



Minister for Higher Education, Mohammad Akbar Lone chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday.

Lone for speedy completion of colleges' infrastructure

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 23: Minister for Higher Education, Mohammad Akbar Lone today urged upon the executing agencies to speed up the pace of construction work being executed for the development and upgradation of infrastructure of colleges across the Valley.

The Minister was chairing a high level meeting convened to assess the pace and progress of works under execution for the upgradation of colleges setup in the Kashmir division.

Mr. Lone emphasised upon college authorities to work with unison with the executing agen-

cies and adhere to UGC guidelines while implementing any project. He also urged upon executing agencies to ensure quality in work besides utilising funds judiciously.

The meeting deliberated upon various issues pertaining to upgradation of infrastructure of colleges and discussed matters of various Degree Collages one by one. The Minister was also apprised about the pace and status of works in all the colleges.

Director Colleges, Dr Nalni Kohli, Chief Engineer R&B, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Jat Mahasabha rejects nomination of new president

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Strongly criticizing some self styled leaders of the community, the Jammu and Kashmir Jat Mahasabha has rejected the nomination of its new president who claimed to get elected yesterday.

A meeting of the existing committee was held here today under the chairmanship of Ch Pyara Singh president, All J&K Jat Mahasabha, which strongly criticized the organizers of the Jat Sammelan by misleading the biradari members and community leaders.

In a press communiqué issued here, Ch Pyara Singh said that it is the biradari in whole of J&K that will decide its leader and will never accept a self

styled leader merely announced in meager crowd of around 500 people and that too away from its headquarters RS Pura.

Ch Pyara Singh further said that the actual leadership of the biradari which consists of former Member of Parliament, two former Ministers, former MLAs and sitting MLAs and other prominent personalities is already conducting the affairs of the biradari smoothly in the entire State and is being operated from the biradari headquarters located at RS Pura. The meeting further extended the existing executive committee and added new members who include S Manjit Singh Jatt, S Avtar Singh Khalsa, Rajpal Singh Randhawa, Dwarika Choudhary, Ch Ajit Raj Sumb and Ch Jarnail Singh.

PHE workers resent non-payment of wages

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Water Works (PHE) Employees Association (Jammu province) has expressed serious concern over the non-payment of the wages of the daily rated and consolidated workers.

In a meeting of the Association held here today under the chairmanship of Shiv Kumar Sharma, State president of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the members and workers present strongly criticized the concerned higher authorities for causing delay in payment of their wages. The problems being faced by the workers were discussed in detail. It was pointed out by the office bearers from various Divisions and Sub-Divisions that daily rated and CP workers were still unpaid for scores of months. They were being harassed by the seniors instead of making their payments and under such circumstances they are unable to work.

Mr Sharma urged upon the higher authorities to ensure payment to these workers in time

and their arrears should also be paid without any further delay, otherwise, they will be forced to come out on the roads to lodge protest. He also demanded conduct of DPC of all cadre at the earliest as it has not been held since long and the employees were suffering. It was strongly demanded that to implement the orders issued by the Minister for PHE to transfer all the displaced employees back to their previous places of postings in revocation of the earlier transfer order.

It was felt that there was inadequate staff in some divisions and it should be increased. Clerical and other record keeping work is suffering. They also demanded pending installment of 6th Pay Commission arrears and regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven years in service.

Prominent among others present in the meeting included Vinod Kumar, Raman Kumar, Ajay Sharma, Madan Lal, Naresh Kumar, Munshi Ram, Mohd Faiz, Akbar Chouhan, Mohd Qayoom and Kuldip Raj.

Relief Commissioner discusses problems with Buta Nagar migrants

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Kashmiri migrants have stressed on implementation of employment package announced by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in 2008 at Jammu.

The demand was made by the representatives of TRT Buta Nagar while interacting with Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner R K Pandita during his visit to the Camp this afternoon.

They said that out of 6000 posts only 1500 posts under PM's package were filled up in last six years and stressed

that the remaining posts be also filled up at an earliest which will pave a way for the return of community to Valley.

They informed the Relief Commissioner that the unemployment was a grave issue faced by community youth and needs to be addressed immediately.

The camp representatives also stressed on construction of shops in the camp and demanded development of parks besides roofing of area in front of community hall.

Mr Pandita assured the migrants in the camp that all steps will be taken to redress their grievances.

Six gamblers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 23: Police arrested six gamblers from Christian Colony and seized bet money from their possession. Reports said that SHO Udhampur Deepak Jasrotia along with a Police party conducted raid at Christian Colony Udhampur and arrested six gamblers. The accused were identified as Channa Singh of Shiv Nagar, Girdhari Lal of Panchari, Rakesh Kumar, of Omara Morh, Bodh Raj of Dndayal, Mushtaq of Indira Colony, Udhampur and Raman Kumar of Head Post Office, Udhampur.

