

## NEP to be implemented, NAAC accreditation to be ensured: Kansal

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: The Higher Education department should strive to make the current year the year of academic excellence. This was exhorted by the Principal Secretary, Higher



Pr Secy Higher Education, Rohit Kansal flanked by others, releasing magazine of GCW M A Road, Srinagar on Friday.

Education Department, Rohit Kansal. He was chairing a review meeting with principals of Degree Colleges of Kashmir division at Government College for Women, M A Road, Srinagar.

Special Secretary Higher Education Department, Rakesh Badyal, Director Colleges, Professor Yasmeen Ashai, Nodal Principal, Kashmir division colleges, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Khan and Principals of all Degree colleges of Kashmir Division attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary shared his vision of giving a fillip to higher education sector of J&K. He listed out the priority areas including

academics, research, innovation and collaboration to improve quality of education in colleges.

Referring to relevance and importance of New Education Policy 2020, Principal Secretary instructed the principals to ensure its implementation in letter and

spirit. He added that in the spirit of the NEP, the colleges should strive towards quality and employability. He also informed that while admissions for the current session would be shortly initiated by the universities and colleges, the academic calendar throughout J&K would be made uniform and synchronized with the national calendar.

Principal Secretary stressed on enhancing the employability of college pass outs in line with NEP-2020. He said colleges have to act as real agents of change and the success of NEP 2020 depends on how well they implement it at the ground level.

He said, as envisaged by the UT administration of ensuring that all higher education institutions move progressively towards greater autonomy. He said all the degree colleges would apply for accreditation or provisional registration (PAC) under the NAAC framework this year.

Principal Secretary said research and teaching collaborations and faculty and student exchanges with reputed foreign institutions will be facilitated through mutually beneficial and relevant MOUs.

Earlier, Principal, GCW Prof Nasreen Aman, briefed the Principal Secretary about the rich legacy of the college besides ongoing research and skill enhancement projects.

## Cowardly attacks show frustration of terror handlers: DGP

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: Highlighting the importance of people's role in prevailing scenario, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh has stressed upon the officers to evolve more effective mechanism and ensure public safety while dealing with the elements



DGP Dilbag Singh chairing a meeting.

ritary situation and arising challenges, said that masters of terror across the border and their puppets in J&K are desperate to disturb the prevailing peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He said cowardly attacks on innocent civilians and forces shows the frustration of terror handlers to disrupt the peace and order in

people. The DGP stressed upon the officers to ensure high alertness and preparedness to thwart the mischievous attempts of anti national elements. He said that terror outfits are attempting to create a sense of fear and terror among the general public and stressed upon the officers to remain extra vigilant and alert so that their evil attempts are foiled.

The meeting at these districts were attended by Special DG CRPF Daljit Singh Chaudhary, IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar, IGP CRPF MS Bhatia, DIG SKR Abdul Jabbar, DIG CRPF Pramod Kumar Mehra, SSP Shopian Amritpal Singh, SSP Pulwama Ghulam Jeelani Wani, CO IRP 10th Bn Fayaz Ahmad, CO 182 Bn CRPF Deepak Dondiyal, CO 183 Bn CRPF RD Jeanyanal, CO 178 Bn CRPF Surjit Kumar, ASP Pulwama and other gazetted officers of Police and CRPF.

The district SSPs and their counterparts apprised the DGP regarding the security situation and measures put in place for the safety and security of the people in the areas under their command.

J&K. The DGP directed the officers that the action against terrorists and their helpers must continue and all the suspicious elements be kept under check so as to foil their ill designs aimed at disrupting normal lives of the

## Senior EPFO officers take stock of EPF&MP Act in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Hemant Jain, FA&CAO, EPFO and K L Taneja, ACC (HQ) - Delhi, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh along with other officers of EPFO today took stock of implementation of the EPF&MP Act, 1952 and ongoing transition of J&K EPFO to EPFO, on 2nd day of their two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

Hemant Jain and K L Taneja along with other officers of EPFO which included Rajiv Bisht (Additional Central P F Commissioner), Sanjay Bisht (Regional P F Commissioner-I), M M Ashraf (Regional P F Commissioner-I), made a visit to Regional Office, Jammu, where they were warmly welcomed by Rizwan Uddin (Regional P F Commissioner-I).

