

Union MoS Social Justice e-inaugurates various projects

Excelsior Correspondent

BANDIPORA, Oct 6: As a part of Central Government's outreach to J&K, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale today e-inaugurated various developmental projects in Bandipora.

During his visit, the Minister formally e-inaugurated the 1000 LPM Oxygen Generation Plant at Government District Hospital Bandipora installed at the cost of Rs 6.75 crores. He also inaugurated the complex of Government Middle School Saderkoot Bala and Government Primary School Sadunara.

The Minister also released a book on domestic violence compiled by Mahila Shakti Kendra Bandipora and One Stop Centre Bandipora in collaboration with the district administration.

Urging people to take benefits from various Central Government schemes, the Minister said that the Government has undertaken several initiatives for the overall development of the people with special focus on empowerment of the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society.

He said that the Ministry of



Union MoS Social Justice Ramdas Athawale presenting certificate during visit to Bandipora on Wednesday.

Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing various schemes for the social, educational and economic development of the target groups with considerable improvement.

Sharing the vision of the Prime Minister, Athawale said that "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas" slogan by the Prime Minister is not merely a slogan but a mission that will ensure the paradigm shift in the socio-economic condition of the people who belong to the weaker sections of the society. He said that the PM wants his ministers to assess on-ground situation and take feedback from the public to bring

about positive changes. Later, the Minister interacted with public delegations who highlighted their grievances and raised several demands before the Minister. Athawale assured that the Government will attend to their grievances on priority basis.

The Minister also visited sector headquarter BSF at Madder and interacted with BSF Jawans. He hailed their services in protecting the lives of the people and the integrity of the country. Athawale was accompanied by Chairman District Development Council Abdul Gani, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmad, Director General Social Welfare Department B. A. Dar, Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zahid, Additional Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Ahmad Mir, and other senior officers of the district.

Reiterating the Prime Minister's vision for Ladakh to develop as a carbon-neutral state, Lt Governor Mathur stated that the focus of development in Ladakh would be the primary sector. "In Ladakh's endeavour to develop its primary sectors viz animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, the much-required handholding would be provided to the entrepreneurs of Ladakh," stated LG Mathur.

Addressing the gathering, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson stressed the need for a specific single-window system for the young entrepreneurs and producers to overcome certain challenges they have been facing to date. Earlier, Chairman, MSME Development Forum, Rajnish Goenka, presented welcome address.

On the second day, Moses Kunzang, Director, Industries & Commerce Department and Rohit Lamba, Brand Head Jindal Steel & Power and Head of Sales Jindal & Power spoke on 'Steel & Energy: The key players of Ladakh'.

Similarly, a conversation was also held with Rajnish Goenka and a session was held on the Policies and Schemes of MSME's. Also, a presentation on MSME Policies & Schemes was presented by Deputy Director, Harish Yadav.

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1st Ladakh MSME Business Investment & Job Creation Expo concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 6: The 1st Ladakh MSME Business Investment and Job Creation Expo concluded today at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh.

The two-day Entrepreneurship Development Conclave was organized by the MSME Development Forum in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, Ladakh.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Government of India, Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the event in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, R K Mathur, CEC/Chairman LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Executive Councillors of LAHDC Leh, dignitaries from various Government and non-Governmental organizations and concerned officers from the administration of Ladakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, shared that the event would provide a platform for the youth to explore better opportunities. He sanctioned the proposed development of trout fish farming and hatchery in the Nubra sub-division worth Rs 2.30 crore. He also approved the proposed skill training and capacity building centre in Diskit, Nubra, and developing trout fish feed mill in Ladakh. He hoped that UT Ladakh would proactively implement the Central Government schemes and assured to provide all the necessary support.

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DC Anantnag Dr Piyush Singla addressing people at Qazigund on Wednesday.

DC Anantnag meets PRI Reps, officials; reviews working

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, Oct 6: As part of the Government's public outreach cum grievance redressal programme, District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla today held a meeting with general public, their elected representatives and delegations at Town Hall Qazigund, here. The programme was attended by Member DDC Vessu-Qazigund, BDC Chairperson Vessu, President MC Qazigund, ADDC, CPO, SDM Doorn, ACD, CEO, CMO, CHO, DPO, Tehsildar, BDO, BMO, engineers of R&B, PHE, PDD and other officers.

During the programme, the local people and PRI members put forth their grievances and demands like up-gradation of facilities at Qazigund Hospital, macadamisation and construction of roads, PMAY sanctions, water supply issues, restoration of Panzath springs, installation of



PHE employees staging protest outside Chief Engg's office at BC Road in Jammu on Wednesday.

