

Ex-Minister, VCs call on Advisor Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Vice Chancellors of Central University Jammu, Cluster University Jammu and former Minister, Nawang Rigzin Jora



Former Minister Nawang Rigzin Jora during meeting with Advisor.

today called on the Advisor to Governor, Kewal Kumar Sharma at his office chamber and put forth several development issues.

The former Minister Jora accompanied by Sarpanch head and Namberdar head of Leh submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to creation of Irrigation and Flood Control Sub-Division and PHE Sub-Division on the pattern of Zaskar and Gurez at Khatlasi, languishing projects including completion of Zerthang bridge over river Indus at Zerthang, Khatlasi, Leh under NABARD.

The Advisor instructed the concerned SE to submit the status report of Zerthang Bridge.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor,



Former Minister R S Chib displaying copy of memorandum by PoK Displaced Persons during indefinite dharna on Wednesday.

Chib visits indefinite dharna by PoK Displaced Persons

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: As the ongoing indefinite chain dharna by PoK Displaced Persons under the banner of SOS International entered into 7th consecutive day, former Minister and senior Congress leader R S Chib today visited the protesting DPs and extended his party's support to their demands.

Rajiv Chuni, Chairman of SOS International, presented a memorandum of demands to Chib, who termed all the demands of PoK DPs as genuine and stressed that the same should be conceded by the present Government.

The indefinite chain dharna is being held over the main six demands viz. implementation of the whole package passed by State Cabinet in October 2014 for PoK Displaced Persons, provide facilities to all displaced at par with Valley Migrants, reservation of 8 seats for people displaced from PoK in J&K Legislative Assembly, permit PoK DPs to visit to their religious places in PoK, inclusion of 5, 300 PoK DPs families living outside the State in the ambit of package passed in October 2014 and return of cash

Successive Govts fail to fulfill promises made with Pandits: KPC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) today in a meeting at New Delhi stated that all the claims and promises made with displaced KP community by all State and Central Governments at the helm of affairs from time to time related to their rehabilitation, return and restoring their human, religious and Constitutional rights were nothing except an eye wash and hoodwinking of the community.

"We expressed shock over the behavior against such peace loving community who were victimized for standing against the

Villagers protest against bad condition of road

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Jan 2: Locals protested against Public Works Department (PWD) to highlight worst condition of Ramnagar to Chowki-Katwalg road.

Shouting slogans against the PWD, the protesting villagers from Chowki, Katwalg and adjoining area were demanding repair and black topping the said road.

They said that due to worst condition of this 18-km long road with potholes, mini-buses and buses do not regularly ply on the route with the result that students fail to reach school timely. They threatened to block the main road at Ramnagar if the repair work is not started immediately.

Malik seeks restoration of utility services in Gulabgarh

Excelsior Correspondent

GOOL-GULABGARH, Jan 2: Former Minister and senior National Conference leader Abdul Gani Malik visited snow-bound areas of Gool-Gulabgarh (Reasi) in the Jammu region to have on the spot assessment of sufferings of the people due to



Ex-MLA Abdul Gani Malik interacting with people in Gulabgarh area on Wednesday.

enormous of medicos and paramedics in the health institutions with adequate stocks of medicines in the health centres, he said, hoping that field officers would be issued necessary instructions in this regard.

The former MLA sought adequate stocking of rations at the sale-outlets to meet requirements of the rationees, especially in the inaccessible areas even if it entails head-load due to inaccessibility in the wake of disruption in road communication. He said Gool constituency being remotest in the region needs special dispensation. "This aspect should merit the attention of the administration", he added.

He also called for deputation of teams of agriculture and allied departments, revenue and animal and sheep husbandry departments besides other agencies to take stock of damages to crops, utility services, livestock etc so that corrective measures are initiated.

Malik assured the people that all their difficulties would be raised at appropriate level for early redressal.

People of Nagrota constituency deprived of basic amenities: Shiv Dev Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

NAGROTA, Jan 2: Former MLA and senior Congress leader Shiv Dev Singh today lambasted BJP for its failure to represent the sentiments of Jammu people and not fulfilling r the promises made to the electorate during the 2014 Assembly elections.

