

## Committee of experts will ascertain cause of disease to apple crop: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 3: Minister for Horticulture, Raman Bhalla today said that Government is committed to safeguard the interests of the fruit growers of the Valley, whose apple crop has been damaged due to some unknown disease.

He said that a joint committee of scientists of SKUAST and

Address environment concerns while carrying development projects: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

LANGATE, Sept 3: House Committee for Environment conducted an extensive tour of Langate, Handwara, Nowgam Reshwari and interacted with district and tehsil administration about impact of the existing stone crushers at nallah Mawar, Jahama and Reshwari set up for extraction of Bajri, sand and other bed material from the nallahs.

The House Committee was headed by Chairman M. Y. Tarigami with Legislators Haji M.A. Ganai, Er. Ab. Rashid, Javid Mustafa Mir, Dr. Mohammad Shafi as its members besides HoDs of different departments.

District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Itrat Hussain Rafiq informed the House Committee about the overall status and impact of various stone crushers, mix plants and other units established at various places on local environment.

Tarigami suggested that while carrying out development works of any kind the concerned departments should take care of the people's interests and environmental concerns. "For this purpose the department and agencies should follow the instructions of the experts and guidelines for the establishment of the developmental units and projects", he asserted. He also suggested that plants creating pollution of any kind should be banned.

The House Committee also conducted a meeting of district, tehsil level officers to review steps undertaken for protection of environment while carrying out developmental process in the district.

The District Development Commissioner was directed to take effective action against the violators who have established plants on the nallah polluting the environment.

The team also inspected the ongoing developmental works in Handwara, Langate, Mawar, Nowgam and Poshwari during the extensive tour.

State Horticulture Department will undertake a thorough study of the disease to the crop and submit their report within shortest possible time so that appropriate action is taken.



Minister for Horticulture, Raman Bhalla chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday.

Simultaneously, the Department of Revenue will be asked to undertake a survey to assess the loss to the crops in the Valley at the earliest. The Government will take an appropriate decision about the compensation of loss to the farmers after studying the report, he added.

Mr Bhalla said this during a meeting with a delegation of Kashmir Fruit Growers & Dealers Association, here today.

Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, B R Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Horticulture, Dr Asgar Samoon, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Sonam Narboo, Managing Director, JKHPMC, Syed Rafiq Ahmed and Special Assistant to Minister, Vishal Sharma were also present in the meeting.

The Minister discussed sev-

eral issues related to the problems of the fruit growers, especially the unknown disease to the apple crop, which has caused huge damage to it and remedial measures taken by the depart-

ment. He also discussed about the remedies in future as a long run measures to deal with such type of problems. He also discussed in length the possibility about the introduction of crop insurance, providing quality pesticides to farmers and benefits of various centrally sponsored schemes like Marketing Intervention Scheme, which envisages purchase of C-Grade apple by the Government from the growers for use and other purposes to save the farmers.

He asked the growers not to be panicky and Government will come to their rescue and take appropriate steps to compensate them after receiving the full details from the Committee. He asked them to fully cooperate with the Committee members and officers of the department in assessing the losses and ensuring timely compensation.

## PIL seeking recovery of Sales Tax arrears

## DB issues various directions to State

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Division Bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice Hasnain Massodi today issued various directions in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking recovery of Sales Tax arrears worth crores of rupees from the defaulters.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocates Ravi Abrol and Deewakar Sharma for the petitioner-Balvinder Singh and others whereas Advocate MA Bhat for the respondent, DB observed, "on July 2, 2013, we had directed official respondents to take all steps as warranted under law to effect recovery of arrears of tax from all the defaulters including Government/Semi Government Department and report compliance".

The DB directed the Commissioner, Commercial Taxes to furnish details of all those

defaulters, whose warrants have been received back unexecuted for want of correct particulars of their units and residential premises, in the Registry of this Court and also to the IGPs, Jammu/Kashmir Zones.

