

BJP leaders court arrest at International Border

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Sept 3: At the conclusion of three-day dharna led by senior BJP leader Thakur Ranjit Singh in favour of demands of border area people at Chachwal near International Border falling in



BJP leaders during their dharna at Chachwal in Samba on Tuesday.

Hiranagar Constituency in district Samba, about a thousand BJP workers courted arrest today. They were led by State BJP president & MLA, Jugal Kishore Sharma in presence of State general secretary (Org) Ashok Koul. Those arrested included national executive member & State chief spokesperson Dr. Jitendra Singh, State general secretary Rajiv Jasrotia, BJP cells incharge Sat Sharma (CA) State spokesperson Sanjay Sharma, district Samba president Kashmir Singh and several prominent party activists. The dharna was held in sup-

port of the various demands of the International Border people which include special economic package for these regions, removing discrimination in the recruitment in Central Security Forces viz-a-viz the residents of LoC, ensuring timely and round the clock avail-

ability of power and water both for irrigation and drinking purposes, payment of compensation on account of being denied access to their fields and lands beyond the border fencing. Speaking on the occasion, Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the State Government is bent upon to deny the benefits to these people which it routinely provides to the people of LoC areas on account of its sectarian bias. The withdrawal of issuance of Dogra Certificate, not lessening the merit requirement for recruitment in security forces, nor paying any compensa-

tion on account of losses suffered by the people of the International Border regions by preventing them from going to their fields are prominent instances of the State Government's unconcern for the suffering of these people. Dr Jitendra Singh said Dogra Certificate envisaged by the Maharaja was based on scientific rationale of martial traits of border area community but by generalizing it, the Coalition Government had tried to play discriminatory politics. He also questioned the Chief Minister's wisdom in recommending withdrawal of AFSPA from district Samba where Pakistan was digging underground tunnels and regular infiltration bids were carrying on uninterrupted.

Sat Sharma (CA) supported the demand of reservation for border area people on the pattern of reservation for RBA or Pahari speaking people.

Th. Ranjit Singh, said that BJP will not rest till the problems of the border people are not solved. He added that BJP has been always in the forefront for solving the problems of the people.

The participants of the dharna along with the BJP leaders afterwards went to cross the border fencing to attend the lands of these border people but were enroute taken into preventive custody by the local police in presence of the Executive Magistrate and as such prevented from visiting the fields of the local residents lying beyond border fencing.

Div Com reviews progress on gas pipeline project

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shantmanu chaired a meeting to review the progress on the proposed Bhatinda-Jammu-Srinagar gas pipeline project at a meeting here today.

District Development Commissioner Jammu Ajay Kumar Sahu, District Development Commissioner Kathua, Jitendra Kumar Singh,

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He also directed the concerned District Development Commissioners to monitor the project to ensure that the bottlenecks in the project implementation are removed so that the project takes off smoothly.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the status of land acquisition cases of border fencing in Jammu, Kathua and Samba and asked the concerned DDCs to ensure that these cases are expedited.

GSPL India Gasnet Limited and SICON Pvt Ltd were present in the meeting. Discussions were held to expedite the process of granting user rights and starting with the process of carrying out other related works for developing infrastructure for further gas distribution.

Divisional Commissioner said that the project has greater importance as it will ensure adequate supply of gas for domestic and commercial use on cheaper rates besides creating employment opportunities for youth of the State. He stressed the need for sensitizing people about viability of the project and also to dispel any doubts in this regard. He asked the concerned officers of Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) led consortium to work in tandem with the concerned district administration for expediting the acquisition process and to seek requisite permissions from the concerned departments.

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Minister for Tourism, Ghulam Ahmed Mir chairing a meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

Work plan for Mubarak Mandi heritage project revised

Govt contemplates development of water kingdom in Jammu: Mir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: The Government is contemplating an ambitious project to develop water kingdom in City of Temples on PPP mode in an area of about 300 kanal to further add to the tourism industry of the State.

Minister for Tourism Ghulam Ahmed Mir today convened a meeting with officers of Tourism Department, members of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society and Dogra Heritage Development Society besides civil society members to discuss strategies for speedy completion of the prestigious project of Mubarak Mandi

Heritage Complex. Former Minister Gulchain Singh Charak, Director Tourism Jammu Soujanya Sharma, President Chamber of Commerce Y. V. Sharma, member Dogra Heritage Development Society Gambhir Dev Singh, member Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society Zaffar Khan, member Executive Committee MMJHS Narendra Singh, Secretary Gen DHDS and Convener INTACH Jammu Chapter S. M. Sahni besides members of civil society were present in the meeting.

He said that the State Government has revised work plan for early completion of development project of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, adding that the Government has engaged engineering wing of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department to work with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for speedy completion of the restoration of the royal complex being projected as the Dogra heritage site.