Addressing party workers



Senior Congress leader Shiv Dev Singh addressing a public meeting at Nagrota on Wednesday.

meeting on the occasion of New Year at Nagrota, Shiv Dev Singh said there is a strong resentment among the people of Nagrota constituency against previous Government as it has not fulfilled its promises made at the time of Assembly elections.

"The previous Government of PDP-BJP has failed to provide basic amenities to the people of Nagrota Constituency. The common masses have been facing problems like acute shortage of drinking water, dilapidated condition of roads, Government ration scarcity, lack of health care facilities and many more," he said.

Drawing attention towards terrorism in Kashmir, Shiv Dev Singh said that people of the State and the entire nation want restoration of peace and normalcy by containing terrorism in Kashmir Valley, which has been witnessing fresh recruitment and increased violence. "Merely strongly worded state-

ment promises and unachievable slogans besides divisive agenda.

Asking people to vote and support Congress candidates in the forthcoming elections in J&K to ensure developmental of their respective areas, he cautioned people against nefarious designs of BJP which can go to any extent to win these elections. "BJP will not hesitate to adopt deceitful tactics to befool the innocent voters", he said and exhorted the people to teach BJP a lesson in forthcoming polls.

The senior Congress leader also asked the recently elected Sarpanchs to address the grievances of people with full dedication and also take up their issues with the authorities concerned.

Sarpanchs Kishore Sharma, Kishanpur Rimal Singh and Vijay Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Vicky Sharma and Babu Khan were also present on the occasion.

Ring Road affected farmers meet Advisor Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: A delegation of Ring Road Land Owners Welfare Committee (RRLOWC) with Srinagar and Jammu members met K.K Sharma, Advisor to the Governor.

The delegation which comprises of farmers apprised the Advisor about the difficulties they are facing due to land acquisition process in Kashmir and in Jammu especially in the districts of Jammu and Budgam which are the worst affected.

The delegation comprising of GA Paul, Sarat Dubey, Dr Raja Muzaffar, Haji Ghulam Hussain and DK Sharma asked the Advisor that existing Land Acquisition Act which is an 84 year old law needs to be replaced by a new legislation or ordinance.

The delegation also apprised the Advisor about the low stamp duty rates in Jammu district which do not at all match with the existing market rates.

The delegation also discussed the issue of compensation to those people who were cultivating custodian lands at R.S Pura, Marh and Bhalwal tshals.

The delegation apprised the Advisor about very less agriculture land holding in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded that farmers be given better compensation keeping these technical issues into consideration.

A handout stated that these farmers demand fair compensation as guaranteed under Central Land Acquisition Law of 2013 which National Highway Authority follows across the country except in J&K State as the central law is not applicable here.

Pak violates ceasefire twice

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Pakistan army troops opened indiscriminate firing on forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district twice during the day today.

Pakistani troops resorted to mortar shelling and small arms fire on forward posts in Khari Karmara and Digwar areas of Poonch sector first during the morning and once again in the evening, reports said.

Indian troops fired in retaliation very effectively both the times, they said, adding that no

casualty or damage was reported on the Indian side. However, there were reports that Pakistani troops have suffered some damage in terms of infrastructure.

On Tuesday, Pakistani troops had resorted to small arms fire along the LoC in Khari Karmara and Gulpur areas in Poonch.

Despite repeated calls for restraint and adherence to the ceasefire understanding of 2003, there were 1,591 incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the LoC and the IB by Pakistan last year till October, the officials said.

CEC LAHDC Leh reviews developmental works

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Jan 2: The Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal today conducted an extensive tour of Phyang Constituency during which he reviewed ongoing developmental works and took stock of public grievances.

Namgyal was accompanied by Executive Councillor for Health, Tsering Sandup, Executive Councillor (EC) for Minorities, Mumtaz Hussain, Councillor Phayang Punchok Dorje, HoDs, concerned engineers and officials headed by JD Education Ladakh, Tashi Dolma and SE PWD Leh, SK Pandita.

