

Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce calls on Sinha Lt Governor for interstate cooperation in agriculture, cooperative sectors

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today called for interstate cooperation in agriculture and cooperative sectors for better promotion and growth opportunities to all the stakeholders in the said sectors.

The Lt Governor was interacting with Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Minister for Department of Cooperation and Jails, Punjab during a meeting held here at the Raj Bhavan.

The Minister proposed for bilat-

potential in agriculture, poultry, dairy, fisheries and other allied activities, besides extension services and exchange of ideas in better practices.

He asked the Minister to send a detailed proposal for examination and assured that all possible efforts will be made to extend collaboration in agriculture and allied activities. He further emphasized that the new, investor friendly policies being laid out by J&K Government have ample scope for development in every sector.

The Lt Governor invited the

Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture/Horticulture, & Cooperatives Department and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor were also present.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan.

The delegation led by its Director General, Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal comprising of Bharat Bhusan (former MLA); Prakash Tanwar; Sanjeev Gharu; Dev Karan Singh and Sachin Pal apprised the Lt Governor about various welfare issues of SC, ST, nomads and other weaker sections of the society including their socio-economic empowerment and implementation of welfare schemes on the lines of other States/UTs.

They also informed the Lt Governor that they are going to launch Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce JK Chapter soon, and extended their full support to the Government for encouraging, motivating and supporting the budding and existing entrepreneurs, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections, besides spreading massive awareness among all the sections of the society regarding the Centrally Sponsored and beneficiary oriented schemes envisaged by the government for their welfare.

While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is taking comprehensive people-centric measures aimed at the welfare of every section of the society.

The Lt Governor assured the members of delegation that the issues and genuine demands projected by them would be taken up for consideration on merit.

Upgrade facilities for tourists at Suchetgarh, Baba Chamliyal, other places: Advisor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, has lined up a series of activities for the Tourism Department with a view to upgrade facilities for tourists at Suchetgarh, Baba Chamliyal and other places.

Advisor issued these directions while chairing a meeting held with the officers from tourism and Border Security Force (BSF) for promotion of tourism in areas like Suchetgarh, Samba and other places of historical importance.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez; Inspector General, BSF Jammu, N S Jamwal; DIG, BSF, S S Sekhon; Commandant BSF Ajay Suryavanshi, Director Tourism, Jammu Raj Kumar Katoch and other officers.

Advisor directed the Tourism Department to gear up efforts for development of border tourism. He directed them to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of projects after taking inputs from all the stakeholders for the development of tourist spots in Suchetgarh, Baba Chamliyal and other areas in a time bound manner. He said that the DPR shall encompass all the facilities which would attract tourists.

Advisor said that Suchetgarh, should come up as a wonderful attraction for tourists. The other places of historical and cultural importance including Baba Chamliyal and Gharana Wetland would be included in tour circuits for promoting tourism in the Union Territory with the twin aim to boost the economy of dwellers of the areas besides increasing attractive landscape

for tourist related activities, he added.

He said that Gharana wetland in R S Pura will be developed for 'bird watching' where a lot of migratory birds visit especially during winters, after obtaining permission from wildlife department. Another point of major attraction for Tourism in the area will be creating selfie points developed by tourism department,

he asserted. He said that the inputs received from BSF should be incorporated in the DPR.

I G BSF, N S Jamwal, while speaking on the occasion, said that Suchetgarh has vast potential to be developed as a vital tourist destination adding that Baba Chamliyal in Samba along the IB holds a lot of potential for promoting religious tourism.

NC rues administrative inertia in wake of fresh snowfall across Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 4: National Conference has asked the administration to augment its response to the issues faced by people in wake of heavy snowfall across Kashmir decriing its preemptive approach to avoid predicaments suffered by people in wake of weather vagaries.

NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah urged the administration to ensure snow clearance on major routes especially those leading to health facilities, power and water supply, stock and adequate distribution of essential commodities including medicines, LPG, Kerosene and other edibles.

"Prices of air tickets to and from Srinagar have skyrocketed as has been the trend every winter season," Dr Farooq said adding that uncapped and unregulated air travel prices has been a long pending issue which authorities need to address immediately.

Meanwhile in a joint statement, party's senior leaders Mubarak Gul, Shameema Firdous, Irfan Shah, Ali Mohammad Dar, Dr Bashir Veeri said the recent snowfall warrants immediate and effective administrative response across Kashmir. "Administration should ensure road connectivity across Kashmir including Shahar-e-Khas areas of Srinagar, including city suburbs.

PCB seizes banned polythene

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: Jammu & Kashmir, Pollution Control Board, today seized huge cache of banned polythene during checking of shops in Jaurian township.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of Member Secretary J&K PCB, B.M Sharma and Regional Director, Jammu, Dr Syed Nadeem Hussain on the directions of the Chairman J&K PCB, Suresh Chugh

Minor reshuffle in JU at top level

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: Jammu University today affected minor reshuffle at top level and assigned the charge of Director Colleges Development Council to Prof Rajni Kant while Prof Jasbir Singh shall function as Controller of Examination.