Mir said that although Central Government approved hefty sum for the project but ratio of its utilization is very low. He expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of ASI. The Minister assured the

members of civil society that the Engineering wing of Tourism Deptt. will work with ASI to further speed up the pace on work for early completion of the heritage project. The Minister said that as the restoration work of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex is different from other construction works it needs dedicated and skilled workers. He said that a coordination committee would be constituted comprising members of Tourism Department and other concerned stakeholders which would visit Rajasthan to learn about the effective ways of preservation and conservation of ancient monuments of great heritage significance. Besides, possibilities would also be explored to seek support from reputed national and international agencies in this field for early completion of the heritage complex.

Meanwhile, the meeting also had detailed deliberations on status of various tourism development projects like Cable Car Projects at Patnitop and Bahu Fort.

Speaking on the occasion, the civil society members stressed the need for taking concrete measures for completion of the project in a time bound manner.

Devise strategy to review developmental works at regular intervals: CEC

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Sept 3: To review the progress of work in various



CEC Rigzin Spalbar addressing the General Council meeting at Leh on Tuesday.

ensuring utmost quality with transparency". He also urged the HODs to make payment only after ensuring quality of

The MLC, Leh Norbu Gyalson, Executive Councilor Agriculture, Sonam Dorjey, Executive Councilor Animal & Sheep Husbandry Gyurmet Dorjey, Executive Councilor Health, Dr. Sonam Wangchuk, Executive Councilor Tourism & CAPD Mohd Shafi Lassu, LMC also attended the General Council meeting and shared their views and visions for further improvement of results out of the schemes.

The DC & Chief Executive Officer of LAHDC, Leh Simrandeep Singh gave clarification to many queries raised by the councilors.

sectors, one day General Council meeting of LAHDC held here today under the chairmanship of CEC Rigzin Spalbar.

Addressing the General Council, CEC said that around Rs 1,400 crore worth developmental works have been going on in Leh district thereby posing a great responsibility on the Council to ensure accomplishment of the works in the stipulated time-frame.

To ensure further pace in the developmental works, CEC felt the need to devise a strategy to take review of works at all the levels and issued directions to the HODs to take frequent review on the progress with their subordinates at their own level.

Pointing towards delay in approval of the annual district plan at Government level, which created obstacles in the timely execution of works, CEC said that the annual plan of the district for 2014-15 would be finalized in November this year enabling the Council to complete the paper works during the winter months and kick off the works early next working season.

"Once the work is approved in the plan, there should be no excuse for any kind of delay in starting the same", he said, adding "HODs are accountable for timely completion of the works

works. Taking serious note of the failure to launch Tsachu-Thang bridge at Chiling, CEC termed it as a gross negligence and urged the Deputy Commissioner to initiate action for blacklisting the contractor setting a deadline for submission of reports by 20th of this month.

During the meeting, a review on the progress of all the ongoing schemes under PWD sector that include the Centrally sponsored schemes like BAPD, NABARD, MSDP, Special Task Force, 13th Finance Commission, PMGSY, AIBP etc was made. Besides, all the schemes under Rural Development agency were also reviewed.

Other important sectors like Education, Health, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry were also reviewed in the meeting. Deliberating on education, the General Council again felt the need to bring a feasible improvement in the management and monitoring system focusing on quality education with a strict teachers transfer policy.

The Councilors with constructive criticism put forth various queries on different works going on in their constituencies and gave valuable suggestions for much better results out of the schemes on which the CEC and the DC gave clarification.

Vigilance produces challan against Patwari

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 3: The Vigilance Organization Kashmir has produced challan against Javid Ahmad Lone of Nehama Pampore in Pulwama, then Patwari Halqa Sadrabal, who was caught red handed while accepting bribe, last year.

The challan was produced in the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Kashmir, Srinagar and October 25, 2013 has been fixed as the next date of hearing.

The case was registered against the accused on a written complaint by Fayaz Ahmad Gazi of Lal Bazar Srinagar, who alleged that the accused Patwari was demanding a bribe from him for transferring his house on his name.

During the course of investigation the accused Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 2000 from the complainant. The investigation of the case was concluded as proved and after Government accorded sanction for launching prosecution against the accused, the challan was produced in case FIR number 20/2012 P/S VOK.

Sale of acid, eve-teasing and sexual harassment DB directs CS, Home Secretary to ensure compliance of SC orders

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Division Bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice Hasnain Massodi today directed the Principal Secretary Home to ensure compliance of its earlier order whereby explicit directions were given for initiating effective steps to check eve-teasing and sexual harassment of the women at work and public places. The DB also directed the State to ensure implementation of Supreme Court directions on regulating sale of acid.

These directions were passed in a PIL filed by Dr Davinder Singh Jasrotia and others.

When the PIL came up for hearing, Advocate Rohit Kapoor pointed out that State has failed to ensure compliance of order dated December 24, 2012 whereby the State was directed to implement the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court for curbing eve-teasing and sexual harassment of women at work and public places.

