

Shringla, US Deputy Secy discuss Afghanistan, UN

NEW DELHI, Oct 6:

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday held talks with visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman during which they discussed the Afghanistan situation and reiterated their commitment for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

The talks come days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit during which he held the first in-person bilateral talks with President Joe Biden. Both the leaders said the India-US relationship is set to get stronger and closer.

Foreign Secretary Shringla and US Deputy Secretary of State Sherman held talks on taking forward the strategic partnership for global good as envisioned by Prime Minister Modi and President Biden, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

They took stock of bilateral issues ranging from Covid-19, security and defense, economic, climate and clean energy and

people to people linkages. The two discussed issues of regional interest, especially the evolving situation in Afghanistan, as well

Her meeting with Foreign Secretary Shringla was to review the India-US bilateral agenda and outcomes of Prime



Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla meeting US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R Sherman, on Wednesday. (UNI)

as developments at the UN.

They reiterated commitment for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, including through continued cooperation under the Quad, he posted. Wendy Sherman arrived on Tuesday evening on a three-day visit to India.

Minister Modi's recent visit to the USA.

She is also slated to call on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The India-US joint statement issued after the Modi-Biden talks, said: "Reflecting shared values and principles, and growing strategic convergence, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi resolved to advance the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, and looked forward to what the United States and India will achieve together." (UNI)



BJP leaders distributing dry ration among needy.

BJP Legal Cell distributes dry ration among needy

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: BJP Legal Cell, J&K, today distributed dry ration among the poor people as a part of ongoing 'Sewa Hi Samarpan' campaign across the country.

In this connection, a programme was organized at High Court Road Jammu in which Rakesh Mahajan, Incharge All Cells, BJP J&K, Abhinav Sharma, former President Bar Association Jammu, Rajesh Thappa, State Convener BJP Legal Cell, Ved Parkash Sharma Co Convener All Cells, Bhanu Partop Jasrotia and other office bearers of BJP Legal Cell were present and distributed ration among the needy.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Mahajan said that Sewa Hi Samarpan Campaign is dedicated to PM Modi's 20 years of selfless service to the nation and the occasion will be used to highlight his personality and achievements besides executing public welfare programmes like the one organized here. He said that the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi is dedicated to the progress of the most deprived person in society and symbolises foresighted and decisive leadership besides tireless efforts.

Referring to the welfare measures of the Modi Government, he said that the Central schemes started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi were yielding results and people were immensely benefiting from them. He also spoke about various welfare schemes that benefited the poor. He said that 80 crore people had been given free ration during the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers were getting Rs 6,000 per year, and all the poor people were getting houses under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana.

The senior BJP leader appealed to members of various Cells of J&K BJP to monitor shortfalls on various counts especially faced by poor and under-privileged sections and leave no stone unturned to provide all the basic amenities and state of art civic edifice to the people.

'Chhari Mubarak' leaves for Katra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: The 39th Chhari Yatra of Shiv Sena (Bala Saheb Thackeray) to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi left from Jammu in the form of a colourful procession amid drum beats with a huge crowd of devotees singing Bhajans in praise and glory of Maa Bhagwati today.

It is pertinent to mention here that before commencing the Yatra procession, the devotees including the Shiv Sena party leaders from Maharashtra and other States worshipped the 'Akhand Jyoti' and the 'Chhari Mubarak' as per the traditional rituals. Thereafter all the Shiv Sainiks left for the religious city of Katra in the colourful procession after passing through Vikram Chowk, Dogra Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Purani Mandi

and Parade before boarding the buses.

Addressing the media persons, President Jammu and Kashmir unit Manish Sahni informed that 'Chhari Puja' shall be held in the holy cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on the first day of Navratra besides the 'Darshan' of Maa Bhagwati at the sanctum sanctorum of the Shrine.

At Katra, Shrine Board officials, party Reasi president Bhuri Singh and Vikal Abrol, head of Katra unit, warmly welcomed the Yatra.

On the occasion, national organizer Gulab Chand Dubey, Ashok Tiwari, Vinay Shukla, senior leader Sunil Manjrekar, Punjab Party President Yograj Sharma, Uttar Pradesh President Anil Singh and senior leaders from Maharashtra and other states were present.

Students protest against SMVDU administration

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Oct 6: Student held protest against Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) administration in Katra here today.

A large number of students including girls living in the hostel of SMVDU assembled in the premises of Varsity and held protest. They raised slogans against University administration for harassing them on the name of COVID guidelines.

While speaking, the protesting students said that the Varsity administration is not allowing them to go home for emergency purposes citing COVID restrictions.

"Staff members are allowed to go home daily but students were not allowed even for medical problems or importance family functions despite assurance of getting Negative RT-PCR Reports on return", the students said, adding that they are being harassed on the name of COVID guidelines.

