

## Advisor Bhatnagar addresses 6th 'Digital Transformation Conclave'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 27: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today said that Digital Transformation is at the heart of Good Governance and in the light of the pandemic COVID-19 situation, we have come a long way in navigating the adversities of this pandemic with the help of technology and digital transformation.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the 6th Digital Transformation Conclave at SKICC.

The conclave was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, J&K, Atal Dulloo; ACS, Finance Department, J&K, Vivek Bhardwaj; ACS, IT Department, Haryana Government, Anil Malik; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), GoI, Dr. Rajendra Kumar; Secretary IT, J&K and CEO, JKeGA, Prerna Puri; Commissioner SMC, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan; senior officers of J&K Government, delegates and representatives of several IT companies, among others.

Addressing the inaugural

session of the conclave, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that the digital transformation has bridged the gap of digital divide in recent years and it has empowered the citizens in many ways. He added that the Digital transformation has improved the mechanism of public service delivery besides it has created an opportunity for feedback as well as corrections.

He further said that the Digital transformation has evolved the concept of 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' and has amplified the basis for establishment of citizen centric governance models. He added that the Digital means have developed more connections between different departments as well as establishments, thereby improving the public service delivery.

While talking on different aspects of the Conclave, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this important conclave will significantly contribute in the ongoing development of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed on the aspect that the potential of technology should be capitalised to its maximum extent so that something unique is contributed towards society.

The Advisor in his address also underlined the importance of Cyber Security in the current Digital Revolution and emphasized on the fact that we should give priority to Cyber Security like we do to physical assets.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare department, Atal Dulloo said that the information technology has changed our lives in last thirty years. He highlighted that the digital technologies have a tremendous impact on our economy, lives and other aspects besides it is significantly contributing to ease of living of citizens as well as ease of gathering knowledge.

Additional Secretary, MeitY, GoI, Dr. Rajendra Kumar, in his address, said that the focus of digital transformation is on how technology can develop industry, government business as well as improve citizen centric services. He also highlighted about the recent achievements of GoI in Technological World besides the transformation our country has achieved through digital means.

In her welcome address, Secretary, IT, J&K, Prerna Puri highlighted about the basic objectives of the conclave.

## Verma tours Udhampur, assesses damages due to forest fires

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, May 27: Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Environment and Ecology, Sanjeev Verma, today conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur Forest division and inspected the fire affected areas in Co.97/D and Co.98/D.

During the tour, Commissioner Secretary reviewed the extent of damage caused by the forest fires besides taking stock of preparedness of the fire control teams and problems being faced by the front line staff in tackling forest issues.

Sanjeev Verma directed for deployment of more staff in vulnerable areas to minimize the fire incidents in the district forests. He asked for taking strict action, under law, against those mischievous elements who intentionally ignite fires. He also asked the Forest staff to immediately take up Beating Up of Casualties (BUC) in the Closures affected due to fire.

During the visit, Commissioner Secretary also interacted with BDC Chairman, Chenani and Sarpanch Basht at Panchayat Basht and assessed issues and concerns of their

respective areas. Responding to issues raised by PRIs, he directed the concerned officers to address the same within shortest possible time.

He urged upon the BDC Chairman and PRI representatives to involve Self Help Groups in collection of Chir Pine needles for making hand-crafts as well fuel briquettes that will help in rural livelihood generation. He also asked them for increasing participation of SHGs in Forest management and Protection making them stakeholders in promoting environmental cause as well as to mitigate climate change and forest fire that has taken a heavy toll on the Forest Biodiversity of the area due to continuous temperature rise and minimum rainfall this year.

He asked the Social Forestry Department to identify available chunks of land in Chenani Sudh Maha Dev area in consultation with Revenue officials and PRIs and prepare a plan under convergence for taking up low cost greening interventions during coming Monsoon. Distribution of seed balls may also be taken up among the Village Panchayats of the area for greening the catchment locations through an integrated approach, he added.

Commissioner Secretary emphasized the need for development of fringe lands by plant-

ing multipurpose and local species to cater to the local needs for fodder and fuel wood. Commissioner Secretary also inspected Eco trek route from Mantal to Patinot created by Wildlife Department and emphasized beautification of Eco trek route by means of plantation as well as disposal of plastic waste on whole trek.

