activities and

increasing the silk yarn produce through Automatic Reeling Machines (ARM), which bagged him national award.

Simriti Irani while complementing the awardees said that the private players have immensely contributed for increasing the cocoon production and enhancing that has led up scaling silk productions and decreasing its imports. It may be reminded that these awards are given at national level for exemplary role in silkworm rearing, reeling and weaving. The awardees have expressed their gratitude to Sericulture Development Department for extending facilities and incentives for enhancing their capabilities for cocoon and silk yarn production, which could provide a platform for the reciprocation of their outperformance through these awards.

Director Sericulture, Gulzar Ahmad Shabnum who also attended the award ceremony at New Delhi extended greetings to awardees and hoped that they prove inspirational for promoting sericulture in the State. He said that the awardees have brought laurels to the State especially to Sericulture Department and added that they shall be felicitated at a function to be held soon at Srinagar.



PK leaders at a press conference at Jammu on Sunday.

PK resolution asks parties to field KP candidates in Srinagar LS Constituency

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Panun Kashmir (PK) held a meeting of its Executive Council here today, which, was presided over by Ashwani Kumar Chungoo, its president.

PK through a political resolution made an appeal to all the political parties in the State to give their mandate in "Srinagar-Parliamentary Constituency" to a member of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community which will empower him to represent the primary stakeholders and the original inhabitants of Kashmir in the country's Parliament.

The resolution was moved by Upinder Kaul, general secretary PK and seconded by Kamal Bagati, its general secretary (Org.).

It said "the PK and its extended family and friends endorsed the decision of Ashwani Kumar Chungoo, president PK of joining the B J P in the interests of the displaced Pandit community and the nation.

It said Chungoo has an illustrious career spanning over five decades in public life and it is our firm belief and understanding that his experience and capability would be of immense value to the BJP in its continued march towards making India the world leader that all of us dream and aspire.

PK acknowledged with great satisfaction and the nation build-

ing role of the BJP under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi. It expressed its great appreciation over the recent statement of the Narendra Modi wherein he expressed his deep concern regarding the pain suffered by the displaced Kashmiri Pandits due to ethnic cleansing and mass exodus from Kashmir.

"We also take this opportunity to express our complete support to the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi in the coming Parliamentary and J&K Assembly elections", the meeting added.

It appointed Virender Raina, chairman, PAC of PK as the working president of Panun Kashmir with immediate effect.

Ashwani Kumar Chungoo in his address to the media later referred to the 'intent' expressed by the successive Government, political parties, important public figures and the majority Muslim community of Kashmir that "Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits". He said that the intent expressed in the oft-repeated statement over the last three decades of exile of the Kashmiri Pandits need to be translated into reality in the political terms. As a first major step in this direction, the K P required to be made an integral and important part of the political and electoral process. This can be achieved by ensuring that the Pandits, are represented in the Parliament and the Assembly of the State, he added.



Devotees of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj taking out a Shobha Yatra in Samba on Sunday.

Impressive Shobha Yatra taken out on eve of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 10: An impressive Shobha Yatra was taken out on the eve of birth anniversary of Guru Ravi Dass here, today.

Former Minister, Dr DK Manyal was chief guest on this occasion while Ex MLA, Samba, Yash Pal Kundal was also present. The Shobha Yatra was flagged off by Guru Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj. A large number of people from Samba and its adjoining areas also participated in the Shobha Yatra which was organized by Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Samba.

The Shobha Yatra started from Boys Hr Sec School Ground Samba and passing through National Highway, Link Road, Hari Singh Chowk

and culminated at Ravi Dass Bhawan at village Diani Samba. Different stalls were arranged by different religious, political parties and different organizations/ Bazaar associations' enroot of Yatra. The shopkeepers' warmly welcomed the Shobha Yatra and the Yatra route was fully decorated with flowers.

The devotees were singing bhajans and dancing to the tune of beating of drums in the praise of Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj. Jhankis depicting the different aspects of Guru Ravi Dass Ji's spiritual life were the part of the Shobha Yatra.

Later the function concluded with serving of Preeti Bhoj to devotees at Village Diani Samba.