

Bhalla stresses on preservation of heritage sites by using scientific techniques

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture, Raman Bhalla today laid stress on the restoration of all heritage sites of the State to their original form by adopting scientific methods and involvement of highly skilled and expert man power.

"The past glory of historical places in three regions of the State can be restored by use of the original material - 'Chunna-Surkhi' - and the involvement of agencies have achieved expertise in the field", the Minister said while addressing a high level meeting of officers at Civil Secretariat, here today.

Former Minister and Chairman, Dogra Heritage Society (DHS), Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, District Development Commissioner, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Vice Chairman Jammu Development Authority (JDA) Satish Nehru, Superintendent Engineer JDA P L Bhushan, Consultant Tourism and Culture K A Qadri, Vice President DHA Y V Sharma besides its other representatives were present in the meeting.

Mr. Bhalla informed that Government has identified 28 heritage sites of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions for preservation and conservation including Heritage Building Poonch House at Talab Tilloo, Gole Garh at Hazuri Bagh, GGM Science College, SRML Higher Secondary School, Jandi Fort at Hiranagar, Shri Raghunath Ji temple at Suchetgarh, Old Railway Station at R. S Pura, Moti Mahal, Poonch, Historic Fort Complex at Baderwah, Historic Fort Kaeth in Akhnour, Old School, Satwari, Cheshma Shahi Mughal Garden, Shalimar Mughal Garden, Nishat Mughal Garden, Achabal Mughal Garden, Heritage Stone building at Old Sectt. Srinagar, Heritage Building Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Heritage Building SP College Srinagar, Heritage Building Govt. Women College Moulana Azad Road Srinagar, Historic Mosque Aali Masjid, SPS Museum, Heritage House, Abi Guzar at Srinagar besides Historic Shah-i-Hamdan Mosque at Shey Leh, First

SAPTAK for promotion of cultural heritage

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: SAPTAK - an association of music artists, exhorted the music artists' fraternity to work fervently for the preservation and promotion of rich cultural heritage of the J&K in general and Duggar region in particular.



Kamal Sharma and Vijay Atri interacting with media persons at Jammu on Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Kamal Sharma, president, SAPTAK told that "SAPTAK" is an endeavor to promote the classical, light and folk music, as our heritage, is being invaded by the western culture and the film music, has overshadowed the folk music.

Sharma elaborated that "SAPTAK" will make efforts for reviving "Bhaakh", "Geetru", "Kaarak", "Baar" and other folk forms of the region. It shall bring-out in lime light the traditional folk instruments such as "Kieng", "Morchang", "Sarangi", "Nagoza", "Narsingha", "Ghara-Thali" and "DAFLA", he added. "Haran", "Fummani" and "Nikku Kud", the fading-out dance forms will also be made to vibrate the cultural scene of Jammu, Sharma informed.

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tion, restoration of 2-water tanks, installation of floating fountain in main water tank, removal of thick layer of paint at the entrance, removal of illegal structures, ramp along inner side of fort wall, landscaping within Mahakali temple adding that the projects are under progress on war-footing and are all set to be completed within stipulated time frame.

Responding to the demand of representatives of DHDS, Mr. Bhalla asked District Development Commissioner to remove illegal structures constructed by some local in and around the Maha Kali Temple at Bahu Fort, adding that such practices are creating nuisance to the lakhs of pilgrims visiting the shrine.



Divisional Commissioner Shantmanu inspecting CAPD store at Ware House Jammu on Monday.

Div Com notices unhygienic storage of CAPD ration

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Unhygienic storage of CAPD ration in Jammu store came to fore when Divisional Commissioner Shantmanu today conducted a surprise visit of the Ware House complex housing godowns of CAPD and JAKFED.

There was no proper storage of the ration, which was kept on ground without any polythene cover while the rain water was trickling from top of the store.

Moreover, some carcasses of animals were also found from the adjoining JAKFED store within the complex.



Mohammed Sharief Niaz, MLA Baderwah along with locals of the area holding a peace rally in Baderwah on Monday.

Niaz holds peace rally in Baderwah

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, Aug 26: Mohammed Sharief Niaz MLA Baderwah held a peace rally in Baderwah, joined by number of people of all religions, castes and students of various schools, today.

