

BJP Govt running on basis of hoardings, ads: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Former minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla today claimed that BJP government which has completed more than six years in power is among the poorest performing governments in the history of J&K.

He said that Government was all about destroying the dreams and cheating people of J&K. He said that in the last six years development has been zero and encouragement has been given to uncalled for controversial decisions. He said that BJP government is running on the basis of hoardings and advertisements.

Interacting with people in Bahu Fort area he said that BJP had boasted of providing world-class facilities to millions of tourists visiting the state and assertions of making Jammu an independent destination had remained just rhetoric. BJP had zealously announced a revamp of basic facilities at tourist destinations, which were the backbone of the state's economy, there was need for massive state-sector investment to improve infrastructure to attract private players. Six major projects had not been completed depriving Jammu of lakhs of visitors to Vaishno Devi shrine and other pilgrim centres in the state.

Bhalla said that the government deserves zero marks out of hundred. He said that the money being used to organise the lavish function had it been spent on welfare of the poor and needy then many of their problems would have been solved but instead it was trying to hide its failures by putting up big hoardings and advertisements.

Former minister said that BJP Government is deliberately delaying the holding of early assembly elections and restoration of full statehood to J&K as people have sent strong signal to the Central Government in the DDC elections. He said that BJP is avoiding holding of early assembly elections to give an elected government to people and restore the statehood, disbanded and downgraded to UT against the wishes of the people. BJP has destroyed the identity, status and rights of the people. People have given a strong signal to the Centre that people are annoyed with the BJP's actions and failure of their leaders who were elected by the people with great expectations.

Bhalla claimed that people have realized that they were "misled, betrayed and backstabbed by BJP for the sake of coming into power". On the collapse of administrative apparatus with regard to development and ensuring utility services, Bhalla said that while various projects are starving for funds, the payments under MGNREGA remain unpaid.

Directorate of Tourism starts live musical weekends at Gulmarg

Excelsior Correspondent

GULMARG, Jan 10: While the Tourists are enjoying their stay at the snow-clad Gulmarg, a new musical element has been added for their enjoyment, thanks to the initiative of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir.



Artists performing during live musical weekend at Gulmarg.

"Gulmarg offers everything a tourist looks for, especially during the winter, when snow decks its landscape. Now, we have added a new element- music," Assistant Director, Tourism Gulmarg, Dr Javid-ur-Rehman said and added that local artists will be performing live on weekends in Gulmarg at locations thronged by tourists and locals like the Ski Shop area, Gondola and the Golf Club.

This weekend, live musical performances were held at the Ski Shop through out the day with hundreds of tourists and Ski enthusiasts seen enjoying the concert against the beautiful backdrop of snow covered mountains and slopes.

"In coming days, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir will also be organising a 'Snow Sculpting Competition-2021' for which

preparations are in full swing. All these activities are being organized as part of the tourism revival plans and to present the resort as a lively, welcoming and an enjoyable tourism destination", Dr Javid-ur-Rehman added.

Moreover, Dr Javid-ur-Rehman said that all slopes in

Gulmarg are now open for Skiing. The Ski Patrol Team headed by Snow Safety Officer, Brian Newman is in place and all slopes are being groomed and open for Skiers now after the recent spell of fresh snow fall. "We are seeing good rush of Ski enthusiasts and tourists enjoying the skiing experience," he added.

Following the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions and subsequent opening up of the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir in July-2020, sustained efforts are being made by the Department of Tourism and the tourism stakeholders to revive the sector, which is among the top contributors to the economy of J&K and with large sections of the population directly and indirectly associated and dependent on it for their livelihood.

Shiv Sena starts signature campaign for Statehood

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Demanding restoration of statehood to J&K and jobs here exclusive to the locals, Shiv Sena today launched a signature campaign.

On the directions of Manish Sahni, Shiv Sena president, the signature campaign was launched today in Bari Brahmana area of Samba district. More than 2000 people participated and supported the statehood demand.

Speaking on the occasion, Shiv Sena Women Wing President, Minakshi Chhibber said there has been a lot of enthusiasm among the youth towards the campaign.

"On day one of the campaign, over 2000 people from different age groups came out in this chilly cold and put their signatures in the support of statehood demand," she said.

Chhibber also said, this shows how, irrespective of their political beliefs, religious and regional

lines, people are supporting the demands raised by Shiv Sena.

"People want the centre to restore Statehood to J&K," she maintained adding that jobs in

J&K must also remain reserved for the locals of J&K. Chhibber informed that Shiv Sena has fixed a target of 10 lakh signatures from J&K during the campaign.

"We will achieve our target of 10 lakh signatures soon. After completion of the campaign, a representation will be sent to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further assert our demands for statehood," she said.

Shiv Sena General Secretary, Vikas Bakshi, Secretary, Raj Singh and Pawan Singh were also present on this occasion.