A meeting was held between J&K EPFO and EPFO on various critical issues related to migration of J&K EPFO to EPFO and implementation of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Participants from J&K EPFO included Abdul Rashid War (Provident Fund Commissioner) and his team. Topics ranging from transfer of members' accounts, absorption of J&K EPFO staff in EPFO, transfers of assets and liabilities

etc. were taken up during the meeting. Later in the day, a conference was held with employers and representatives of establishments at White Hotel. During the event, Taneja highlighted the importance of PF, Pension and Insurance schemes framed under the EPF&MP Act in providing social security to the members and their dependents in their most vulnerable times.

Hemant Jain underscored the importance of implementation of the EPF&MP Act in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh in terms of increased employment opportunities to the members of the Region as now members can avail the benefits of all-India portability of their PF Accounts along with their accumulated fund and service through online mode.

Earlier in the day, a programme was held in the Regional Office, Jammu in which the employees with consistent good performance were recognized. The achievement of RO J&K in settling more than 4000 claims in four days was also lauded by Hemant Jain.

FA&CAO EPFO Hemant Jain and other officers during a program at Regional Office of the Provident Fund body at Jammu.

## Chargesheet filed against ex-officer of J&K Bank in fraud case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: The Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) today filed a charge sheet against a former J&K Bank Associate Executive for fraudulently raising unauthorized loans and using the amount withdrawn for personal uses and share trading.

In this regard, the CBK said that a charge sheet was filed in Case FIR No: 06/2009 U/S 420, 468, 471, 409, 201 RPC r/w 5(2) PC Act of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir before Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Kashmir Srinagar against Zahooh Ahmad Khan S/o Ghulam Rasool R/o New Colony, Saida Kadal Srinagar, then Associate Executive.

While stating the facts of the cases, CBK said that it received a complaint from Branch Head J&K Bank Residency Road Srinagar wherein it was stated that on the basis of Preliminary Enquiry conducted by the Bank, it has been established that one Zahooh Ahmad Khan has dishonestly and fraudulently raised eight unauthorized loans against the deposits which do not exist in Bank records.

"These loans were raised in the name of staff members, his brothers and sisters by the accused who used the amount drawn therein for personnel use etc," CBK said.

Accordingly, CBK said, in view of the circumstances Case FIR No. 06/2009 U/S 409, 420, 468, 471 RPC was registered in P/S CBK on 03.03.2009 and investigation taken up.

"During the course of investigation, it was established that staff loan accounts have been opened fraudulently without completing prescribed formalities by the accused particularly in the name of his close relatives



BJP's J&K In-charge Tarun Chugh, senior leader Devender Singh Rana and others welcoming NC leader Ravinder Slathia into party fold.

## People of J&K put on slave by family ruling parties: Tarun Chugh

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Apr 8: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir In-charge Tarun Chugh today said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were put on slave by family rulers.

He asked National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah to understand the mood of people of J&K who and get less on. He also criticized PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for her comments that no one in J&K will pick up the Tricolour while adding that now hundreds of leaders and activists of PDP and NC are saying bye-bye to these parties and joining the BJP.

Chugh said that the family of BJP is expanded upto high level. "BJP is leading on the path of development in J&K. The big projects, and huge investment by International and national companies are coming in J&K after abrogation of Articles 370, 35A by BJP," Chugh added.

Commenting on the Aam Aadmi Party, he said that the Party which fails to open even its account in UP and other states is now dreaming to rule in J&K. He said it

is that party whose leaders laugh on rapes and torture of J&K Kashmiri Pandits.

Chugh was talking to media persons after attending the BJP joining programme held at Kathua in which NC senior leader Ravinder Slathia along with his hundreds of supporters join the Party in presence of senior leaders Devendra Singh Rana, Dr Devendra Manyal, former Minister Rajiv Jasrotia and other senior leaders.

Among others NC's Ravinder Slathia, block head Suresh Kumar, block president JP Singh and Congress's Indresh Kumar also joined the BJP.

Speaking on the occasion, Devender Singh Rana said that BJP is the only party which can take the state on the path of development, restore the respect of Jammuites, give justice to Jammu and make the future of J&K. The only option in J&K is BJP which is taking the UT on the path of peace and prosperity.

Ravinder Slathia said that the BJP has clear vision and stand towards militancy and restoration of peace and prosperity in J&K.

