



Members of ULB Safai Karamchari Union raising slogans during a protest demonstration at Jammu on Tuesday. - Excelsior/Rakesh

ULB Safai Karamcharis protest, demand regularization

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Safai Karamchari Union here today staged a protest demonstration demanding regularization of services of contractual and casual Safai Karamcharis. The protesters raised slogans against the government and in favour of their demands like regularization of services of daily wage Safai Karamcharis, policy for their regularization, creating posts for them in municipalities where these are not so far and old pension scheme.

SKIMS celebrates World Radiography Day Role of radiologists, radiographers critical to diagnosis: Dr Koul

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Nov 8: World Radiography Day was today celebrated by the Department of Radiodiagnosis SKIMS in association with the Indian Society of Radiographers & Technologists (ISRT) Srinagar Academic Club at KU's Gandhi Bhawan. Director SKIMS/ EOSG Prof. Parvaiz A. Koul who was the chief guest on the occasion complimented the organisers of the event and underscored the importance of Radiologists and Radiographers in patient care management and hoped that the event will benefit the participants.

"Radiographers and Radiologists are critical to the diagnosis of the disease and any treatment is incomplete without them," he said. Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS Prof. Bashir A. Laway, Prof. Irfan Robbani, Principal SKIMS Medical College, Dr Shiekh Riyaz organising chairman of the event and HoD Radiology SKIMS MC Dr Mohd. Farooq Mir also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the organising committee for organizing the event.

Students, parents protest over shortage of teaching staff

Excelsior Correspondent
DODA, Nov 7: The students of a Government school along with their parents held over shortage of teaching staff. The students of Government Middle School Nali along with their parents held protest against Education Department for its failure to provide adequate teaching staff. A large number of students pursuing their education in Government Middle School Nali in Education Zone Batyas District Doda assembled here and raised slogans in favour of their demands. The protesting students said

'Enhance Medical Allowance of employees, pensioners'

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) has demanded enhancement of Medical Allowance of J&K Government employees and pensioners from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000 per month as the same has already been done by the Central Government. Addressing NMC workers in a meeting here today NMC president, Subash Shastri said that medical allowance of J&K Government employees is Rs. 300 from the last 20 years and emphasized upon its increase for the welfare of employees and pensioners. Other demands raised by Shastri included separate wage head for regular disbursement

28 injured in bus mishap

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Nov 8: At least 28 passengers suffered injuries after a bus they were on board, met with an accident near Handwara in Kupwara district this morning. * Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com A police official said that a bus bearing registration number JK09-1239, on way from Kupwara to Srinagar, met with an accident near Watayin area, resulting in injuries to 28 passengers. "The injured passengers were subsequently evacuated to District

Woollen sector registers 32% growth in exports: Khajuria

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, reviewed the sectoral progress in exports with Export Promotion Councils and Industry Bodies in New Delhi. Commerce & Industries and Textiles continuously addresses the issues of the export industry while bringing together captains and leaders of the industry and top officers in the Government for immediate solutions of the problems, stated Romesh Khajuria in his address.



Romesh Khajuria, Chairman Wool Textiles, Sunil Bartwal, & Woollens Export Promotion Council Secretary, Commerce, posing with Union Minister, Piyush Rashtra Shah, Textile Goyal during a meeting at New Delhi on Tuesday.

During the meeting Minister exhorted the EPCs to strive to maintain the momentum of growth, support each other to create synergies and promote growth in a spirit of nationalism and urged the exporters to strive to retain global markets during challenging times. During the meeting Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Textiles, Sunil Bartwal, & Woollens Export Promotion Council Secretary, Commerce, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, who belongs to J&K attended the meeting and stated that there is 32% of growth in exports of wool & woollen products during the period April 2022 to September 2022 as compared to same period previous year. This is Modi Government's Model that Minister of



Usman Majid and others during meeting with Apni Party delegation from Ganderbal on Tuesday.

