

Irrigation Deptt fails to provide canal water to tail-end villages: Manjit

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Apr 13: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu and former Minister, Manjit Singh has demanded canal water supply to the tail-end border villages where farmers have been rendered helpless without an irrigation facility.

Manjit Singh chaired a meeting of farmers at village Hira Chak in Ramgarh, which was organized by Apni Party District President Youth Jammu Urban, Shubam Choudhary.

Manjit Singh said that the farmers cultivating world famous Basmati rice are facing negligence from the Irrigation Department which has completely failed to ensure canal water to the tail-end villages along the International Border.

"The fields are fertile yet the concerned department has not taken any serious step towards the resolution of demands of the farmers," he said.

He said that the concerned department should ensure Ravi Tawi and Chenab River canal water to the border's end villages.

However, he added, if they cannot do it, the Govt should step in to make sure that the farmers are provided electricity 24/7 in the border villages.

"Since the canal water is not available at the tail end villages, the farmers use water pumps as an alternative source to water their fertile fields but the electricity supply remains disrupted," said Manjit Singh.

The former Minister said that if the farmers are provided electricity as an option to the canal water, they can use groundwater for irrigation purposes in their fields and it would strengthen the farmers financially. He further said that the department concerned should not ignore the demands of the farmers who are the backbone of the rural economy.

"The Irrigation Department should come out with a permanent solution by establishing water tube wells in the border belt of Samba District to provide ample water to the farmers," he suggested.

Block President, Bachan Choudhary among others were also present on the occasion.

KPs celebrate Navreh at Mata Sharika Temple, Sheetal Nath

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: In connection with celebrations of Navreh festival, the first day of Hindu new year various functions were held in Kashmir valley today by the members of Kashmiri Pandit Community.

Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS), organized Navreh in Kashmir in the premises of Zeshtha Mandir in which large number of Kashmiri Pandits participated with enthusiasm and gaiety. The function was graced by a galaxy of eminent personali-

ty including Farooq Khan, Advisor to LG who was the chief guest on the occasion, Junaid Mattu (Mayor SMC), Malik Aftab (Chairman DDC), Rajesh Gupta (chairman Tourism Federation), Dr Agnishekhar, convener PK and Sanjay Saraf senior leader Lok Janshakti Party.

Special attraction of the function was famous Singer Sonali Dogra. She enthralled the audience with her melodious devotional Songs.

Sanjay Saraf senior vice president LJP has been coordinating with various departmental agencies for the smooth conduct and the success of the function.

Puneet Jyotshi also participated in the programme. Special guests on the occasion Raman Suriya, Tapan Dubey, B.B



Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan releasing a portrait of Goddess Durga during Narveh function at Srinagar on Tuesday.

ty including Farooq Khan, Advisor to LG who was the chief guest on the occasion, Junaid Mattu (Mayor SMC), Malik Aftab (Chairman DDC), Rajesh Gupta (chairman Tourism Federation), Dr Agnishekhar, convener PK and Sanjay Saraf senior leader Lok Janshakti Party.

Before starting the function all present in the program performed puja and sought blessing of the Mata Sharika at Chakrishwar shrine.

Speaking on the occasion Farooq Khan extended heartiest congratulations to the entire community of Kashmiri Pandits across the Globe and wished their early return and rehabilitation in the Valley. After releasing the New Year's Sapt Rishi (Year 5097) both in soft as well hard copy Calendar prepared by Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj, he highlighted the role and big contribution of Kashmiri Pandits to the ethos of the country.

Guest of honor Junaid Mattu, while greeting the KPs assured them that he will repair and renovate and rebuild all the Temples in the Valley and he has already identified 20 temples as a first lot. He announced the construction of a splendid Sheetal Nath Mandir that will be of national heritage.

Dr Agnishekhar threw light on the importance of Navreh and

Kotwal and Ajay Gupta

The function was anchored by Kiran Wattal convener VKS and he put forth the demands and emphasized for the formation of a Board for the development and management of all the temples and shrines and in this regard appealed the Government for passing the shrines and temples bill as has been demanding by KPs since long.

