

Feroz reviews functioning of JAKEDA

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 20: Minister of State for Science Technology and Information Technology Feroz Ahmad Khan has asked the JAKEDA authorities to gear up the field functionaries to ensure that the people of the State get optimum benefits of the schemes launched by the Central and State Governments under New and Renewable Energy Department.

These instructions were given by the Minister while chairing a meeting of JAKEDA convened to review the functioning of the agency and the status of 6 Mini and Micro Hydel Power Projects having a cumulative capacity of 9.95 MW here today. These projects have already been taken up on IPP mode in the first phase.

The Minister asked the concerned to follow the method of identification and distribution strictly as per the norms set by the Department of Science and Technology and ensure that the deserving beneficiaries get benefitted. He also instructed them for timely distribution of the procured solar systems to

avoid there any damage.

Mr. Feroz also asked the authorities of JAKEDA to submit the list of installed Solar Power Plants, new identified sites for construction Mini and Micro Hydel Power Projects to the Science and Technology Department for further course of action.

The meeting was informed that the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has sanctioned installation of 20,000 Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV), Home Lighting System under General Category for Jammu & Kashmir with a central financial assistance of 30 per cent, 20 per cent under state plan and balance 50 percent by the beneficiaries. The purchase committee has approved Rs. 10,880 per Solar Home Light, the meeting was informed.

As many as 19,825 systems have been distributed among the beneficiaries of 20 districts of the state against the target of 20,000 under general category, the meeting was informed.

The meeting further informed that the MNRE has sanctioned 15,150 Solar Lanterns (SL) for remote Gujjar & Bakerwal basti at a

project cost of Rs. 5.30 crore with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 4.55 crore. As many as 6910 SL have been distributed among the beneficiaries against the target of 7865 in Kashmir Province and 6704 SL against 7285 in Jammu Province among Gujjar and Bakerwal beneficiaries, the meeting was informed.

The meeting was further informed that MNRE has sanctioned 50,377 Solar Home Lighting Systems for 225 un-electrified villages and hamlets of the State, besides additional quantity of 2055 Solar Hole Lighting System for left out households of Gurez and 927 for Marwah area, adding that 37,700 SHLs have been procured at a cost of Rs 41.02 crore after obtaining beneficiary lists from the concerned district administrations.

Among others Commissioner Secretary Science Technology and Information Technology Bipul Pathak, Chief Executive Officer Hafizullah, besides district officers of JAKEDA and Science and Technology departments attended the meeting.



Minister of State for Revenue Ajaz Ahmed Khan and Minister of State for Technical Education Vikar Rasool inaugurating Nayabat complex at Ramsoo on Thursday.

Ajaz, Vikar inaugurate Nayabat complex at Ramsoo

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMSOO, June 20: Minister of State for Revenue and Relief, Ajaz Ahmed Khan and Minister of State for Technical Education, Vikar Rasool Wani, today inaugurated the Nayabat Building complex at Ramsoo constructed at a cost of Rs. 54 lakh.

The Minister announced Settlement Tehsil office for Ramsoo and asked the Tehsildar Banihal to attend the camp office Ramsoo once in a week. He directed the ADC to settle the pending land compensation cases as early as possible.

While speaking on the occasion, Vikar Rasool said that UPA Government has taken concrete

initiatives for development of women, children and weaker sections of the society. In this regard, the Government has initiated UMEED for women empowerment, he added.

He highlighted the demands and problems being faced by the people related to revenue and other departments which included Sub Divisional Magistrate office for Banihal, Tehsil status for Ramsoo, Nayabat for Neel, Khari and Ukhral etc.

Secretary Revenue Department, Vinod Koul, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Bashir Khan, ACR and various officers of different Departments, Sarpanchs and Panchs were present on the occasion.



Dignitaries during Mehfil-e-Na'at at SP College on Thursday.

Mehfil-e-Na'at held at S P College

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 20: A Mehfil-e-Na'at was organized at S. P. College today in which participants from 27 Degree Colleges of the Valley attended.

Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA, Amira Kadal was the chief guest while Farooq Ahmad Shah, District Development Commissioner, Srinagar was the guest of honour.

The jury comprised Ghulam Hassan Gamgeen, Prof Mumtaz Ali Andrabi (Principal, GDC Kellam) and Prof. A. R. Bhat (Department of Geography, S. P. College).

The function started with the recitation of Na'at by Ghulam Hassan Gamgeen.

Man commits suicide

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 20: A man, 27, committed suicide in Verinag area of district Anantnag last evening, police said.

Khalid Hussain Bhat son of Ghulam Hussain of Chontipora, Verinag, consumed some poisonous substance at his home, police said. Bhat was rushed to Sub District Hospital, Anantnag, where he expired.

4 customers win Taj gift vouchers in lucky draw

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Four customers of Tanishq today won Taj gift vouchers in a lucky draw conducted by Tanishq -- the national jewellery chain from the house of TATA's, under its ongoing Swiss Escapes Campaign. The lucky draw was done for the recent diamond jewellery purchases done at the store.