"University administration is imposing COVID guidelines on students and not on staff members, which is not justified", the protesting students said.

Later, officials from the University met the protesting students and assured to look into the matter.

On the assurance, the protesting students dispersed.

Banned articles being used as green crackers: SC

NEW DELHI, Oct 6:

The Supreme Court today said that under the guise of green crackers, banned articles are being used by firecracker manufacturers and reiterated that its earlier order banning joint crackers must be complied with by every state.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said the top court is not averse to celebration but not at the cost of life of other citizens.

Celebration does not mean use of loud crackers, it can also be with "Fuljhaddi" and the like which are not noisy, it said.

"Our earlier order must be complied with by every state. Despite the fact that there is a specific ban on joint crackers, if you go to any state or city or any celebration, joint crackers are openly available in the market."

"Our order must be complied with. It is not the question whether one content or the other. It is being sold openly in the market and used by people. We would like to know if a ban is there, how come they are available in markets," the bench said.

As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for petitioner Arjun Gopal, submitted that they have filed an additional affidavit on the basis of the CBI report and what has transpired is indeed very disturbing.

Senior advocate Dushyant

Awareness-cum-outreach program organised for transgenders

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: On the directions of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chairman High Court Legal Services Committee, awareness cum outreach program was organised by Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee Amit Kumar Gupta for educating transgenders residing at Shaheedi Chowk here.

During the program, about 21 transgender residing in a building highlighted the problems faced by them and their children.

The problems, which were discussed include personal security, sanitation, police impersonating as transgender for gaining easy money and the said gangs are defaming the peaceful and law loving genuine transgender community, these gangs are even committing physical assaults on genuine transgender due to which they are in great

BJP leader starts construction work of lane-drain

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: BJP district president Jammu, Vinay Kumar Gupta today toured Ward 45 and its adjacent areas and started construction work of lane and drain at Chib Mohalla in Digiana here with an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakh.

The work will be done by Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Speaking on the occasion Gupta highlighted BJP's programme to celebrate PM Narendra Modi's two decades in public service on October 7.

He said that BJP workers will mark the day by spreading aware-

ness about works done by PM Modi at booth, Ward and Mandal level.

The BJP leader also interacted with the locals and listened their problems. He assured that all the genuine demands would be looked into on top priority.

Vinay Gupta was accompanied by Naresh Singh, BJP leader; Bharat Bhushan, Mandal president; Sat Choudhary, district vice president; Narinder Koki, district secretary; Jatinder Monu Salatia, Ward president; Vinod Sharma, Magar Singh, Sanjay Gupta, Yash Pal Chib, Vijay Sharma, Kashmir Singh Chib and Prabhat Singh.

HC quashes PSA, directs release of detainee

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: High Court today quashed the detention of a detainee under Public Safety Act and directed the authorities to release him from preventive custody.

Justice Sanjay Dhar allowed the petition of detainee-Nissar Ahmad Qazi seeking quashing of his detention order passed by the District Magistrate Pulwama with a view to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State. The order passed by the detaining authority (DMP) in exercise of powers conferred to him under Section 8 of the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

"The impugned order of detention is quashed. Direction is issued to the respondents to release the detainee from the preventive custody forthwith, provided he is not required in connection with any other case", Justice Dhar directed.

Petitioner-Qazi has sought nullifying of the detention order on the ground that the same has been passed mechanically without application of mind, inasmuch as the grounds of detention are mere reproduction of the dossier. He contended that the Constitutional and Statutory

procedural safeguards have not been complied with while passing the detention order the material which formed the basis of the grounds of detention and the consequent order of detention has not been furnished to him.

2 youth killed in road mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Oct 6: In a tragic road accident, two youth died when their Scorpio car rolled down in a deep gorge near Battel area of Amas, here today.

The deceased were identified as Sourav Thakur, age 19 years, resident of Nagrota, Jammu and Vajjitter Singh, age around 24 years, son of Prem Singh, resident of Thilla Mahore.

The Scorpio car JK02AX-6036 was on way from Sawalkote to Gagger in tehsil Amas when it met with the accident. Sourav Thakur, who was driving the car, apparently lost control over the steering and the vehicle slipped into a deep gorge resulting into the spot death of both the persons.

With the help of locals, Police removed the dead bodies from completely damaged vehicle in the gorge.

Dave, appearing for manufacturers' association of firecrackers, contended that the industry should work as per the protocol issued by the government.

"It is an organised industry. Around five lakh families depend on us. So far Sivakasi is concerned, we are taking all the precautions," Dave said.

The apex court said the main difficulty is about implementation of the orders issued by it.

"Have you seen the reply by the manufacturers. What they say is very surprising. They say that when they are found to have purchased a huge quantity of barium salt, it is to be kept in godown but not to be used for manufacture. It's not for show that they are keeping it godown," the bench said.