While addressing gathering, Mr Niaz said that people of our country want peace but there are some elements in society who play dirty politics of religion or region to divide people. He said that Kishtwar incident was very unfortunate and is condemned by both Hindus and Muslims. He further said that people of Baderwah, Bhallessa and

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Joint Select Committee discusses proposed Land Use Bill

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: A meeting of the joint Select Committee of legislators of both the Houses, constituted to look into the proposed Government Bill on prohibiting conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes was held here today under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Revenue, Ajaz Ahmed Khan.

The Committee held threadbare discussion on various aspects of the proposed Bill and its benefits. Most of the members opined that the Bill should be passed after adding certain new clauses which are mandatory to ensure proper use of land and to save the agricultural land from further shrinkage in view of widespread constructions for residential as well as commercial purposes. The members insisted that the proposed law should not create any hurdle for the land owners for constructing their houses and permission process should be simplified.

The Committee opined that the Bill has lot of scope for improvement and sought to seek views of various stakeholders for the purpose. All the departments connected with the issue like Revenue, Housing, Agriculture and Law would put forth their view point in the light of today's discussion so that the law is made more useful for the users, maintained the

Committee.

The aim and objective of the Government Bill is to prohibit conversion of agricultural land for other purposes in view of the large scale constructions on agricultural land which has led to decline in the agriculture production in the State. After the introduction of Bill in the lower House and after brief discussion and demand of the Members it was referred to Select Committee for further study and suitable recommendations.

The meeting was attended by legislators, Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Rani Bioria, Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, Abdul Gaffar Sofi, Charanjeet Singh, Syed Asgar Ali, Dr. B.A. Veeri, Commissioner/Secretary Agriculture, Dr. Asgar Samoon, Secretary, Revenue, Vinod Koul, Additional Secretary Assembly, M. R. Singh, Directors Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu and officers of Law Department.

Expedite double-lanning work on Rly track: CCI

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu has stressed that double-lanning work of Railway track between Jalandhar and Jammu be expedited.

During interactive meeting with the Railway authorities headed by Chairman Passenger Services Committee, Railway Board, Jagdish Chander, P K Patnayak and Uppan Kumar Members of the Board, N C Goel, DRM Northern

Station but nothing has been done so far in this direction. They said tickets are not available to the passengers and Railway computers always show no vacancy and at least two new Shatabdi trains (morning and evening) from Jammu to Delhi, two more trains on Mumbai route and one each for Ahmedabad and Jaipur may be sanctioned. They also demanded direct train between Jammu and Bangalore and Jammu to Chandigarh and back. The CCI members stressed for another foot / over bridge from Jammu plate form No. 3 to the circulation area. They suggested that like airport, trolley system should be introduced at Jammu Railway Station. Various other problems related to additional facilities and cleanliness were taken up by the CCI team.

Mr Goel assured that one more platform is being constructed at Jammu and two sets of escalators are going to be installed soon. He also assured that all the pending issues would be resolved. Shang Lamer vice president and Arun Gupta, secretary general also spoke on the occasion. Anil Gupta (jvp), Deepak Aggarwal (secy) and B B Gupta (treasurer) were also present.

The CCI members further requested that there should be second entrance to the Railway Station Jammu for properly managing the rush of passengers and it should be approachable from eastern, as well as the western side of the station for the benefit of the commuters. They pointed out that in view of the visit of lakhs of pilgrims, Jammu Station was declared to be the Model Railway

Reveal criteria being adopted for MLAs, MLCs security: PC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: The Committee on Privileges of Legislative Council was held here today under the chairmanship of MLC, Jugal Kishore Sharma to discuss various privilege notices given by the members of Legislative Council.

Legislators, Ali Mohammad Dar, Showkat Hussain Ganie and Ghulam Nabi Monga were also present in the meeting.

The Committee discussed in detail the Privileges moved by the MLC, Ravinder Kumar Sharma against SSP, Security, Airport Srinagar for non-providing security and vehicle to him. The Committee sought detailed report from the State on the criteria of security being adopted for MLAs and MLCs.

The Members of the

MLC, VC KU, SDP, Sopore delegations call on Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Vijay Bakaya, Member of the State Legislative Council, met N. N. Vohra, Governor, at Raj Bhavan here today.

Mr. Bakaya discussed with the Governor several issues relating to the need for ensuring the rapid socio-economic development of the State. He also raised certain matters relating to the implementation of the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package for Kashmiri Migrants.