PHE employees protest, allege CE fails to resolve their issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: The permanent employees of the PHE/Jal Shakti Department today held strong protest and alleged that Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu has completely failed to solve their genuine and justified issues.

A large number of employees of the department under the banner of PHE Employees United Front (Jammu Province) assembled at the BC Road office complex of Chief Engineer PHE Jammu today and started massive protest demonstration. Senior Trade Union leaders-Subhash Verma, Balbhadar Sharma, Kartar Chand Dubey, Rajesh Jamwal, Ajay Sharma, Ravi Hans, Naresh Kumar and others were leading the protest.

The protesting employees were raising slogans in support of their demands. Several senior Trade Union leaders addressed the gathering and criticized the Chief Engineer PHE Jammu for not giving them time to listen to their grievances/issues. They alleged that Chief Engineer did not have time for its employees to listen and resolve their genuine and justified issues. He is involved only in his selective works with vested interests.

The issue of conducting DPC meeting was not touched during his 15 months stay here so far. Even he did not care for the directions from the Chief Secretary in this regard. No seniority lists of the permanent employees of the department are being maintained and issued. He is



Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala addressing a public gathering in Udhampur.

Union Minister conducts Public Outreach Programme in Udhampur

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 6: As part of the Central Government's initiative, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala conducted Public Outreach Programme at Government Higher Secondary School Block Jaganoo of District Udhampur today.

On reaching Jaganoo, the Union Minister interacted with Youth Club members, Panchayat plantation committees, Paani Samitis and SHGs. The Union Minister planted trees in the premises of GHSS Jaganoo. He called upon everyone to contribute more in environmental protection by planting more and more trees in the area.

The Union Minister also inaugurated various develop-

mental works of Rural Development Department executed under 14th FC, PMAY-G, SBM-G, MGNREGA etc at Block Jaganoo of District Udhampur. These include community sanitary complexes, buildings, water tanks, bowlies, PMAY-G houses, protection works, land development works, lane drain C&B paths, ponds, wells, play grounds, cremation/passenger sheds, tractor roads, culverts and drainage channel among others.

The Union Minister also inaugurated the trout rearing unit Kirchi Block Latti-Marothi, District Udhampur under languishing project.

Later, the Union Minister also distributed Soil health cards, maize sheller, wheel chairs, crutches, hearing aids, KCC, Mamta kits, Power tiller under horticulture sector, Ayushman Bharat cards and sports kits among the beneficiaries. The Union Minister also visited the historical Jaganoo fort got feedback about the historical fort.

The Union Minister said that Government has empowered PRIs and they are acting as bridge between Government and public and pace of development has increased in all sectors. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched PM-KISAN and under this scheme, all small and marginal farmers are provided with income support in three instalments through DBT in their bank accounts.

The Union Minister said that agriculture and allied sectors are playing a vital role in the devel-

Delimitation delayed, elections denied in J&K: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent

CHENANI, Oct 6: Accusing the present regime at the Centre of repeatedly postponing Assembly elections in J&K on one pretext or the other, JKNPP Chairman and former Minister, Harsh Dev Singh said that vested interests were the biggest stumbling block in the restoration of popular Govt in the UT.

"It was during 2014 elections that the BJP promised Delimitation of Assembly constituencies in J&K so as to end the political bias perpetuated against Jammu region due to uneven distribution of the said seats amongst the two regions of J&K. It however floundered in initiating the process of Delimitation till 2020 and even after that the Delimitation process continues to proceed at a snail's pace thereby giving the impression of lack of seriousness on the part of powers that be for restoring democratic Govt in J&K," he said while addressing public meetings in village Satyalta and Yug-Dhar, the remotest belts of Chenani constituency during his two days tour.

Alleging that the BJP Govt at the centre was averse to not only holding delimitation in J&K but also to elections, Singh said that it wanted to continue its proxy

rule in the new UT and retain all powers to itself. He said that the people of J&K were being deprived of their democratic rights of having a duly elected Govt of their choice.

"With the last Assembly having been dissolved in 2018, the elections to legislature were required to be held immediately thereafter in consonance with the rule of law. The BJP regime, however, not only defied the democratic norms and procedures but also overlooked the basic law enunciated by the Supreme Court which envisaged holding of Assembly elections within 6 months in all states where Assemblies were prematurely dissolved", divulged Singh.

"With uncertainty looming large over the early Delimitation of constituencies, the UT of J&K is doomed to be governed by proxies from outside the State having hardly any accountability to the masses whom they ruled. As a consequence, therefore the people are suffering on multiple counts including the basic essentials of life with an apathetic bureaucracy indifferent to their woes and sufferings", maintained Singh. He assured the people to project their issues before the concerned authorities and ensure a time bound settlement thereof.

