



Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

**CS receives appraisal on declining sex-ratio**

**Sting operation of ultra-sound clinics to be conducted**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Expressing concern over the reported decline in sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey said that the issue should be flagged as a priority concern and dealt with determination.

Chairing the 1st meeting of the Task Force constituted to study various aspects of declining sex ratio and in particular child sex ratio in the State here, the Chief Secretary received appraisal of the data in this regard collected by different agencies districts wise.

The Chief Secretary said that the issue is of significant ramification and the civil society as a whole has to play its important role to help in reversing the trend and ensuring equal chances of birth, growth and development of the girl child along with the male child.

The meeting took stock of the measures put in place by various agencies including the Health Department to book those who facilitate as well as help in sex determination and female foeticide. He asked for stringent punishment for the crime and said that necessary measures to make the laws more

stringent need to be taken, besides, other effective administrative steps aimed at checking the sinful activity.

The Chief Secretary asked the Health Department to ascertain the latest situation with regard to child sex ratio from the data maintained through Health Management Information System (HMIS) to get a clear picture.

It was informed in the meeting that a State level monitoring committee is proposed to be constituted to conduct surprise checking-sting operation of the ultra-sound clinics, so as to check the mal-practices of sex determination and female foeticide in the State.

Besides, the punitive measures, amendments to the J&K PC&PNDT rules, the task force also recommended launching of aggressive awareness and media campaigns to save the girl child.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir and Jammu, Directors Health Services Kashmir & Jammu, Mission Director NRHM J&K and Deputy Commissioners from Anantnag and Udhampur and other officers.

**Shantmanu assumes charge as Div Com Jammu**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Shantmanu, today took over the charge of Divisional Commissioner Jammu from

his new assignment, Mr. Gupta apprised him about the functioning of the Divisional Commissioner Office.

Immediately after assuming the office Shantmanu took an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of his office and asked them to put their sincere efforts in providing quality services to masses in solving their problems in an early possible manner. He urged upon the officers/officials to keep their activities at maximum and work with utmost zeal to bring transparency and accountability in their functioning.

Mr. Shantmanu is an IAS officer of 1991 batch and has worked in various capacities in the administration, including Managing Director PDC, Commissioner/Secretary Forest Department, Industries and Commerce, etc.



Shantmanu assuming charge of Div Com Jammu on Wednesday.

Pradeep Gupta who attained superannuation today after rendering 36 years of meritorious service.

Welcoming Shantmanu for

**Spurious drug case: FSL officer booked for preparing false report**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: In the spurious drug case, Crime Branch Jammu has booked an Assistant Scientific Officer of FSL Srinagar and others for preparing a false and fabricated opinion on chemical analysis of Maximizine-625.

A case under Section 420, 167, 193, 120-B RPC r/w Section 5(2) PC Act Svt 2006 has been registered against the Assistant Scientific Officer Abdul Ghani Bhat, who had furnished a chemical analysis report that Amoxicillin Trihydrate and Potassium Clavulanate was found in the samples of Maximizine-625. This was contrary to the Report furnished by the Drug Testing Laboratory Dalgate, Srinagar.

**Protest against power failure, NH blocked**

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 31: The people from Senswan village blocked Jammu-Pathankote National Highway for about an hour and held protest demonstration against the Power Development Department today.

The people from the Senswan and adjoining areas came out on the National Highway and started protest demonstration against the PDD authorities. They alleged that the electric transformer installed at the village went out of order four days back. The concerned staff was informed about the issue but it could not be replaced or repaired till today. They blocked the busy highway and disrupted the vehicular movement between 3 and 4 pm.

Later, SHO Rajbagh rushed to the spot and convinced the agitating villagers and assured to take up the issue with the concerned Executive Engineer at Kathua. The people then lifted dhama and cleared the highway.

**Mix plant pollutes water: HC**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: High Court today directed the State Government to file the status report within a week for issuing No Objection Certificate (NOC) for establishment of a mixing plant on Mavar nallah in Handwara which is in gross violation of the Water Resources Act.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice M.M. Kumar and Justice D.S. Thakur, after hearing the arguments from advocate Ghulam Murtaza, who represented the petitioner said that the plant is polluting the water of the nallah.

The petitioner had sought directions from the court that

licenses issued in favour of the macadam plant owners, stone crushers be cancelled and these plants be shut down and their owners be restrained from operating them which have been set up around Nallah Mavar in Handwara town of district Kupwara.

The court rapped the Government after Advocate General M.I. Qadri sought more time from the court to file its status report.

"Let you and your officers burn midnight oil (in preparing the report). No exemption in this case and the State must come out with a stand," the court said.

**Why Mufti hiding his 'magical solution' to K-issue: Rana**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Ruling National Conference today poo-hooped People's Democratic Party patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's assertion on "his magical solution" to Kashmir issue, asking him if he has any, why should he hide it.