From the possession of accused, bet money of Rs 28,390 was seized by police, which registered a case in this connection.

Cong names Joshi, Maken in high-power coordination committee

NEW DELHI, July 23:

Congress today brought in senior leaders C P Joshi and Ajay Maken into the party's high-power coordination committee headed by Rahul Gandhi for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

With their addition, the number of members of the committee, set up in November 2012, has gone up to eight.

Rahul was elevated as the party's Vice President at Congress Chintan Shivir in Jaipur in January. His heading the committee was interpreted as a clear signal for his larger role in the party then.

Senior leaders Ahmed Patel, Janardan Dwivedi, Digvijay Singh, Madhusudan Mishra and Jai Ram Ramesh are other members of the panel.

In November, the party had also announced setting up of three sub-groups, including one on the key issue of pre-poll alliances, which is headed by senior leader A K Antony.

Party General Secretary Digvijay Singh and Union min-

ister Ramesh have been added to the crucial sub-group on alliances, which also has M Veerappa Moily, Mukul Wasnik, Suresh Pachouri, Jitendra Singh and Mohan Prakash as its members, AICC general secretary in-charge of Organisation Dwivedi told reporters.

Party ideologue Mohan Gopal, a special invitee to this committee, has now been elevated as a member.

Other two sub-groups set up then were the manifesto and Government programmes sub group, also headed by Antony and the communications and publicity sub-group, chaired by Digvijay.

Rahul had announced the setting up of the coordination group and sub-groups with specific tasks at the party's Samvad Baitnah on November 9 at Surajkund last year, saying that "with a year and half left for the Lok Sabha elections, both party and Government will have to work cohesively together to ensure that we secure a renewed mandate". (PTI)



BJYM leaders during the launch of membership drive at Samba on Tuesday.

BJYM launches membership drive

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, July 23: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) — the youth wing of the BJP launched the membership drive in the district here today.

Launching the membership drive under "Yuva Sadasya - Yuva Mitra Abhiyan", BJYM State president, Ravinder Raina said the country is facing serious crisis and problems because of misrule of Congress-led Government at Centre. Anti-nationals and anti-social elements are perpetrating their nefarious activities without any fear while youth unemployment looms large, he added.

Raina said helpless and disappointed young India is looking towards the BJP with great hope and expectation. In such circumstances being a national party with a nationalistic outlook it is our moral duty to become an alternative and fulfill

their expectations and associate them with us.

BJYM president said that the young generation in the country has understood it very well that a party like BJP having ideology of patriotism can only ensure their all-round development along. He said today is the birth anniversary of our great freedom fighter Chander Shekhar Azad so take oath to follow the great revolutionary leader and throw out corrupt and failed Congress led UPA Government in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

BJP District president, Kashmiri Singh, BJYM State vice-president Bharat Sharma, general secretary, Inderej Singh Sambhal, State secretary, Ishant Gupta State office secretary, Honey Singh Jamwal, BJYM district president, Ankush Mahajan along with large number of local youth were present.



The members of Canal Road Walkers Welfare Association along with officials of J&K Bank during the plantation drive.

Plantation drive launched

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Canal Road Walkers Welfare Association held a plantation drive for green city, Jammu on two Km walkers track.

A K Gupta, IFS, Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, Jammu inaugurated the campaign by planting a tree in presence of other members of the association. The theme was "Plant a tree own a tree".

Shivdev Singh Chib, Range officer and other officials of the Social Forestry Department coordinated the plantation campaign.

The association has planned to plant at least 1000 trees of various species including the bamboos. This plantation drive will continue in the coming days till whole stretch of walking track from Canal Head to opposite SDhanti Ghat, is completed.

The president, M S Nargal, general secretary, Adv V K Sharma, finance secretary H S Jamwal, organising secretary, G D Sharma, Vinod Sharma, senior executive and other officials of Jammu and Kashmir Bank graced the occasion.

Meanwhile, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) also

organised a plantation drive at IGC, Samba. Regional Director, SPCB, Sajjad Mufti Kickstart the drive by planting a sapling at SIDCO rotary.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Samba, B S Jamwal was the chief guest while general manager DIC Samba and Senior Manager, SIDCO IGC, Samba were also present.

NSF celebrates birth anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Jammu University unit of National Secular Forum (NSF) organized a programme on the birth anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad who sacrificed his life for the country.

The NSF activists paid tributes to the freedom fighter amid slogans "Azad Amar Rahe" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", and garlanding of a portrait of the son of soil.