11 bovines rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Nagrota police today foiled a bovine smuggling bid by arresting two persons illegally transporting 11 bovines in a truck.

Police sources said that a truck bearing registration number JK19-2834 was intercepted at Sidhra Bridge police naka when it was on its way towards Udhampur.

They said on search of the truck, 11 bovine animals without any permission were found loaded in the truck. The driver of the truck, Mubarak Ali son of Imran

and his associate Rayaz Ahmed son of Mohd Dawood, both residents of Batote, were arrested by the police and the vehicle was also seized.

"A case vide FIR number 07/2021 under relevant Sections of Law has been registered in this connection at police station Nagrota," sources said, adding, the arrest and seizure was made a police team headed by ASI Liaquat Ali of police post Sidhra under the supervision of SHO Nagrota Inspector Mohd Shoket.

Cong sit-in a political gimmick: Raman Suri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Congress party's plan of staging protest outside all Governor Houses across the country on January 15, in support of farmers' agitation against farm laws, is nothing but mere politics to stay relevant. The fact is that, left with no issues the Congress party is trying to exploit those sitting at protest in the name of farmers' agitation and create an unrest in the country.

This was stated by BJP J&K Executive Member, Raman Suri in a statement issued here, today. He said that Congress never cared for farmers and itself allowed middlemen to loot their hard-earned money. Had Congress been so sincere, it would have raised the income of farmers and not allowed them to commit suicide during its rule.

Now that new farm laws have been implemented across the nation, farmers will get due price of their crop and their income will also increase. The farmers will now be able to sell their crop as per their choice and at a place where they will get fair price. Contrarily, Congress continued to handover Mandis to Arthiyas, who in turn controlled farm produce without owning any land.

Three accident victims succumb

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Three persons injured in separate road accidents in Jammu and Samba districts today succumbed to their injuries at Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu.

A man identified as Gulzar Ahmed (35) son of Abdullah, resident of Srinagar (at present living in Vijaypur in Samba district) was shifted here at GMCH following a road mishap at Bishnah in which he had suffered grievous injuries. Similarly, Ram Lal (60) son of Titru Ram, resident of Gurha Salthia (Vijaypur), was injured in a road accident at Vijaypur and was undergoing treatment at GMCH Jammu. However, both succumbed to their injuries today at about 4.10 am.

Likewise, a young man named Sanjeev Kumar (30) son of Prem Nath, resident of Radma (Ramgarh) had suffered serious injuries in a road mishap at Bari Brahmana in Samba district. He was also undergoing treatment at GMCH Jammu but today at about 2:50 pm he succumbed to his injuries.

The bodies of all the three deceased were sent for post-mortem while the concerned police had taken cognizance of the matter.

Provide internet facility in Marwah

Sub Division Marwah is the far flung area of District Kishtwar where people have no basic facilities like proper motorable road, electricity, telecommunication service, internet facility, door to door water, unavailability of doctors and nurses in hospitals, lack of teaching staff in High schools, Higher secondary schools as well as GDC Marwah. Maximum Govt offices are functioning at Kishtwar as camp offices due to not availability of basic facilities especially internet.

Internet is one of the basic needs of 21st century. At present time using of internet is the fundamental right of every citizen, because internet is the best mode for raising the issues and problems of public in front of administration. We can not address our problems with out internet facility in a proper way. Newspapers, News channels and social media sites are running through internet. With out internet life becomes hell in the era of digitalisation and modernisation.

But unfortunately the people of Marwah, Dacchan and Warwan don't have internet facility in the era of digital India. The students of Marwah, Dacchan and warwan are facing lot of difficulties during their study and filling of online forms for jobs and scholarships.

During the pandemic of Covid-19 Ministry of Education GOI issued guidelines for providing of online classes, online interviews, online examinations and online coaching courses. But the students of Marwah, Dacchan and Warwan could not avail any benefit during the pandemic of covid -19. The students of subdivision Marwah are worried regarding their future. There are no online /offline teaching facility available during the pandemic. Since schools are closed due to lock down and now winter vacations, Online classes are not possible with out internet.

I request to LG UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Govt of India to install Jio and Airtel towers at Marwah, Dacchan and warwan, and regulate the BSNL Towers properly which are already installed there but due to not availability of electricity and solar power plant BSNL Towers are not functioning properly. The people of three tehshils are suffering badly in the era of digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Vijay Kumar Dhar
Research Scholar University of Jammu

Plea to Project Director NHAI

We the residents of Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua Districts request the Project Director National Highways Authority of India NHAI-PIU Channi Himmat, Jammu to relax the limit of 20 kms to 50 kms for issuing monthly Toll Plaza passes to private/local car owners travelling through two Toll plazas, viz Toll plaza Thandi Khui and Toll Plaza Ban Nagrota as thousands Government employees as well as other entrepreneurs who are local residents living within these limits travel to and fro daily.