Usman Majid discusses party issues with delegation from Ganderbal

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Nov 8: Apni Party Vice President Usman Majid today addressed a meeting of party delegation from Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district at the party headquarters in Srinagar. He presided over the meeting while Chairman Political Affairs Committee Mohammad Dilawar Mir and District President Kupwara Raja Manzoor was also present. On this occasion, the participants discussed certain party issues and the present political scenario in Ganderbal constituency. Usman Majid advised the leaders and workers to enhance their political activities and public outreach to ensure a close connection with the people at the grass root level. He said: "Apni Party is the party of common people, thus, we are supposed to be connected with the masses in each and every area of J&K. Our leaders and workers must keep themselves

Restore utility services in snow hit areas: NC

Excelsior Correspondent
BANIHAL, Nov 8: NC district Ramban president, Sajjad Shaheen has expressed concern over the difficulties being faced by the people due to closure of major link roads by the recent snowfall and incessant rains in district Ramban. The NC leader said that higher reaches of Banihal, Ramban and Gool have witnessed season's first snowfall during the last two days and the snow has been accumulated in different villages especially hilly and inaccessible areas like Mahu, Mangit, Neel Sarachi, Trigam, Pogal, Maligam, Allinbas and other areas and people living in these villages are facing many problems due to blockade of roads and lack of basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, transport and eatables. He said, in the aftermath of the ongoing snowfall and rain, the electricity supply in certain mountainous terrains has been disrupted and the water supply has also been hampered. "The major link roads like Banihal-Thachi-Mangit road, Nachlana-Mahu road, Bawa-Trigam road, Chamalwas-Neel road, Chamalwas-Chaknarwa, Hewagan-Neel-Zarari roads, that have been blocked due to snow and landslides should be restored immediately along with water and power supply.

House gutted in Loran area

Excelsior Correspondent
POONCH, Nov 8: Four storey residential wooden house was gutted in an overnight fire incident at Dar-gam Sibh area of Loran in Poonch district. Family members and locals said that the incident was suddenly occurred, most probably due to electric short circuit at about 2:30 AM, after which family members including children managed to come out, but the house was gutted along with goods inside and turned into ashes, resulting loss of lakhs of rupees. Soon after the incident, locals following army and police tried to extinguish the fire without any compatible source, but the house turned into ashes till it was controlled to some extent, and other

GI Certification boosts prominence of Kashmiri Saffron in Intl markets

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Nov 8: As the farmers are happy with the bumper saffron crop this year, the GI Certification of Kashmiri Saffron by Geographical Indications Registry would also cease the adulteration of it and will put an end to the marketing of Saffron cultivated in other countries under the garb of being produced in Kashmir. The adulteration of saffron was earlier affecting the economic interests of the farmers associated with this crop. To give a boost to saffron production in Kashmir, J&K Government has launched new initiatives including the introduction of GI Tagging. GI sign is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Saffron growers are hopeful that they will now get a better price for their produce after the introduction of GI tag to the saffron grown here. Kashmiri Saffron is grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level, which adds to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available across the world. Saffron is cultivated and harvested in the highlands of Jammu and Kashmir and has been assigned Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. The spice is grown in Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar regions of Jammu & Kashmir. Iran is the largest producer of saffron in the world and India is a close competitor. However, with the GI tag of Kashmir saffron, India becomes the only Saffron producing Country for which GI has been assigned which will result in more prominence in the export market thereby boosting exports as well as helping the farmers to get the best remunerative price for economic sustainability.



Cong working president Raman Bhalla interacting with people in Jammu on Tuesday.

BJP day dreaming, Cong set to register massive win: Cong

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: JKPC working president Raman Bhalla today asked the Central Government when it would ensure a congenial atmosphere for elections to take place in Jammu and Kashmir and elect a Government of the people here. He accused BJP leadership of callousness and said it cannot shun and run away from owning the responsibility of creating this mess and back-stabbing the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The directionless, agenda-less and clueless policy of the Modi Government has left the people of Jammu and Kashmir in complete despair and this is a grave national concern."