Pak PM, Taliban truthful entities for Mehbooba: Bali Bhagat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat in a hard hitting rejoinder to PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's statement that narrative by Government on normalcy in Valley is fake, said that former Chief Minister India is liar and Pak PM Imran Khan and Taliban are truthful entities.

In a statement issued here, the former Minister said that

Mehbooba is exposed once again for her baseless allegations against the country only to satiate her hidden agenda of regaining the lost ground in Valley.

"Instead of playing the significant role in improving life and status of the people of J&K for being their political representative she prefers to mislead them and spread anarchy in order to corner BJP Government despite the fact that PM Narendra Modi has taken so many remarkable steps to usher in era of peace and progress in J&K and ensure that youth swayed by Pakistan and separatists become part and parcel of mainstream and become meaningful citizens of the country", he said and expressed hope that sense may prevail on her and she will play the pivotal role in showing right direction to people.

He said that people like Mehbooba are more or less responsible for the turmoil in the Kashmir Valley as they satiated their own vested interests under the K-issue and befooled people by relying on lies and deceit.

Era of monopoly, nepotism ends in J&K: Pathania

Excelsior Correspondent

MANWAL, Oct 6: BJP Spokesperson and former MLA Ramnagar Ranbir Singh Pathania asserted that J&K is witnessing a new era of development, peace and pragmatism after bearing a worst brunt of discrimination, widespread corruption, least accountability and naked nepotism.

"Monopoly of few families have been snapped and a clean and competitive environment has been set up wherein a new J&K shall thrive with equal opportunities for youth, women, marginal sections of the society have come out," he said while addressing party cadres at Larey in Manwal.

On the occasion, Pathania was felicitated by the local people for his continuous struggle for forest clearance/start of work on eighteen roads of Ramnagar, especially Wildlife and Forest clearance of Larey to Sumal and Sumal to Sarial to Chowra roads under PMGSY.

Pathania was further vocal about seeking immediate forest clearance of Kirchi to Seoj Dhar and Thial to Chountra Mata roads, Seoj Dhar is an exquisite and unexplored tourist destination which is as good as Switzerland of India. A road has

also been sanctioned and commissioned but the same is pending midway for want of forest clearance. Same is the case with Thial to Chountra Mata road as this road connects the most popular shrines of Sri Chountra Mata with Dhar road. However from the past four years, forest clearance of the said road is awaited. Pingla Mata shrine is also one kilometer away from Thalora to Pinger road pending due to forest clearance patch.

Pathania called for the immediate forest clearance of the aforesaid roads. He further sought maintaining a tourist circuit for maintaining and upbrining a viable tourist activities in the area.

Pathania was accompanied by Kuldeep Singh, General Secretary BJP District Udhampur; Shiv Ram Mandal, General Secretary; Makhan Lal Mandal, Vice President BJP; Durga Dass, Romesh Gupta, Manoj Verma, Mohan Lal, Surinder Singh, Raman Khajuria, Chain Singh (all Sarpanches), Hem Raj Gupta, Baldev Singh, Ved Sharma, Sanjeev Singh, Gurdev Singh, Haji Mohd Din, Namrata Bali, Subedar Rattan Chand, R K Verma, Lochan Singh, Ashok Kumar, SC Pardhan, Sham Lal Vistarak and many others.

HC grants bail in alleged kidnapping, rape case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: The High Court today granted bail with certain conditions to a person accused in rape of a minor girl by recording that there is no ground to presume that the accused has committed the crime.

Justice Sanjay Dhar while granting bail to one Ishfaq Ahmad Khan said that without commenting upon merits of the case, lest it may prejudice the case of the prosecution, it appears that, prima facie, foundational facts that would give rise to the presumption under Section 29 of the POCSO Act against the petitioner, are not established in this case.

"Thus, prima facie, it appears that the presumption of guilt against the accused, in these circumstances, may not get triggered meaning thereby that there is no prima facie ground to believe that the petitioner has committed the alleged crime", court said, adding with "Section 29 of the Act raises a presumption of commission of an offence under Sections 3, 5, 7 and 9 of the POCSO Act against a person who is prosecuted for commission of the said offence, unless contrary is proved".

Justice Dhar said that the court below while rejecting bail application of the petitioner has not taken trouble to even apply his mind to the statements made by the victim and her father under Section 164 Cr. P. C. The trial judge court said, has proceeded on the assumption that the victim

has implicated both the accused in her statement and approached the cases of both the accused without actually appreciating the distinctive features of the roles played by the two accused.