The eligible customers won gift vouchers from Taj hotels worth Rs 4500. These gift vouchers are redeemable across India against meals and stay at Taj properties across India and are valid for one year period.

The staff and management ensured a fair and a transparent procedure by inviting a random person to do the draw.

Another, lucky draw which is planned for June 30, is for grand prizes, including a trip to Switzerland for 40 couples and exotic domestic holidays for another 150 couples to Bangalore.

Speaking on the occasion, Sandeep Kulhali, vice-president, Retail and Marketing, Tanishq, said, "We are sure that this offer will provide our customers and patrons an excellent opportunity to win exciting prizes. He disclosed that in total 2262 prizes are to be won from this Swiss Escape Campaign over a month's time".



Highlights:
• Cultural Programmes • Local Sports
• Traditional Dances • Departmental Stalls



**Also visit :
Historic Temples at Gouri Kund & Mantalai**

Directorate of Tourism, Jammu
For further information please Contact:
DIRECTOR TOURISM JAMMU: Tel.: 0191-2520409/2548172 Fax: 0191-2548358 e-mail: jktourism@yahoo.co.in
J&K TOURISM OFFICES AT: Jammu Railway Station Tel.:0191-2476078, JAMMU AIRPORT: Tel.: 0191-2431917,
KATRA: Tel:Fax: 01991-232005, BATTOTE: Tel:fax:01998-244243, SRINAGAR: Tel:0194-2472449/2452690-91, Fax: 2452393

Madan reviews connectivity with GREF Chief Engineer

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Madan Lal Sharma, Member Parliament Jammu Poonch constituency, reviewed road and bridge connectivity of his constituency with Chief Engineer GREF Brig U C Mehta and other commanders here today at Kunjwani.

The MP raised the issues of roads and bridges which requires immediate attention and action like Akhnoor-Jourian road, Four laning of Jammu-Akhnoor, Nowshera to Rajouri, Rajouri to Buzflaz via Thannamandi, Buzflaz to Surankote, Vijaypur to Ranghar, R S Pura to Suchetgarh, Mallah to Jogwan, bridges at Battal, Third bridge at Akhnoor etc

He asked the officers to expedite works on roads and bridges under GREF on top priority. He wanted GREF people to carry out the patch works of good quality on the roads where cracks and pits are developed. He asked that in some areas

shopkeepers and the people residing on the sides of roads are facing major problems due to water logging on roads which hampers the normal movements of the passersby.

Mr Sharma said that during his visits to various areas, people usually raise the issues related to the conditions of the roads and he has assured them that GREF will improve the situation. MP also asked the Chief Engineer to provide employment opportunities to the locals by engaging them as labours from nearby vicinities.

GREF officials assured the MP that they would expedite works on these areas and other pending works in these districts on top priority.

Brig U C Mehta, Chief Engineer also informed the MP about the new proposals submitted and assured him good road connectivity in border and other areas.

Other officers present on the occasion include Sajan Kumar, S. M. Lokhanathan and Dixit.

Vakil asks CM to act tough against corruption

Excelsior Correspondent

DOABGAH-SOPORE, June 20: Former Minister and Member AICC Abdul Gani Vakil today expressed astonishment over the manner Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was working and said that so many scandals have surfaced in past four years but the incumbent has preferred to maintain a silence.

Mr. Vakil stressed upon the Chief Minister to act tough and bring in some kind of transparency, accountability and credibility in the system if it intends to survive next Assembly elections. AICC Chief Sonia Gandhi and AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi are both against corruption and have given Chief Minister a free hand to deal with corrupt and non-performers as well.

He said Omar Abdullah must not spare dead wood damaging his Government. He warned if the coalition of NC-Congress

failed to act against bureaucrats and ministers then it has no moral authority to talk on eradication of corruption. Mr. Vakil was addressing party workers convened at Doabgah Sopore.

He urged Hurriyat Conference leaders to give up nagging attitude as Congress Party and Central Government has always preferred dialogue over "Bullet for Bullet" policy and would welcome the separatists, if they return to the table for resolving the Kashmir issue. Centre is keen to re-engage separatists for finding an honorable solution of Kashmir problem and reiterated that Congress led UPA Government intends to turn the clock back and reinvestigate the Kashmir of 70's and 80's. "An era when economy of Kashmir was booming with heavy influx of tourists and people would prefer visiting Kashmir over Switzerland," added Mr. Vakil.

Malpractices causing scarcity of ration: HSS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Disparaging the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) in State, Hindustan Shiv Sena said that the pilferage and a trend of malpractices is causing scarcity of ration, black-marketing, hoarding and profiteering with a telling impact on the people.

Dimpy Kohli, National president, Hindustan Shiv Sena, said no quota of sugar is supplied to any ration depot this month in Jammu because of reasons best known to the CAPD Deptt, adding that people are facing difficulty in this month of festivals due to non-availability of sugar.