"How does Prime Minister Modi propose to ensure peace and normalcy in Kashmir? What is the economic roadmap for inclusion and progress for the people of J&K?" Bhalla fired volley of questions during public interaction at Apna Vihar area of Jammu South Constituency. Ridiculing loud speak of BJP, Bhalla asserted that Congress will emerge as single largest party in upcoming Assembly elections by maintaining edge in Jammu and Kashmir. "If some people want to take pleasure by day dreaming they are free to do so but ground situation is not going to change", he said. He, however, cautioned the people against vicious propaganda being spread by political parties with eye on votes and said their entire edifice stands on falsehood and populism. He took dig at these parties, especially for making tall claims on the numbers in the ensuing elections, saying their political relevance is a big question mark. Bhalla said people will never forget replacing state subject laws, ignoring the historic reality that it was Maharaja Hari Singh who enacted this revolutionary legislation in 1927 to save the people of Jammu and Kashmir from dominance of elite and affluent sections of non-state subjects. He asked the people to remain vigilant against these elements who are hand in glove and working complimentary and supplementary to each other with the only objective of weakening Congress. Block president Satish Sharma, Corporator Pritam Singh, Dr Vijay Sharma, Sarpanch Rajesh Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Kewal Saini, PS Jamwal and others also spoke on the occasion.



BJP leaders listening public grievances at Jammu on Tuesday.

Pathania, Arvind take stock of public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: Ranbir Singh Pathania, former MLA and BJP spokesperson and Arvind Gupta, secretary, J&K BJP listened to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, here, today. Many deputations including individual persons visited the party office to discuss their issues with the senior BJP leaders. Deputations and common people discussed various issues related to the development of their respective areas and their other concerns. Deputation of J&K Medical Employees Federation canvassed for payment of stalled salaries of 2011-head since past five months as well as streamlining of promotions. Deputation from Anantnag called for immediate grant of NOCs by Town Planning Department in Achabal. Issues of drinking water scarcity, installation of hand pumps, renaming of schools in the name of martyrs, and provision of basic living facilities and infrastructural requirements in far flung areas cropped up. Also with regard to issues pertaining to electricity, NABARD roads, a wide rainbow of deputations thronged the BJP office with prompt references and telephonic calls to concerned officials as well as administrative secretaries. Deputations of Rehbar -e-Janglats, called for a time bound and sure shot regularisation after completion of the specified period. In view of technical nature of duties performed by them and their professional qualifications, it was impressed that they should be regularised in the grade/scale of a 'foresters'.

Pathania said "grievance redressal is the bedrock of a healthy set up of the organisation. And in line with the guiding principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayaas, BJP stands committed to it. He stressed on the party's sincere attempt to have direct interaction with the masses and provide best possible solutions to their day to day administrative and developmental issues. **SSH demands repair of bridge** **Excelsior Correspondent** ARNIA, Nov 8: Activists of Shiv Sena Hindustan (SSH) J&K led by their president, Rajesh Kesri led a protest demonstration demanding repair of bridge on Tamala Nallah here. The protesters claimed that the bridge has been delayed despite availability of funds and in the absence of the bridge frequent accidents take place in the area. Addressing the protesters, Kesri said that despite its strategic value, the bridge is marked by potholes and is without proper lighting which makes it difficult to pass through the area during night.

HC releases 'stone pelter' detained under PSA

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar has ordered the release of an accused held under J&K Public Safety Act (PSA) for pelting stones on a police party. The petition filed by Ghulam Nabi Bhat, father of the accused Sajad Ahmad Bhat resident of Mandakpal Khrew, Pampore, Pulwama contended that the accused was arrested by security forces without any justification and was picked from his home and was then detained under PSA and lodged in Central Jail Srinagar. As per the case on May 6, 2020 an FIR no. 17/2020 was registered against the accused for pelting stones on a police party while it was passing through Sharshali Haj Mohalla, Khrew and in this way the cops were prevented from discharging their lawful duty regarding which an FIR with number 17/2020 was registered under Sections 147, 148, 336 and 427 IPC against the accused at Police Station Khrew in which he was granted bail. The petitioner challenged the legality and validity of the detention order number 15/DMP/PSA/20 dated 13/07/2020 issued by respondent (District Magistrate Pulwama) whereby the accused has been detained under Section 8 of the J&K PSA, 1978. The petitioner contended that the Detaining Authority has passed the detention order mechanically without application of mind and the Constitutional and Statutory Procedural Safeguards have not been followed in the case. After listening to the arguments of both sides, the Judge Wasim Sadiq Nargal said that the detention order was issued way back on 13.07.2020 and was approved on 21.07.2020 but the same was executed on 19.03.2022 and the date of receipt of the grounds of detention is 19.03.2022. "Since there is delay of almost two years in executing the order of detention and the respondents have failed to explain satisfactorily the delay in executing the detention order and accordingly, in the present case, the subjective satisfaction gets vitiated," he further said. The Judge also said that for the reason aforementioned, the petition is allowed and the impugned order of detention bearing no. 15/DMP/PSA/20 dated 13/07/2020 issued by District Magistrate Pulwama is quashed. "The detenu, Sajad Ahmad Bhat is ordered to be released from the preventive custody provided he is not required in connection with any other case," Judge Wasim Sadiq Nargal maintained.