Another function was held at historic Sheetal Nath temple.

On the occasion, BJP general secretary, (Org) Ashok Kaul former MLC and senior BJP leader Surinder Ambarbar were present. Addressing a gathering, Ashok Kaul said that the programme has been held at Sheetal Nath after a long time and it is the beginning of a new dawn. He congratulated the community on the occasion of holy festival, Surinder Ambarbar was attired in traditional Kashmiri dress along with Councilor Rakesh Koul took part in the function and warned those who are playing with the interests of community. The devotees were served Prashad after hawan.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

IGNOU to hold 34th Convocation through virtual mode

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Owing to the rapid surge in COVID-19 cases, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has decided to host its 34th Convocation virtually on April 15, 2021 (Thursday) at 11 am.

The University will be awarding degrees, diplomas, and certificates to more than 235,000 successful students this time.

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education, Government of India will be the chief guest and will deliver the Convocation address virtually on the occasion.

The proceedings of the Convocation will be live telecast and available in IGNOU's

Gyan Darshan Channel, SWAYAM Prabha Channels (#17,18,19,20) Managed by IGNOU and Facebook Page of IGNOU (<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPageIGNOU>).

The students who have completed their programme in December 2019 and June 2020 term end examinations are eligible for award of Degree/Diploma certificates in this Convocation. Under the Regional Centre Jammu an approximate number of 13597 Degree/Diploma certificates are to be awarded.

The desirous can e-attend IGNOU's 34th virtual convocation ceremony on April 15, 2021 through any of the channels of the university (mentioned above) from 11 am.



PCC leader and former minister, Raman Bhalla interacting with traders in Jammu on Tuesday.

Bhalla strongly flays anti-people, anti-trade policies of BJP Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Senior Congress leader and former minister Raman Bhalla has strongly criticized BJP Government and J&K Administration for their anti-people and anti-trade policies.

While interacting with local traders and businessmen here today, Bhalla alleged that J&K Administration intends to sell the local resources and trade to the outside people at the cost of local traders and stakeholders. He said BJP Government only wants to earn revenue out of anything at the cost of people who are suffering on multiple fronts and have to pay from their nose.

Bhalla said those who voted and supported BJP in the past, are now regretting for giving absolute power to the party which is now taking anti-people, anti-Jammu decisions and looting the people through taxes and earnings. The common man can't afford the rates and people are suffering a lot.

Now, the Government has decided to hit the liquor trade as a result several traders shall be uprooted while the future generations would be spoiled and such policies for the sake of earning revenue at the plight of the people. These anti-people policies of the BJP

have caused great resentment amongst the people who are being fleeced from all sides.

Bhalla further said that earlier the Government sold the minor minerals and the people are paying heavy price due to loot and unprecedented price of the sand and bajri. He reiterated his Party's demand for rollback of existing Geology and Mining policy in Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the lacunas in the existing mining policy, Bhalla said it is because of the present policy that there is an acute shortage of construction material in Jammu and Kashmir.

He claimed that all sections of society were suffering under BJP rule as promises made to them have turned out to be hollow.

Launching attack on BJP Govt, the Congress leader said that this Government has left no stone unturned to destroy democratic institutions. He stressed that the J&K needed fair and strong constitutional institutions.

Bhalla lambasted the Centre for "decimating" small and medium businesses resulting in millions of job and livelihood losses across various sectors of economy. He said BJP has "lost" the trust of people of J&K forever. The BJP leaders have no concern for the poor.

Political activists, Panchayat members join Apni Party

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: Former Pradesh Congress District vice president Baramulla, Altaf Ahmad Malik joined Apni Party at its office in Lal Chowk area of Srinagar here today.

The joining took place in presence of Party president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, former minister and senior Party leader Mohammad Dilawar Mir, general secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, State secretary Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din, District president Srinagar, Noor Mohammad Sheikh and Youth leader Yawar Mir.