## Hopes high on resolution of issues after meeting PM Modi: KCC&I

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: After their meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries (KCC&I) today said that their hopes are high that the Government of India will address the issues that were raised during the meeting while highlighting that the PM assured them everything possible to alleviate the problems faced by the business fra-

related to banking, economy, air connectivity, national highways, the start of Srinagar-Jeddah flights and also raised some technical issues regarding Srinagar-Sharjah flights along with the soft loans for the young entrepreneurs," KCC&I president said.

In the memorandum which the business delegation presented to the PM, it was stated that the number of Umrah pilgrims to Saudi Arabia from J&K is increasing and the Umrah Groups are conducted by

various tour operators who arrange their travel through various Airlines.

"These airlines operate via Delhi which is reported, does not suit the pilgrims because it adds to the travel time and also becomes more often inconvenient for them to change the aircraft,"

KCC&I said, adding the pilgrims would, however, feel it more convenient to fly from Srinagar to Jeddah directly.

With regard to the resolution of issues faced in the banking sector, KCC&I said that for accounts that are NPA post-2014 and need a revival package, it was suggested that deep re-structuring which converts their principal liability into a term loan with a waiver in the unapplied interest similar capital infusion up to 20% with a moratorium of 2 years. "A fairly extended repayment schedule of about 07-10 years be made applicable to them."

Also, in the case of self-financed business establishments having no bank exposure, "it is suggested a suitable capital infusion for such establishments on softer interest rates be made available," it said.

KCC&I president said that the PM assured that the issues which the business delegation raised will be looked into for resolution.

## People losing trust on all opposition parties: Charak

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Senior leaders of J&K BJP Rajeev Charak today said that people are losing their trust on all the opposition parties and finding only one option to join the family of Bharatiya Janata Party.

"People of J&K including senior leaders from opposition are joining BJP daily because of the pro-people policies of BJP Central Government led coming new entrant into the party fold.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Charak said while speaking during a party function during which Neelkanth (vice president, Matador Union Bahu Fort), who is associated with Congress Party since long, joined BJP.

Neelkanth said that he is

inspired by the working of BJP and that is the reason he joined BJP. He assured the party leadership that he will work in the better interest of the party and strengthen the party at grass root level.

Other party leaders present on the occasion were BJP J&K State IT Head Advocate Ishant Gupta, BJYM J&K, BJP leader Dev Raj Sharma, Youth leaders Darshan Kumar, Amit Sharma, former State Secretary BJP SC Morcha Hardesh Khokher and Sumit Nagotra.



Rajeev Charak and other BJP leaders welcoming new entrant into the party fold.

## Draft Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan recommended to Govt for approval

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: The third meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council was held today at Van Bhawan, under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF/HoFF & Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council.

During the meeting, the Council was apprised of the progress made on constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees and status of preparation and updation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The BMCs have been constituted for 276 Intermediate Panchayats (Block Level), 4290 Village Panchayats and 76 Urban Local Bodies.

The preparation of PBRs has

Celestial Earth" was assigned this task for developing BSAP. The process involved consultation with all the concerned departments like Agriculture Department, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Department of Horticulture, Department of Fisheries, Department of Wildlife Protection, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department for developing BSAP.

The BSAP will now be submitted to the Government for its final approval so that the UT of J&K has the strategy and action plan on Biodiversity Conservation and the related issues for the years 2022-2030.

The meeting was moderated by Asaf Mehmood Sagar,



NC Provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta and other leaders during a meeting held at Sher-i-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

## NC will continue to strive for providing dignified life to J&K people: Rattan Lal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: National Conference (NC) Provincial president Jammu province Rattan Lal Gupta today said that the Party will continue to serve the people and strive for a dignified life for them, irrespective of caste, creed, region or religion.

Rattan Lal Gupta was speaking during a meeting of Jammu East Constituency held at Sher-i-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. He urged the cadre to stand steadfast in highlighting the problems of the people, especially as the inflation is on rise. The meeting was organized by Reeta Gupta Central Zone vice president.

Prominent members of the Jammu East Constituency participated in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, Gupta called upon the workers to work in unison and strengthen the party at grass root level. He asked them to constitute ward committees of the constituency immediately. He said the National Conference is a mass movement, which has withstood all the challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir people over the decades.

Reeta Gupta called upon the party cadres to establish grass root level contact with people and identify the problems of the people in their respective areas. She said that Jammu and Kashmir has suffered immensely during the recent years and all eyes were now upon the National Conference to correct the wrongs committed in governance.