The Commissioner, Commercial/Sales Tax was also directed to furnish details of the Migrant Dealers to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Jammu, who in turn was directed to furnish present addresses of those migrant dealers, residential as well as commercial, to the Commissioner Commercial Tax and IGPs so that the warrants could be executed against them and recovery of arrears of tax could be effected by the Commissioner Commercial/Sales Tax.

IGPs, Jammu/Srinagar Zones were directed to execute the warrants on their receiving the exact particulars of defaulters and report compliance. The Commissioner Commercial Tax and IGPs were further directed by DB to draw line of action including lodging of FIRs against those defaulters who are not traceable and who have given improper/incorrect addresses as reported in the status report submitted by IGPs.

Division Bench further observed that State has not been able to file any compliance report with regard to the directions except filing an application with regard to the Contractor operating in Leh and grant of amnesty to them on the ground of retrospective operation of withdrawal of notification.

Division Bench further said that the other directions issued earlier have not been complied with and granted one week time for filing the compliance report. The DB also directed that needful be done within one week and if the same is not done and the directions issued on July 2, 2013 are not complied with then the Commissioner/Secretary Sales Tax and Commissioner Commercial Taxes, J&K Government shall remain present in person along with the record.

## HC issues notice to Secy I&B on Big Boss Reality Show

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: In an application filed by Rajeshwari Katoch seeking change of timing of Big Boss Reality Show Season 7 from 9 pm to any timing between 11 pm to 5 am on the ground that show will certainly have adverse impact upon the children.

After hearing petitioner in person, Justice Virender Singh issued notice, which was accepted by ASGI KK Pangotra on behalf of the respondents. The High Court directed ASGI to file response to the instant application within a week's time and take up the matter with the Ministry of Broadcasting to see if the Big Boss Reality Show Season 7 is allotted any slot between 11 pm to 5 am instead of 9 pm as advertised.

## Sagar directs for construction of 2.41 lakh IHHL under NBA

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 3: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ali Mohammad Sagar today directed the officers to complete the target of 2.41 lakh Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) set for the current year under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA).

The Minister was addressing officers during a review meeting convened to discuss the status of implementation of NBA in the State.

Director Rural Sanitation, District Panchayat Officers of different districts and other senior officers of various departments were present in the meeting.

The Minister asked the officers to speed up the implementa-

tion of this flagship programme of the department, which would go a long way in ensuring that the hygiene and other related things are maintained in rural and far-flung areas of the State.

Mr. Sagar further directed the officers to ensure that the funds earmarked for the scheme are used to the maximum so that projections can be made for the next year. He said that for the proper implementation of the programme, the views of the local representatives should also be incorporated.

The Minister further maintained that the schemes of the Rural Development Department have been instrumental in changing the socio-economic profile of the rural and far-flung areas besides ensuring creation of infrastructural capacities.

## NC ensures transparency, empowers people with right to ask: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Sept 3: Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today said that National Conference is poised for big victory in elections to the Legislative Assembly scheduled next year at the strength of performance of Omar Abdullah led Government during past nearly five years.

Interacting with media persons here, the Provincial President said the Government has laid sound basis for infrastructural development in all the three regions of the State.

To a question on steps taken to eradicate corruption, Mr Rana said he cannot claim that the menace has been wiped out but certainly effective steps have been taken to enforce transparency and accountability in the administration besides empowering the people with right to ask. In this context, he referred to the activation of State Accountability Commission, setting up of State Information Commission and State Vigilance Commission besides enactment Right to Information Act and Public Service Guarantee Act.

"These measures are essentially aimed at ensuring transparency and enforcing accountability in the administration", he said adding that RTI gives right to people to ask. "A common man cannot only seek information from the Government departments but top executives of the administration have also been made accountable to the people", he said.