Later, Commissioner Secretary attended public outreach programme organized by Social Forestry Department with Village Panchayat Plantation Committees of Latti-A, Latti-B, Sira-A and Sira-B. Sarpanch Kasturi Lal Gupta, Makhan Manhas, Sudesh Kumar, Balwan Singh and locals attended the outreach camp. They demanded construction of Bridal Path from Main Road to Panchayat Ghar Sira, Chainlik Fencing at FRH Latti, closures on State/Forest Land and placement of Block Officer of Social Forestry at Latti.

Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Roshan Jaggi, PCCF/Director Social Forestry; B M Sharma, APCCF Jammu; Abhijeet Joshi, Joint Director Soil Conservation Jammu; Mohinder Gupta, Regional Director, Social Forestry, Jammu; Abinav Ramyotra, DFO Social Forestry; Amit Sharma Wildlife Warden Jammu; Sanjay Kotwal, DSCO; Dharam Paul, ACD besides field staff of the department.

## KU VC reviews new initiatives to boost delivery of student-centric services

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 27: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Nilofar Khan today chaired a meeting to review the status of various UG and PG examinations and the new initiatives underway by the varsity's Examination Wing to boost delivery of various student-centric services.

In her introductory remarks, Prof Nilofar said the Examination Wing is the face of the University and this calls for making technological interventions to ease students vis-a-vis delivery of various services related to different Examination-related domains.

On the occasion, Controller of Examinations Dr Majid Zaman made a detailed power-point presentation on the status of various UG and PG examinations as well as new proposals in the pipeline to not only bring the examination calendar back on track post-Covid disruptions but also to further boost the efficiency of the examination system.

Dr Majid apprised the Vice-Chancellor that among newly introduced initiatives, the Office of Controller of Examinations has started dispatching transcripts and degree certificates to respective colleges for easy collection by the students soon after the results are declared in order to lessen the inflow of students to the

Examination Wing for this purpose. He also said that advance date-sheets, formulated at the start of each semester, are being issued to keep the students updated with their examination dates much in advance.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the new initiatives taken, as also those in the pipeline, which aim at bringing a perceptible change in examination domains in near future.

Offering her complete support to student-centric endeavors proposed by the Controller of Examinations, including setting up a state-of-the-art Single-Window System for the student community visiting the Examination Wing to avail different services, Prof Nilofar said the University will also expedite its switch over to DigiLocker for better service delivery to the students.

The meeting was attended by top varsity administrators including Dean Academic Affairs Prof Farooq Masoodi, Dean Research Prof Irshad Nawchoo, Dean Colleges Prof Manzoor Ahmad, Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Director Admissions Prof Farooq A Mir, Joint Registrars/Joint Controllers of Examination including Dr Ashfaq A Zarri, Dr Altaf A Bhat, Dr Feroz A Gorkhoo, Special Secretary to VC Dr Tanveer A Shah and Director Finance Zafrah Bashir.

## DHSK reviews implementation of COTPA in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 27: Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather today chaired a review meeting regarding the Implementation of COTPA-2003 in the Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by the National team from International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, New Delhi. Dr. M. A. Rather directed the State Tobacco Control Cell, Kashmir to ensure effective implementation of COTPA during the Amarnath Yatra.

He directed the Tobacco Control team to establish Cessation camps at prominent places of the Yatra and also conduct regular enforcement drives to declare Amaranth Yatra as Tobacco-free.

Also, directions were given to implement Tobacco-free Educational Institutional guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Director also stressed the effective commemoration of World No Tobacco Day 2022 in all the districts of Kashmir.

DHSK has initiated the Tobacco-free Village level Campaign under National Tobacco Control Programme to implement Tobacco Control Laws at the grass-root level.

Under the direction of Director Health Services Kashmir, another meeting was held with the District Health Officers of the Kashmir division under the chairmanship of Deputy Director Headquarter, Dr. S M Kadri.

The meeting also highlighted the activities to be carried out in commemoration of World No

## 'Pay wages on Delhi pattern' Address issues of PHE daily wagers: DDC Chairman

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, District Development Council (DDC), Chairman, Jammu has made a fervent appeal to the Union Territory administration to immediately address the grievances of the PHE daily wagers by regularizing their services and providing them at least fair wages or salaries at the same rates and pattern as provided by Delhi Government.

The DDC Chairman made the appeal after meeting a PHE daily wagers delegation that called on him here, today.

