

MoS Prahlad Patel concludes two days visit of Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Oct 27: Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel on the second day of his tour, visited General Zorawar Singh Stadium here and interacted with the women Entrepreneurs, Self Help Group members and Doctors as well as Asha Workers and Vaccinators of Health Department of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Prahlad Singh said that the Union Government is committed to ensure transparency and accountability in its functioning which are necessary for democratic and participative governance, as they help build trust and improve impact of schemes.

He asked the officers to devise a mechanism for minimising the documentation process so that maximum people avail benefits of various



Union MoS distributing appreciation certificates.

welfare schemes in a hassle free manner.

On the occasion, the Minister Singh distributed appreciation certificates to the students who participated in various sports events and felicitated the meritorious students of 10th and 12th standards. He also distributed certificate among Anganwadi Workers, Female Vaccinators, staff of Mahila Shakita and also a

cheque of Rs.40, 000 to the beneficiaries under UT Marriage Assistance Scheme.

At last the Minister also paid a visit to the Baba Dhansar where he laid the foundation stone of Water Supply Scheme, Kund Khanyari of Block Pouni under Jal Jeevan Mission with an estimated cost of Rs.123.71 lakhs.

PM re-affirms India's focus on free and open Indo-Pacific

NEW DELHI, Oct 27:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reaffirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and support for ASEAN's centrality in the region.

Modi made the comments while participating virtually at 16th East Asia Summit hosted by Brunei.

The Prime Minister said India remains committed to strengthening respect for shared values of multilateralism, rules-based international order, international law and sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

"Participated in the 16th East Asia Summit hosted by Brunei through video conference. Re-affirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of ASEAN Centrality in the region," Modi tweeted.

Modi said he was looking forward to participating at the

18th ASEAN-India summit on Thursday.

The 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

The ties between India and ASEAN have been on an upswing in the last few years with the focus being on ramping up cooperation in the areas of trade and investment as well as security and defence.

The East Asia Summit is the premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region to deal with issues relating to security and defence. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

Apart from the ASEAN member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.

The East Asia Summit is the premier Leaders-led forum in the Indo-Pacific. Since its inception in 2005, it has played a significant role in the strategic and geopolitical evolution of East Asia. (PTI)

Second dose of Covid vaccine overdue for around 11 crore people: Govt data

NEW DELHI, Oct 27:

Around 11 crore people who have taken the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine have not got themselves jabbed with the second dose even after the expiry of the prescribed interval between two doses, according to government data.

The data showed that over 3.9 crore beneficiaries are more than six weeks overdue for their second dose, around 1.57 crore are up to four to six weeks late, and more than 1.50 crore are up to two to four weeks overdue for their second shot of either Covishield or Covaxin.

Also, over 3.38 crore people are up to two weeks overdue to becoming fully vaccinated. This issue was discussed in a meeting chaired by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya with health ministers and representatives of all states and Union territories on Wednesday. They were asked to focus on such beneficiaries who are overdue for their second dose, official sources said.

The gap between the first and second dose is 12 weeks for Covishield and four weeks for Covaxin. Both doses are needed for adequate protection against severe COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation.

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Bihar together account for around 49 per cent of such beneficiaries who are late for their second dose of vaccine.

The Union Health Ministry has also written to several states and UTs asking them to prioritise administering the second dose to beneficiaries who have not got themselves jabbed with the second shot even after the expiry of the prescribed interval between the two doses, sources said.

More than 76 per cent of India's adult population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with nine states and union territories administering the first dose to

all eligible people.

The eleven states and UTs which completed second dose coverage to more than 50 per cent of eligible beneficiaries are Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Goa, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Over 32 per cent of the country's around 94 crore adults have been administered both the doses, Health Ministry officials said, adding the cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 103.53 crore. (PTI)

DPC Bijbehara demands development of Prachin Amarnath shrine

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: Devasthan Prabandhak Committee (DPC) tehsil Bijbehara and Sirigufwara today demanded development of Prachin Amarnath Shrine at Tejiwara in Bijbehara tehsil of Anantnag district.