Presently the residents living in the radius of 20 kms of these toll plazas can get monthly pass by paying Rs 280 per month, as per the scheme, and others have to pay Rs 100 per trip to and fro, but the need of hour and reasoning says that any local private vehicle in the District of toll plaza and of adjoining Districts upto 50 kms, 'must not be charged' trip basis at all. So any resident and owner of private vehicle having registration there should be given monthly pass at nominal fee.

Anyway till this magnanimity finds favour, request to Director is to broaden the present scheme by modifying the present range of 20 kms to 30 kms at least, if not possible 50 kms, till local private car owners are fully exempted keeping in view the financial hardships faced by local people.

This way there shall be cordial relationship between locals and concerned toll authorities.

Durga DSass Sharma, Senior Citizen
Advocate Jammu

Woes of Jawahar Nagar locality

Jawahar Nagar is very close to Talab Tiloo Chowk across the nullah. It is at the centre of Talab Tiloo locality but in totally ruinous condition. Broken drains overflow with filth and garbage, the link road is in shambles being all potholes because it has not been repaired for last two or three decades, water supply pipes are leaking, street lights non-existent and the power supply has drastic cuts for hours at end day after day. Sanitary conditions are horrible. It is Ward 40 and the ward member has never been seen in the locality as it is perhaps a reserved membership. Moreover as there is no mohalla committee in Jawahar Nagar, the JMC cares a fig for the locality. Denizens ask the question do we belong to any administrative branch? Will the LG or any of his team of advisors or secretaries care to have a look at this desolate locality in the heart of Jammu and alleviate the grievances of the people?

Residents of
Jawahar Nagar

SR College organizes 'Optional' workshops

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: The SR College of Competitions (SRCC) organised day-long workshops for Sociology and Political Science Optional, aiming at guiding IAS/KAS aspirants.

Sociology in his 90-minute session. He cleared myths about this favourite Optional by quoting examples of those successful candidates in the past. "Despite adverse weather conditions, a good number of IAS/KAS aspirants turned up for the workshops and gained the knowledge about their possible Optional subject for the Civil Services examinations. The workshops are our regular feature wherein students are guided by the expert faculties from within and outside J&K," informed Centre Head of SRCC, Praful Sharma.

Meanwhile, the SRCC has already started the test series for Preliminary examinations. It was also decided to conduct tests for the Mains in the last week of this month. Various methods of preparations for the subject also came up for discussion and students were informed about the possible sources to grab the required subject information. In the meantime, subject expert, Aamir Ismail helped the students understand other Optional.

The expert faculty in Political Science, also called as Political Science International Relations (PSIR), helped the target students understand the subject in terms of the examination. He divulged in detail the ways and means to secure maximum marks.

Man electrocuted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: A man suffered grievous injuries this evening due to electrocution in Chatha area of city outskirts.

"The victim was identified as Ghulam Hussain (40) son of Raj Ali, resident of Barjala (Satwari)," police sources said. They said the victim was walking towards his home while carrying something on his shoulder which came in contact with a live wire of an electric pole.

They said with grievous burn injuries, the man was shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, where his condition was stated to be critical till the last reports came in. Satwari police had taken cognizance of the matter, sources added.

Contaminated drinking water in Udhampur

This is to draw the attention of the District Administration Udhampur towards the contaminated water being supplied by the



Jal Shakti Department Udhampur to the citizens. The matter has been raised with the concerned officials a number of times but

nothing has been done in this matter. There is apprehension among people that if potable safe water is not supplied to the residents it may lead to outbreak of any epidemic. Already people have been complaining about water borne diseases in the area.

Therefore the administration is requested to look into the matter before it may assume alarming proportions.

K Kumar
Udhampur

Repair road and drains in Lower Shiv Nagar

We the residents of Lower Shiv Nagar, Ward No. 33 Lane No. 16, near AG office Jammu, draw the attention of concerned



authorities towards the deplorable condition of road and drains in the area. The drains do not have any outlet here, with the result, water in them stinks and often flows on the road causing great inconvenience to residents. We request the authorities to repair the road (Lane No. 16) and drains of the Mohalla without further delay.

Romesh Khullar
Lower Shiv Nagar, Jammu

JMC Councillor starts work of lanes, drains

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Ward 30 Councillor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Sonika Sharma today started construction work of lanes and drains here at Talab Tiloo.

Secretary JKPC, Sanjeev Panda; Janak Raj Mehra, Ward President; Pt. Vishwanath, Darshan Verma, Santosh Bhagat, B.D Gupta, Sunny Jatt, Jatinder Sarangal, Kishore Sharma, Gudi, Ricky Sharma, Vikas Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Sanjeev Panda said that service to the people is his motto and he remains available to common people all the time.