Mr Rana described PSGA as a revolutionary measure that makes it mandatory for the service providing department to dispose off the grievances of people in a time bound manner. "This is heartening that several states across the country are emulating the Act pioneered by the Jammu and Kashmir Government under the sagacious stewardship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah", he maintained.

On being asked about functioning of the coalition, the Provincial President said National Conference-Congress alliance is best model across the country. He compared the Omar Abdullah led coalition with the previous coalitions between 2002-05 and 2005-08 in the state and said while during the tenure of Multi Mohammed Sayeed, discord had become routine with

## Govt has failed to provide relief to Kishtwar victims: Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Terming it as inhumane, the former Union Minister and MLA, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta has assailed the Government approach that no relief has been provided to the victims of communal frenzy in Kishtwar even after expiry of over three weeks although large number of families have been virtually rendered destitute and looking for helping hand.

Prof. Gupta on his return from the 2-day visit to the trouble torn Kishtwar, was highly disappointed that though this Government had made loud promises to compensate the losses and provide relief to the victims but on the ground little has been done. In course of visit to the ravaged Kishtwar, he was accompanied by four other Legislators including Jagdish Raj Sapolia, Prof. Gharu Ram, Baldev Sharma and Bharat Bhushan. They visited the places of highly sad occurrences and heard the woes of the victims of the wrath.

On his return here, Prof. Gupta observed that signs of loot and plunder clearly indicate that all was planned and selective. The shops and the market were selectively looted and even put to fire. Heavy machine was used to break open the shutters and doors.

## NC ensures transparency, empowers people with right to ask: Rana

Congress ministers walking-out from Cabinet meetings quite often, the tenure of Ghulam Nabi Azad witnessed PDP missing no opportunity to pull out the Government. Being a coalition partner, PDP behaved like a main opposition, he added.

Mr Rana said there can be differences of opinion in true democratic spirit but on the whole the NC-Cong alliance has worked extremely well and is engaged in steering the state to peace, progress and prosperity.

Later, several deputations met the Provincial President and apprised him various problems. He assured that these will be taken up at appropriate level for earnest action.

## Absconder held after 12 yrs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Police today arrested an absconder, who was evading his arrest for the past 12 years.

A police spokesman said that, on specific inputs, police party from RS Pura Police Station arrested an absconder, who has been identified as Bhagha Ram, son of Shankar Dass of Kotli Shah Dolla.

The absconder was involved in a case registered with RS Pura Police Station under FIR number 90/2001 under Section 344, 323 and 325 RPC and was evading his arrest since then, he added.

The accused was produced in the Court of Law.

## 5 bovines rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Chinore police today rescued 5 bovine animals, while the smuggler managed to escape from the spot.

A police spokesman said that, on specific inputs, police party from Chinore Police Post laid a naka at Khari and intercepted a load carrier bearing registration number JK19-1564. During checking, police rescued 5 bovine animals, he said adding that the driver of the vehicle managed to flee from the spot.

A case under FIR number 313/13 under Section 188 RPC has been registered and manhunt launched to arrest the absconding driver.



Minister for Medical Education, Taj Mohi-ud-Din addressing public meeting at Polo Ground on Tuesday.

## Food Security Bill to alleviate poverty in country: Taj

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 3: Describing the recently enacted Food Security Bill as a landmark step to alleviate poverty in the country, Minister for Medical Education, Youth Services & Sports, Taj Mohi-ud-Din today said the move would enable people living Below Poverty Line to have decent two square meals and make hunger history in India.

Addressing a well-attended public meeting at Polo Ground here today, the Minister said

## Promotion of Urdu language

## CS reviews Sub-Committee report

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 3: The high level committee for promotion of Urdu language headed by Chief Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Khanday today reviewed the findings and recommendations of the Sub-Committee mandated to find out ways and means of overcoming shortage of Urdu, Dogri and Kashmiri language teachers in Government schools at Primary, Middle and High School level and to work out additional requirements of subject specific teachers.

