



Minister for PHE, Sham Lal Sharma inspecting progress of work on Tawi Feeder Channel on Sunday.

## Sham inspects progress on Tawi Feeder Channel restoration work

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma on Sunday visited Nikki Tawi to assess the damage caused to Tawi Feeder Channel and other infrastructure along the banks of Nikki and Baddi Tawi due to recent heavy rain and floods, besides taking stock of restoration and prevention measures being taken up by the concerned department.

The Minister visited Nikki and Baddi Tawi Chack Lalu Shah Karanila Chack etc and took stock of restoration works being done there by Flood Control Department. He instructed the Chief Engineer, I&FC to complete these works on war footing. He was informed that recent floods have washed away large tracks and damaged the main Feeder Channel and pasture land along river Tawi in Marh block area.

The Chief Engineer, I&FC informed the Minister that damages caused to Feeder Channel in the centre of Nikki Tawi between Belicharana and Karnaila Chack has affected irrigation water supply to 3190 acres of paddy land. The island between Nikki Tawi and Baddi Tawi is upto Mukwal and has 45 revenue villages. He informed that the area having highly fertile land is badly affected due to non-supply of irrigation water for last 15 days. About 100 mts of the Channel for feeding water to island got damaged due to recent flood and restoration and the restoration work has already been started.

Sham inspected the restoration works from Baddi Tawi side and Karnaila Chack side taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.310 lakh and directed the executive agency to complete the restoration work in a time bound manner.

On noticing a number of under construction buildings

close to Tawi bed, the Minister directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to take the matter with Revenue Department and check the land record, adding that the land may be the property of Irrigation and Flood Control Department. He also gave instruction to the concerned engineers and officers to stop the illegal construction on both sides of the tributaries.

Sham also appealed the local as well as sarpanchs and panchs of the areas to extend full cooperation to the executing agencies for early restoration of the damaged channel. He also asked the officers to immediately complete the work of main canal so that the farmers may not suffer due to shortage of irrigation water.

Chief Engineers, I&FC, Chief Engineer, Ravi Tawi Irrigation, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic and Executive Engineers, I&FC accompanied the Minister.

## KPs protest, demand passage of Shrines Bill

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: A protest rally was taken out here today by Kashmiri Pandits against the delaying tactics of the Government in passage of much talked about Temple and Shrines Bill to safeguard and protect the Hindu shrines in the Valley which are facing threat of complete defacement.

The rally started from the KP Sabha, Ambphalla and marched towards Raj Bhawan where a demonstration was held in support of the demand. Shouting slogans in favour of the passage of Temple and Shrines Bill, the protestors warned to launch a nation-wide agitation. A memorandum was submitted to the Governor seeking his urgent indulgence in the passage of the Bill in the incoming session of the Assembly.

The protest demonstration drew a spontaneous support from all sections of the community. A large number of people including women, children and eminent members of the community participated in it.

Earlier while speaking on the importance of the passage of the Bill noted leaders of the community drew attention of the Government towards continuous encroachment of the Temples and Shrines and other holy places in the Valley. The protest demonstration organised under the aegis of Pandit Prem Nath Bhat Memorial Trust, the nodal organization spearheading the struggle for the passage of the Bill was addressed by Trust spokesperson, Dr R L Bhat who warned the Government that any delay and dilution of the proposed Bill which now has been sent to the Select Committee will draw strongest response from the Pandits and Hindus from all over the world.

Ashwani Chhangoo president, Panun Kashmir said that the Bill represents the aspirations of Hindus of Kashmir and it is incumbent upon the State Government to pass it in its original form so that the secular credentials of Omar Government are established to some extent. He warned that it was the most emotive issue involving all Hindus of



Kashmiri Pandits protesting in front of Raj Bhawan on Sunday.

the country and any delay in its passage will be taken as a grave insult to the religious rights of the community. Dr KL Choudhry noted community leader and author apprised about ominous signals coming from all sides aiming at weakening and effacing the plural culture of the State. He said that the delay and handing over the Bill to the Select Committee proves that the Government is not sincere at safeguarding the religious rights of the Hindus of Kashmir.



