

## Keep wearing face masks until experts say otherwise: Anurag Thakur

NEW DELHI, Oct 21:

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said that people should continue wearing face masks until experts say that they are no longer required.

Briefing media on decisions taken during the Union Cabinet meeting earlier in the day, the minister for information and broadcasting was responding to a question about the use of masks being made voluntary in certain countries as over 75 per cent of their respective populations have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Thakur also urged people who have not taken the COVID-19 vaccine yet, including the naysayers, to get themselves inoculated at the earliest to get protection against the disease.

During the course of the pandemic, decisions were taken based on requirements, he said.



adding that Covid protocols, such as maintaining physical distance, wearing masks and washing hands regularly, played a key role in controlling the further spread of the virus.

People were guided by medical experts and the state governments too followed advisories, he added.

"When it is felt that wearing masks is not required, experts will tell you. But till the time they don't say so, keep wearing masks," Thakur said.

He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leading the country during the pandemic and taking steps to promote vaccine production and providing free ration to the needy for many months during the pandemic.

On India administering over 100 crore Covid vaccine doses, Thakur said, "Vaccination was a big step that gave people a lot of relief during the pandemic. It is a big achievement."

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed the 100-crore mark on Thursday.

More than 75 per cent of India's around 93 crore adults have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while more than 31 per cent have been administered both doses, according to Union health ministry officials. (PTI)

## Sonamarg to be promoted as all season tourist destination: Div Com

Excelsior Correspondent

GANDERBAL, Oct 21: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Sonamarg, where he chaired a high level meeting of officers to review the arrangements being put in place for keeping Sonamarg open during the winters.

At the outset, threadbare discussion was held regarding the necessary preparations and arrangements including water, electricity, health, road, fire service, snow clearing operation, traffic management, firewood and other related facilities to be put in place for keeping Sonamarg open during the winters.

Earlier, Sonamarg Tourist Destination remained closed during the winter due to heavy snowfall and avalanches in Gagangear area and with the commissioning of Z-Morh Tunnel the Sonamarg Tourist Destination shall remain open for the first time in winter also.

Executive Director, NHID-CL (projects) briefed the Div Com about the traffic action

plan through the Z-Morh tunnel and informed that the tunnel shall remain open for one-way traffic movement for light vehicles during winters.

The Div Com directed the BRO to ensure that sufficient machinery and manpower are deployed for clearing of snow from Gagangear to Sonamarg including car parking areas and directed for submitting an action plan to the Div Com office by or before 25th October in this regard.

Regarding water supply, the officers of Jal Shakti Department stated that water supply scheme is already under execution at the Thajiwara area under which water pipes are being laid underground and the water can be supplied to the establishment during the winters as well but the work on the project was stopped by the Forest department for which the Div Com directed the Forest Department to issue clearance at an earliest so that work is started and get completed before the winters.

He also directed for keeping sufficient water tankers available and ensuring necessary repairing works to existing pipe lines to make them functional during winters also to suffice water requirements.

Regarding mobile connectivity, the officials of Jio, Airtel and BSNL service providers were directed to prepare an action plan to ensure all mobile towers in the area remain functional during winters.

Meanwhile, Hotelier Association Sonamarg and other stakeholders also raised several issues like availability of Fire Tenders, Fire wood, Hospital, ATM, Car parking and others.

The Div Com said that the Government is committed to promote Sonamarg as all weather and preferred winter tourist destination, and in this regard all facilities and arrangements would be put in place by the end of this month and all departments are given necessary instructions in this regard.

## Absconder, proclaimed offender not entitled to anticipatory bail: SC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: Supreme Court today held that an absconder or proclaimed offender is not entitled to anticipatory bail and set aside the order of High Court granting bail to such accused.

The bench of Justice M R Shah and Justice A S Bopanna clarified that if anyone is declared as an absconder or proclaimed offender in terms of Section 82 of the Code, he is not entitled to the relief of anticipatory bail.