The Chairman/CEC visited MES Colony/Urgainling, Sonamling, Dambuchan, Ghaphelling, Upper Choglamsar, Palam, Spituk-Farkha, Phey and Phyang villages, where addressing the villagers he assured to address their maximum demands and issues of people at the earliest.

Earlier, the Chairman reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works of Sonamling, Dambuchan and MES Colony at community hall of MES Colony. The people of MES Colony area demanded proper allotment of land to the inhabitants of this area and

redressal of power problems in the area. The Chairman on spot directed Niab Tehsildar Leh to put up the land allotment case file to Council at the earliest and regarding streamlining of power supply in the MES Colony area, he directed AEE PDD to find out a permanent solution of the problem.

At Ghaphelling, the Chairman directed XEN PHE to resolve drinking water problem at the earliest. He also directed Naib Tehsildar Leh to identify land for construction of community hall for the village. At Upper-Choglamsar, he took up the inclusion of this highly populated area in a Panchayat Halqa with concerned higher authorities.

During the visit of Palam, Spituk-Farka and Phey villages, the CEC directed Naib Tehsildar Leh to put up the Iggo-Phay Command area land distribution case to these villages to Council at the earliest and assured for early action on it.

Later, the Chairman/CEC also visited Phey and Phyang villages where he gave patient hearing to the demands of the public and assured speedy redressal of all the demands. At Phyang, Deputy Chairman Gyal P Wangyal also joined the visiting team.

UP Minister visits SMVD University

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Uttar Pradesh Education Minister, Anupama Jaiswal today visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra and interacted with Dr. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor SMVDU.

The Minister discussed various issues related to higher education, women empowerment and lauded the functioning of the university, particularly running of various post graduate and research programmes.

Jaiswal was impressed to know the progress made by the varsity in a short span of time while securing a ranking in the top 100 engineering institutes and top 150 universities by the NIRF 2018 ranking.

Dr. Jain briefed the Minister that students from 23 States are studying in the University and the university is a leading institute in J&K region in terms of filing patents.

One month additional salary for cops on poll duty demanded

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Demanding parity with employees of other civil departments who have been given one month additional salary in lieu of their election duty during Panchayat and Municipal polls in the State, Dr Shazad Malik, educationist from Poonch today urged the State Government to release one month additional salary for the cops of J&K Police (JKP) who performed election duties like other civil departments.

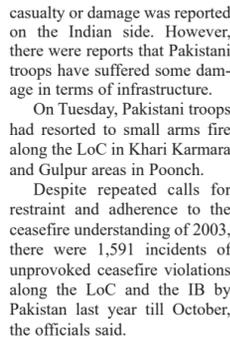
Questioning logic and rationale for excluding Police Department employees from such additional salary, Dr Shazad said,

Hemant Bhargava takes addl charge as Chairman LIC of India

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: Hemant Bhargava, Managing Director LIC of India, today took additional charge as Chairman LIC of India, in place of V K Sharma, who retired on December 31.

Bhargava, who had taken over as the Managing Director in February 2017, was instrumental in completing the design and setting up a separate Micro Insurance vertical, which was LIC's first comprehensive enterprise-wide initiative in



Members of JKTF coming out after meeting with Director Smagra Shiksha at Jammu on Wednesday.

financial inclusion space. He also set up new joint venture in collaboration with Banking industry and founded LIC Cards Services Limited, launching 'LIC Card' in 2009.

He also set up newly formed SBU-International Operation to manage LIC's operation in about 11 countries and has been instrumental in finalizing the first MoU for LIC to form a composite insurance company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He has also headed different zones.



An impressive Nagar Kirtan being taken out in Vijaypur Chowk on Wednesday.

Impressive Nagar Kirtan taken out on eve of Gurburab in Vijaypur

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Jan 2: An impressive 'Nagar-Kirtan' was taken out by the members of Sikh community on the eve of Gurburab in Kolpur Sector of Ramgarh in district Samba today.

A large number of people of Sikh community including children and religious preachers also attended this grand Shobha Yatra in connection with the Parkash Utsav of 10th Guru of Sikhs, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. Early in the morning the devotees started arriving at Kolpur Gurdwara in Sector Ramgarh of district Samba. The Gurdwara was highly decorated by the Management Committee

members. Various social and political organization gave a warm welcome to the Nagar Kirtan in different places of Vijaypur.