The delegation of PHE daily wagers apprised District Development Council (DDC) Chairman about the burning issues and problems being faced by them due to the apathetic attitude adopted by the successive regimes towards the daily wagers. The delegation also submitted a detailed memorandum of demands to the DDC Chairman. The demands included regularization of the daily wagers under SRO 60, releasing the 70 months pending wages in their favour, hike in minimum

wages and pension benefits to those daily wagers having retired.

After giving a keen and patient hearing to the deputation, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi urged the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to consider the genuine demands of the PHE daily wagers including the demand for their regularization. He said that the Government should provide them salary on the Delhi pattern i.e., @ Rs. 618 per day.

He said that a substantial number of daily wagers have already retired and have been deprived of pension or any other benefit because of not being regularized and the Government must provide such retired daily wagers at least Rs. 10 lakh as pension benefit. He asserted that this is the only way to do justice with the daily wagers who worked selflessly in the PHE Department to serve the people at quite meager wages.

The DDC Chairman also appealed to the daily wagers to defer their strike call in view of the ongoing peak Summer season so that the common people do not face difficulty on account of the life-giving drinking water supply.

## J&K High Court Bar seeks regularization of PHE workers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu held a meeting under the chairmanship of MK Bhardwaj senior advocate and president, JKHCBAJ in order to support the "Kaam Chhor Hartal" call given by PHE Employees United Front on May 28/29, in support of their long pending genuine demands.

The meeting was participated by all the office bearers including Mohinder Pal Singh Pali, vice president, Surjeet Singh Andotra, general secretary, Aditya Sharma, joint secretary, Amandeep Singh, treasurer and many learned senior and other young members of the Bar Association.

The Association, in order to support the genuine demands of PHE Daily workers / Casual workers urge upon the UT Administration to consider the genuine demands of PHE Employees United Front of Jammu Province who are protesting for their regularization and other demands. The Association through a communication sent by PHE Employees United Front, Jammu Province to the Bar Association requested the Association to support the call of "Kaam Chhor Hartal"

given by PHE Employees United Front on May 28 and 29, 2022 in support of their legitimate demands.

In the communication it is stated that Govt has constantly delayed, denied and avoided their regularization issue for last 3 decades, because of which their families have been struggling for their livelihood and they have been socially disturbed.

Bhardwaj urged upon the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K to personally look in to the matter of the poor daily wagers / casual workers of PHE Department who are serving in the Department for the last many years.

The PHE Employees United Front, Jammu Province through the medium of their communication have brought to the notice that the Front / Casual workers / Daily wagers of PHE have given call for "Kaam Chhor Hartal" in that event, to save the general public from shortage of the water, the Association request the UT Administration to consider the demands of the daily wagers / casual workers most expeditiously. He further urged upon the Administration to disburse the back wages and other benefits in favour of these workers.

## BJP to hold "Sewa, Sushashan aur Garib Kalyan Pakhwada": Baru

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, and Kishtwar district coordinator of "Sewa, Sushashan aur Garib Kalyan Pakhwada" along with party district president, Pardeep Parihar addressed meeting at district office of party at Kishtwar.

Meeting was held regarding party's upcoming programmes starting from May 30, on the completion of eight years of PM Modi led Government at Centre.

Addressing the meeting, Sanjay Baru said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, various welfare schemes for the poor, farmers, deprived and under privileged, SCs, STs and OBCs are being implemented in top priority through the length and breadth of the country. He also discussed all the programmes in detail with those present.

Baru said that programmes under the Pakhwada will be held directly under the observation of

national president BJP, J.P. Nadda nationwide and J&K BJP president, Ravinder Raina, general secretary(Org.), Ashok Koul and Sunil Sharma (coordinator JK-UT) in J&K in which mass outreach programmes will be organized during fortnight commencing from May 30 to June 14, 2022 as "Sewa, Sushashan aur Garib Kalyan Pakhwada" by organising door to door outreach programmes.

Pardeep Parihar, while addressing the meeting assured the senior leadership that the programmes will be observed at the micro level with the active participation of party's district Coordination Committee members, Mandal presidents and public representatives.

BJP senior leader Rajinder Singh, Akshay Sharma, Capt.(ret) Hukam Chand, district general secretary Lalit Sharma, Gulab Chand Bhagat, DDC members, Ashok Parihar, Hans Raj, Om Parkash, SriChand, Raj Kumar Badyal, Bansil Lal Bhagat, Chummi Lal and prominent leaders were present in the meeting.