The Supreme Court said the High Court has committed an error in granting anticipatory bail to the accused ignoring the proceedings under Section 82, 83 of Cr.PC.

"Even the observations made by the High Court while granting the anticipatory bail to the accused that the nature of accusation is arising out of a business transaction and therefore the accused is entitled to the anticipatory bail is concerned, the same cannot be accepted", SC said.

SC said that in the case of a business transaction also there may be offences under the IPC more particularly sections 406, 420, 467, 468, etc and What is required to be considered is the nature of allegation and the accusation and not that the nature of accusation is arising out of a

business transaction.

"At this stage, it is required to be noted that the accused has been charge-sheeted for the offences punishable under sections 406 and 420, etc. and a charge-sheet has been filed in the court of Magistrate Court" SC added and held the judgment of high court while granting bail to the accused in anticipation as unsustainable and quashed a same.

SC granted two weeks' time from the date of pronouncement of the instant verdict to the accused to surrender before the concerned Trial Court and thereafter left it open for him for praying of regular bail, which the SC said, may be considered in accordance with law and on its own merits.

SC has been informed that the accused was avoiding the arrest and even did not co-operate with investigating agency and even after the arrest warrants were issued, the proceedings under sections 82, 83 of Cr.PC were initiated, the High Court ought not to allow the anticipatory bail application.

SC after hearing the submissions of both the parties said, after the investigation a charge-sheet has been filed against accused for the offences punishable under sections 406, 420 of IPC also. Thus it has been found that there is a prima facie case against the accused.

## VC inaugurates lecture series on IPR in JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Industry Academia Partnership Centre (IAPC), University of Jammu (JU) here today started a lecture series on IPR.

JU Vice Chancellor (VC), Prof. Manoj K Dhar was chief guest of the event and he inaugurated the lecture series and hailed the initiative of Prof. Kamal K Kapoor, Convener and IAPC for organizing lecture series on IPR.

He suggested IAPC to hold a skill based workshop on the theme Science Communication to enhance the skills of research scholars in scientific writing.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Kamal K Kapoor, Convener IAPC and Head, Department of Chemistry, JU gave a brief description and objectives of IAPC.

He informed that 'Lecture series on IPR' has been launched as one of the initiatives to train

the faculty, students and research scholars in various aspects of IPR.

Dr. Abhay SD Rajput, Science Communication Specialist and Scientist from Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune was the invited speaker and he delivered a lecture on 'Science Communication, IPRs and Ethics: Where do we lack?'

Prof. Rajnikant, Dean Sciences and Director CDC, University of Jammu, Dr. Rachna from The Business School, University of Jammu, Dr. Nisha Kapoor, from the School of Biotechnology also spoke on the occasion.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Coordinator Campuses, Prof. Seema Langar, Dean Life Sciences, Head Dept of Zoology and Coordinator Institute of Human Genetics, Prof. Satya Paul, Dr. Rachna Mahajan and others were also present on the occasion.

## PM must order probe into allegations raised by Malik: Forum

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: All J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnathi Intellectual Forum has urged the Prime Minister Modi to order Commission of Inquiry to probe serious allegations raised by former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik against some top politicians and a top RSS leader.

In an emergency meeting of Forum's Core Committee members held under the chairmanship of Amrik Singh and join by Surjit Singh Secretary of Forum, the members took up the very sensational issue of corruption revealed by the former Lt Governor of J&K and at present Governor of Meghalaya, SP Malik.

Malik in a big rally at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan raised serious allegations against former J&K Chief Ministers- Dr Farooq Abdullah; his son Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in relation with Roshni Act along with two files out of which one was pertain with . Ambanis and

other was connected with one of senior leaders of RSS.

