



Minister for Rural Development Ali Mohd Sagar interacting with a deputation of Sarpanch & Panch at Srinagar on Tuesday.

3473 persons appointed as technical staff under MGNREGA: Sagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ali Mohammad Sagar today said that the Government has already appointed 3473 persons as technical and supporting staff under MGNREGA so that the implementation of this landmark scheme is speeded up.

The Minister was interacting with the deputations of Sarpanchs and Panchs from Shopian and Tangdar here today.

The Minister said that Government has ensured that implementation of various schemes of the Rural

Development Department are speeded up so that the people get benefitted from these schemes. He said that MGNREGA has registered a phenomenal increase in its implementation providing the much needed employment in rural areas besides creating infrastructure.

"The schemes have been instrumental in changing the socio-economic profile of the rural and far-flung areas and we have put in a foolproof mechanism to ensure its proper implementation so that the genuine beneficiaries get benefitted from it", he said and maintained that the necessary measures have also been put in place to

ensure that the complaints if any are also redressed within the shortest possible time.

Mr. Sagar further maintained that Government has put in place a vibrant Panchayati Raj set up by ensuring the empowerment of PRIs with powers of 14 vital departments. He said that the Panchs and Sarpanchs should work in close coordination with the officers of different departments so that sustained and need based development of their respective areas is ensured.

The Minister assured the deputations that their genuine grievances would be looked into and redressed.



The deplorable condition of Sabzi Mandi Parade.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Sabzi Mandi vendors facing apathy of JMC, no protection from rains, heat

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, July 30: Parade Sabzi Mandi which caters to the vegetable needs of old city people besides other commuters, has been facing the apathy of the Municipal Corporation Jammu, as there are no sheds to protect the vegetable sellers and customers from scorching heat in summer and rains in monsoon season.

Though most of the vegetable sellers had been allotted shops in the Municipality building in the Mandi where they could store their articles in the night and take shelter during rains, others are

bound to face the ire of the nature in the form of rains in the monsoon season as they have been allotted open space in the Mandi to run their business.

The monsoon season which may be boon for the others, is a bane for these vegetable sellers, as they find no place to take shelter during rains, which is a routine in the ongoing season.

"We have to face many difficulties in the rainy season, even the tarpaulins don't prove to be of any use during torrential rains accompanied by thunderstorm. The problems don't stop there, as there are no sheds so during rains the customers rarely visit the

Mandi, as it becomes impossible for them to traverse through slushiness of path, which is broken at many places", one of the vegetable seller told Excelsior.

During monsoon season, many a times the water enters into our shops and spoils our vegetables, as most of the shops are located below the ground level of the Mandi area, a fruit seller said.

Even after rains, one has to become extra cautious while walking through the Sabzi Mandi as path becomes too slippery thereby inviting any untoward incident, he added. Very few people prefer to come to the Mandi during rains and generally opt to purchase the vegetables and fruits from rehriwalas and vegetable shops outside the Mandi and we have to face losses, he further said.

It is disappointing that in the whole Mandi there is not even a single dustbin, due to which the vegetable and fruit sellers are bound to throw the waste and spoiled vegetable and fruits in the open, which create a bad impression on the minds of the customers and also give invitation to various diseases. The president of the Mandi, Subhash Sharma said though the drainage system in the Mandi is good but rains play havoc in the Monsoon season as the rain water enters into our shops and spoil every thing which is kept in shops thereby causing loss of thousands of rupees every year.

Our shops are too old and need immediate repair and in this regard we have approached many times to Municipal Commissioner, Jammu, but no attention has been paid to our demand, Sharma said.

When contacted Joint Commissioner, JMC, Kapil Sharma, said, "it is true that the shops in the Mandi need renovation, but it is impossible for us to afford renovation of these shops as it require a good amount but what we are getting from these shopkeepers in the form of rent is a petty amount ranging from Rs 250 to 350 per month. So presently there is no proposal of renovation of these shops but we are working on the line to bring improvement in Sabzi Mandi area".

On the non-availability of dustbins in the Mandi, Health Officer, JMC, Dr Vinod Sharma, said that though there is not enough space to place dustbins, yet we are thinking about it and will soon create some space for putting in place three or four large dustbins, which will help in maintaining cleanliness in the area".