Harsh Dev Singh addressing AAP rally at Mandli in Billawar on Tuesday.

AAP emerging as only ray of hope for J&K people: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent
BILLAWAR, Nov 8: Aam Aadmi Party today held an impressive public rally at Mandli in Billawar, organized by Kathua unit of the party and addressed by senior AAP leaders. Addressing the rally, Harsh Dev Singh, Chairman AAP J&K State Co-ordination Committee, lambasted the BJP for giving J&K the most abhorable treatment ever in the history of the incarcerated state now reduced to a union territory. "With the erstwhile historical State of J&K having been dismantled and downgraded to UT level and opening the lands and Jobs of its locals to outsiders, demolishing institutions, besides running the affairs of state for the last over four years through proxy rule of centre, the BJP regime appeared to be testing the patience of J&K people," said Mr Singh. He lamented that new laws were being enacted for J&K by 'Babus' in the Centre and implemented here without any Legislative nod. "The people have been subjected to the most unpopular rule of outside bureaucrats who lack even the basic knowledge of the problems of the common masses and have hardly any connect with the people while the ruling BJP continue to use J&K as a workshop holding newer experiments each day deliriously unmindful of the abyss to which it has thrown the people of the erstwhile State," asserted the AAP leader. Harsh Dev said people were suffering the worst nightmares due to the power and water crisis and unemployed educated youth were on the roads while the daily rated workers are without wages for several months with none to pay attention to their pathetic plight. "MGNREGA liability has exceeded one thousands crore during the last 5-6 years. The academic activity in remote village schools has been paralysed due to acute deficiency of teaching staff. The corruption has become all pervasive with none to question those indulging in open loot and plunder of the States' resources," he said and added that those who have the temerity to question are dubbed as anti-nationals and dissent was being muzzled through the coercive apparatus of the State. Harsh Dev Singh said that under the prevailing circumstances, it was AAP alone which was emerging as a ray of hope for J&K people. Yash Paul Kundal, former Minister and Chairman SC/ST Cell of AAP and others also addressed the rally, which was organized by District President Raj Kumar, Amar Nath Sangathan Mantri, Duni Chand, Bikrant Singh and Kartar Singh.

Elected representatives need to maintain discipline: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Nov 8: Kavinder Gupta, former Speaker of J&K Legislative Assembly and former Deputy Chief Minister has appealed to the elected representatives to maintain discipline, decorum and grace not only inside Assemblies and Parliament but also in the public life. The former Speaker said that every citizen in the country is aware about what is happening at times in Parliament or State Assemblies as pandemonium in these temples of democracy has become a common sight these days, which is unwarranted. He urged the elected representatives to choose words carefully during legislative proceedings and observe decorum in the House. Kavinder Gupta along with former Speakers namely Sumitra Mahajan, Shivraj Patil, Meira Kumar and others were the part of an Advisory Council meeting related to the preparations for the National Legislators Conference in New Delhi. It is pertinent to mention that the National Legislators Conference is scheduled to be held in Mumbai in June 2023. Emphasizing on the choice of words, Kavinder said that in recent times some members of the legislature have been seen using unwanted words. He said legislators are public representatives and it is their duty to maintain decorum and dignity, especially in their conduct in the House. He asked the leaders to exercise maximum restraint while interacting inside and outside the House. Kavinder also expressed concern about political parties relying on giving freebies to the electorate to change the poll outcomes. He said that the practice of promising freebies is eating up vitals of society as the same act as termite, which weakens the country badly. He said that people should understand this fact and themselves reject such officers which are detrimental for the country and its people.