"The Malik revealed that before to deal with these files, I was told by the concern secretaries of J&K that there is a big fraud and you can get Rs 150 crore from each file and in reply I told that I came here with 5 five Kurtas- Pajamas and will return along with the same. Malik claimed to have taken up this matter with PM Modi. Malik appreciated the PM for his remarks that there should be no compromise on corruption. He had also claimed that a former PDP Minister who claims to be very close to PM, was also involved in another deal," the Forum members said.

The Forum unanimously has taken this issue very seriously and appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to constitute an Inquiry Commission in this regard and if possible the case may be handed to CBI.

The meeting was also attended by Inder Singh- Corporator, Paramjit Singh Ex-Corporator, Kuldip Singh, Jagjit Singh, Nasib Singh, Prof KD Singh, Sudesh Sharma Parshotam Lal and others.

## Man dies due to fall

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: A man died due to fall while working in Bantalab area here, police sources said.

The deceased was identified as Sheru Singh, son of Amar Singh, a resident of Madya Pradesh, at present Barnai.

After conducting post-mortem, the body of the deceased was handed over to legal heirs for last rites.

Chinore Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

**Shastri Bipin Khajuria who has been nominated as non official member of Joint Hindi Advisory Committee by the Ministry of Science and Technology Government of India.**



## JKTA deputation meets DSEJ, raises teachers' issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: A deputation of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Association (JKTA), led by its UT president Bhupinder Singh met Director School Education Jammu (DSEJ), Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma and raised various issues pertain-

confirmation of services of teachers who have completed two years of regular service, restoration of old pension scheme in favour of Grade II and Grade III teachers who were appointed before 1/1/2010 as ReT, provision of leave to teachers deployed in COVID duty during summer/win-



JKTA deputation posing for a group photograph outside DSEJ office Jammu.

ing to teaching fraternity, here today.

The JKTA demanded provision of salary in favour of teachers working under NPS as these teachers are without salary from September, regularization of ReTs who have completed five years period, conversion of left out ReTs to teachers Grade II/III and fast track consideration of mutual transfer cases of teachers appointed under ReT scheme.

The deputation also demanded grant of enrolment permission/post facto permission in favour of teachers who have joined courses before 1/1/2021 till date as recent order issued by administrative department doesn't include such cases, allocation of posts for teachers Grade II/III as per Government order, issuance of circular as per past practice for

ter vacations and rationalization of teaching staff in all schools as per teacher pupil ratio.

"Transfers policy of teaching staff must be made in a more transparent manner and teachers appointed under ReT scheme must be included in transfers to rationalize the staff, besides home and choicest posting to all gazetted and teaching staff who are on retirement," they demanded.

The Director gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured all the issues would be resolved soon.

Akhter Abbas Naik, Joginder Kumar Digra, Hameit Wani, Farooq Daing, Pawan Kumar Verma, Sunil Salaria, Kuldeep Chand, Dhruv Singh and many others were part of the deputation.

## JDA demolishes illegal construction

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) today morning conducted an anti-encroachment drive in EWS Colony Roop Nagar.

During the drive, JDA demolished illegal construction raised by one Harbans Lal son of Kanshi Ram.

A handout of the JDA stated that acting tough against encroachers, the JDA enforcement team headed by Tehsildar, JDA gave a clear message to the perpetrators to refrain from encroaching JDA lands.

## RSS chief unaware of historical events in Kashmir: Soz

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 21: Former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz today said that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is not aware of the historical events with regard to Kashmir.

In a statement here today, Soz said, "The RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has asserted that a large section of Kashmiris want independence from India. Speaking to the RSS workers at Nagpur recently, Bhagwat exhorted the people that, after abrogating Articles 370 and 35-A of the Constitution of India, it was now their duty to take measures to integrate Kashmir with India. He, however, declared that there is a large section of people in J&K State, particularly Kashmir, who feel independence from India is more desir-

able. So, he exhorts people to put in efforts to integrate them (Kashmiris) with the rest of the country," Soz added.