Besides Altaf Ahmad Malik, various Panchayat members and prominent political activists hailing from the district Baramulla also joined the party.

While welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Bukhari impressed upon them to work selflessly for the welfare of the common people in their respective areas.

"The political legitimacy of

any party always depends on the works it does for the welfare of the people. The region of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a developmental stagnation due to the apathetic attitude of various regional parties," he remarked.

"Apni Party has pledged to put in its efforts at grass-root level for the betterment of the existing condition of the people," he observed.

Bukhari said that the Party lays stress on the economic development and progress related issues that affect the lives of the people.

"Pertinently, all the demands taken up with the Central leadership or current UT administration, since the inception of the Party, have been profoundly embedded in the public interest," he maintained.

Altaf Malik alongwith scores of other new entrants thanked the party leadership for providing them with such a dependable platform and pledged to strengthen the party at grass-roots level.

Inspector Raj prevailing in J&K: Harshdev

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Apr 13: Harshdev Singh, Chairman-JKNPP and former Minister, today alleged that the policy makers have hardly any connect

PMGSY roads, Mr Singh sought early payment of compensation. He regretted that despite a lapse of 4-6 years, the claims of the affected farmers had not been settled with the



Harshdev Singh addressing a public meeting in Ramnagar Assembly Constituency on Tuesday.

with the general masses with the result the Inspector Raj is prevailing in J&K and sufferings of the people have touched a new high under the present dispensation.

"With the political leadership having been discredited and rendered irrelevant in the new set up in J&K, the common man has been made to bear the brunt of dictatorial policies of the current regime," he said, while addressing public meetings in Baska-dera and Bari villages of Ramnagar constituency, here today.

Harshdev lambasted the concerned authorities for acute water supply problem in majority of the villages of Ramnagar constituency besides huge power cuts causing untold inconvenience to the public. "While the PHE Deptt now renamed as 'Jal Shakti' Deptt had covered all such villages under Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in papers and its official records, the ground reality is in complete contrast of the Govt claims," he alleged.

Making out a strong case in favour of the local farmers whose lands were acquired for

officers concerned in-explicitly sitting over the funds so released by the Centre at the time of sanction and delaying and denying the same with ulterior motives. Likewise, he added, several irregularities had been reported in the preparation of lists of BPL and APL lists but regretfully of no avail.

Accusing the present regime of resorting to coercion and intimidation to silence those questioning the criminal negligence of concerned authorities, Mr Singh said that common people were not even allowed to exercise their fundamental rights of protests and dharmas. "There is none to listen. Those raising their voice against corruption well bullied and made to fall in line", bemoaned Mr Singh. He also pointed out that regular bills were being sent to several people for payment of power traffic without they having been provided power connections by the PDD Deptt.

He appealed people to strengthen NPP as it alone represented the working class, the farmers the unemployed youth besides other marginalized sections of society.

ADGP Traffic inaugurates furnished 'Vehicles Release Section'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Traffic J&K T Namgyal inaugurated a well furnished 'Vehicles Release Section' for general public in Traffic Police Lines here.

The lounge also contains all the traffic related awareness

tened to various problems being faced by officers in the field.

On the occasion, ADGP Traffic directed for effective regulations of traffic as well as enforcement against traffic violators particularly against wrong tube, wrong turns, wrong parking, etc.

The meeting was attended by SSP Traffic Shiv Kumar Sharma, ASP



ADGP Traffic T Namgyal dedicating well furnished 'Vehicle Release Section' to public at Jammu. SSP Traffic Jammu City Shiv Kumar Sharma is also seen in the picture.