"In response to the earlier directions, only IG Jammu has filed the status report, which is, however, evasive", Advocate Kapoor said, adding "IG Kashmir has not filed status

report despite the fact that directions were for the entire State". Advocate Kapoor also raised the issue of sale of acid in Jammu and Kashmir despite explicit directions from the Apex Court for regulating the same. "There is no law in J&K to control the sale of the acid and Supreme Court guidelines have not received any serious attention of the authorities concerned in the State", he said.

After hearing Advocate Kapoor for the PIL and Senior AAG Gagan Basotra for the State, DB granted four weeks time to the Principal Secretary Home for compliance of the directions issued on December 24, 2012 regarding curbing eve-teasing and sexual harassment of women.

"The Principal Secretary Home shall ensure compliance of the order dated December 24, 2012 or remain present in the court on next date of hearing to explain his conduct", said the order, which was dictated in the Open Court.

The DB also directed Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary Home to comply with the directions issued by the Apex Court and ensure control and regulation of sale of acid in every Sub Divisions.



JU VC Prof MPS Ishar lighting traditional lamp at the inaugural function of SC Dube Memorial Lecture on Tuesday.

IXth S C Dube Memorial Lecture organized at JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: The Department of Sociology, University of Jammu today organized IXth S C Dube Memorial Lecture on the topic 'From Revolt to Suicide- Farmers Response to Changing Political Economy'.

Prof D N Dhanagare, former Vice-Chancellor and presently fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, delivered the key-note address.

Identifying the roots of suicides, he said that India was rapidly transforming into a primarily urban, industrial society with industry as its main source of income, the Government and society had begun to be unconcerned about the condition of the countryside.

He said the main causes include little credit available on very expensive interest, lack of expertise on conducting agriculture operations, scarcity of income to meet out the minimum family needs and lack of support system on account of essen-

tials particularly health coverage to farmers and their families.

In his presidential address Prof Mohan Paul Singh Ishar called for evolving a viable strategy for addressing the concerns of the farmers and creating awareness for their economic emancipation so that they don't feel the sense of deprivation.

Earlier in her welcome address Prof Abha Chauhan, HoD Sociology, gave a brief history of the Department and the lectures organized by the department. Dr Hema Gandotra, gave a brief lecture on the life time achievements of Prof S C Dube in whose memory the lecture was organized. Dr Vishav Raksha introduced Prof Dhanagare. Dr Shewata Sharma conducted the proceedings of the lecture.

Among others present on the occasion were Prof Jasbir Singh, Jai Kumar Sharma, Prof Renu Nanda, Dr Anupama Vohra, Dr Seema Sangra, faculty, staff, scholars and students.

AoI meets Regional Director PCB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Association of Industries (AoI) under the chairmanship of Balbir Kumar Gupta met Regional Director, Pollution Control Board (PCB).

President of the association while speaking raised the issues regarding the guidelines of the PCB. He requested Regional Director to finalise the checklist with lesser formalities for small scale units.

SB Abrol, senior vice president raised the issue of 70 types of manufacturing units, which were earlier in the exemption list

of PCB, have now been included with orange category.

Abrol urged Regional Director to exempt these units from orange category and also stressed the need for installation of hi-tech pollution checking laboratories by the department.

Sajjad Mufti, Regional Director PCB assured early redressal to the issues raised by the members of the association.

Among others present were Jugal Kishore, vice president, Anil Raina, secretary, Lavinder Singh Puri, treasurer and executive/advisory committees of the association.



Air Marshal A K Behl during his visit to Air Force Station Jammu.

DGMS(Air) visits AF Stn

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Air Marshal AK Behl, Director General Medical Services (Air) visited the Air Force Station, Jammu and 166 Military Hospital, based at Satwari, today.

On his visit to the Station Medicare Centre at Air Force Station Jammu, Air Marshal Behl interacted with all the Medical Officers and other staff. He emphasized on the concept of patient safety, latest emergency procedure which encompasses the safety of all the Air Warriors and their families of the Station. Air Marshal also emphasized on the importance of MEDNET and Health X, which is online monitoring of all the activities of Station Medicare Centre of Air Force Station, Jammu.

At 166 Military Hospital, Air Marshal Behl was received by Brig Pawan Kapoor, VSM, Brig (Med) of White Knight Corps and Brig Man Mohan Harjai, Commandant, 166 Military Hospital.

During the visit, Air Marshal Behl visited the ICU, NICU and all OPDs of the hospital. He appreciated the state of the art Modular delivery suites housed in the new hospital complex. He was impressed that 166 MH is having the latest concept of maternity OT along with the delivery suites as any obstetric emergency can be tackled without any delay. He visited the entire new hospital complex and appreciated the efforts taken by the hospital in augmenting the infrastructure and amenities available for the patients.

During his round, he also interacted with medical and paramedical staff and encouraged them to continue hard work and motivated them to keep up the standard of health care being provided to the patients. At the end of the visit, Air Marshal Behl congratulated the Air Cmde P E Patange YSM, VM and Brig Man Mohan Harjai for the upkeep and cleanliness of the highest order of the Air Force Station, Jammu and 166 Military Hospital.

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