The Nagar Kirtan started from Gurdwara Kolpur and passing through Ramgarh road, Vijaypur Chowk and then finally culminated at Gurdwara Barian.

Many Sikh youth, were seen displaying their skills of martial art with swords, spear and other weapons during Shobha Yatra. The youth and specially the children, were seen full of enthusiasm and zest. Some were playing 'Dholak' and singing religious songs in the praise of the great Guru.

Displaced KPs appeal PM to probe reasons behind their genocide

Excelsior Correspondent

FARIDABAD (HARYANA), Jan 2: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits urged Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to investigate reasons of their exodus from their homes and to bring to justice killers of their community after the eruption of terrorism in Kashmir in 1989-90.

In a memorandum to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi through Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, the KPs under the banner of 'Foundation for Displaced Kashmiri Pandits' made fervent appeal to the Prime Minister for bringing to book all killers of innocent Kashmiri Pandits, some of them are still roaming free.

The Pandits recalled Prime Minister that not a single terrorist involved in massacring their community members without wasting any further time," Bhan added.

"Kashmiri Pandit community was thrown out of their homes and hearths after scores of our community people which included woman and kids were massacred. Irony is none has been prosecuted and we want conspiracy behind this entire process of ethnic cleansing of our community be investigated," said another KP activist BL Raina.

"We are hopeful Prime Minister will take this memorandum seriously and order a probe and investigate thoroughly every single killing including massacres like Wandhwama/ Nadimarg/ Sangranpora in Jammu and Kashmir", said KP activists Ashish Zutshi and Arvind Mattoo.

Ashish Zutshi were among others who were part of the delegation.

"We are obliged to Haryana Minister Vipul Goel for providing us the chance to be part of the rally in Faridabad. It was in this public meeting, we were provided an opportunity to highlight our plight and we raised issue of genocide of our community in Kashmir while presenting memorandum to Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for Prime Minister Modi," said MK Bhan, who led the delegation.

"We are hopeful that Prime Minister who is in know of happenings in Kashmir institute time bound Commission of Enquiry to investigate reasons behind exodus of Kashmiri Pandit community and prosecute all killers of our community members without wasting any further time," Bhan added.

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JKTF apprises Director Smagra about issues, demands of SSA/RMSA teachers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 2: A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum, headed by Ganesh Khajuria, State general secretary called on Special

RMSA and now Smagrah Shiksha.

State Project Director Arun Manhas, after listening all the grievances patiently immediately contacted Chief



Members of JKTF coming out after meeting with Director Smagra Shiksha at Jammu on Wednesday.

Project Director Smagra Shiksha in his Office Chamber.

The delegation apprised the SPD about certain issues, which included salary for the month of Jan and Feb for District Kathua, additional salary for election duty as per 7th pay commission for those who have performed election duties and Salary w.e.f Sept 2018 as per the 7th Pay Commission in favour of Head Teachers, Masters/ Teachers/ RREts working under erstwhile SSA and

Education Officer, Kathua and asked him to submit the full pending salary requirements today so that the grants may be released without any further delay. He also discussed the matter of one month election duty salary with the DSE Jammu and assured for necessary orders in this regard.

Those, who have accompanied Ganesh Khajuria, included Gopal Singh, Soorat Singh Toofani, Darshan Sharma, Kuldeep Singh Bandral and delegates from District Kathua, Samba and District, Jammu.

Six animals charred to death

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Jan 2: Six domestic animals were charred to death when a cattle shed was completely gutted in accidental fire at village Musra in Hartaryan, Tehsil Ramnagar, here last night.

According to reports, a cattle shed was completely gutted in accidental fire in intervening night of 1/2 January at village Musra in Hartaryan Tehsil Ramnagar.

Reports said that the accidental fire broke out in the cattle shed of one Ram Singh, son of Munshi Ram of village Musra. Two buffalo, two cows and two bulls were burnt alive in the fire, which could not be controlled timely.