The demand was made by the newly elected president of two tehsil Committees, Sanjay Tickoo after taking oath of office.

He said the Amarnath Shrine at Tejiwara is an ancient shrine and people from Puranic period used to visit there on Sawan Purnima. Prior to mass exodus of Pandits thousands used to visit the shrine on the holy festival. The shrine situated on the Pahalgam road will become a centre for pilgrimage tourism and also a boon for the area. He said shrine has the same significance in the Hindu scriptures as the holy Amarnath shrine has and Government should take all steps for its development.

The oath was administered to new body by senior advisors A K Koul and Brijnath Raina. Pran Nath Tickoo and Vijender Mohan Bhat took oath as general secretary and treasurer respectively. They were all elected on October 8 elections of Committee.

The other members of the Committee who took oath were Raj Nath Tickoo, Ramesh Ji and Ranjan Jyotshi as vice presidents of the Committee.

A K Koul, Brij Nath Ji, A N Tickoo and Sanjay Zutshi were nominated as advisors. Vimarsh Jyotshi took oath as secretary and Ravi Ji Shastri as public secretary.

Prof. ML Malla was nominated as Chairman of the Committee for life time. Kuldeep Kumar briefed the audience about the election process.

Treasurer Virender Bhat also spoke on the occasion.

The vote of thanks was proposed by AK Koul, the senior member and advisor of the Committee.

DigiStreet redesigns web experience of Halonix

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: Halonix, a leading brand in the fast moving electrical goods category, has built a strong reputation of being an innovation leader as it has



introduced some category redefining innovations such as Turbo (fast charge) Inverter Bulb, Speaker Bulb - a speaker that lights up like a bulb, DJ Speaker Bulb - Speaker + Millios of colour bulb, Plug & Play Fire Alarm etc.

The new website highlights these innovations in an interesting and dynamic manner ensuring that the product propositions come out strongly and in a compelling manner. The UI/UX is intuitive and easy to use.

"With the new website our main intention was to give the audience a great user experience and to ensure that the website delivers on the credo of Halonix- Innovation in every-

thing we do," said Kavish Arora, COO & Digital Head at DigiStreet Media.

"We are delighted by the fact that we have been able to deliver to the expectations of the leadership team at Halonix and as a result they have entrusted us with more work on digital content curation," Darpan Sharma, CEO at DigiStreet Media added. "We are happy that we are on the cutting edge with our new website and have synergized our entire web experience - social media handles, Amazon store etc with the website," claimed Amar Wadhwa - Marketing Consultant at Halonix.

DigiStreet media is an independent Marcom company that's leading the Creative Communication and Digital Marketing space in India and outside with their offbeat ways mixed with an innovative thought process that delivers the client's very objective every time. The list includes Berger Paints, Alpha Milk, Omaxe, Jackson Power, Apeejay Education, Okaya, Microtek, and HP to mention a few.

H&SC directs strict measures to check illegal water usage

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: Chairman of Health and Sanitation Committee (H&SC) of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and PHE Department expressed concern over the illegal usage of drinking water connections by the consumers across Jammu city and its outskirts.

During monthly meeting of H&SC here today, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Committee Chairman issued directions to the concerned officers for identification of illegal connections of water across Jammu city and for checking if the legally issued connections are not used for purposes other than those for which these are sanctioned.

He said despite warnings there are several people selling water through water tankers across the Jammu city without being registered.

Meanwhile, the issue of sanitation was also deliberated upon in the meeting and all those present in the meeting stressed upon optimum sanitation standards across the City.

The Chairman also directed officials of Health and Sanitation Wing of JMC to prepare a roster for sanitation drives across Jammu city.

He directed to start e-rickshaw services for collection of garbage from the narrow lanes of the City leaving no scope for insanitary conditions.

Man hangs self

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 27: A middle aged man from West Bengal, working here as labourer, committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan hook at his rented accommodation in Pul Mada Chenani.