Chief Secretary asked the Sub-Committee to further examine the figures regarding the district wise requirement of language specific teachers and finalize the report for submission to the Government.

The high level committee has already given its concurrence to the proposal of setting up the J&K Urdu Promotion Council for holistic, comprehensive development and promotion of the state's official language besides giving concurrence to the proposal aimed at incorporating necessary provisions in the recruitment rules for direct entry posts in various departments where knowledge of Urdu language is required to ensure proper and effective service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Atul Duloo, Secretary School Education, Hirdesh Kumar, Secretary, Higher Education, Sheikh Mushtaq, Directors School Education Kashmir, Jammu and other senior officers.

## NSUI protests for online JU budget

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Demanding online budget showing expenditures and receipts of Jammu University, the NSUI activists today held a massive protest on the campus.

Shouting slogans in support of their demand, the protesting students also geroed the Registrar, who later assured the students that online budget would be introduced within 24 hours on official website of JU.

Alleging corruption in JU from top to bottom, the NSUI activists also accused the Vice-Chancellor of paying no heed to the grievances of the students. The protesting students were also addressed by some NSUI activists, who included Neeraj Kundan, Naseeb Ali, Ajay Kumar, Avijot Singh, Kamal Magotra, Aman Thapa, Manpreet Malothra, Ranjot Singh, Sunny Parihar, Nishant Gupta, Danish Puri, Satyam Sharma, Raghav Malhotra, Rishi Gupta, Tahir Hussain and others.

## Teachers to observe black day tomorrow

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: Masters of Jammu and Kathua, posted in Chenab Valley and Reasi, are observing Teacher's Day on September 5 as black day.

In a statement, Kapil Bakshi, who claimed to be leader of these teachers, said that the decision to observe black day has been taken to express resentment against delay in their repatriation to the home districts despite completion of two-year tenure. The Education Department gave priority to new promoted Masters and adjusted them at choice postings in the Home district ignoring all norms of transfers and pleas of the Masters working in far-flung areas of Chenab Valley and Reasi.

Mr Bakshi also claimed support of People's Democratic Trade Union and Democratic Teachers Forum.

the historic legislation, the enactment of which would invoke the Central Government an expenditure of Rs. 1.35 lakh crores, was made possible only because of a determined and dedicated leadership at the centre. He hailed the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi for the pro poor bill, adding that this showed the keenness and resolve of the central leadership to take people of the country on the higher planes of progress, prosperity and development.

The Minister said the Governments at the Centre and State at present have been pro poor and recalled many pro poor steps taken by the State and Central Governments. He said the Government has passed Land Acquisition Bill to ensure that farmers and land owners have a better say during acquisition processes of their lands and they are compensated adequately. He said the aim is to empower people which is the goal of the present Government at Centre and the State.

Mr.Taj said many revolutionary steps and big ticket projects are under execution in the State which would give J&K a turnaround and pace up its economy and social standards. He said at present projects and programmes worth Rs. 38, 000 crore are under implementation in the State.

Criticizing some vested interest groups and political parties for their short sighted policies, the Minister said their policies are aimed at dividing people and societies. He regretted that these communal parties are dividing people and said the recent untoward incidents at Kishtwar are a proof of it. He said he was himself mediating between groups of people for three days and it was so difficult to control passions and tempers on both sides.

Appealing people to reject these communal and regional forces, Mr.Taj asked them to strengthen democratic forces and ensure that rule of law is ensured and not the anarchy as these groups propagate.

The public meeting was addressed by former legislator, Haji Abdul Rasheed and other leaders.

## Harshdev seeks CBI probe into electrification works under RGGVY

JAMMU, Sept 3: Harshdev Singh, NPP chairman and its MLA has alleged large scale bungling and irregularities in the execution of electrification works under RGGVY Scheme in district Udhampur causing losses worth several crores to State exchequer.