NC leader and JKCA member Ankush Abrol was the chief guest on the occasion while Dr Vikas Sharma, president over the function. Sukhdev Singh, president of NSF and Akshay Sharma, general secretary NSF, were the guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol and Vikas Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction, female foeticide and dowry. They exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

Qayoom Malik, Pushpinder Singh, Rishikesh Rana, Papinder Singh, Balveer Kumar, Jagmohan Singh, Narinder Singh, Nirmal Kour, and others were present on the occasion.

Wani reviews progress on ERA projects

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Minister for Roads & Buildings and Mechanical Engineering, Abdul Majid Wani today constituted a team of officers to inspect the pace of progress on Doda-Barath road.

Besides inspecting the progress, the team would also assess the quality of work and the material being used in the construction of the road.

The Minister passed these directions after observing slow pace of work on the project while chairing a meeting held here today to review status of work on the projects being executed by the Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) in Jammu region.

Minister of State for Cooperative Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma was also present in the meeting.

The Minister directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of construction work and adhere to the quality standards in the use of material, besides specifications and norm set for the project.

The road project is being executed by ERA at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crore. The meeting was informed

that out of total length of the road, 15 kms length of road has been black topped, 16 kms earth cutting completed and earth filling work on the rest portion of road is going-on and expected to be completed by October.

Among others, Chief Executive Officer, ERA, Sourab Bhagat, Chief Engineer, ERA, consultant ERA and other officers of department attended the meeting.

Earlier, a deputation of newly appointed Indian System of Medicines (ISM) doctors called on the Minister and apprised about their grievances. These 9 doctors of Jammu province were selected through State Public Services Commission and joined in October last year and are awaiting posting.

The Minister talked to the Health Minister and urged him to take steps for the early posting of these doctors.

Meanwhile, several deputations and individuals also met the Minister and apprised him about the problems being confronted by them with regard to essential services.

The Minister issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned for attending these grievances on priority.

17 traders fined

Excelsior Correspondent

PULWAMA, July 23: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama and in view of the Holy month of Ramzan, a team of officials from Legal Metrology, Pulwama under the supervision of Assistant Controller conducted a surprise checking of various trade establishments including vegetable, meat, bakery, milk sellers, kiriyana, ration depots and other consumable items of different areas of Pulwama market and Murran area.

Inspector Legal Metrology Pulwama booked several traders who were indulged in anti-consumer practices and Assistant Controller compounded 17 cases on spot and realised a sum of Rs.10,500 as fine from erring traders.

In the meantime, the Assistant Controller asked the traders to use only verified and

standard weight and measure instruments and deliver exact quantity of commodity to the consumers for which they are paying and to sell standard packaged commodities clearly displaying rate Maximum Retail Price, net content, date of manufacturing, expiry date along with consumer care number.

The traders were also warned not to be indulged in any kind of anti-consumer practices and in this regard, the general public of the area was advised to register their genuine complaints with the office of Assistant Controller or Inspector Legal Metrology, Pulwama and assert their right as consumers.

The defaulters were further warned that any future indulgence in any kind of fraudulent practice will be dealt in a competent court of law under Legal Metrology Rules and Consumer Protection Act.

BMS celebrates Foundation Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) celebrated its 59th Foundation Day as demands day all over the State.

All the affiliated units including industrial workers, public sector employees, local bodies, cooperative sector, Government employees, anganwadi workers and in organised sector held meetings at different places in all districts and blocks of the State and distributed sweets.

The speakers highlighted the principles of BMS. They demanded to call Labour Advisory Board and Contract Labour Advisory Board meetings to discuss the problems being faced by the workers.

They added that the Labour Department is not properly

Driver dies as Load Carrier slips into gorge

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, July 23: Driver of a Mahindra Load Carrier died after his vehicle slipped into a deep nullah at Mahore in Reasi district.

The deceased was identified as Mohd Shafi son of Gulam Mohd of Mahore who died after his vehicle JK02A-6685 fell into a 300-feet deep gorge while reversing the same.

Mohd Shafi reportedly died on the spot.

Later the body was shifted to Mahore hospital and then handed over to the family for last rites.

Committee framed to assess damages to DC office complex

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, July 23: The district administration has constituted a team of officers to assess the damages to the Development Commissioner Office in the recent protest demonstrations.

The committee was constituted by the Deputy Commissioner, M H Malik while chairing a meeting convened to review the damages caused to the DC Office Complex during the recent protest demonstrations.

ADDC Ramban, ACR Ramban, CPO Ramban besides other officers also attended the meeting.

The damage assessment committee would have ADDC, ACR, CPO, XEN PWD (R&B) and XEN PDD as members. The committee would review the overall damages to the complex and submit the report to the Government.

The DDC directed JK Police Housing Corporation to expedite the work on construction of damaged compound wall, while SP Ramban was directed to beef up and strengthen the security arrangement in and around the DC Office Complex.