ReTs raising slogans in support of their demands during monthly meeting on Sunday.

## ReT Forum urges Govt to release salary of regularized teachers

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Sept 1: Monthly meeting of All J&K ReT Teachers Forum was held here today under the chairmanship of State president Vinod Sharma and District president Lekh Raj

Parihar for highlighting various issues.

In the meeting, Vinod Sharma appealed the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to release pending salary of SSA regularized ReTs, especially in Poonch, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri etc. Urging the Director School Education Jammu to direct the CEOs to submit the regularization files to EVs, the meet also highlighted other demands such as inclusion of 5 years ReT period for seniority benefits, old pension scheme for ReTs engaged before January 1, 2010, absorption of posts of regularized ReTs of SSA under State plan by sanctioning of posts for smooth release of salary of these teachers, transfer policy for regularized ReTs and provision of SRO-43.

Among those who addressed the meeting, included Lekh Raj Parihar, Gulzar Ahmad, Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Sukhdev Singh, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh, Bhushan Khajuria, Pramod Sharma and others.

Representatives of the cadre from all the eleven zones participated in the meeting.

## Congress most acceptable party: PCC chief

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, Sept 1: Former Union Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz today said that Congress was most acceptable party and due to this reason many people were willing to join.

Addressing party workers at a function organized at Sheeri Narava in Baramulla where many new people including Panchayat members joined Congress party today, the PCC chief while welcoming the new entrants into the party fold said that Congress has succeeded in explaining its manifesto of service to the people through out the State. Due to this reason Congress has become a vibrant force in all the three regions of the State.

Prof Soz claimed that Congress Party has been recognized as the most acceptable

political party even in remotest corners of the State. He explained to the gathering that PCC has proved its commitment of values in public life rather than indulging in gimmicks.

While welcoming Bashir Ahmed Shah, Ghulam Hassan Rather and other leaders of Panchayat Sangathan into the Congress fold Prof Soz said that there was no bigger role available for these prominent leaders in the Congress Party than joining him in his campaign to promote the spirit among the Congress workers of serving the people and solving their difficulties.

Besides Prof Soz several other Congress leaders including Ghulam Nabi Monga (MLC), Ex-MLA Shoaib Nabi Lone and Ghulam Mohd Sherwani- general secretary DCC Baramulla were also present on the occasion. Many people joined Congress along with their leaders on this occasion.

## Mirwaiz expresses concern over neglect of Kashmiri language

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 1: Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today expressed concern over the neglect of the language in schools and homes and hailed efforts of Adbi Markaz Kamraz.

While speaking on the second day of the "Kashir Conference" which witnessed debates about the Kashmiri language and identity, Mirwaiz said: "It is a cause of concern that we don't see the desired focus on the Kashmiri language in our schools and homes."

Expressing happiness over the presence of Pandits in the literary conference, Mirwaiz said Kashmiri language and ethos is the collective treasure of all the Kashmiri speaking inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their religion.

Appreciating AMK for its work to promote and preserve Kashmiri language and culture, he assured that institutions under his command will extend wholehearted support to the AMK.

Former DD director, poet and writer, Farooq Nazki was conferred this year's "Sharaf-e-Kamraz" award for his contribution towards Kashmiri literature, through his writings as well as the broadcast media.

"Kashmiri Writers' Forum" Sopore and Rafiabab Adbi Markaz jointly bagged the "Sharaf-e-Kamraz" award in the category of literary organisations, for their efforts on ground to reach out to poets and writers of Kashmiri language in Sopore and Rafiabab areas of North Kashmir.