Prof Prikshat Singh Manhas shall function as the Rector, Udhampur campus, relieving Prof Hardeep Chahal of the charge while Prof Prakash Chand Anthal of the Department of Economic, shall function as the Dean Students Welfare, relieving Prof Jasbir Singh of the charge.

Earlier, Prof Rajni Kant was holding the charge of Controller Examination while the charge of Director, Colleges Development Council was with Prof Arvind Jasrotia, who had recently replaced Prof Neetu Andotra as Registrar JU.

5 stone crushers sealed

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Jan 4: Acting on court orders, District Administration has sealed 5 stone crushers in and around Doda today.

All these crushers were allegedly run illegally by some influential people. These crushers were causing hazards in populated areas besides degrading the environment. All the machinery has

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been seized and electricity connections have been snapped.

According to administration, crushers' owners in Doda were repeatedly told to submit necessary documents as five crusher owners were not having all documents to run these crushers.

According to Tehsildar Doda, the crusher owners failed to submit their documents and were sealed. Various social organizations working to improve the environment in Doda hoped that these crushers would not be allowed to function again. They have demanded that all the crushers in Doda district should be screened and their documents should be reviewed.

ISRO collaboration with private sector to boost Atmanirbhar Bharat: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) collaboration with private sector will boost "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

While briefing about some recent achievements of ISRO and India's space programme, Dr. Jitendra Singh gave full credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi whose personal intervention had made it possible to arrive at the historic decision to open up India's Space sector for participation by private players. He said, the decision to create Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) will provide a level playing field for private companies as well as Start-Ups. The proposed range of space activities includes Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, Geospatial services, Satellite Constellation, Application products, etc, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the move to open up the Space sector for private participation was a path-breaking step taken by Prime Minister Modi and has been widely welcomed by leading private players across the country. He quoted the Prime Minister's words that through these reforms, the endeavor is not only to ensure that India becomes a competitive Space market, but also to ensure that the benefits of the Space programme reach out to the poorest. This is in keep-

ing with the Modi Government's principle of planning every reform with the aim to benefit the poorest of the poor and to make India self-reliant through consistent endeavour in the direction of Atmanirbhar Bharat, he said.

Besides enhancing the capacity and resources of the Space sector, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, increased



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh briefing about Space activities, at New Delhi.

participation of private players will also discourage the brain-drain of talented Space scientists and experts who were otherwise moving out of India in search of a break. He further informed that more than 25 industries have already approached the Department of Space for undertaking space activities as per the guidelines.

Under the Modi Government, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the applications of Space technology had, in the last six years, been extended to different areas of infrastructure development as well as to bring ease of living for the common citizen. The Space and satellite technology is today being extensively used in railways, road and bridge construction, agriculture sector, housing, tele-medicine, etc, besides disaster management and accurate weather forecast, he added.

Presidents of ULBs call on Dheeraj Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: A delegation of Presidents of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir Division, today called on Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department to apprise him of various issues pertaining to Municipal Councils/ Committees of the region.

The delegation demanded devolvement of function of various departments to Urban Local Bodies as per 74th Amendment be expedited.

The delegation was informed that demand for advance funding under PM Awas Yojna has been accepted to and Government instructions have been issued in this regard.

Regarding street lights in various Municipal Councils/ Committees, the delegation was apprised that a team of EESL is conducting survey which shall be completed by March, 2021 and new LED street lights would be installed thereafter. It was also informed that the Government has already issued instructions to transfer all vacant State lands within municipal areas to the

concerned municipality. The delegation also raised the issues of security cover, insurance to the elected representatives, providing of vehicle, representation in DDC and increase in honorarium to elected representatives. Principal Secretary assured that all these demands will be examined and appropriate decision shall be taken in this regard.

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Director Planning, HUDD, Director Finance, HUDD, Additional Secretary (R), HUDD, Mohammad Iqbal, President, Municipal Committee, Dooru, Irshad Ahmad, President, Municipal Committee, Handwara, Mushtaq Ahmad, President, Municipal Committee, Devsar, Jehangeer, President, Municipal Committee, Sumbal, Umar Kakroo, President, Municipal Council, Baramulla, Pali Singh, President, Municipal Committee, Pattan, Mohammad Altaf, President, Municipal Council, Ganderbal, Abdul Kareem Dar and President, Municipal Committee, Kunzer were present on the occasion.



Lt Governor meeting with S S Randhawa, Minister of Cooperation and Jails, Govt of Punjab.

eral arrangement between J&K and Punjab for effective production and marketing of various agri-products.

The Lt Governor observed that the promotion of agriculture and allied sectors is our priority and J&K Government is taking comprehensive measures to facilitate rapid growth in the agriculture and cooperative sectors in J&K.

He said that the UT administration was already keen to work with various States for such multilateral agreements to harness the rich

interested investors for establishing lucrative units in J&K with a very good support ecosystem from the UT administration.

With strategic interventions, the UT Government is establishing a better linkage of agriculture produce of J&K with other regions of the country to revolutionize agriculture and allied sectors. The other States/UTs can also avail of the opportunities in the UT in these sectors, he added.