The Governor discussed with Mr. Bakaya the vital need for maintenance of communal harmony in all the regions of J&K.

Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University also called on Mr. Vohra and discussed several issues relating to the University's functioning with the Governor, who is Chancellor

of the Kashmir University.

The Vice Chancellor briefed the Governor about various aspects of the programmes being arranged to celebrate the J&K Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress which will be held at the Kashmir University on October, 1-3, 2013.

A delegation of the Socialistic Democratic Party also called on Mr. Vohra and presented to him a memorandum of their demands.

The demands presented by the 6-member delegation led by Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, President of the Socialistic Democratic Party, included, interalia, creation of a Tehsil and establishment of a Degree College and Sub-District Hospital at Waterhail and setting up of Primary Health Centres at Jawalpora and Hokerhletter in Budgam district. Other demands projected by the deputatons included improvement and upgradation of roads in the Sukhnaq area of the district.

Interacting with the delegation, the Governor emphasized the crucial importance of maintenance of communal harmony in all the regions of the State. Referring to the issues raised by the delegation

in the memorandum, the Governor observed that these would be duly taken up with the concerned authorities in the State Government.

The delegation comprised Maulana Sheikh Abdul Ghani, Mohammad Akram Dar, Abdul Ahad Thokar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Reshi.

A deputation of the Sopore Welfare and Development Forum today led by M. J. Iqbal, presented to the Governor the civic needs and demands of the people of Sopore town. These included, interalia, the speedy construction of the Sopore Hospital building, Sopore Bye-Pass Bridge and the establishment of a Stadium. Other demands projected by the deputation included the upgradation of civic amenities at Sopore.

The Governor gave a patient hearing to the deputation and observed that the issues raised by them would be duly taken up with the concerned authorities in the State Government. He also accepted the delegation's request to meet their Forum at Sopore, when he visits there next.

IRCS Chairman reviews functioning of district office

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Chairman, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Ajit Kumar Sahu, who is also Deputy Commissioner Jammu, paid a surprise visit at District Red Cross Office, Jammu and observed the day-to-day proceedings of the office.

During his visit, the chairman distributed a cheque of Rs 25000 to a needy person to undergo Neuro surgery for his son at PGI Chandigarh. He also provided a hearing aid to an aged person, admission fee for two University going girl students, medicine to a woman for her daughter on monthly basis

and books to poor students of Government schools.

Executive secretary, District Branch Jammu, apprised the chairman about relief distributed in the recent past in terms of 2300 tarpilines, 500 blankets, 40 utensils, 6 wheel chairs, eight hearing aids, uniforms to 20 students and admission fees to college, university and school going children.

The chairman showed satisfaction on functioning of the District office and issued on spot instructions to spread the message of Red Cross Society to every corner of the district through educational and other institutions so that Red Cross may come to the rescue of every needy.



BJP delegation taking round of Kishtwar market on Monday.

BJP delegation visits Kishtwar

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Aug 26: BJP delegation comprising of Party's National Executive Member and chief spokesperson of the State, Dr Jitendra Singh, senior vice president, Chandar Parkash Gupta, senior leader, Pawan Gupta, State secretary and Party Prabhari for Kishtwar, Munish Sharma and another senior leader, Satish Sharma today visited Kishtwar to have an on spot study of the situation there.

The leaders took a round of the market where the business establishments and shops were looted and razed to ground during August 9 violence. The local BJP leaders including State secretary of the Party Sunil Sharma and Capt (ret'd) Hukum Chand also accompanied them during their tour to market.

The delegation said 108 shops belonging to minorities were destroyed totally in the August 9 violence and the total loss assessed was Rs 19 crore in addition to the loss to the vehicles.

Expressing serious concern

over the attack on the shops and business establishments of a particular community by the mob, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the same could have not been possible without the active connivance of the administration.

He said there was a selective looting and destruction of the shops belonging to a particular community. Both Kaleet and Amar markets have been destroyed completely, he added.

He demanded that the assessment be made through impartial Expert Committee and not by Government representatives. Besides the version of individual shopkeepers be taken into consideration, he added.

Chander Parkash Ganga demanded full compensation for shopkeepers and owners of other business establishments besides action against those guilty under law.

Pawan Gupta assured all support to businessmen most of whom are from Udhampur. He urged them that Party is fully at their back and they should not migrate from the area.

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