

Balbir shares Corp's welfare schemes with Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Vice Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited, Balbir Ram Rattan, today called on Union Minister of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is laying special focus on the socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. He referred to the country-wide programmes to be organized from April 14 to May 5 commemorating Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti and said that the



VC, SC, ST, BC Corporation Balbir Ram Rattan handing over a booklet to Union years in Narendra Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Modi Government Wednesday.

State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh at Union Capital and shared schemes of the Corporation being run for the welfare of the weaker sections with him.

Balbir Ram also presented a booklet containing 10 months work of the VC to Union Minister and apprised him various steps taken by the Corporation in implementing the Modi Government schemes meant for weaker sections and down-trodden people as well as national minorities.

Dr Jitendra Singh, informed him that the NDA Government

programmes will also give special attention to the schemes particularly meant for weaker sections. Dr Jitendra Singh said that a trust has developed among the SCs, STs and members of other categories during the last three

years in Narendra Modi Government and they are looking towards PM with confidence and optimism. Dr Jitendra Singh, while applauding the sincere efforts being put by Balbir Ram Rattan as Vice Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation in reaching the needy people with welfare schemes of the Government, said that the VC has succeeded in gaining the confidence of the weaker sections by his work, which is indeed a great achievement.

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NC protests, seeks exemplary punishment for rape accused

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: National Conference leader and former MLA, Bimla Luthra today

Padao' campaign. She said the insensitive dispensation has lost moral authority to rule the State, especially in the wake of attempts of trivializing the intensity of the crime that has shook conscience of the civilized people all over.

The NC leader said the divisive policies being pursued by the BJP and the PDP has brought Jammu and Kashmir to a passé and reiterated the commitment of National Conference to fight for isolating the elements dividing society in the name of region, religion or caste.

Carrying placards and raising slogans against the Coalition Government, the protesters demanded death penalty to the rape and murder accused. The protest march started from Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu and passed through historic Raghunath Chowk, City Chowk and Shalimar Road. However, a strong police contingent stopped the protesters' march towards the Civil Secretariat.

Prominent among those who participated in the protest march included, Dilshad Begum, Veena Oberia, Joyti, Tilaki, Bharti, Veena, Radha and others.



NC women wing activists taking out a protest march in Jammu on Wednesday.

assailed the PDP-BJP dispensation for growing lawlessness and failing in instilling sense of security among the people.

Leading a protest march in support of the demand for exemplary punishment to guilty in the gruesome Rasaan murder and rape case and exposing all those shielding the criminals, Luthra decried the attempts of communalizing and politicizing the issue in a bid to deny justice to the innocent eight year old child, who became victim of most inhuman act.

Luthra particularly took to task the BJP for its dubious role and said that brazen hypocrisy over the incident is perhaps their version of 'Beti Bachao, Beti

World's smallest pacemaker implanted in SSH Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: In what would be termed as a path breaking achievement, a team of doctors in the Department of Cardiology, Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu,

are placed in the patient's chest with leads running to the heart, MICRA which is 93 percent smaller is implanted directly into the patient's heart. It is MRI compatible and can adjust the heart rate



Dr T S Kler and Dr Sushil Sharma alongwith their team conducting implantation of world's smallest pacemaker in the SSH Jammu on Wednesday.

have successfully conducted the non-surgical implantation of world's smallest cardiac pacemaker on a middle aged woman here today.

Dr. Sushil Sharma, HoD Cardiology, GMC, Jammu under the guidance of Padma Bhushan awardee and renowned cardiologist and electro physiologist Dr. T.S Kler, conducted the first leadless percutaneous permanent pacemaker implantation in a patient, who was admitted to the hospital after cardiac arrest with abnormal heartbeats.

Considered to be first of its kind of pacemaker implantation in the state, the experts took around half an hour to successfully complete the entire non-surgical implantation process.

Dr Sushil Sharma said unlike most pacemakers that

according to the patient's activity and needs of the body.

