

## LAHDC seeks constitutional safeguards for Ladakh

**Excelsior Correspondent**

LEH, Nov 09: As decided during the General Council meeting for the review of the District Capex Budget on November 5, a special session of the General Council Meeting of LAHDC Leh was conducted today under the chairmanship of the Chairman/CEC, Tashi Gyalson.

The meeting was attended by Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; EC RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee;

seeking Constitutional Safeguard on the lines of 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

During the question hours, all the elected representatives of the Hill Council, Leh debated on the two agendas discussing the advantages as well as the drawbacks of the resolution moved.

After a detailed discussion, the house passed the resolution moved by Executive Councillor, Stanzin Chospel thus seeking the Central Government's intervention in full.



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson chairing General Council meeting in Leh on Wednesday.

EC Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi; EC Agriculture, Stanzin Chospel; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse; Leader of Opposition, Tsering Namgyal, and the Councillors representing different constituencies of LAHDC Leh including Nominated Councillors.

Threadbare discussion took place on the two resolutions moved in the august house. The first resolution was moved by Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chospel stating the need for a Constitutional safeguard for Ladakh under a suitable provision of the Indian Constitution as per the aspiration of the people of Ladakh, and the second one was moved by Councillor Lower Leh/Leader of the Opposition, Tsering Namgyal

filling the aspiration of the people of Ladakh with the need for having safeguard for the protection of land, employment, socio-economy, culture, environment and trade.

CEC Tashi Gyalson appreciated the active participation of all the Councillors during the day-long session. He mentioned that every member of the house has shown their concern on the need for having a proper safeguard protecting the interest of the people of Ladakh in every sector, and further hoped that the Union Government under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah would definitely take a major decision in the interest of the people of Ladakh in this regard.

## Samoon reviews progress on formulation of District Skill Development Plans

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Nov 9: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon today chaired a meeting to review the progress on formulation of District Skill Development Plans along with Panchayat level skill development plans and submission of job role demands (short term training) under PMKVY 4.0 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principals of Polytechnic Colleges, senior officers of SDD and other allied departments. Secretary Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Deputy Commissioners of various districts, Mission Director JKSDM, Director SDD and other officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, the Principal Secretary impressed upon the officers that a proper plan from each district should be formulated so that trade wise plans can be developed. He said that the plans should commensurate with the needs of the industry and aspirations of the local youth.

He inquired about the District Skill Development Plan from every district and the way forward to achieve the desired results. He said that there is a need for convergence and our objective should be that maximum number of youth get benefited through skilling. He further asked the officers to work in coordination so that a proper plan in accordance with the provisions of each district can be formulated.

The Principal Secretary highlighted that the skill training has a vast scope in Panchayat areas as large numbers of youth can be imparted training in various sectors and can be made self sufficient. He added that Skill planning from Panchayat Level will significantly help in reducing unemployment concerns of the youth.



Bollywood actor Juhi Chawla along with officials of Fortofino and De Beers Forevermark at their Talab Tillo store in Jammu.

## De Beers Forevermark launched at Fortofino Channi Himmat

**\*Brands celebrate 1st anniversary at Talab Tillo store**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 9: World's leading diamond jewellery brand, De Beers Forevermark, was launched today at Channi Himmat with Jammu's most trusted jeweller, Fortofino.

The brands also celebrated their one-year anniversary of their store at Talab Tillo. Charming Bollywood film star Juhi Chawla graced the occasions today.

Fortofino and De Beers Forevermark, hold a longstanding association and are further strengthening their partnership with this launch at the Channi Himmat store. This store showcases a varied selection of De Beers Forevermark's most iconic jewellery collections including the Signature Avaanti Collection, the Icon Collection, Forevermark Setting, the stackable rings Tribute Collection, the Half Carat Collection, the nose pin Capricci Collection and any many more.

"It gives me immense pleasure

to be a part of this celebration and witness this great partnership between these two brands, De Beers Forevermark and Fortofino, offering among the world's most beautiful, natural and responsibly sourced diamonds from De Beers Forevermark. Moreover, every jewellery piece available at both the Fortofino stores is exquisite and intricately crafted," said filmstar Juhi Chawla.