Councillor Sonika Sharma said that construction and repairs of lanes and drains is the routine process but unfortunately for the last 3-4 years these works have been slowed down might be due

to paucity of funds. She said, now the situation is better and all the pending works related to construction of lanes, drains, streamlining supply of water and electric supply would be improved.

Pedestrian hit by car

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Jan 10: An elderly pedestrian got injured after he was hit by a car near Chenab bridge in Baradari area of Reasi, here today.

The injured was identified as Bhagu Ram (70 years), son of Masu, resident of Seela Reasi. He was immediately shifted to DH Reasi for treatment from where he was referred to GMC Jammu for advance treatment.

As per the information, a Mahindra XUV car, without registration number, hit the victim when he was on way to home. Driver of the car fled the scene along with the vehicle. Police has registered a case in this regard at PS Reasi.

Congratulations Newly elected members of Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Centre

In recently held elections for Indian Institute of Architects, J&K following members have been elected for the term 2020 - 2022

Ar. Vikas Dubey (Chairman)	Ar. Vishal Abrol (Vice Chairman)	Ar. Sanjeev Mahesh Mahajan (Hon. Treasurer)
Ar. Anil Verma (Jt. Hon. Treasurer)	Ar. Navin Gupta (EC Member)	Ar. Satish Chander Bhagat (EC Member)
Ar. Vishal Bhatti (EC Member)		

JTC, SKF activists take out 'Kafhan' rally

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: The protesting Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) activists whose dharna entered into 101th day today for solution of long pending demands of displaced people from Valley today took out a 'Kafhan' rally. The rally was led by JTC and SKF pres-



JTC and SKF activists taking out a rally in Jagti on Sunday.

101th day of JTC and SKF protest sit-in but till date the Government has not met the demands. Pandita said if the Government does not meet the demands as soon as possible, the agitation will take a critical turn. Pandita accused BJP Government of persecuting Kashmiri Pandits while the KPs have been living in exile for the last 31 years, but the Government has not solved the problems till date. "We would like to inform the UT and Central Government that the monthly cash relief is very low and since 2014, there has been a lot of inflation hence the same

ident Shadi Lal Pandita. The activists of two organisations wearing Kafhan blocked the Jagti road for two hours. The protestors warned the UT and Central Governments to meet the demands immediately. The were wearing shrouds on their bodies, heads and arms and were demanding increasing the monthly cash relief of relief holders from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per family. Addressing the protesters, Shadi Lal Pandita said today is the

be increased" he added.

He also demanded one job to each displaced family which has no serving Government employee by announcing a special package of 20,000 jobs with 5000 class fourth posts.

He also demanded launching of on spot recruitment drive in JK Police and para military forces for migrant youth, construction of three satellite townships for settlement of Pandits in Valley and free ration to displaced pension holders.

Dr Babar Afzal conferred Global Changemakers Award 2021

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 10: Dr Babar Afzal, who is associated with Pashmina, has been invited by 'Project 100' to share his work, journey and vision ahead for the industry eco-system at a profiled international event in March 2021.

A handout stated that his life's work and journey was selected to be turned into a documentary titled 'Call of Pashmina' by international directors and has also won over seven international awards.

Afzal left a Silicon valley career to highlight complex issues concerning Pashmina eco-system which include climate change leading to the displacement of nomadic and weaver communities, preserve the diminishing species of the delicate Pashmina goats, fight against exploitation by traders and middle-men, prevent demoralisation and depression among artisans, introduce healthcare and education in the community and building a tech-

nology of trust for the consumers of Pashmina around the world.

His work has won him national and international awards like Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award, Dr B.R Ambedkar Award, Shri Rabinathan Tagore Award, Promising Indian Award, The Karmaveer Chakra Silver and Bronze, The Bharat Gaurav Award, Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Honoris Causa etc.

He is using a new art form as a centre piece to reposition Pashmina on the global platform to trigger a conversation about sustainability.

The prestigious award was conferred by Project 100 which aims towards a sustainable environmental solution and selects organization and individuals from around the world who are working and contributing in powerful manner within their societies.

The Jury congratulated Dr. Afzal for this honour and encouraged him for doing the work which is going to impact one million lives across the region.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 21 animals rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Jan 10: A team from Police Station Lakhampur succeeded in foiling major bovine smuggling attempt and rescued 21 bovine animals apart from seizing the container involved.

A police team under the supervision of SHO Lakhampur Inspector, Sanjeev Chib during routine checking intercepted a suspicious container bearing number HR35X-8549 coming from Punjab and heading towards Lakhampur.

The vehicle was signaled to stop and on its thorough checking, 21 bovine animals were found loaded in it that were being illegally transported to Kashmir valley.

An FIR No. 05/2021 U/S 188/IPC 11/PCA Act has been registered in this case and further investigation is underway.