Comparable in size to a large vitamin capsule, the doctor decided to use the leadless pacemaker because unlike traditional pacemakers, the device does not require cardiac wires (leads) or a surgical pocket under the skin to deliver pacing therapy. The miniature pacemaker implanted without surgery is the latest effort to make heart surgery less traumatic, said Dr. Sushil Sharma.

The Department of Cardiology has conducted more than 20,000 simple and complex interventional procedures under the supervision of Dr. Sushil Sharma and has been instrumental in bringing the state of art healthcare facilities to the common populace of the state.



DyCM Dr Nirmal Singh releasing Kailakh Dharam Divakar Panchang at Jammu on Wednesday.

DyCM releases Kailakh Dharam Divakar Panchang

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh today released the 6th edition of Kailakh Dharam Divakar Panchang calendar brought out by Bawa Kailakh Dev Prabhndhak Committee.

Vice Chairman Kissan Advisory Board, Daljeet Singh Chib was also present on the occasion.

Appreciating the value of Panchang, Dr Singh, said it is a ready source of information about local fairs, festivals and other auspicious occasions.

He said it would also educate the young generation about the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and the State as a whole and inspire them to celebrate these functions with other

communities in a harmonious manner.

The DyCM, while appreciating the publication, congratulated the editor of Panchang Dr Chander Mouli Raina and hoped that he would continue to contribute his bit to make the Panchang more informative.

Also present on the occasion were, General Secretary Bawa Kailakh Dev Prabhndhak Committee, Committee President Master Ram Pal Seth, Kissan Morcha State Gen Secretary Sunil Dutt Sharma, Dr C M Seth, Bharat Bhushan, Director SV Group Dr Varun Padha Sahil Seth, Master Rattan Seth, Pawan Seth, Manik Seth Rajat Soodan and Priest Pujari Kewal Krishan Seth.

Bar Association condemns civilian killings, abstains from court work

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (Srinagar) today strongly condemned the killing of four civilians and injuries to more than sixty other civilians at Khudwani, Kaimoh in Kulgam district.

Bar Association in a statement said that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bar was held here today in which members while expressing their solidarity with the families of those killed and wounded today stated that the Army and other paramilitary forces have let loose a "reign of terror" in Kashmir and they are killing the innocent people just to terrorize them and thereby deny them their basic rights including the right to self determination which has been promised and pledged to them by the members of the International Community and endorsed by the Indian leaders on the floor of the Parliament as well as United Nations.

It was also stated that on the one hand the communal and fascist forces are torturing, threatening and inflicting pain and agony on the innocent people of

Kashmir and on the other hand the forces are killing, and blinding the people of Kashmir in a systematic and planned manner when the world powers are watching these developments as mute spectators.

It was also decided that in order to show their anguish and get their protest registered against these acts of brutalities, the members shall abstain from court work tomorrow.

The Bar members also denounced the acts of holding the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kathua at ransom by the local lawyers and protesters by not allowing the Police to file the Charge sheet against those persons who have committed the gruesome offences.

They also expressed their anguish in manner in which judicial process is being influenced by trying to find fault with the investigation on pretext and other so that the perpetrators and helped to go scot free.

They demanded that in order to ensure a free and fair trial, the case should be transferred to a specially constituted Bench in the High Court and it should itself conduct the trial of the case to restore the faith of the people in rule of law.

Devika Baisakhi Mela arrangements finalized

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Apr 11: To finalize the arrangements for 3-day historic Devika Baisakhi Mela commencing from April 13, District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar took a meeting at Devika Ghat.

The meeting discussed in detail the arrangements including sanitation, security, fire safety tenders, medical facilities, adequate drinking water, uninterrupted electricity supply, provision of mobile toilets and setting up of departmental stalls at the venues.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Subash Digma, GM DIC, Suram Chand Sharma, Chief Executive Officer Municipality, Santosh Kotwal, Executive Engineer PHE, Ashok Sharma, DSP HQ, Kameshwar Puri, Block Development Officer, Rupali Vaidand other were present on the occasion.