Speaking on the occasion, Amit Pratihari, vice president, De Beers Forevermark, said "The

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

store at Talab Tillo has been doing well over the past year and we are extremely happy to launch this new store at Channi Himmat which is validation that the people of Jammu appreciate the rarity of De Beers Forevermark diamonds. Moreover, we only associate with partners who share our common vision of trust and authenticity thus our synergy with Fortofino is unparalleled. It is a proud moment for us, and we hope to continue our association with Fortofino, our trusted partner offering only the best natural diamond jewellery to our clients in Jammu."

"We are delighted to launch the De Beers Forevermark collections at our store in Channi Himmat. Fortofino is the only brand to offer global designs to customers at all our stores in Jammu. Through this partnership with De Beers Forevermark, we look forward to revolutionizing the diamond market in Jammu by offering responsibly sourced natural diamonds in unique global designs. The Fortofino & Silverlines families thank our customers for trusting us with their diamond purchases," said Sanjeev Saraf, CMD, Fortofino.

## BSF shoots down Pak drone

**NEW DELHI, Nov 9:**

A Pakistani drone has been shot down by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab, a senior officer said Wednesday.

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

The 'hexa copter' drone was shot around 11:25 pm on Tuesday in the Ferozepur sector.

The drone was recovered this morning by a joint team of the BSF and local police, he said. (PTI)

## Secretary H&ME reviews progress on implementation of NTEP in J&K

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 9: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today convened a meeting to review progress on implementation of National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

Secretary, while addressing the meeting, highlighted the importance of National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme for eradication of Tuberculosis from the UT by or before year 2025. He exhorted upon the officers to accord high priority to "Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat" as their prime duty towards citizens' welfare making this campaign a mass movement.

He directed the Director Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir to further intensify their efforts in registration of NIKSHAY Mitras on the portal NIKSHAY 2.0. He also emphasized upon the Program Officers to make consistent efforts in monitoring the TB case notification and treatment besides ensuring real time reporting and community participation as key indicator.

## GMC Jammu to organize ISTBI annual national conference from Nov 11-13

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 9: Forty-seventh annual National conference of Indian Society of Blood Transfusion Medicine (ISBTI) titled "TRANSCON-2022" is being organized by Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and ISBTI UT J&K Chapter with effect from 11th-13th November.

Addressing a curtain raiser conference for the event, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma (Principal & Dean, GMC Jammu and patron of the Conference) said that the theme of the Conference is "Trends,



Principal and Dean, GMC Jammu, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma addressing a press conference on Wednesday.

Advances and Future Frontiers in Transfusion Medicine" with emphasis on achieving 100% Voluntary Blood Donation in J&K, UT and across the country. More than 700 delegates across the country have got themselves registered for the conference.

She informed that the Conference will be inaugurated on November 11 by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha at Hotel Radisson at 9:00 am sharp. She

added that Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar (Advisor to LG) and Bhupinder Kumar (Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department) shall be the guests of honour.

Dr Shashi stated that there shall be three pre-conference web workshops on different subjects for the post-graduates students and technicians from across the country on 10th of November. "The inaugural ceremony shall be followed by scientific sessions which shall be for three days from 11th to 13th November and experts of National and International repute in the field of Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology shall enrich the participants with their vast experience during these sessions," she added.

She said that separate sessions have been planned for this important topic of Voluntary Blood Donation. "Post Graduate students, lab technologists, Residents and Faculty shall have ample opportunities to share their views on various aspects of Blood Transfusion through posters and Oral presentation," she further added.

The press conference was also attended by Dr TR Raina (organizing chairman) and Dr Meena Sidhu (organizing secretary) of the Conference.



Secretary Legislative Assembly chairing a meeting.

## Take effective steps for e-governance, digitisation of records of Assembly: Secy

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Nov 9: Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit today held an introductory meeting with the officers and officials of J&K Legislative Assembly at Assembly Complex here.

During the meeting, the Secretary held detailed deliberations on the affairs of the Assembly besides the issues of employees as well as other related matters related to welfare of employees were also discussed in detail.

Addressing the officers, the Secretary emphasized upon them to work with utmost dedication and commitment as this institution is very prestigious for the welfare of common people.