Alleging use of inferior quality transformers in the said electrification scheme, he pointed out that out of 252 electric transformers installed in the district under the scheme, 106 transformers have got damaged. He said that the most disgusting feature of the whole gamut was the total damage of the said transformers without any scope for their repairs. He said that transformers installed under all other schemes were repairable but not those installed under RGGVY Scheme with the result that 106 damaged transformers are dumped in the PDD stores.

He said that the issue was of grave nature as the electrification contract under RGGVY was assigned to a private limited company from outside the State which had executed the electrification works in total defiance of prevalent norms in the State and had declined to accept any suggestions given during the process of electrification. He said that such fraudulent electrification works have cost the district more than Rs 50 crore for which the concerned authorities together with the executing agency were responsible. He said the situation was no different in other districts where also inferior quality was used resulting in unprecedented losses to the State.

Seeking a high level probe into the highly irregular and fraudulent execution of electrification works, Mr Singh said that no less than a CBI enquiry into the matter would meet the ends of justice. He further warned the State Government to ensure immediate replacement of all 106 damaged transformers of district Udhampur failing which the people would be forced to resort to agitation-course.



MD, KC Hyundai, Raju Chowdhary launching 'Grand i10' in the presence of senior functionaries of HMIL and KC Hyundai at Jammu.

## KC Hyundai unveils much awaited 'Grand i10'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: KC Hyundai launched the much awaited 'Grand i10' of Hyundai Motors India Limited (HMIL) here today.

The car was formally unveiled by Raju Chowdhary, Managing Director, KC Hyundai, Jammu-Srinagar in the presence of senior functionaries of HMIL and KC Hyundai. Speaking at the launching ceremony, Chowdhary said, "the 'Grand i10' is a world-class product developed for the Indian market. It symbolizes Hyundai's commitment to Indian customers by offering high standards of quality, durability and reliability. It offers an ideal urban mobility with a complete package from style to performance creating a new benchmark in the Compact High Entry segment. We expect Grand, with its excellent value proposition and its unique features, will serve

wide range of customers in India." The Grand i10 comes in two engine variants -- 1.1 litre diesel, which gives a mileage of 24 kmpl and 1.2 litre petrol, which gives a mileage of 18.9 kmpl. While the petrol variant is priced at 4.38 lakh, the diesel version is priced at Rs 5.32 lakh.

With the launch of the Grand i10, HMIL has discontinued a variant of the existing i10 which is powered by a 1.2 litre petrol engine to avoid cannibalisation. With the new 'Grand i10', the company is stepping up competition to market leader Maruti Suzuki India. The new Hyundai car would compete with the likes of Maruti Swift and Ford Figo, among others. 'Grand i10', that will be positioned between i20 and i10, has been modified by the Indian engineers to suit local market by incorporating features such as the rear AC vents and new rear window design, among others.



Dignitaries unveiling the new compact car of Hyundai Motors 'Grand i10' at Hyundai showroom at Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

## Hyundai launches its new compact car 'Grand i10'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 3: The car manufacturing company 'Hyundai Motor India Limited' today launched its much awaited new compact car 'Grand i10' in India.

Speaking on the launching function at New Delhi, Managing Director and CEO, HMIL, BS Seo, said, "the Indian automobile market is going through a slowdown right now, but it is a temporary phase. India has got potential in the long run... We will continue to bring new products and technology and we hope that the Grand i10 will bring excitement to the market.

At Jammu, The dealership of Jammu 'Crest Hyundai' unveiled 'Grand i10' in the presence of VIPs and customers. Chief Manager, J&K Bank, Gangyal, Nishikant Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion while Anil Puri, MD, Crest Hyundai and General Manager, Crest Hyundai were the guests of honour.

Speaking at the launch, Managing Director, Crest Hyundai, Anil Puri said, "The 'Grand i10' is a world-class product developed for the Indian market. The grand symbolizes Hyundai's commitment to Indian customers by offering