Senior advocate Rajiv Dutta said if one or two manufacturers are violating the orders the whole industry should not suffer.

The apex court asked the parties to exchange copies of counter affidavits filed in response to the CBI report and posted the matter for hearing on October 26

The apex court had earlier said the CBI report on use of toxic chemicals in manufacturing of firecrackers is very serious and "prima facie" it appears that there has been violation of the court's orders on use of barium and labelling of fireworks.

It had noted that manufacturers such as Hindustan Fireworks and Standard Fireworks purchased barium in huge quantities and used these chemicals in the fireworks.

The apex court had on March

3, 2020 directed the Joint Director, CBI at Chennai to make a detailed investigation and submit report within six weeks on the alleged violation of the court's earlier orders by the manufacturers by using the ingredients which have been banned and mislabeling their products contrary to the directions of this court.

It had taken a stern view of the issue when senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan stated that these manufacturers were openly flouting the court's order.

The apex court had ordered six manufacturers to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt of its orders.

The SC had said it cannot infringe the right to life of other citizens under the guise of employment while considering a ban on firecrackers and its prime focus is the right to life of innocent citizens.

The apex court had earlier refused to impose complete ban on sale of firecrackers and said that sale can happen through only licensed traders and that only green crackers can be sold. Online sale of firecrackers has been completely banned.

The verdict had come in response to a plea seeking a ban on manufacturing and sale of firecrackers across the country to curb air pollution.

In the past, the apex court had said that while deciding on a ban on firecrackers, it is imperative to take into account the fundamental right of livelihood of firecracker manufacturers and the right to health of over 1.3 billion people of the country. (PTI)

Dokalbal Wadoora sans ration ghat, people suffer

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Even as fair price shops mushroomed across the Valley, there still are several areas such as the Dokalbal Wadoora Bala belt of Zaingair Sopore in north Kashmir where people are made to travel a distance to collect their monthly ration.

Due to the absence of a ration ghat in their area, the residents said that the elderly including that of women are left with no option but to travel miles even as they have requested the administration to address the issue, but nothing has been done so far.

"We do not have a dedicated ration ghat in the area and due to that we are facing immense difficulties especially the women and elderly," Ghulam Mohiuddin, a resident said.

He said that the residents have to walk around 3 kilometres through orchards as the area also lacks effective road connectivity. "We have been raising the issues that we are facing from time to time but nothing has been done so far in

this regard," he said.

The residents said that in the modern age, the area is lacking almost all the basic facilities with the absence of ration ghat adding to their miseries. "Being elderly, I have to walk distance to reach the ration ghat; we have raised this demand to the Administration, but to no avail; they do not even pay heed to our issues," one of the ladies said.

She added that at times they reach the ration ghat for the collection of ration and find out that the depot is closed. "We end up coming back without collection of ration and walking kilometres; the authorities need to take up our matter and resolve the same without any delay," the residents said.

Officials said that the area has a meagre population and does not qualify to have a separate ration ghat. "The establishment of the fair price shops has been barred and once that is resumed, we will be covering the areas that have remained uncovered so far which will include the area in focus as well," the officials said.



Senior Congress leader, Rajni Bala starting up-gradation works of lane and drain in Ward 60.

Rajni starts development works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Senior Congress leader and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Councillor, Rajni Bala today started up-gradation works of lane and drain at Mohallah Poonch in Paloura area of Ward 60 here.

Addressing the gathering, the Councillor said that lane and drain up-gradation was the long pending demand of residents of the area as the same were badly damaged since long.

The senior Congress leader said that many development works are in the pipeline in her Ward for which tendering has been done and the work may start soon.

She said that other areas of Ward 60 are also kept on priority and wherever necessary, the development works are being taken up on war footing basis so that people do not face any problem regarding infrastructure in their areas.

Rajni Bala claimed that she keeps on monitoring the progress of projects initiated in the Ward to ensure their speedy completion.

She assured the people of the

area that all their genuine demands would be looked on priority and assured that same will be forwarded to the concerned authorities for early approvals and execution of the works.

Meanwhile, Rajni Bala also dedicated high mast lights to the residents of Upper Paloura Chowk near a temple in her Ward.

SSB constable shoots self, hospitalised

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) constable shot himself with his service weapon outside washroom near Civil Secretariat here today.

As per police sources, a SSB constable identified as Songrahasmukh, son of Hasukh of Gujarhat shot himself with his service weapon outside a washroom near Civil Secretariat.

The victim was immediately rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where his condition was stated to be critical when last reports came in.

Parade Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates International Workshop

Excelsior Correspondent

AWANTIPORA, Oct 6: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today inaugurated three-day International Workshop on 'Bridging Excellence in Cardiac Nursing Practice' on the occasion of Annual Day celebrations of Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology, a constituent college of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here.

