



Minister for Housing Raman Bhalla addressing a gathering at Satwari on Sunday.

Bhalla dedicates tube well, community hall to people

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: For providing adequate drinking water facilities to Shomali Mohalla, Peer Baba Basti, Reyam Mohalla, Chatha in old Satwari and its adjoining areas people, Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture Raman Bhalla on Sunday dedicated 15000 gallon per hour discharge capacity deep drill tube well and 50000 gallon Ground Service Reservoir (GSR) to the people of the localities.

After dedicating the tubewell, the Minister addressed a large gathering and said the deep drill tubewell has been completed under Water Supply Scheme Old Satwari Chatha at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crore. He said that tubewell would improve the drinking water supply of about 10000 souls of the old Satwari Panchayat.

Mr. Bhalla directed the PHE engineers to lay water supply pipes in the uncovered areas of the Panchayat so that the inhabitants do not face any inconvenience. He said Government was committed to provide adequate drinking water supply in water supply deficit areas of the state by digging hand pumps and deep drill tubewells. He said during the last four and half years of present regime, Government has spent about Rs. 250 crore to dig the 25 tubewell including laying of water

Kashyap Jagriti Manch demands 27% reservation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: Kashyap Jagriti Manch (OBC) urged the Government to provide 27 per cent reservation to socially and educationally backward classes on the basis of caste as recommended by the Mandal Commission.

A meeting of J&K Kashyap Jagriti Manch (OBC) was held under the chairmanship of its president Pawan Kumar Manni and discussed various policies for the upliftment of the backward classes.

During the meeting, the participants flayed the Government for not providing reservation to the backward classes and also for not redressing their other demands.

They demanded change in the nomenclature of OSC to backward classes in the certificate being issued under SRO

Tarigami urges PM to take bold steps on Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 9: Urging India and Pakistan to reverse the self-destructive path and take bold initiatives to address the vexed Kashmir issue, the CPI (M) State Secretary Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has said people expect Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's proposed visit to Kashmir more purposeful with regard to stalled peace process aimed at resolution of Kashmir issue.

The CPI (M) leader said with the peaceful democratic transition and the return of Mian Nawaz Sharif to power in Pakistan, both the countries need to make serious efforts to turn a new leaf in their relations. "People of Kashmir are forced to bear the brunt of disruptions in Indo-Pak

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Saroori flays Govt over power, water crisis

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, June 9: Former Minister and Congress MLA from Inderwal G M Saroori has said that he would not remain a mute spectator to the apathetic attitude of the Government towards the plight of the people in Jammu region.

"In the scorching heat when the temperature is hovering between 44 and 45 degree Celsius, people are struggling to get power and drinking water", Saroori said.

While addressing people at Thathri, Mr Saroori said there is acute shortage of the electricity in whole Jammu region. People are on roads of because of erratic power supply, for one reason or the other, also fails the water supply. The situation is very very grim in Jammu relates the torture of people in the heat of 45 degrees Celsius plus in Jammu and sub zero temperature in Kashmir valley.

Coalition thriving on false promises: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: National Panthers Party chairman and MLA Ramnagar, Harshdev Singh has alleged that NC led Coalition Government was thriving on false promises and deceptive slogans and has encouraged corruption and nepotism.

Addressing a public meeting at Barnai in Raipur-Domana assembly segment of district Jammu today the NPP leader criticized the Government for alleged non-performance, lack of accountability, transparency, fiscal indiscipline and patronizing corruption. He alleged that Omar led Government has failed to deliver on the ground with the administrative machinery having completely been paralyzed.

The NPP legislator further alleged that during the last four and half-year-rule of the present Government the people have suffered a worst kind of experience like mis-governance and lack of accountability. He said there was all round discontent and disenchantment among the people of the State who had felt betrayed by the anti-people policies pursued by the present regime. He alleged that Government has lost



NMC activists raising slogans during convention at Jammu on Sunday.

Appoint 7th Pay Commission: NMC to PM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) today urged the Prime Minister to appoint the 7th Pay Commission at the next Cabinet Meeting as employees and pensioners will be entitled for Pay Commission with effect from January 1, 2016.

This was stated by Subash Shastri, president, NMC during one day convention here today.

He said that the except 6th Pay Commission all earlier pay commissions were constituted in the third year of every decade. In other words earlier Pay Commissions except 6th Pay Commission were formed well before its implementation become due.

"A notification for constitution of the 7th Pay Commission is the need of the hour for employees and pensioners, both in Central and State Governments", Shastri added. "50 per cent of DA should be forthwith merged into basic pay and pension," he said, adding 20 per cent interim relief should be sanctioned as early as possible in favour of Central and State Government employees and pensioners.

Shastri also insisted on time bound implementation of policy for regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven years of service in March 2012, adding that monthly emoluments of daily wagers should be raised to Rs 10,000 per month.

He also demanded enhancement of medical allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 1,000 per month, release of salary of motivators

Wani for strict action against non-performing officers

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, June 9: Minister for PWD (R&B) and Mechanical Engineering, Abdul Majid Wani, today inspected various developmental works in Gandoh, Bhalessa.

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Singh, Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), Tehsil Mustafa, MD JKPC, P.R. Bhagat, ACD, Rakesh Kumar besides XEn PWD (R&B) Gandoh, BDO Gandoh, Tehsildar Gandoh and other senior officers accompanied the Minister.