Cartoonist Shekhar gets MKM Award

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Noted cartoonist and son of the soil, Chander Shekhar has been awarded in prestigious Maya Kamath Memorial Awards Competition 2017, organized by Indian Institute of Cartoonists and instituted by family of 'Mrs Maya Kamath' as M K M Awards for Excellence in Political Cartooning-2017.

The announcement for this award was made recently and the same shall be conferred to Shekhar in the month of June, 2018.

Shekhar's eloquent depiction on Triple Talaaq issue has been aptly recognized by the jury under the category special jury appreciation award.

The jury team had a tough time in selecting the awardees in view of uniformly excellent entries. "Due to the exceedingly high quality of all the entries, we had to go through most of the works several times over, to arrive at the contest winners. In a way, we also feel very sorry that due to the number of constraints of winners, many outstanding pieces of work had to be excluded from the final winners' list", the jury members maintained while announcing the awards.



BJP put State on path of development: Kohli

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 11: BJP leader Wasim Kohli today said that BJP has put the State on the path of development and under the BJP Government the State's growth rate has touched the double digits which is 11.61 percent.

He said this while interacting with the people during visit to various areas of Kalakote constituency to have a look on various developmental activities carried out by BJP in the constituency.

Strongly supporting various national policies initiated by Central Government under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Wasim expressed confidence that BJP will return to power at Centre in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Kohli also arranged Panchayat level meetings along with the villagers in Kalakote and suggested remedial measures to solve many issues. He also had a look on various Panchayat level developmental works done in Kalakote constituency.

Promotion of employees on performance important: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: High Court today said that promoting employees for their excellence in performance is important, to value their efforts and keep their morale up and directed the authorities to consider the case of petitioner for his claimed promotion.

Justice Tashi Rabstan disposed of the petition of one Ghulam Mohammad Dar seeking promotion for his next post said the promotion means appointment of a person of any category or grade of a service or a class of service to a higher category or grade of such service or class.

"Promotion or career advancement is a process through which an employee is vouchsafed a higher share of duties, a higher pay-scale or both", Justice Tashi said.

"For all the foregoing considerations, writ petition is disposed of by providing that respondents may consider the case of petitioner on his own merit and, of course, in strict accordance with rules governing the field within eight weeks from the date copy of this order is served upon respondents", court directed.

Petitioner-Dar was aggrieved that his higher ups have not till date considered his grievance qua promotion to the post of Lower Division Clerk (LDC) respectively viz. 29.03.2014,

notwithstanding he having passed LDC examination, which forced him to knock the door of court through writ petition seeking direction to his higher ups to promote him to the post of LDC respectively viz. 29th March 2014, and besides giving him the monetary benefits, also fix his seniority in the cadre of LDC and also consider him for further promotion on the basis of said seniority as and when the said promotion is contemplated or made.

Court said a promotion is not just beneficial for employees but is also highly crucial for employer and it boosts morale of promoted employees, increases their productivity and hence improves upon overall outputs and profits earned by an organization.

A promotion, court added, is a step further that an employee takes while working in an organization as far as his/her work, rank or position is concerned.

"Promotion is not just a reward that an employee is given for his/her continued good performance but is a proof that an employer thinks that it is time to add more responsibilities to an employee's existing set of responsibilities", Justice Tashi mentioned in his judgment.

Underscoring the types of promotion, court said, in some organizations, a promotion may result in a just change of duties and responsibilities.

DPs take out protest march, project demands

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Apr 11: Displaced Persons of 1947 from PoK today took out protest march and projected their issues.

The DPs led by president J&K Sharnarhi Action Committee, Poonch, Tarlok Singh Tara earlier held meeting and discussed the issues pertaining to distribution of one time package amount, as announced by the Prime Minister and ignoring the other components of the package as recommended by Joint Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs.

Tara while addressing gathering said that Govt of India must formulate a comprehensive road map of package taking into account the recommendations of Joint

Parliamentary Committee. He also expressed strong resentment over the delay being caused in the release of package by direct cash transfer in DPs account.