Speaking during the inaugural session of the workshop, Advisor Bhatnagar lauded the role of frontline professionals, especially nurses towards the healthcare services specially during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic

He added that the role of nurses was amplified during COVID-19 and they also at times provided much needed emotional support to the patients.

The Advisor in his speech also appreciated the growth of IUST and expressed confidence that the University would do even better in the future. He added that the university has a lot of potential in delivering quality technical and skill education

He remarked that the vision of Lieutenant Governor is to have a transformation in the education and skilling sector keeping in mind the new education policy.

Illegal use of electric poles

JPDCL disconnects Fiber and Cable Network of Airtel, BSNL, others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: In a major drive against illegal usage of poles and other allied network of PDD by various telecom and cable network companies, JPDCL today disconnected Optical Fiber Cable and Local TV Network cables at various places in Jammu. The drive was carried out on the directions of Executive Engineer ED-II, Gandhi Nagar P D Singh and disconnections were carried out at various place including Greater Kailash, Kunjwani, Satwari, Apna Vihar, Shanti Nagar, Digiana among others.

As per the Government order, the PDD shall permit the telecom service providers and other cable networks to utilize existing poles on rental basis for supporting OFC and other Cables. The pole infrastructure shall be provided to various Telecom Service

Providers and Cable Networks at a rent of Rs. 500 per pole per annum.

The Telecom Service Providers and Local Cable TV Networks have been repeatedly asked to deposit the requisite rent by the PDD Authorities. However, lack of response forced JPDCL to take extreme step of disconnecting the OFC and Local TV Network Cables. As per the officials of JPDCL, those who donot deposit the rent immediately shall face the brunt in coming days as the disconnection drive against illegal usage of PDD assets shall be intensified.

Those who participated in the drive included Nitin Mahajan, AEE, Sub-Division-II, Gangyal, Rajesh Sharma, AE, Keshav Khajuria, AE, Hiteshwar Sood, JE, IP Singh JE, Sudesh Sharma, JE, Rajesh Kumar JE and Jagjit Singh JE among others.

During the workshop a souvenir was also released by Advisor Bhatnagar on the occasion besides awarding the position holders.

Rivalry between two parties cause of under development in Nagrota: Manjit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Apni Party provincial president Jammu Manjit Singh said that rivalry between two political parties in Nagrota Assembly constituency is responsible for selective development in which a marginalized section of society has been neglected.

Speaking at a public meeting which was organized by vice president, Jammu province, Women Wing, Rupali Rani, the former Minister said that the development is still a distant dream for the people belonging to the neglected section of society in Nagrota as no one listens to them.

"The basic amenities are not being provided to the people and it is happening because of rivalry between two political parties. These political parties claim to be champions of Jammu, but they are not concerned with the people. The politicization of developmental works has made people suffer the most," he said.

He said that the interference in developmental works is behind the basic discrimination with the people. "People are being discriminated against if

they belong to one party and another party opposes the works in their areas. However, Apni Party believes in development of every area without discrimination even if it belongs to rival political party. The people should not be deprived of development, but they should equally be treated and provided developmental opportunities," said Manjit Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, provincial president, Women Wing, Jammu, Namrta Sharma said that under-development in remote areas is causing hardships to the women in villages. "The development is the main issue being faced by the people, especially women in Nagrota constituency and the selective approach with regard to development is the main concern among the residents," Namrta said.

State SC State Coordinator Bodh Raj Bhagat, provincial president, Schedule Tribe Wing, Jammu, Choudhary Shabir Kohli, J&K vice president, Youth Wing, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, District President, Jammu Rural-A, Pushp Dev Kumar Uppal also highlighted the issues of Nagrota constituency.

Rakh Brah residents protest over eviction move

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Residents of Rakh Brah in the Shangus area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district today protested the Government's decision to demolish their homes, which they built over the years after receiving permission from the department of Rakhs and Farms.

According to the resident, the Revenue Department has issued a notice to farmers for the demolition of over 500 houses within a 15-day period. They said the Rakhs and Farms land is located in Tehsil Shangus, in the villages of Rakh Brah, Ranipora, Brah, Kawarigam, and Khullechohar, and has been in the possession of Farmers since 1947.

The residents said the Department of Rakhs and Farms has given farmers permission to build residential houses on the

land from time to time, and there are currently 550 residential houses, 300 cowsheds, and 11 mosques on the land.

"In 1947, villagers were given land for agricultural purposes. Then, in 1958, it was given to the Rakhs and Farms Department, which allowed farmers to build houses on their cultivated land," Chowdhry, Abdul Hameed, Chairman BDC Chotergu, said, adding that the people who are being expelled were living on the land before it was transferred to the department.

They requested authorities for stopping demolition as the same can create the law and order problem in the area. "We request Revenue Department and Rakhs and Farms Department to please look into the matter as poor Gujjars and Bakarwails live on it and have no alternate land," said a resident.