"Why deprive the people of the State by waiting for an absolute majority if the solution is the panacea of all the issues associated with the Kashmir imbroglio and is likely to satisfy all stake holders," Rana said, asking Mufti Sayeed to rise above political considerations

down by intrigue and deceit. They did not allow the Government to function and behaved like the opposition because they could not reconcile with remaining out of power. The people have not forgotten how and why Mangat Ram Sharma, the then Deputy Chief Minister was staging walkouts during every other Cabinet meeting," he said.

He also accused the PDP of "hatching conspiracy with a BJP leader in New Delhi to bring down the Congress-led coalition by creating Amarnath land row in 2008."

Referring to the developmental scenario of the State during the tenure of the ruling alliance, Rana said, "our record is testimony of our achievements."

Rana also declared that National Conference will emerge as a strong force and a predominant player in the Jammu region, as elsewhere in the State.

"They will not get even a single seat in Jammu plains, Chenab Valley and Pirpanchal Range. They will be wiped out in Poonch and Rajouri as well," he said while rejecting the claims by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed that Chenab Valley has been neglected.

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for the good of the people, "if the magical solution is so good."

"Deceit and duplicity has been trait of People's Democratic Party, which believes in gimmicks and political jugglery," Rana said in response to assertion of the former Chief Minister.

"Everything will come to fore in 2014. I can tell you now that by then (2014), PDP will be divided into three factions and we know who will be heading these," said Rana, the former Political Advisor to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

**Omar hosts Iftaar dinner**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hosted Iftaar and dinner at SKICC here.

Speaker Legislative Assembly, Ministers, Parliament Members, Legislators, Justice of the High Court, Chief Secretary, Director General Police, GOC 15 Corps, various Principal Secretaries and Commissioner Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, senior Civil and Police officers, media persons, prominent citizens and political activists attended the Iftaar party at SKICC lawns where special arrangements for nimaz had also been made.

Describing Omar Abdullah led coalition between National Conference and Congress as a model of good governance, Rana said the alliance was working smoothly and will last the entire six-year term.

"We have seen Coalition Government in the past, especially from 2002 to 2008. We all remember how PDP back stabbed the then Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and brought his Government



Bashir Mastana performing during musical programme at KL Saigal Hall on Wednesday.

**ICCR organizes musical prog "Kukua Bol"**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs organised a unique musical programme entitled "Kukua Bol" at KL Saigal Hall.

Regional Director of ICCR Jammu, Balwant Thakur, said that Gojri folk music has its roots in the lap of nature. The pure and blessed folk music always has the feel and the touch of nature and subjects related to nature. The Gojri folk music is related to the festivals, religious traditions, folk stories and simple life of the Gujjars-a nomadic community of the State.

Known for his diverse range in folk singing, Bashir Mastana demonstrated his mastery over the art and mesmerized the audience by his soulful voice by singing the entire diversity of Gojri folk music. Starting from Mahia, he covered the entire range by singing 'Papiha', 'Kenchi', 'Baint', 'Ciyarci' and

reached to the crescendo by singing his master piece 'Kukua Bol'.

During the programme he presented few songs devoted to joyful life of Gujjars in hills during the rainy season. He almost kept everyone spellbound when he presented 'Ciyarci' without the accompaniment of any musical instrument and successfully established his hold and command over the Gojri folk singing.

Two instrumentalists who are the masters of their respective instrument playing viz Rakesh Anand on flute and Sahil Jasotra on rhythm made this musical evening more meaningful and memorable through their professional ways of accompaniment.

The programme was ably conducted by Mohit Sharma.

Among others present were Lalit Gupta, Naveen Chopra, Subash Jammwal, Suraj Singh, Hasan Parvaaz and Munshi Khan.

**Cabinet Sub-Committee discusses creation of new administrative units**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 31: A meeting of Cabinet Sub-Committee, convened to discuss the recommendations of the Sub-Committee with regard to creation of new administrative units was held here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand.

The meeting decided to invite objections/suggestions from the general public, which should reach the General Administrative Department

**PDP to establish new system of justice, equality : Mufti**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Terming People's Democratic Party (PDP) as a movement to establish a new system of justice, equality and transparency, patron of People's Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said his party has emerged as genuine, strong and credible voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through its convictions and visionary policies.

He said that his party has earned credibility and legitimacy of the people because this party has given voice to the aspirations of the common masses. He said that with the support and cooperation of the people, PDP wants to change the present ineffective and corrupt system.

Addressing a function to welcome large number of National Conference (NC) workers from Batote, who joined PDP here today, Mr Sayeed said that aim of his party was not only to attain power but to uphold dignity and honour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "One of the biggest achievements of PDP is that people of Jammu and Kashmir have accepted this party as alternative of National Conference", he said, adding, "it is our achievement that we have won hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir". He said that it was all due to the good governance of the PDP led Government that people have faith on this party. "Three year was a small period but we had tried our best to come up to the expectations of the people", he said and expressed satisfaction that people of Jammu and Kashmir have appreciated the work of the PDP led regime.