The "Khalat-e-Hanfi Sopori" award was conferred to Mirwaiz Molvi Umar Farooq for promotion of Kashmiri language from the platform of Jamia Masjid

## Bhim Singh demands imposition of Governor rule in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

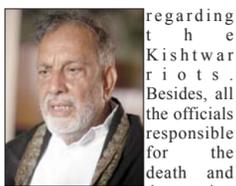
JAMMU, Sept 1: Expressing serious concern over prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, Panthers Party chief patron Prof Bhim Singh has demanded immediate dismissal of Omar Abdullah-led Coalition Government and imposition of Governor's rule in the State.

"There is urgent need of change of this Government, which has become a security risk to the State. The Governor must intervene and dismiss this Government for restoring confidence of people," he said while talking to media persons, here today, on conclusion of three-day 'Communal Harmony Yatra' from Jammu to Kishtwar.

Sharing feedback experienced during the Yatra, Mr Singh said that the Panthers team interacted with different walks of life who narrated horrifying tales of recent tragedies and violence that shook the conscience of every human being.

"Two political parties were solely responsible for the recent communal violence in Kishtwar where people had been living together with harmony and no bias against each other since decades," he said while pointing towards National Conference and Bharatiya Janata Party as real culprits behind the recent riots.

Bhim Singh stressed that a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of the High Court should be constituted to dig out truth



Prof Bhim Singh

regarding the Kishtwar riots. Besides, all the officials responsible for the death and destruction on August 9, 2013 in Kishtwar, should be brought to justice, he added.

Listing measures to restore traditional harmony and confidence among Kishtwar people, the Panthers leader said that a guideline should be laid by the Government to provide full security and defence to the weaker sections as well as to the minorities while all the 107 traders, shopkeepers and householders, whose properties have been destroyed in the violence, must be compensated adequately and immediately.

## Police seals TRC Taxi Stand

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 1: The Government last night sealed the Tourist Reception Center Taxi Stand as per the High Court directions under which the stand has to operate from Pantha Chowk Bye Pass from September 1.

The district administration in presence of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Farooq Ahmed Shah and Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar in a late night operation sealed TRC Sumo Stand and vacated all the taxis from there.

The Court had directed shifting of the stand to Pantha Chowk by September 1. The taxi drivers said that Government is hell bent to make them and their families suffer. "It was a cowardice act on part of the Government to vacate us during the dead of the night. They knew that it would be difficult for them to vacate us from the stand during the day. We condemn this action of the Government," the taxi drivers said.

They threatened that if they would not be allowed to ply from civil lines area of Srinagar, they would come on roads.

## Assam a role model in country's health sector: Azad

GUWAHATI, Sept 1:

Assam has emerged as role model in the health sector of the country by implementing the highest number of schemes under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said today.

Inaugurating the 102 National Ambulance Service and Tele Radiology Project along with other schemes under the NRHM here, the Union Health Minister lauded the State Government's initiative in the health sector which he said would be replicated in other states as well.

"The 102 service would augment the existing 108 ambulance service, which has greatly benefited patients across the country and will provide quality transportation of patients to hospitals", he said.

The ambulance service would respond and reach patients within half an hour, besides transporting pregnant women and infants from home to hospital and if required back to home as well, the Union Minister said.

"The service will facilitate an integrated all-comprehensive health care management provid-

ing high end ambulated transportation for appropriate care in the hospital", Azad said.

Azad also launched the Tele Radiology Project, the first in the country to initiate the project under the NRHM.

"We are looking how the project can be implemented in other parts of the country under the Mission", he said.

The Rs 22 crore project as been initiated in 11 districts of the state and the facility would be gradually expanded with patients able to download their reports assessed by experts stationed at Guwahati or Bangalore- without taking the trouble of visiting the hospital again, Azad added.

The Union Minister further said that cancer cases have been increasing in recent years and there was shortage of radiologists in the country but "We plan to initiate the tele radiology project to plug the lacunae".

Azad also inaugurated the National Health Mission Free Drug Service, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram, National Iron Plus Initiative, Assam Mother and Child Tracking System and Mother and Child Health Wings in 14 districts of the state.

The Union Minister said that during the last nine years of UPA's rule many schemes have been launched across the country, particularly for the development of the rural sector.