Kolhi said that a substantial number of families have been left unregistered with Consumer

Affairs and Public Distribution and they are forced to procure the ration from open market at un-affordable prices. Criticizing the Food Security Bill which is pending in Parliament, Kohli said that proposed legislation will make Public Distribution System (PDS) dysfunctional. The State Government must cut the unproductive expenditure and spend it on food for poor, the way ration is being provided @ Rs 2/ Kg in few states in the country.

Urging the Government to take immediate measures for arranging required stocks of ration from the Centre to benefit the uncovered population under PDS, HSS leader said the State Government must project the food requirements of the population that had increased since 2001 census in the State.

2 held for smuggling bovine animals

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, June 20: Police arrested 2 drivers, seized two vehicles and rescued 8 bovine animals during a special naka at Bheramgala during last night.

However, the kingpin of the gang involved in smuggling of the bovine animals Manzoor Ahmed managed to flee from the spot. The police has launched manhunt to arrest him.

According to police during the special naka late last night a police party headed by SHO Surankote Bashir Ahmed under the supervision of Dy SP Javed Iqbal and directives of SSP Poonch Shamshe Hussain laid a naka at Behramgala and seized two Tata mobiles which

were carrying 8 bovine animals to Kashmir valley.

The two drivers of the vehicles bearing number JK11 A 1299 and JK 11 9320 were arrested by the police. However the kingpin of the gang managed to escape. The duo have been identified as Mohammed Javed, son of Bagh Hussain of Daraba and Yasir Hussain son of Nazir Hussain of Thannamandi Rajouri.

The Surankote police has registered a case under FIR No 72/13 under Section 188 RPC 3 PCA against the smugglers.

It may be recalled that Poonch Police under the guidance of SSP has intensified the drive against the smuggling of bovine animals.

Unnecessary hype given to Amarnath Yatra security: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 20: CPI (M) State Secretary Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has said the security of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims should not be politicized as it increases uncertainty over the pilgrimage which is integral to Kashmir ethos.

In a statement issued here today, Tarigami expressed dismay about attempts being made to give unnecessary hype to security of the pilgrims saying that such assumptions are doing

no service either to the country or to smooth passage of the pilgrimage.

"The Amarnath Yatra is integral to Kashmiri ethos and during critical times, the people of Kashmir have whole heartedly cooperated to facilitate its smooth passage," he said and added, the people of Kashmir need not to prove their religious tolerance. "People of Kashmir have always given their best in terms of hospitality and security of the pilgrims," he added.

ReT teachers serve ultimatum, warn to launch crusade

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 20: Rehber-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers today served one month ultimatum to the Government to concede their demands, otherwise they will launch crusade.

A meeting of the ReT teachers was held here under the chairmanship of its All Jammu and Kashmir Rehber-e-Taleem (ReT) Association's district president Gulzar Choudhary, wherein all the zonal presidents participated.

The participants demanded inclusion of their 5 years rendered service for promotion, implementation of transfer policy, regularization of EVs converted ReT as General Line Teachers, benefit of SRO-43 and releasing of pending eight months salaries of SSA regularized teachers.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Mahroof Choudhary, Mohammad Farooq, Joginder Singh, Koushal, Jahangir Lone, Farooq Choudhary, VK Kesar, Mohd Kabir and Rajive Sharma.

CAEU supports strike call of JCC, JKNTUF

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Cultural Academy Employees Union has extended its support to the two-day strike call given by JCC, JKNTUF and other Unions to be start today.

This was decided in a meeting of the Union, held here today under the chairmanship of Ramesh Singh, president of the Union.

The meeting appealed all the employees of the Cultural Academy throughout the State to observe complete strike tomorrow and the next day.

Newly constructed hall inaugurated at Geeta Satsang Ashram

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: A newly constructed hall at Swami Kumar Ji Geeta Satsang Ashram Muthi was inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi today by Prof. Jaya Ji.

A large number of devotees and prominent citizens attended the function. The hall will serve the purpose of holding religious congregations and other functions said Swami Kumar Ji. He complimented the devotees for their cooperation and support in constructing the hall.

He said the Ashram is devoted in propagation of the philosophy of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta and the devotees were facing difficulty due to space crunch in attending the classes. But with the construction of the hall this problem will be solved to a great extent, he added.

The prominent persons who attended the function included H. L. Chatta president ASKPC, Kashmiri Lal senior advocate, Ramesh Hangloo, president Pir Panchal, Ashok Koul chairman Migrant Cell RDS. The function culminated with serving of prasad to devotees.

Concern over 19 hour power cut at Jagti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) in its meeting today has expressed grave concern over increasing the power curtailment by another one hour in the camp and said that 19 hour power curtailment has added to the woes of the camp inmates.

Addressing the meeting Shadi Lal Pandita president JTC said that power curtailment for such a long duration tantamount to human rights violations and despite the directives of court and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) the PDD authorities have failed to respect the same.

Meanwhile, JCC representative Vijay Kaul also opposed installation of metres in the camp and said that no decision be taken without taking the camp inmates into confidence.