He said it was all due to the pro-people policies of the

party that PDP has emerged as strong alternative in the State within a short span of time. "Policies and programmes of PDP are formulated by incorporating wishes and aspirations of all sections, all regions and sub-regions of the State," he added.

Seeking cooperation of the people, he said that PDP with the help of the masses want to change destiny of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "It is the people who ensure peace, security and development in their respective areas. With the power of people I want to establish lasting peace in this region", he said and pointed towards emergence of strong regional political powers in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and some

other parts of the country where people have brought changes through their power. He exhorted the new entrants to spread agenda of party in their respective places.

Prominent among those who joined PDP included Arshad Malik, Gurpreet Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Varinder Sharma, Sajjad Magray, Rohit Malik and Tariq Rather and others.

Yashpal Sharma, (MLC) Thakur Balbir Singh, Fallail Singh, Jagjit Singh Jagg, Surinder Choudhary, Abdul Rashid Malik, Choudhary Hussain Ali Bafa, Hamid Choudhary and other prominent leaders of PDP were also present on the occasion.

**8 promoted as Administrative Officers**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: The State Government has accorded sanction for placement of 8 Section Officers of the Heads of Department Cadre as Administrative Officers in their own pay and grade.

The promoted officers include Mohd Munawar Khawaja, Maharaj Krishan Raina, Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Sona Ullah Bhat, Shaheel Ahmad Bhat, Ghulam Mohd Sheikh, Bashir Ahmad and Sunita Kumari.

Consequent upon the promotion, Mohammad Munawar Khawaja is transferred from The Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir and posted as Administrative Officer in the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages on ex-cadre basis.

Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol on ex-cadre basis.

Sona Ullah Bhat is transferred from the Office of the Labour Commissioner and posted as Administrative Officer, SKIMS, Medical College Hospital, Bemia on ex-cadre basis.

Shaheel Ahmad is transferred from the Department of Information, Kashmir Division and posted as Administrative Officer in the office of Chief Engineer, EM&RE, Kashmir.

Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh is transferred from the Office of the District Development Commissioner, Kupwara and posted as Administrative Officer in the State Vigilance Organization, J&K.

Bashir Ahmad is transferred from the Office of the Chief Education Officer, Kargil and posted as Administrative Officer in the Directorate of Information, J&K.

Sunita Kumari is transferred from the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department and posted as Administrative Officer in the Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu on ex-cadre basis.

Nazir Ahmad Ganai, is transferred from the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Srinagar and posted as Administrative Officer in the

office of Chief Engineer, EM&RE, Jammu.

Maharaj Krishan Raina is transferred from the Department of Fisheries and posted as Administrative Officer in the office of Chief Engineer, EM&RE, Jammu.

Nazir Ahmad Ganai, is transferred from the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Srinagar and posted as Administrative Officer in the

**Dr Kudyar takes over as Director-Principal of ASCOMS**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 31: Dr RP Kudyar, Prof and Head of the Department of Medicine, ASCOMS and Hospital, Sidhra, took over as new Director

from PGIMER, Chandigarh in 1982.

Having worked in GMC Jammu at various positions of the faculty for over three decades, he became the HoD of Internal Medicine of GMC Jammu in 2005. Subsequently in 2007, he joined ASCOMS and Hospital as Professor and HoD.

An astute clinician, a teacher par excellence and an academician at heart, Dr Kudyar has supervised the dissertations and thesis works of scores of postgraduate, DM students as well as Ph D scholars.

He has over 25 research publications and chapters in various journals and books of national and international repute. An academician of Principal, ASCOMS and Hospital, International repute, Dr Kudyar has been actively Principal of the Institute, Dr RP involved in academics within and outside institution as speaker and visiting faculty at national and international conferences and Medical schools.

As a student, resident and as faculty, he has been a recipient of various awards at both national and international levels. He has been the member of various academic bodies including prestigious Endocrinology Society of India, of which he has been scientific Secretary.

Dr A Kumar, outgoing Director-Principal, ASCOMS and Hospital, congratulating the new Director-Principal of the Institute, Dr RP involved in academics within and outside institution as speaker and visiting faculty at national and international conferences and Medical schools.

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Dr Kudyar is the first endocrinologist of the State, who completed his MD in Internal Medicine from Kashmir University in 1973 and DM in Endocrinology and Metabolism

from PGIMER, Chandigarh in 1982. Having worked in GMC Jammu at various positions of the faculty for over three decades, he became the HoD of Internal Medicine of GMC Jammu in 2005. Subsequently in 2007, he joined ASCOMS and Hospital as Professor and HoD.

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