BJP pays tributes to 2008 agitation martyrs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: On the 6th death anniversary of 2008 Shri Amarnath land agitation martyr Kuldeep Verma, BJP organised a programme at Party office to pay tributes to

Kuldeep Verma and other martyrs who laid down their lives during the 63 days long agitation.

The programme commenced with performing of Haven by Party leaders along with the Verma's wife Shilpi Verma, mother-in-law Kanta Devi, his son Anmol Verma and other family member, which was followed by paying of floral tributes.

BJP State President Jugal Kishore Sharma, while paying tributes, said that Kuldeep Verma sacrificed his life which galvanized Amarnath agitation into a mass based State level movement and which finally compelled the Government to recognize the strength of people of Jammu.

It also made the Kashmir-centric political dispensations of the State and Central level to become aware that Jammu and Jammuites cannot be taken for granted.

BJP National Executive Member & Chief Spokesperson Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Amarnath agi-

tation was not simply a land agitation but an agitation symbolic of Jammu region's pent up grievances for last 55 years and unless the agreement finalized on August 31, 2008 is implemented in toto, there will be no true homage to Kuldeep Verma and other martyrs.

State Vice-President Chander Prakash Ganga said that the 63 days long historic agitation wrote a new chapter in the history of J&K which will be remembered as a united opposition of the pro-Kashmir appeasement policies of the Government.

State vice-president Ramesh Arora lambasted the State Government for not implementing the agreement and said that there is resentment among the people of Jammu as the Government has betrayed and hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Senior leader Chander Mohan Sharma said that although Kuldeep Verma and other martyrs are not with us today but they showed a new path to the people of Jammu to fight discrimination and injustice.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Jammu District General Secretary Sanjay Baru.

SAD says India, Pak should resolve J&K issue

Excelsior Correspondent

SRIANGAR, July 23: Shiromani Akali Dal asked India and Pakistan to resolve the issue of Jammu and

India and Pakistan and the issue has to be resolved as per the aspirations of people of J&K. The involvement of third party (World Bank) shows that Kashmir is not a bilateral issue



Simranjit Singh Mann, president Shiromani Akali Dal Amritsar, along with his senior party leaders addressing a press conference at Srinagar on Tuesday.

Kashmir as per the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here, president Shiromani Akali Dal, S. Simranjit Singh Mann said that the Kashmir was never a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and even in the Indus-water treaty, third party was involved.

Mann said that according to UN Resolutions India had promised a plebiscite in Kashmir. "But India is not fulfilling its promise of holding plebiscite in Kashmir. Situation in Kashmir will not improve till Kashmiris are given their rights," he said.

"Kashmir is an international issue not an issue between the

between the two neighboring countries," he said adding that plebiscite is the democratic right of Kashmiri which was even promised by Jawahar Lal Nehru to the people of Kashmir.

Holding the Kashmiri politicians responsible for bringing controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to the State, Mann said that the same leadership has to revoke it from here. "It was Kashmiri leadership not New Delhi who brought AFSPA here and to revoke the same, they have to play a strong role as Army is not going to leave from here because they have their vested interests," he claimed.

Sarpanch, BDO officials embezzle lakhs of rupees

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 23: The Sarpanch of Panchayat Halqa Gurrekarah falling under Block Gandoh in District Doda, in connivance with officials of Block Development Office (BDO) has embezzled lakhs of rupees under MGN-REGA scheme.

This was maintained by social activists Ashiq Hussain in a press conference held here today, who alleged that he had RTI information in this regard which revealed that lakhs of rupees have been misappropriated by the concerned Sarpanch and BDO officials.

He said, "During the year 2011, an amount of Rs 36 lakh was sanctioned for the said panchayat by Rural Development Department, out of which officials of BDO showed expenditure of Rs 18 lakh on different department works on fraudulently but on ground only 5 to 6 percent works had been executed".

The RTI information also ascertained that NREGA Job Cards had been issued in favour deceased, old aged, infirm and students and the amount thus withdrawn fraudulently, he said adding even the Sarpanch managed to prepare seven Job cards on the name of his own family members and 17 on the name of his in-laws.

Hussain revealed that he also lodged a complaint in this regard in the Vigilance Organisation on June 2, 2012, but unfortunately it took one complete year to start investi-



Social activist, Ashiq Hussain along with others addressing a press conference at Jammu.

gation into the matter. Finally the team visited the area and recorded the measurement of works executed in Ward No 3, 4 and 6 the goons of Sarpanch didn't allow the team to finish the work and even forced it to take measurement of works executed in year 2009-10, he added.

Hussain appealed the Vigilance Commissioner to relaunch investigation into the matter and bring the facts to light so that corrupt Sarpanch and BDO officials can be punished for looting public exchequer.

Tariq Hussain and Riaz Zargar also spoke on the occasion.