He said during last one year hardly 7000 DPs have been provided relief amount. If this is the pace of relief distribution it would take more than five years in completion of this process. He demanded that reservation for the POK DPs in the Legislature and quota to their wards in professional colleges and also in Govt jobs.

Later, they took out a protest march in Poonch city shouting slogans in support of their demands. K K Kapoor, Barkat Singh, Amar Singh and Capt Ashok Kumar also spoke on the occasion.



Vijay Saraf taking over as Secretary of Amar Singh Club on Wednesday.

Vijay Saraf re-elected Secretary of Amar Singh Club

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Vijay Saraf, a renowned businessman of Jammu, was today unanimously elected as the Secretary of the prestigious Amar Singh Club by all the elected executive committee members in presence of Hemant Kumar Sharma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, who is vice - president of the Club.

Pertinent to mention here that Vijay Saraf was elected as an executive member of the club along with other elected members who all had contested the recently held executive committee elections collectively as team Vijay Saraf

Vijay Saraf had secured the highest number of 1538 votes, out of 1893 valid polled votes.

He had earlier also served the club as Secretary in the

preceding committee and the club had seen a self speaking development and renovations during his tenure which are till today hailed by the members of the club.

All the executive committee members, present during the election of the secretary, lauded the efforts and skills of Vijay Saraf in leading the club to the path of development and hoped that the pace of club would further be enhanced under his able leadership.

Vijay Saraf, while presenting his vote of thanks to the executive committee members for putting in their faith in him, assured them all that he won't let their confidence down and would work 24 x 7 towards the club's development under the able guidance of Hemant Kumar Sharma in day to day affairs of the club.

Development incomplete without weaker sections involvement: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: BJP State vice president, Yudhvir Sethi today said that development remains incomplete without taking weaker sections of the society onboard.

He said India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

starting from April 14 to May 5, 2018 which is aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth of rural India through a multi pronged strategy for eradication of poverty.

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JKPDTU threatens stir against injustice with Rly projects workers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: In order to discuss various issues confronting the labourers/workers engaged in construction of Railway projects in Katra-Reasi and Barala-Sangaldan areas, State level executive body meeting of the JKPDUTU was held under the chairmanship of Suresh Sharma

After threadbare discussion, Sharma lamented the worst service conditions of the labourers engaged by different private contractors/agencies for executing Railway projects in Reasi/Katra and Sangaldan Braala. "The companies, particularly Patel Engineering, ITD and UTM have let loose a rein of terror amongst the poor labourers by their musclemen whenever these workers try to raise their voice against the inhuman and injustice meted-out to them," he alleged while criticizing the management of these private companies for violating Labour laws.

The JKPDUTU leader further alleged that labourers were not being paid minimum wages and twice DA increase in a year as announced by Ministry of Labour Affairs, GoI. "No allowances like Tunnel, Dust, Medical allowance and no OT cards as admissible under law are being issued by these companies. Moreover these companies/contractors are not issuing monthly wage slip to the workers. Neither any development

works under CSR are executed," he said

Further claiming that the workers who raise voice against these atrocities are terminated without following any procedures, Suresh Sharma appealed the Union Labour Minister as well as Finance and Labour Minister J&K, Altaf Bukhari and Regional Labour Commissioner Jammu to proceed against these companies for violating Labour Laws and Provident Fund Act. "It is surprising to note that PF deducted is being deposited by Patel Engineering in a Private Trust at Mumbai instead of J&K under rules," he alleged.

Mr Sharma along with B N Singh (vice president JKPDUTU) and Puran Chander (Distt. president Reasi) warned the representatives of Patel, ITD and UTM to mend their ways as JKPDUTU will not be a silent spectator to the exploitive policies of the companies and injustice will be fought with full force under Trade Union Act.

The executive body of the JKPDUTU also decided to file separate claims of less payment against these companies to the tune of about Rs 50 lacs in the court of Regional Labour Commissioner, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Mangal Singh, Sujan Singh, Ravi Vishal, Joginder Singh, Moh Aslam, Pawan Kumar, Anrez Singh, Balwan Singh and others.