## CUJ organizes Intl conference on 'New tourism in Post-Covid world'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: The two-day International Conference on "Reflections on New Tourism and New Normal in the Post COVID-19 World", organized by Department of Tourism and Travel Management, School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), concluded today

Renowned academicians Prof Manjula Chaudhary and Prof S C Bagri were the guests of honour on first day of the event. They emphasized on Post COVID-19 strategies for tourism and elaborated on the various essentials which still need to be taken care of.

Dr Parikshat Singh Manhas from University of Jammu, Dr EngZdzislaw from Jan Wyzkowskij University Poland and Dr Nikolaos Pappas from Sunderland University, UK were the key speakers in the plenary session.

In the technical session, 36 participants delivered their papers in their respective tracks. The sessions were chaired by Dr Anil Gupta and Dr. Bhupesh Kumar and Co-chaired by Dr Ranbir Singh, Dr Sonia Sharma and Dr R Manjushree.

On the second day of the event, renowned academicians Prof Nimit Ranjan Chowdhary, Prof Sampada Kumar Swain, Prof Vinay Chouhan, Prof Flavia Stara, and Prof Chander

Mohan Parsheera were the guests of honour. The presenters emphasized on the recovery methods for reviving tourism following the Post-COVID-19 era.

In the technical session, 27 participants delivered their papers in their respective tracks. The sessions were chaired by Dr Jitendra Mohan Mishra, Dr Sandeep Wallia, and Dr Saurabh Dixit. The session was Co-chaired by Dr Ranjit, Dr Amit Katoch and Dr Umesh Chowdhary.

The valedictory session started with welcome address by Dr Bharti Gupta, Conference General Chair and followed by address of Dr Amit Gangotia, Head of the Department. Prachi Mahajan, research scholar of Tourism and Travel Management, presented a report on the outcomes of theme tracks presented during the two-day conference.

The guest of honour was Major General (Retd) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, who emphasized on the importance of identifying and promoting tourism potential in Jammu for generating socioeconomic advantages for the J&K.

Manjeet Singh proposed a vote of thanks. The organising committee members of conference include Dr Ranjeet Raman, Rahul Thakur, Dr Rabinder Singh and Dr Swati Samnotra.



Residents raising slogans during protest.

## Residents hold protest against opening of wine shop

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: The residents held protest over opening of wine shop in Rathana area of teshil RS Pura here today.

A large number of people from Rathana and its adjoining areas assembled at Rathana Morh and held protest. Amid slogans against the UT Administration, the protestors including women also blocked the vehicular movement on the road.

Despite objection, the wine shop has been opened, one of the protestors said, adding that instead of providing better education and other facilities, the Government opened the liquor shop without any demand.

"We will not allow the liquor

shop to operate in our area as it will destroy our generation," the protestors said adding that if their demand is not redressed then they will intensify their protest.

They demanded that the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should intervene into the matter and direct the concerned department to reallocate the wine shop to some other area.

After getting information, Tehsildar concerned rushed to the spot and assured the protesters of taking up their demand with the head of the concerned department for redressal.

On the assurance, the protestors dispersed and vehicular movement was restored on the road.

## Two policemen suspended

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: Two policemen were suspended for allegedly failing to take action in a blackmailing case of a prominent businessman.

As per police sources, a businessman was honey trapped and later blackmailed by two persons, identified as Sourav and Ravi.

A Sub-Inspector PSI Arun Shan and a munshi SgCt Asif of Police Post Chatta were suspended for their failure to take action after the businessman

## One year imprisonment to man for outraging modesty of girl

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, May 27: Munsiff Judicial Magistrate First Class Chenani, Shafeeq Ahmed today awarded one year simple imprisonment and fine of Rs 3000 to a tea stall owner, who was facing trial for outraging modesty of a girl.

According to prosecution case, on April 18, 2016 complainant namely Rafaida moved a written complaint to SHO Police Station Chenani alleging therein that on the same day at about 05 pm she sent her cousin sister namely Samreen Banoo to Karyana shop to buy some groceries and when she was coming back a tea stall owner Puran Sharma caught hold her from shirt and arms and outrage her modesty at his shop. On the complaint, Puran Sharma Resident of Karrian Chenani was booked under section

354R RPC and investigation was started. After hearing additional Public Prosecutor Shallni Gupta and counsel for the accused, the Judge observed that the Crime against Women, in whatever form, is a social evil and if perpetrators of such crime are dealt leniently then it would not only encourage further escalation of crime but will become difficult to check or arrest the perpetrators of those crimes. "So, it is not a case where the benefit of probation of offenders act can be granted to the convict".