CS reviews Wular, Mansar, Tso-Morari conservation activities

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: Stressing the need for allocation of adequate funds for taking up comprehensive and effective conservation and management of State's wetlands, Chief Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Khandey while emphasising the importance of wetland conservation called for full funding of the projects submitted by the State Government to the Centre for implementation of the Conservation and Management Action Plan of wetlands.

Chairing a meeting to review the developmental activities of Wular, Mansar and Tso-Morari lakes here, Chief Secretary underlined the importance of preserving wetlands, terming them vital for maintaining the lifeline and rich and unique biodiversity.

He asked the concerned to pursue the matter with Government of India and ensure that funds to the tune of Rs 386 crore as earlier projected by the State for Wular Conservation and Management are released. He said Rs 120 crore plan approved by the Centre is not sufficient for carrying out an effective conservation programme.

Chief Executive Officer, Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA), Abdul Razzak informed the meeting that 100 per cent demarcation of Wular Lake has been completed. Moreover, the lake area has been classified and identified into 109 micro-water sheds out of which 24 have been

prioritized for treatment.

The Chief Executive Officer said that dredging work has been carried out in Naz Nallah and other parts of the lake. Removal of willow and poplar trees is also under progress. He said that till date Rs 30 crore have been released for water management, catchment conservation, survey, demarcation and institutional development, adding that during 2013-14, an amount of Rs 43 crore is envisaged to be utilised under the total Rs 120 cr approved Plan.

Calling for massive afforestation of Mansar-Surinsar catchment area, Chief Secretary said that steps should be taken to prevent soil erosion and arrest flow of silt into the lake. It was informed that under PMRP, Union Government approved a 5 year Action Plan of Rs 3 crore against which Rs 1.33 crore have been released and expenditure of Rs 132.20 crore incurred upto 2012-13. An amount of Rs 52.75 lakh is envisaged to be utilized during 2013-14 for restoration of degraded habitat and other works.

For preservation of Tso-Morari lake, the meeting was informed that an amount of Rs 4.20 cr was approved by the centre, against which Rs 70.50 lakhs have been released and expenditure of Rs 50 lakh incurred upto 2012-13 for monitoring of breeding populations of migratory birds, protection of breeding sites, training and capacity building of local communities and other works.

BSP meets Union Tourism Secretary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) delegation led by its State general secretary Rakesh Wazir met Union Secretary Tourism Parvez Dewan and urged him to expedite the sanction of Food Craft Institute (FCI) at Nagrota for the students of J&K.

Wazir briefed him that there is lot of employment opportunities for the Hotel Management trained people at Katra, Jammu, Kashmir and other parts of the country particularly keeping in view the rising tourism industry in State

and country as well.

Parvez Dewan assured the delegation that the FCI would be started at the earliest and its location would be Jagti Nagrota and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India will provide Rs 4.5 crore for the project.

Dewan asked Commissioner/ Secretary Tourism Atul Dullo to identify the land for the FCI at Jagti, Nagrota.

Among others present were vice president RL Chadgotra, cashier Rattan Lal Bhagat, assembly president Gardhari Lal, Sita Ram and Madan Lal.



BJP activists during protest rally at Jammu on Tuesday.

BJP holds rallies, submits memo on ULBs issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under its State-wide programme took out rallies and submitted memorandums to the Deputy Commissioners and Tehsildars expressing concern over delay in holding Municipal Corporation, Committees and Councils elections.

In Jammu district, president Dina Nath Bhagat along with party leaders Pawan Gupta and Pawan Khajuria submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, where a massive protest was held and later memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner.

State president Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA East Ashok Khajuria, former Mayor Kavinder Gupta and other leaders also took part.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the Government should immediately hold the elections so that the public will not suffer anymore.

Ashok Khajuria criticized certain officials of Jammu Municipal Corporation who have been working at the dictates of the even ward level activists of Congress and National Conference.

Rajesh Gupta said that the people are suffering on account of non-constitution of the corporation and the Government is sleeping, which

itself speaks its concern for the masses, development and welfare.

Amar Nath Gupta, Chander Mohan Sharma, Sat Sharma, Rajni Sethi, Chander Mohan Gupta, Bansi Lal Bharti, Yudhvir Sethi, Rajinder Sharma, Praduman Singh, Ayodhya Gupta and Sat Pal Choudhary were also present.