Prominent among those present in the meeting included Vijay Laxami Dutta, Pinki Khalsa, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dr Amina, Om Bali, Raja Naveed, Nitish Gowami, Ajay Kumar, Narinder Kumar Gupta, Manzoor Hussain, Suresh Kumar, Riaz Ahmed Choudhary, Nirmal Singh, Sanjeev Kumar and Anjali.

Yatra will cover the traditional route this year commencing from historical Shri Raghunathji Temple and after passing through various markets including Residency Road, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Panjirthi, Mubarak Mandi, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Raj Tilak Road, Old Hospital Road, Raghunath Bazaar and will finally culminate at Shri Raghunath Ji Temple.

He said that on April 10 at 3:30 PM Trustee/s will preside over the Shobha Murti Poojan ceremony while at 4:00 PM there will be Rath Poojan and Dhwajrohan ceremony in which Trustee Ajatshatru Singh will preside.

Later, the Rath Yatra will be flagged off by Dr Raghav Langar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, who shall be the chief guest on the occasion.

Gandotra appealed the people to join the celebrations in big numbers as these auspicious occasions are significant and give opportunity to people to know their rich culture and roots.

Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma, Secretary of the Trust and Nishal Anand from Dharmik Yuvak Mandal were also present in the conference.

JKFRI/Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council. Other Members of the J&K Biodiversity Council including Suresh Gupta, PCCF/ Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, representative of Administrative Department of Agriculture Production T.K Bhat, Special Secretary, representative of Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment Miss. Harpreet Kour, Special Secretary, representative of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Sheetal Pandita, Deputy Secretary and non-official members Dr. C.M. Seth, IFS (Retd.), Om Parkash Sharma, IFS (Retd.), Prof. Geeta Sumbli (Retd.), Dr. Anzar Khuroo, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir and Dr. Sushil Verma, Division of Biodiversity, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, besides special invitees, senior officers and staff of J&K Biodiversity Council attended the meeting.



PCCF Dr Mohit Gera chairing a meeting in Jammu.

also been completed in 4290 Village Panchayats and 76 Urban Local Bodies with the help of nine different line departments and consultation with members of Biodiversity Management Committees and other people and experts in biodiversity, indigenous knowledge and traditional practices. The Council is now updating the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and 1426 PBRs have been updated so far.

The important agenda points discussed during the meeting of the Council included the recommendation of draft Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (BSAP) for approval of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees and activation of ABS mechanism. The new website of J&K Biodiversity Council was also released during the meeting.

The process for making of draft Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (BSAP) for UT of Jammu and Kashmir was initiated in the year 2020 and "The

## Raunak organises painting competition 'Paint for a Cause'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Raunak, a social and welfare initiative organized 'Paint for a Cause', a painting competition to raise funds for a local orphanage.

A Zoom meeting was organised for the participants to interact with Padamsri Vijay Sharma known for his expertise in the Pahari miniature painting. 'Raunak' was indeed honoured to have Dr Vijay Sharma as the esteemed guest.

Asechan Chib, the Founder of Raunak welcomed Dr Vijay Sharma, world renowned artist skilled in the major styles of Pahari painting, such as Kangra, Guler, Chamba, and Mandi, and above all, he is a master of the Basohli style.

Dr Vijay Sharma lauded the efforts of Asechan Chib who started Raunak for the benefit of underprivileged children of Jammu with the purpose of imparting positive direction to their lives by sharing and celebrating joy with them through personalised connection and fun-filled activities.

Within a very short span of time, he has launched five branches in slums in different areas of Jammu along with a team of his volunteers.

The meeting ended with declaration of results of painting competition followed by vote of thanks by Asechan Chib.

The funds raised by the competition were donated to Ved Mandir Bal Niketan, an orphanage in Amphalla, Jammu.



Ajay Gandotra, president J&K Dharmarth Trust addressing press conference in Jammu on Friday.

two years due to coronavirus restrictions.

"Due to COVID-19 the 'Shobha Yatra' was not held for the last two years but this time as the pandemic has subsided therefore the Dharmarth Trust has decided to organize the Shobha Yatra in a big way by holding the same in conventional manner with traditional zeal and enthusiasm," he said.

The Sobha Yatra shall be conducted in collaboration with 'Sanatan Dharm Sabha' and 'Dharmik Yuvak Mandal', he added.

Gandotra said that the 'Shobha