Casual, need based workers of PDD declare protest prog

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Casual and Need Based Workers Union Jammu province today declared protest programme for next week, to expose Government for denying them hard earned wages for the last several months.

Talking to media-persons today State president of the Union Akhil Sharma, senior Trade Union leader Mohd Gafour Dar (NTUF), Sanjeev Kumar- general secretary and others, said that casual labourers and need based workers have now decided to hold protests at Divisional (PDD) level and then at District and Divisional level in phased manner. The purpose is to exert pressure on the Government to release the pending wages of the casual labourers and need based workers.

They pointed out that about 3405 casual labourers and need based workers are running the PDD infrastructure in Jammu region and they are being denied their hard earned money. This is sheer exploitation of the workers at the hand of BJP-PDP Government. Their families are facing starvation. Despite taking matter with the Chief Engineer concerned, Power Commissioner and even the Dy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh (Incharge Power Portfolio) several times, nothing except false assurances, has been received till date. The workers are being forced to intensify agitation and suspend power supplies by the Government, they added.

They further disclosed that in

the first phase, the workers shall hold protest demonstration outside the offices of concerned Executive Engineers in their respective Divisions / Districts on April 16 and 17, 2018 and submit memoranda to the District Development Commissioners/ Executive Engineers for the Chief Minister. On April 19, the casual, need based workers from entire region/ province, shall assemble at the office of Power Development Commissioner at Janipur, Jammu and held protest and day long dharna. They appealed the PDD workers to participate actively in the protest programme and expose the Government for not paying hard earned wages of the poor PDD workers.

Senior members- Ashish Verma, Gurmair Singh and Deepak Sharma also spoke on the occasion.

JKMEF meets DHS, projects demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: A deputation of Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) under the chairmanship of Federation president, Dhaminder Singh Bhargava, today met Director, Health Services Jammu, Dr Gurjeet Singh, in his office chamber and brought to his notice some burning issues and problems of the medical employees

The deputation comprising of Jatinder Singh, Ajeet Kumar, Ravinder Singh (Rozy), Sham Pal Sharma, Waryam Singh, Parveen Kumar and others medical employees, projected the employees' demand like holding of DPC, SRO-20 upgradation and publication of seniority list of various categories of employees.

The Director informed the deputation that DPC of all the categories except Junior Assistant/Senior Assistant/Lab Technician and X-Ray Technician has been held. He said that DPC of these categories is pending due to detection of certain irregularities in seniority which are being worked out.

Regarding SRO 20, Dr Gurjeet told the deputation that this office has taken up this issue with concerned authorities several times and will soon issue a fresh reminder to the authorities.



BJP State vice-president, Yudhvir Sethi during a meeting with party workers in Poonch.

He said BJP is fully committed to develop entire nation for which people especially those belonging to weaker sections of the society are being made part of decisions to be taken on ground be it in villages or urban areas.

Yudhvir Sethi was speaking to workers during several meetings organized at different locations in Poonch, Nowshehra and Sunderbani to mobilize masses for Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan (Village Self-Governance Campaign)

become second largest steel producer, second largest mobile manufacturer and fourth largest automobile manufacturers thereby generating enough employment. It is through Mandra Yojana that MSME sector is receiving substantial impetus. Under Jan Dhan Yojana, 31.44 crore bank accounts have been opened and all ration cards have been linked to Aadhaar for fair distribution of ration to deserving persons.

Coming down heavily on Congress, Yudhvir said most corrupt and incompetent leaders are roaming around on Jammu streets to exploit people. Having failed to deliver during their regime, they are now trying to stop BJP from its people oriented policies. He assured the gathering that BJP has launched nationwide programmes to increase livelihood opportunities, provide social safety net and develop infrastructure for growth and improvement of quality of life in rural India and party workers will not rest till the goal is achieved.

BJP MLC, Pradeep Sharma and Sunil Gupta, State secretary were also present on the occasion.