Navin Kumar Choudhary,

Tall claims of admn not matching with ground realities: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 4: CPI (M) leader, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has said that tall claims made by the J&K administration on alertness have been exposed with snowfall especially in South Kashmir causing massive power breakdown, road blockades and scarcity of the essential commodities.

Despite the prediction by the Meteorological Department, administration was ill-prepared for the snowfall. Although snowfall is not something new to the region, the administration seems resisting change in its rusty work culture. With snowfall, the entire administration comes to a grinding halt which is reflective of a dire need for strengthening of disaster preparedness in the region.

Snow is yet to be cleared on several roads in rural areas across the valley resulting in tremendous hardship to the general public.

To meet the challenges, the administration need to ensure better coordination between various departments especially those providing essential services. The Government must ensure that there was no chaos for scarcity of essential commodities including LPG, kerosene oil, ration and emergency

services should be monitored and damaged power distribution lines immediately repaired.

The snowfall has resulted in massive power breakdown which has plunged the Valley, especially remote areas in South Kashmir into darkness.

The CPI(M) leader has asked the administration to expedite the restoration of power supply as people have been braving biting cold.

Power Development Department (PDD) has failed to create a buffer stock of electricity transformers to address the situation surfaced due to damaged transformers. The transformers, installed in every neighborhood develop technical snags and the consumers are left helpless in darkness and freezing cold.

The faulty policy of PDD for the damages of electricity transformers is the reason for the mess. The department has never bothered to open workshops at district level to repair the damaged transformers due to which these have to be sent to the central workshops where it takes weeks. Earlier in some cases, the department would send the damaged transformers to private workshops, but that process has also been stopped as Government has not cleared the previous payments worth crores to them.

Power outage during harsh winters makes life miserable in Reasi areas

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Jan 4: Bad weather and heavy snowfall has thrown life out of gear in the higher reaches of Reasi as electricity supply in various areas of Mahore, Chassana, Gulabgarh and Armas continues to remain badly affected for the last around one week.

It is for the third consecutive day that around a dozen adjoining villages in Mahore and Dharmari

Sanglikote was also closed due to land sliding at Hammosan, besides no electricity. "We appeal to the Government to restore electricity. It is now difficult to live life without power. All our business is closed due to no power. Since all the electronic devices at our homes are running out of power, the life here is now depend on light of candles. It reminded me of my childhood days," he added. Various villages, including Hammosan, Shergahari, Mamankote, Chandlykote, Sarsote, Dandkote, Sanglikote, Bagankote etc are also facing same power failures.

A Class 12th student, Ravinder Pal Singh said that students are the most sufferers due to no power as now the study is mainly online. Sudesh Singh from Dandkote also said that due to no electricity, their life has come to stand-



Children study in candle light in Malikote village of Chassana due to power failure in the area. -Excelsior/Romesh Mengi

still. In Mahore and other villages, there is also no electricity from the last three days which makes the life of locals difficult in this cold weather.

Meanwhile, a strong protest was also held today at Armas where there is no electricity for the last two days. The locals blocked the main road and after the assurance of Tehsildar, they dispersed off peacefully. When contacted, Xen PDD said that due to snowfall and heavy rainfall, there was fault in the supply line and the department had already dispatched its teams to repair the same. "Hopefully our team will get it repair within two days," he added.

As per the guidelines, the students shall be promoted to commence their studies into next academic year on the basis of internal evaluation and performance in college examination i.e. 50 percent marks on the basis of the pattern of internal assessment and the remaining 50 percent marks on the basis of average of performance in college examination during the entire year.

If average of performance in college examination during the entire year is not available, then 100 percent evaluation may be done on the basis of internal assessment, reads the notification.

Any students failing in examination will be allowed to commence studies for next higher classes in accordance with guidelines issued on May 14, 2020. However, such students will be considered to have passed the examination and be eligible for the award of the degree/diploma only if they are successful in all the subjects of the said programme.

JU notifies guidelines for promotion of B Sc Nursing students

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: In view of the extra ordinary circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Jammu today notified the guidelines for promotion of B Sc Nursing students from the 2nd to 3rd years and from 3rd to 4th year.

As per the guidelines, the students shall be promoted to commence their studies into next academic year on the basis of internal evaluation and performance in college examination i.e. 50 percent marks on the basis of the pattern of internal assessment and the remaining 50 percent marks on the basis of average of performance in college examination during the entire year.

11 Prosecuting Officers promoted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 4: Pursuant to the recommendations of DPC and J&K Public Service Commission, the Department of Home, J&K Government today ordered promotion of 11 Prosecuting Officers with immediate effect.

They included Chander

HC (T) Ashwani Kumar Sharma, posted as Wireless Operator with Deputy Commissioner Jammu, who has been awarded DGP's Commendation Medal and Certificate for his meritorious and exemplary performance during the year 2020.



SI Sushma Thakur, SHO Women Police Station Rajouri-Poonch, who has been awarded DGP's



Commendation Medal and Certificate for her meritorious and exemplary performance during the year 2020.

We pay our respectful homage to our revered father

Late Rana Rajinder Singh Ji

Rana Rajinder Singh
(1932 - 2006)

on his Death Anniversary

Ranas