Reports said that Mukesh Naik (50), son of Dadul Naik, resident of Dhira Line Chanpagudi Nagarkata Talpaiguri, West Bengal, A/P Pul Mada, near Chenani, was founded hanging from the ceiling fan hook under mysterious circumstances.

On being informed by the family members, a Police team from PS Chenani rushed to the spot and shifted the dead body to Sub District Hospital Chenani for the postmortem and other legal formalities.

Cause of provocation in this apparent case of suicide could not be ascertained. Police has registered the case under Section 174 RPC and started further investigation.



Office bearers of Rotary Club Jammu Elite along with doctors posing for a group photograph during cancer detection camp at Jammu.

Cancer detection camp organised

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: A cancer detection camp for ladies was organised by Rotary Club Jammu Elite in collaboration with Inner Wheel Jammu Tawi, Inner Wheel Jammu and Inner Wheel New Gen. Mobile Mammography unit of C.D Van wherein doctors, technicians and female paramedics were arranged from Jalandhar (Punjab) for the screening, here today.

The aim of the camp was to create awareness amongst all women, especially those with the family history of breast cancer, women who haven't suckled their babies and obese ladies. Nearly 100 women benefited today from this cancer detection camp.

The inauguration of the camp was done by the incoming 1st lady for the year 2022-23 of Rotary district 3070 Dr Shivani Chowdhary, whereas Senior Rotarian D.N Sharma at present serving Rotary district 3070 as secretary Global and chairman of Rotary Eye Hospital Udhampur presided over the

function.

Presidents and secretaries of the collaborating Clubs including Daljit Kour, Jyoti Vaid, Anita Goyal, Radhika Sharma, Manisha Sharma, Ambika Samnotra, PDC Dr Santosh Gupta, Club advisor Dr Paramjit Kour, senior Elite Rotarian Gurvirinder Kaur, Jammu Elite treasurer Paramjit Kaur, members of Rotary Elite and Inner Wheel Clubs, Rotary Jammu A.G Meena Jamwal, president and secretary Rotary Mid Town and president Rotary Trikuta were also graced the camp.

Secretary Rotary Jammu Elite Meena Jaggi coordinated the whole project and organised the cancer screening camp with the support of senior Rotarian and District chair youth protection officer P.S Jaggi.

The project convener Pooja Malhotra cum president of Rotary Jammu Elite said that according to WHO women of age 45 years and above should get mammograms every year for early detection of cancer. This will cause 75 percent of cancer cases to be detected at least a year before.

Shah sent a loud, clear message to Pak: Balbir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: Ruling out dialogue with Pakistan by Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Kashmir, has sent a very clear and loud message that Pak country has no role in India's internal matters. His further assertion that he would rather talk to people of Jammu and Kashmir indicates that only our own people have a say in all matters.

This was stated by Jammu and Kashmir, BJP, spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, while terming the stand of the Union Government as an eye opener for regional political parties, whose leaders have been only singing songs of Pakistan and advocating talks with it.

Balbir further said that for every citizen the sovereignty of the country is most dear and the leaders of NC and PDP should also endorse nation's stand on vital issues.

has unleashed a proxy war in Kashmir for the last over 30 years. It has set up training and launching pads for terrorists on its soil. It also pushed trained foreign mercenaries into Indian territory. Its army helped infiltration across the borders. By going through such acts, no one would ever like to call Pakistan a neighbour who can be a good friend by any yardstick.

Balbir said that Pakistan is a rogue state, whose policy has been only causing deaths and destruction in Jammu and Kashmir in particular and its votaries in Valley should understand Pak's nefarious designs and shed love towards it.

Balbir further said that for every citizen the sovereignty of the country is most dear and the leaders of NC and PDP should also endorse nation's stand on vital issues.

Water supply to remain hit in Jammu localities

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: The water supply to many Jammu localities will remain suspended on Thursday due to damage caused to rising main from Sitlee near Nagrota Bypass.

A PHE spokesman said that due to damage caused to rising main 500 mm dia from Sitlee to Manda, the water supply to the areas including Panjirthi, Pacci Dakki, Dounthly, Chowgan Salathia, Rehari, Sarwal, Pacca Talab, New Plot, Subash Nagar, etc. being fed from Manda water station will remain affected on October 28, 2021. The public has been advised to make judicious use of water, he added.