Traffic Pardeep Singh, DySPs Niaz Ahmad and Sunil Singh and all DTIs including Inspector Suhail Ahmad, Inspector Ravinder Singh, Inspector Imtiyaz, Inspector Rakesh Kumar, Inspector Vikas Kant, Inspector Atul Singh, Inspector Anil Jad, Inspector Sunil Singh, Inspector Thakur Dutt, Inspector Anayat Hussain, Inspector Rattan Lal, Inspector Rakesh Kumar (RI), Inspector Trilochan Singh (MTO) and Inspector Lekh Raj (PTO).

posters and slogans so the people's get awareness about Traffic Rules while sitting in "Vehicle Release Section".

ADGP Traffic also took the brief meeting of all Officers and DTIs of Traffic City Jammu for traffic related issues. He also lis-



Former Minister, Sat Sharma laying foundation of Community Hall at Colonel Colony on Tuesday.

Sat appeals LG to develop places holding religious importance

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: On the auspicious day of first Navratri and on the eve of centenary celebrations of Shri Bhat, mentor of Ram Mandir Trust, Srinagar- Jammu affiliated to J&K Bhora Sudhar Sabha, the foundation stone of new Community Hall at Colonel Colony area of Talab Tillo was laid by former State president BJP and Ex Minister, Sat Sharma (CA) today. He was accompanied by a large number of people including Corporator Ward 41, Sanjay Baru, BJP publicity secretary, Ayodhya Gupta, Jatin Sethi, Pyare Lal Mawa and many others including the Committee members.

Congratulating people on the occasion of Navratras, Sat Sharma said that the Kashmiri Pandit community residing in the area has done a great work by constructing a Community Hall in the area which will cater to the needs of the locals. He said the Committee through donations has taken the initiative of construction of this hall and it will also help many others including the people from adjoining areas as well. He said that ear-

lier there was no such place in the vicinity where people could perform rituals like Poojans, Uthals and other things related to importance in Hindu religion but now this will surely cope up with the needs of the masses for which he congratulated the whole team of the Trust.

He stated that there is a dire need to construct more of such things in every sphere of Jammu and Kashmir and he also appealed LG Manoj Sinha to develop such types of places where people could perform religious rituals which are an important part of our religion.

Sanjay Baru and Ayodhya Gupta lauded the work done by the community and said that such things hold a great importance in our society and focus must be placed on developing such things in future.

K L Kakroo, PN Rayu, PN Pawa, AK Totha, PK Dembi, Ravi Ganjoo, Raj Nath, KJ Purbhi, Kaka Ji Nath, RK Labroo, Ramesh Raina, Rakesh Mattoo, RK Bachloo, BL Mattas and several others were also present on the occasion.



Policemen trying to stop wine traders and CCI leaders from taking out protest march against New Excise Policy on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Wine traders protest against New Excise Policy, auctioning of vends

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Up in arms against the New Excise Policy, which envisages e-auction of liquor vends across the Union Territory, members of Jammu Wine Traders Association (JWTA) today held a peaceful protesting against the Government move.

They were joined by office bearers of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries, who extended their full support to the

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

wine traders in protecting their rights and business. They also took out a protest march from Exhibition Ground to Tawi Bridge.

Shouting slogans against the Government, the protesting wine traders demanded continuation of the previous policy or renew their license for at least two years so that they may establish some new business to feed their families.

"We reject this policy, which is meant for rich persons and mafia. None of us can afford to compete in the e-auction as we are small traders who earn their livelihood from this business for

decades," said JWTA president Charanjeet Singh, who along with general secretary Digvijay Singh and CCI general secretary Gourav Gupta was leading the protest.

The wine traders alleged that despite no adverse report against them, the Government was rendering them jobless for the reasons best know to the concerned authorities at the top level.

"Even as the High Court has not prohibited renewal of our licenses but this Government is adamant to invite liquor mafia to replace the present licensees, who are small traders and earn their livelihood from this business," said Digvijay Singh.

CCI general secretary Gourav Gupta along with Anik Gupta and Rajeev Gupta, said that the Chamber would extend all possible support to the wine traders, who were protesting for their rights and protecting their business.

The Wine Traders Association feared that the New Excise Policy would also lead to illegal sale of liquor in J&K.



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