"Bhagwat does not feel the necessity of talking to the people of Kashmir at all, as he thinks that people of Kashmir raise 'technical questions'. The people of Kashmir must now wait to see what measures RSS proposes for integration of Kashmir with India. The statement of Bhagwat also carries a signal that the Govt of India has to follow what the RSS has to propose," he added.

"Bhagwat is not bothered about accuracy of historical events, he exhorts people to return, who were forced to leave Kashmir during Sheikh Abdullah's time! Maybe, he doesn't know that the Sheikh had passed away on September 8, 1982," Soz remarked.

## Modi, Shah took historical decisions for benefit of women: Dogra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Mahila Morcha State president, Sanjita Dogra has said that the Government at the Center led by Narendra Modi has taken historical decisions not only for Hindu women but also for Muslim women and the women of other communities.

In a statement issued here, today she said that the PM, Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah deserves credit for repealing laws like Triple Talaq, giving women their rights and bringing women forward in every field.

She appealed the women of J&K to make the October 24 rally to be addressed by Union Home Minister a historic event. "With our participation we can convey a message that the women of UT are fully with

Government and its every decision taken for the betterment of the UT and welfare of its people" she added.

She said that Karva Chauth is the biggest day for women, that also falls on October 24 and despite being very busy, women should ensure their participation in the rally to compliment Home Minister. Dogra said that the general public and especially the community like Gorkhas, refugees, women, STs, Valmikis etc., who have been particularly benefited from the repeal of controversial articles, are eagerly waiting for Amit Shah's rally to felicitate him.

Dogra said Amit Shah is coming here to address the first public meeting after the abrogation of Article 370 and it is our duty to make it a grand programme.



Congress leader, Sumeet Magotra interacting with people of a village in Udhampur.

## Congress leader listens public problems

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 21: Senior Congress leader, Sumeet Magotra along with Congress activists toured several villages here to know the problems faced by the people there.

Magotra listened grievances of the people of villages Phangyal, Malard and Kawa.

People of these villages highlighted the problem of scarcity of drinking water and worst condition of roads and lanes.

Sarpanch of Kawa Panchayat, Durga Dass told the Congress leader that majority of the families of Kawa Panchayat belong to below poverty line (BPL) category and do not have BPL Ration Cards because these

families are not officially declared as BPL families.

He further said that old many age and widow pension cases are pending with Social Welfare Department for approval but the Department has not approved these.

Interacting with the public of above mentioned villages, the Congress leader said that it is unfortunate that district administration has badly fail to redress public problems.

He assured to raise voice to bring the issues into the notice of concerned authorities of district administration.

Magotra also said that he will also bring the issues into the notice of Congress high command.

## Criminal arrested with sharp edged weapon

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Border Police Post (BPP) Kullian arrested a criminal along with sharp edged weapon.

As per police sources, a police team led by SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Sultan Mirza and assisted by Incharge BPP Kullian ASI Purnan Chand while on patrolling duty arrested a criminal along with sharp edged weapon.

The arrested person was identified as Ankush Kumar alias Anku, son of Sewa Ram of Rangpur Milana RS Pura.

A case FIR Number 116/2021 under Section 4/25 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Miran Sahib and investigation started.

The overall arrest and recovery was made under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Shabir Khan.

## MVD challans auto rickshaws in Katra for overcharging

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: A joint team of the Motor Vehicles Department, Traffic Police and Police Department today exclusively checked auto rickshaws plying in Katra town, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji shrine in Reasi district, on complaints of overcharging and overloading by the three-wheeler operators.

Led by ARTO Reasi Rajesh Gupta, the team challaned 24 auto rickshaws and compounded 28 others.

The joint team imposed a total fine of Rs 64,000 on the violators of Motor Vehicles Act and recovered Rs 41,000 amount on spot.

Five auto rickshaws were seized.

The joint team also visited Ban Ganga and imposed stickers on wrongly parked vehicles for violation of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The drive will continue, Gupta said.

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