Week-long Multi-Physics analysis workshop begins at NIT

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: A week-long workshop on "Multi-physics analysis of Electrical Machine Using ANSYS Software and PLECS Simulation tool for Power Electronics Applications" today began at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The workshop is being organized by the Electrical Engineering department, while it is sponsored by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) India in association with PLEXIM, Switzerland.

The inaugural session of the workshop was presided over by the Director, Prof.(Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, who is also the Chief Patron of the workshop, while Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti, Professor, Electrical Engg, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Professor, EE, Prof. S. A. Lone are the patrons of the program.

HOD, Electrical Engineering NIT Srinagar, Dr Mohammad Abid Bazaz is the convener of the weeklong workshop. Prof. Abdul Hamid Bhat, Dr Obbu Chandra Sekhar, and Dr Haareesh Myneni are the Program Coordinators of the event.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Prof. Sehgal and

he spoke about the developing software technologies like ANSYS and congratulated the Electrical Engineering Department for organizing such events.

"We have should not use any software as a black box and should know what is happening inside, how they are selecting tools and other things," he said.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari also appreciated the organizers for conducting a workshop on a relevant theme. He said these sessions are the need of the hour and will explore more in-depth knowledge to the participants.

Dr Anima Johari, Scientist-D in Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi was the guest of honour on the occasion.

HOD, Electrical Engineering NIT Srinagar, Dr Mohammad Abid Bazaz expressed his gratitude to Dr Anima Johari Scientist D for accepting to be the chief guest of the inaugural day function.

Earlier, the inaugural ceremony began with the workshop coordinator, Dr Obbu Chandrasekhar welcoming the guests and briefing them about the workshop.

Inclusion of Gojri into 8th Schedule of Constitution demanded

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Oct 27: Maintaining that development and upliftment of Gujjars and Bakerwals is the need of the hour for the holistic development of the UT of J&K as envisioned by PM Narendra Modi, prominent Gujjar leader, Shamsher Hakla Poonchi urged the Government to take concrete steps for the welfare and upliftment of Gujjar -Bakarwal Tribe of J&K.

In a statement issued here, today he said the Gujjar Bakarwal Tribe has its habitation in 20 districts of J&K and mostly reside in hilly, far-flung and mountainous areas or on the Indo-Pak, LOC and International Border (IB) but in most areas they lack facilities like road communication, electricity, water supply schemes, medical facilities and educational facilities which put them in lot of hardships and problems.

He demanded for opening of boarding schools in all the districts of J&K on the pattern of Navodaya Vidyalaya for the stu-

dent of community and also for establishing a Tribal University in J&K for Gujjar Bakarwal (Schedule Tribe) students. He also demanded inclusion of Gojri language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the J&K State Government should make a recommendation to the Government of India in this regard.

Hakla demanded reservation for STs in Assembly segments and Parliamentary constituencies in J&K as per the norms of ST status granted to the Gujjars and Bakerwals in 1991 by Gol. He said all the efforts made by Gol for the development and welfare of Gujjar Bakarwal Tribe of J&K, have been deliberately obstructed by the previous J&K Governments.

He demanded that policies and schemes be framed for the permanent settlement and upliftment of some of the unsettled and nomadic people of the Tribe in J&K and stressed on establishment of a Tribal Development Council in the UT.

4 drug peddlers held

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: Police today said to have arrested 4 drug peddlers at Awantipora and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

Police party from Khrew during routine checking at Wahabsahab Khrew intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK01M-7814 with four persons on board.

"They have been identified as Sahil Ahmed Jogi, son of Manzoor Ahmed Jogi, resident of Mattan Anantnag, Mohd Iqbal Bhat, son of Abdul Salam Bhat, resident of Wahab Sahab;

Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh, son of Abdul Gani Sheikh, and Ajaz Ahmed Sheikh son of Abdul Rehman Sheikh both residents of Shar Shali," police said.