The Minister inspected construction work on Kaljuggar Motorable Bridge on Changa - Kaljuggar road, which is being constructed by JKPC at an estimated cost of Rs. 240 lakh. He expressed concern over slow pace of construction work being done by JKPC and directed MD JKPC to speed up the pace of work on Kaljuggar and other works being executed by them and ensure their time bound com-

pletion. He cautioned the non-performing engineers of strict action if they don't perform their work upto the mark. Regarding complaint of payments made to the PMGSY contractors whose contracts have been terminated, the Minister directed Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) to conduct inquiry into the matter so that strict action will be taken against the responsible officer. He directed the DDC to convene onspot camps at block level to settle the pending land acquisition and land compensation cases so that the developmental works don't get delayed due to such issues.

The Minister also inspected construction work on Shopan Motorable Bridge on Changa-Tantli PMGSY road which is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 604.02 lakh, so that road connectivity reaches to far flung area of the region.

Later, Wani inspected various other ongoing road and infrastructure developmental projects in Bhalessa region which included Jakyas-Gandoh PMGSY road, Bhatyas-Tender PMGSY road, Chang - Dudwar road. He also inspected the construction work on Govt. Degree College Killotran.

Gupta's concern over continued violation of ceasefire by Pak

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: Expressing concern over the continuance of violations of ceasefire and no let up in the hostilities by Pakistan even after the change of dispensation there, the former Union Minister of State for Defense and MLA, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta has stressed the need to take note of the happenings keeping in view the events of the past.

Referring to the infiltration bid by the armed terrorists coupled with heavy firing in Poonch Sector on Friday in which one JCO of the Indian Army was killed, Prof Gupta said that it was a height of evil action that Pakistani Army should deny that its troops were not involved in this firing, especially when deadly war like weapons were used. He pointed out that it was not first time that Pakistan Army employed such tactics. Only few months back the Pakistani troops had intruded in this sector and beheaded two jawans. It was strange approach as the New Delhi did not take the matter much seriously. It was obvious because of the weaknesses of Indian authorities, Pakistan Army continued its provocative and aggressive approach.

Prof Gupta further said that this time the incident of firing and then denial by Pak Army becomes more significant in view of the new Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharief in his fresh statement expressed desire for good relations with India. But there seems no change on the ground.

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Ex-Services League discusses several issues in AGM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: Annual general meeting of Indian Ex-Services League was held for discussing various issues of the Ex-servicemen and their families.

During the meeting, members highlighted several issues and demands, which included VAT relief, reservations in Government jobs at par with Himachal Pradesh, land for the Sainik Colonies in 60 days and revival of the prestigious Sainik Vanaspati Factory of the JAK Ex-servicemen Coop.

The meet also suggested the Government to have a special Veterans Force / Veterans Army like Territorial Army which could be embodied for disaster management, election duties, security and such other allied duties.

Addressing the AGM, the president Maj Gen Govardhan Singh Jamwal informed the members that Government of

Govt making all out efforts to restore pristine glory of religious places: Gul

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 9: Speaker, Legislative Assembly Mubarak Gul today said that the Government is making all out efforts for restoration of pristine glory of the religious places in the State.

The Speaker said this while interacting with the devotees at Ziarat Sharief, Ashmuqam.

Mr. Gul said, that a number of steps have already been taken by the present Government for restoration, beautification and face-lifting of the shrines of the State including Ziarat Sharief to enhance its beauty and providing better facilities to the devotees coming from across the State to pay obeisance. He said the link road leading to Ziarat Sharief would be upgraded so

PK launches 'Prearana' to preserve rituals, culture of KPs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: Panun Kashmir (PK) today launched an initiative named "Prearana" to strive to preserve the ritual traditions, culture and religious heritage of the Kashmiri Pandits who are facing the continuous onslaught from the conditions created by the adversary and the sense of desperation that has taken over the community to uphold these symbols of civilization continuity.

Prearana is the direct outcome of the resolutions passed in the annual national convention on December 28 on the eve of the Homeland Day by the community to uphold the civilizational moorings of the community and strive to preserve the rituals so that the identity of the community is not diluted in the period of forced exile of the community.

The initiative Prearana will also sensitize the Kashmiri Pandit community about the importance of the three child norm when the community is facing severe threat in terms of declining population and low fertility rate due to the constraints of the religious cleansing.

The meeting was attended by a large number of people from the civil society, intellectuals and KP women representatives from different professions.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Ajay Churungoo, Chairman, Panun Kashmir said, "the challenge of preserving the ritual tradition is of paramount importance if we want to preserve the identity of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Instead of preserving the traditions associated with various ceremonies like marriage, yagnopavit and other festivals we have indulged in corrupting the original traditions by incorporating practices that are not aesthetically associated with the rich traditions of the Kashmiri Pandits.

The need is to situate the rituals and traditions in real aesthetic

While speaking on the occasion, Ms Kulsi Pandita, social activist and educationist said, "the need is to give up all pseudo practices adopted by the community while performing religious and marriage ceremonies".

Various PK leaders from different parts of country including Jagti and other camps participated and addressed the programme.

Rana grieved over Doda mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 9: Provincial President, National Conference, Devender Singh Rana expressed deep grief and shock over the loss of two precious lives in a tragic road mishap at Humbal in district Doda and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

Mr Rana also wished early recovery to the four passengers injured in the accident and sought specialized medicare for them.

In a statement the Provincial President urged the Government to sanction immediate ex-gratia relief in favour of the next kin and kin of those who lost their lives and relief to the injured.

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