"The material on record, as already discussed, clearly distinguishes the cases of the two accused. While the victim and her father have clearly implicated the co-accused but at the same time, they have stated nothing against the petitioner. This clear distinction between the cases of two accused has been missed by Special Judge while rejecting bail application of the petitioner", Court said.

Court said the trial judge instead of applying his judicial mind to the material on record has concentrated more on impact of the alleged crime on the women education and considering the impact of a crime on the society, a Court, while deciding a bail application, has to form a prima facie opinion as to the involvement of the applicant in the alleged crime by applying its mind to the material on record.

Court concluded that the applicant deserves to be admitted to bail and accordingly directed him to furnish personal bond in the amount of Rs.50,000 with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial court and appear before the trial court on each and every date of hearing with the direction to him not to leave the territorial limits of Union Territory of J&K without prior permission of the trial court.

Committee to suggest SOPs for road maintenance during snow clearance

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Government today constituted a committee to suggest measures/SOPs for optimal maintenance of roads during snow clearance operations, so as to prevent damage to these roads thereby obviating the need for their subsequent restoration.

Headed by Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the committee shall be comprising Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Principal Secretary, PW(R&B) Department; Commissioner Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; representative of Central Building Research Institute; representative of Central Public Works Department; Chief Engineer, R&B Department and any technical expert (s) to be co-opted by the committee as the members.

The committee shall be serviced by the PW(R&B) Department and submit its recommendations by October 30, 2021.



Secretary Cooperatives chairing a meeting on Wednesday.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Cooperative Department

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal today chaired a meeting to review the working of Cooperative Department.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the progress made in the issues like liquidation of JAKFED, Yuva Sahakar Scheme, modernization of Super Bazaars, and other allied issues related to working of the department so as to induce more enthusiasm among the officers of the Department.

At the outset, the Secretary directed the officers to work with honesty and dedication so that the Department is taken to new heights and regains the glory like past times.

The Secretary expressed that the cooperative institutions, particularly, Super Bazaars, have a vital role to play and these institutions can prove to be a game changer with focussed attention. She expressed that the liquidation of JAKFED is to be finalized after addressing all the issues including completion and authentication of records so that the process is taken to its logical conclusion.

The meeting was informed that the matter has been taken up by liquidator with the concerned departments who have defaulted in making payments to JAKFED and accordingly figures shall be worked out by the liquidator for recovery of the amount.

The Secretary directed the concerned officers to submit the details of employees against whom cases are pending with ACB or Crime Branch so that

HC Bar organizes function

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu today organized a function lunch in the honour of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal.

Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal and Justice Puneet Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, M K Bhardwaj, Senior Advocate and President of Bar Association apprised the gathering that the office bearers of the Bar have met the Chief Justice and brought all the problems being faced by the legal fraternity at Jammu.

He further raised the issue of transfer of registration power to Revenue Authorities instead of Judicial officers whereby the lawyers and public are facing inconvenience. He said that Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) is not presently located at

the action on their claims is taken accordingly. She also directed the committee for submitting the records pertaining to retirees upto 20th of this month.

While reviewing the progress on proposals of new registrations, the Secretary emphasized that the registration of new cooperatives and cooperative societies should be completed within two months and weekly reports be submitted about the progress made therein.

Progress on modernization of Super Bazaars was discussed in detail and it was directed that the General Managers should make efforts to complete the work within the specified time frame. The Secretary directed that the Super Bazaars need to launch an advertisement campaign for attracting more footfall of customers apart from participating in making supplies through GeM portal so that the volume of their business and profitability gets a boost.

Regarding bar coding, instructions were given that all the Super Bazaars should ensure that bar coded pattern of billing is in place as the same is transparent and time saving.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Additional Registrars of both the divisions, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars. The meeting was also attended by Shaqfat Iqbal, Special Secretary Cooperatives, FACAO, Additional Secretary and Deputy Secretary Cooperative apart from other senior officers of the Co-operative Department.

It was brought to the notice of the Chief Justice that for the last two years no Consumer Commission is functioning besides the Tribunals are being located at far of places from the court complex due to which both the lawyers as well as litigants suffer.

The Bar president appealed the Advocate General to bring all the problems being faced by the advocates to the notice of Lieutenant Governor for solution/redressal. Chief Justice assured the Bar to look into the matters at appropriate time while taking into confidence all the stakeholders.

Surjeet Singh Andotra, general secretary, conducted the proceedings of the function while as Aditya Sharma, Joint Secretary presented the vote of thanks.