At Udhampur, district president Dina Nath Bhagat along with party leaders Pawan Gupta and Pawan Khajuria submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, where a massive protest was held and later memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner.

In Samba, district president Kashmiria Singh submitted memorandum to Deputy Commissioner, where, in Ramban, district president Vijay Mohan Thakur submitted memorandum to Deputy Commissioner.

In RS Pura, district president Sat Pal Pappi submitted memorandum to Tehsildar, whereas in Kathua, district president Vijay Sharma submitted memorandum to DC.

In Akhnour, district president Sukhdev Singh submitted memorandum, whereas, in Rajouri district president Bharat Bhushan Vaid submitted memorandum to the DC and in Poonch, Sunil Gupta submitted memorandum.



Minister for ULBs Nawang Rigzin Jora chairing a meeting at Leh on Tuesday.

Jora reviews progress on development of Jivetsal

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, July 30: Minister for Urban Development, Nawang Rigzin Jora today reviewed the progress on development of Jivetsal in the wake of holding Kalachakra next year by spiritual leader Dalai Lama.

The meeting was attended by CEC Rigzin Spalbar, Executive Councilors, Sonam Dorje, Dr Sonam Wangchuk, Gyurmat Dorje and Mohd. Shafi Lassu, MLC, Norbu Gyalson, DC Simrandeep Singh, President LBA, Dr Tondup Tsewang, President, LGA Geshe Konchok Namgiel, SE PWD, Chief Executive Officer, Leh Development Authority, Ugyan Lhundup, Executive Engineers from all wings of PWD, officers of Rural Development Department and members of LBA Youth and Women's wing.

The Minister urged upon all the executing agencies to give special attention to complete all the identified works within the given time leaving no scope for delays and complaints. "It is a privilege for Leh to host Kalachakra next year and there should be no lapses in preparations and arrangements in all respects", he said and gave full assurance for financial support to ensure smooth implementation of all developmental works at Jivetsal.

CEC strongly urged upon the executing agencies to complete maximum work by the end

Declare Statehood to Jammu region: DPP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: Duggar Pradesh Party (DPP) has strongly reiterated its demand of Statehood status to Jammu region.

President of the Party, Uday Chand said that as the three regions of the State --- Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are culturally, linguistically, geographically and historically altogether different from each other, so we have a strong case to demand separate Statehood status for Jammu region.

"Before Amritsar treaty, the rulers of the three regions were altogether but in past 66 years, the people of Jammu and Ladakh have been heavily discriminated politically as well as economically and exploited in all walks of life with the help of few henchmen from Jammu and Ladakh, he said and added this discrimination is still going on.

"When India was declared independent, there were only 16-17 bigger states and today we have near 30 states. With the formation of small states, the Country has good and healthy experience of all-round progress and equal opportunity to all", Chand said, adding by demanding Statehood to Jammu region they are not demanding separation from India but want to strengthen India.

Three bootleggers held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: Police today arrested three bootleggers and recovered 86 pouches of J&K Excise liquor from their possession.

A police spokesman said that, on specific inputs, police party from Arnia Police Station laid a naka at Hari Peer and intercepted two persons.

Police recovered 50 pouches of J&K Excise liquor from their possession and arrested both the bootleggers, who have been identified as Surjeet Kumar, son of Rashpal Singh of Nikowal, RS Pura and Kala Ram, son of Bari Ram of Sai Khurd.

A case under FIR number 75/13 under Section 48-A Excise Act has been registered at Arnia Police Station and investigation started.

Meanwhile, patrolling party from Police Post Pallanwala under the jurisdiction of Police Station Khour arrested one person namely Bharam Dutt, son of Girabo Ram of Khajral and recovered 36 Pouches of J&K Excise liquor from his possession.

A Case under FIR number 51/13 under Section 48-A Excise Act has been registered and investigation started.

of this working season to lessen the work pressure in the next year.

DC Leh, Simrandeep Singh gave detail information on the latest progress of the works based on his recent inspection to Jivetsal and assured timely completion of works.

Meanwhile, Mr Jora reviewed power scenario in Leh in a separate meeting. He directed NHPCC and PDD to put men and machinery at work simultaneously in order to ensure completion of work on sub-stations and transmission lines.