Police said that during checking, 11kgs of contrabands substances (5kgs Poppy Straw and 6kgs Cannabis) were recovered from their possession.

They have been arrested and shifted to the police station. The vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 76/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Khrew and further investigation is in progress.

Bike rider hurt in collision

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 27: A bike rider was injured in a collision between an Eco car and a motorcycle in Chingus area of district Rajouri last night.

Official sources said that an Eco car bearing registration number JK14D/7844 driven by unknown person, hit a Motorcycle No. JK11C/7992 near Rachwa in Chingus area on main highway last night. The bike rider Javed Iqbal, son of Mumshi Khan, resident of Rachwa was seriously injured in the mishap and was shifted to GMC Hospital Rajouri for treatment. The police has registered a case in this connection.

Drinking water scarcity hits Trumgund Haigam, adjacent areas

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: The residents of Trumgund Haigam and its adjoining areas in north Kashmir's Baramulla district are facing an acute shortage of drinking water even as the authorities have been turning a blind eye towards the issues that the locals are facing.

The locals said that the situation for them has worsened as they continuously face the drinking water woes while as the residents are getting drinking water supply for a few hours during the night while as during the day, they left to fend for themselves.

"While we already have water scarcity, the lack of pressure also adds to the issues; we have to use motors to get the drinking water," the locals said.

The locals said that they have time and again brought the issue to the notice of the higher-ups; however, they said that they have so far got nothing but empty promises.

"This is happening even as the Government is claiming that every household is getting the clean drinking water, our area and the adjacent areas are currently suffering due to the

scarcity of the water supply," the residents said.

The residents said that due to the non-availability of drinking water facility, they are forced to consume water from the running streams which carry the contaminated water due to which their health is also at the risk.

"We are left with no option but to consume contaminated water which is something the department must take note of and carry out immediate necessary measures so that issues that we are facing are resolved," the people said, adding that until the problem is resolved, the PHE department should ensure regular supply of water through tankers.

The officials of the PHE Department told Excelsior that there was some mechanical issue due to which the areas were facing a shortage of drinking water while assuring that the matter will be resolved soon.

"The water tanker has been sent for the consumption of the locals, while as there was some issue with the motor, which the mechanical department has said will be taken care of soon," Ghulam Rasool Leharwal, Executive Engineer, PHE Sopore said.

Dr Pandita delivers lecture on role of foreign funding in abating terrorism

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 27: On the invitation of Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur (SKPA), Dr Daleep Pandita today delivered com-



Dr Daleep Pandita being presented a memento after lecture at SKPA Udhampur.

special reference to Jammu and Kashmir. Based on his vast experience and international exposure, Dr Pandita deliberated upon the modus operandi used by such illegal promoters and explained in depth how these unlawful operations are being carried out by misusing financial transitions.

In his lecture to about 30 participants, comprising officers from the ranks of Dy SPs to SSPs of Jammu and Kashmir Police during this three day vertical interaction course on terrorism and counter insurgency at SKPA, Dr Pandita explained role of banking and financial institutions in checking money laundering that is abating terrorist activities in J&K due to unauthorized financial transitions.

Evolution comprehensive strategy in dealing counter insurgency in J & K remained the main focus of this lecture of Dr Pandita.

Man booked for domestic violence

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: A man was booked today for domestic violence in Bishnah area of city outskirts.

"Acting on the complaint by a woman namely Anju Bala against her husband, Virender Pal son of Bhagwan Das, resident of Chakchua (Ward number, 6, Bishnah) at police station Bishnah, a case under Sections 323, 341, 498 A, 504 and 506 of IPA has been registered at police station Bishnah," police sources said.

Further investigation into the case is going on, they added.

Speaking on the occasion, prominent Urdu and Punjabi writer, Khalid Hussain emphasized that more Urdu books should be translated in regional languages that also includes Dogri and Punjabi.

Prof Mohd Reyaz Ahmed, HOD Urdu, JU presented a welcome address while Prof Shohab Inayat Malik, Principal Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), conducted proceedings of the program.