With these observations, the court awarded one year simple imprisonment to the accused under Section 354 RPC and a fine of Rs 3000. In default of payment, the accused shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month.

## Guru Ravidass Welfare Forum discusses community issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: A meeting of All J&K Guru Ravidass Welfare Forum was held here today under the chairmanship of Dev Raj Angral to discuss various issues related to the community.

The meet decided that the forthcoming elections of All J&K Guru Ravidass Sabha will be held through ballot papers and there shall be no nomination of office bearers in the general body.

The Forum announced that monetary help will be provided to poor widows of the Ravidasia Biradri, the poor families who cannot bear the marriage expenses of their daughters and the poor children who cannot afford the expenses of education. Such needy people may contact members of the Forum for required help.

Issue of scholarship for the children was also discussed in detail and an effective roadmap for the same was prepared.

The meet also announced that the issue of reservation in

promotion of Government employees will be taken up by the Forum with Lt Governor of the J&K UT.

The meeting was attended by Tarsem Lochan (President of the Forum), Rash Pal Dogra, Mangal Dass Dogra, Tarsem Kumar, Ramesh Angral, Mohan All, Raman Thappa, Krishan Jangral, Ashish Angral, Ajay Bangotra, Rajinder Singh and a number of members of the Forum.

## PDP nominates office bearers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 27: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) nominated Naveen Sharma as coordinator for Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, whereas Irfan Malik has been appointed as coordinator for Kathua-Doda Parliamentary Constituency of the Party youth wing, here today.

This was disclosed by a party spokesperson in a statement issued here today.

## Waqar Bhatti arrested for hurting religious sentiments

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: Bahu Fort Police today arrested a social activist Waqar Hussain Bhatti for allegedly hurting religious sentiments with his 'shivling' tweet which caused social media outrage.

Following his tweet, which was later deleted, netizens demanded his immediate arrest.

"FIR Number 140/2022 under relevant Sections was registered against Bhatti at Police Station Bahu Fort following his tweet, which hurt religious sentiments," a senior police officer said, adding that Bhatti was later arrested by a team from Police Station Bahu Fort led by PSI Balbir Singh under the supervision of SHO Inspector Nayat Ali, SDPO East Syed Zaheer Abbas Jafari, SP South Mamma Sharma and SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli from Tangmarg area of District Baramulla.

Facing a backlash on social media, Waqar Hussain Bhatti, a resident of Thanna Mandi District Rajouri had sought to



Delegation of Rehbar-e-Janglat presenting a memorandum to former Minister Priya Sethi at BJP headquarter in Jammu on Friday.

## Delegation of Rehbar-e-Janglat meets BJP leaders

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: A delegation of Rehbar-e-Janglat Association, led by president Jagjit Singh met BJP general secretary organisation, Ashok Koul and Priya Sethi, former Minister at BJP office, here today.

During the meeting, the delegation submitted a memorandum to BJP leaders and apprised them about the order issued by General

Administration Department (GAD) over re-advertisement of posts engaged under different Rehber schemes through Services Selection Board (SSB).

Both the leaders gave patient hearing and assured the delegation of an immediate solution for which they have already taken up the matter with LG administration.

The former Minister assured the delegation that the Party will support your genuine demands and appealed to the LG administration to immediately revoke order No: GAD/1/2021-02(13135), dated 19/05/2022.

Pardeep Charak, Navneet Singh, Virender Radotra, Manvinder Singh, Bablu Sharma, Ashutosh, Surjeet, Anil Gupta and Vishal were part of the delegation.

## Girl raped on marriage pretext

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 27: A girl was raped by a man on marriage pretext.

As per police sources, a girl lodged a complaint with Police Station RS Pura stating that a man identified as Neeraj Toga, son of Raj Kumar of Chakroi made physical relations with her on the pretext of marriage but later refused.

Acting over the complaint, a case under FIR Number 104/2022 under Sections 420, 376 and 109 IPC has been registered at Police Station RS Pura and hunt has been launched to nab the alleged rapist.

However, no arrest was made till last reports were compiled.