Reacting to the public complaint of poor power supply, he directed PDD to immediately submit a new DPR to work on the improvement of existing transmission lines. He urged DC and SDMs to resolve power

related issues and problems at their level. The installation of 11 KV transmission line from Lehdo and onwards was also discussed in detail.

The Engineers of NHPCC informed that August 31 is the date fixed to make operational the 66KV substation from Leh to Karu. They also gave assurance to charge Khalsi block from October 30 and beyond Khalsi by November 30.

Mr Jora also reviewed the preliminary works for the initiation of Leh town beautification project under Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission. He said that project will mainly focus on drainage and sewage system, road constructions, telecommunication services and PHE works in and around Leh town.

CEGA deputation meets CM

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: All Jammu and Kashmir Civil Engineering Graduates Association (CEGA) met Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and briefed him about the problems face by them and the apathy of the administration towards their long pending resolution.

In a statement issued here it said that the delegation representing the civil engineering graduates employed with the State Government from all cadres met CM and informed him that civil engineers promoted on Adhoc basis and were supposed to be regularized within a six months, but were never regularized with commensurate grades even after two decades in most of the cases.

The delegation also informed the CM that some five years

back various departments had formulated Human Resource management (HRM) Cells with the purpose to finalize the seniority list of engineers at all levels for conducting Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC) for Adhoc promotions.

"The delegation appealed CM to direct the concerned authorities to expedite the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme (running grade) for Gazetted Cadres in engineering services," the delegation said.

The delegation also demanded that till their regularization, the Adhoc promoted engineers be allowed regular grades at their incumbent positions to allow them the monetary benefits.

"The CM gave a patient hearing and assured early action in the matter," it said.



An ill-fated vehicle which turned turtle on Tawi bridge

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Mini-bus turns turtle, 11 injured

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 30: Eleven persons were injured, when the mini-bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and turned turtle on the recently inaugurated fourth bridge on river Tawi.

The ill-fated vehicle bearing registration number JK02AW-1197 carrying factory workers was on its way to Bari Brahmana from Talab Tillo, when the driver lost control over the steering, resulting the vehicle turned turtle on the fourth bridge at river Tawi, causing injuries to eleven persons.

On getting information, locals and police party from Belicharana Police Post rushed to the spot and started rescue operation.

All the injured were shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in police and other vehicles, where their condition was stated to be stable, when last reports came in.

The injured have been identified as Kailash Kumari, wife of Joginder Lal of Gol Panj Peer, Talab Tillo, Kaili Devi, daughter of Prem Nath of Kalakote, presently at Gol Panj Pir Talab Tillo, Arti Devi, daughter of Chaman Lal, Barsa Devi, daughter of Subash Chander, Amita, wife of Rashpal of Kalakote, Neeta, daughter of Bakram Chand, Shalilu Devi, daughter of Des Raj of Panj peer Talab Tillo, Rekha, daughter of Baldev Raj of Talab Tillo, Rashmi, daughter of Tikam Singh of Gol Panj Peer Talab Tillo, Babli, daughter of Karnail Singh of Talab Tillo and Neeru wife of Sikandar Singh of Talab Tillo.

A case has been registered at Belicharana Police Post and manhunt has been launched to arrest the driver of the vehicle, who fled from the spot.

Use minimum forest area for development activities: EC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 30: The meeting of the Committee on Environment of State Legislative Assembly which met here today under the chairmanship of MLA Kulgam, M. Y. Tarigami discussed the action taken on the recommendations of the predecessor Environment Committees (ECs) in respect of all the Industrial Estates of the Valley.

The Committee which met with its members Muhammad Sharief Niaz, A. R. Veeri, Rafi Ahmad Mir, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Nasir Aslam Wani, Mr. Muhammad Khalil Bhand, muhammad Ashraf Ganai and Muhammad Yasin Shah gave valuable suggestions for further improvement in ensuring pollution free environment in the State.

The Chairman said the environment issue is as important as development adding that the need of the hour is to check negative environmental issues while considering construction of various projects in the State. Mr. Tarigami said that minimum forest land should be used for laying road network and other infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary PWD Tanveer Jehan, Commissioner Secretary Forest Ejaz Iqbal, Principal Chief Engineer of Forests Wildlife A. K. Singh, District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Yasha Mudgal Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir Mushaq Ahmad Lone, Chairman PCB Arun Tickoo and other officers of Labour, Revenue, Forest and its allied wings besides Assembly Secretariat.