"We are focused on providing quality health facilities to the people living in the rural areas and connecting them with the best available medical facilities in the country", he added.

Azad said that the Centre has so far spent more than Rs 95,000 crore for constructing new hospitals and renovating the existing ones.

More than 1.5 lakh doctors and para-medical personnel have been already trained and appointed while nine lakh ASHA workers are working under the NRHM, he said.

"Moreover, schemes are being prepared in such a way that all sectors of people are being benefited, particularly in the case of providing free medicines", Azad added.

The Minister also announced that Assam would be given Rs 100 crore to provide 200 types of medicines free to the patients.

Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma were among those who spoke on the occasion. (PTI)

## 2 officials suspended

## DDC, Addl Secy RDD inspect works in Arnas, Mahore

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Sept 1: District Development Commissioner, Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal and Additional Secretary Rural Development Department M Raju inspected works and MGNREGA achievements in 8 Panchayats of Arnas and Mahore blocks in the district.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Development Joginder Rai and BDOs the officers inspected records in various Panchayat Ghars, interacted with Panchayat members and inspected various works executed by Panchayats.

Two officials of Rural Development Department in Arnas block were placed under suspension for their failure to maintain proper records of MGNREGA at Panchayat Ghars. Directions were issued for updating all records and their availability in Panchayat Ghars. Works inspected in different Panchayats were found to be of standard quality and ratio of wage, non-wage component was found to be maintained properly.

DDC directed that salary of MPWs, Gram Rozgar Sevaks and VLWs should be released only after certificate of attendance issued by concerned Sarpanch. BDOs were directed to maintain a vigil and ensure that no Sarpanch issues such certificate in case officials are absent from Panchayats. A number of public grievances were heard by DDC at various places and directions issued to concerned departments for redressal.

Meanwhile, in 147 Panchayats of Reasi district teams of revenue officials will be making spot assessments for completing files of reported cases of damage to houses, livestock and other private property due to recent flashfloods.

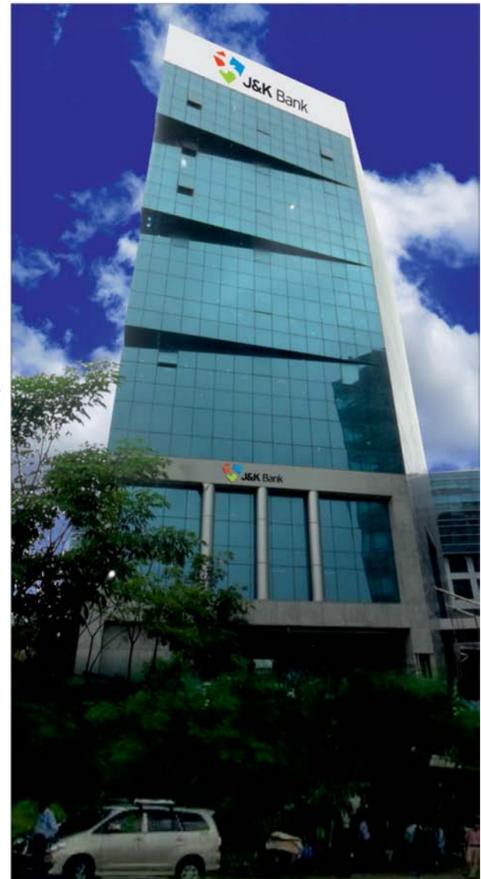
All the Patwaris have been provided high end digital cameras

## 2 traffic cops hurt in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Sept 1: Two Traffic policemen were injured after their motor-cycle was hit by a Tata Sumo near Kalai on Surankote-Pooch road this afternoon.

Reports said Havaladar Moti Singh and Constable Farid Ahmed were seriously injured after their bike was hit by Tata Sumo coming from opposite direction. The Sumo driver fled the spot alongwith vehicle. Both the injured were later shifted to Poonch Hospital. One of them was later referred to GMC Hospital Jammu. The police registered a case in this connection and was looking for the driver.



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