While speaking on the affairs of the institution, the Secretary delved upon the officers to take effective steps for e-governance, digitisation of all the records of

Assembly and besides the Recruitment Rules should also be finalised immediately for their onward submission to concerned departments.

The Secretary further asked the officers to initiate the process of framing/updating the 'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly'.

During the meeting, the employees raised several issues pertaining to their welfare with the Secretary and informed him that no promotion has been granted to employees from last three years.

While interacting with the employees, the Secretary said that he is well aware of the matter as he was dealing with the Parliamentary Affairs section in Law Department and he has raised the issue with the higher authorities. The Secretary assured them that all of their genuine issues will be redressed on priority.



Vice Chancellors of CUJ & SKUAST-Jammu displaying MoU signed between the two varieties.

## 2-day conference on Plant Sciences begins at CUJ

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 9: Two day national conference on promoting Applied Research in Plant Sciences (PARPS - 2022), organized by Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu, was inaugurated at CUJ, here today.

Vice-Chancellor of CUJ, Prof Sanjeev Jain was chief guest on the occasion while Prof J P Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e- Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST), Jammu, and Dr C M Seth, Retd PCCF, J&K were the guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof J P Sharma highlighted that despite decreasing land and water resources, we have surplus agricultural production.

However, post-harvest wastage leads to considerable economic loss and technologies should be developed to reduce these losses which would also lead to farmer prosperity, he added.

Prof Sanjeev Jain emphasised the need to scientifically document, protect and patent our traditional knowledge of plants. He complimented the Department of Botany and its Head Prof B S Bhow for the

efforts being made to promote scientific dialogue and community interaction.

Dr C M Seth urged the participants to plan their research in such a way that it can go from 'lab to field', thus contributing towards the GDP of our nation.

Earlier, Prof B S Bhow, while giving an overview of the proceedings to follow, reiterated his commitment that at Department of Botany, CUJ research is oriented with the motto 'Think global, Act local'.

Highlight of the occasion was signing of MoU between CUJ and SKUAST-Jammu which would promote faculty and student exchange between the two leading Universities of the region. Dr Vanya Bawa, Convenor PARPS- 2022 gave the vote of thanks.

Invited guests were Prof Felix Bast, Central University of Punjab, Bhatinda; Prof Tuha Dey and Prof Gurdev Chand, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr Reyazul R Mir, SKUAST-Kashmir and several scientists, academicians, research scholars and students from CUJ, Jammu University, SKUAST-Jammu, CSIR-IIM, Govt Dept of School Education, Jammu, GDC Paloura, BGSBU, Rajouri.

## Arvind re-elected as ABVP State President, Akshi is Secretary

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 9: Dr Arvind Parkash Singh has been re-elected as State President and Akshi Billowria as State Secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir for the year 2022-23.

This announcement was made today by the State Office of ABVP in Jammu.

According to the statement issued by the ABVP Election Officer, Dr Permender Singh, the tenure of both the posts will be of one year and both the office bearers will assume their responsibility during the 58th State Conference of ABVP scheduled to be held in Kangra Fort (Jammu) from 11th to 13th November 2022.

Dr Arvind Parkash Singh hails from Jammu. He completed his PhD in Agronomy. Presently, he is working as a Senior Scientist at Agriculture

University, Jammu. Since 2013, he is active as a teacher Karyakarta while serving as City President, State Incharge Agrivision and State Vice-President. He has been re-elected as the State President of ABVP for this session (2022-23).



Akshi Billowria hails from Basholi village of Kathua District and is in contact with ABVP since 2018. She completed her MA Economics from Central University Jammu. After serving as Mahanagar Joint Secretary, State Convener Rashtriya Kala Manch, State Girls Incharge, she has been elected as State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir for the session 2022-23.

## Army jawan dies in accidental fire

**Excelsior Correspondent**

MENDHAR, Nov 9: An Army jawan posted along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar area of Poonch district died in an accidental fire from his service weapon last night.

Official sources said that a jawan deputed on a forward post

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

along the LoC in Mankot sector of Poonch district, received bullet wounds due to accidental fire last night.

Sepoy Swaran R (27), resident of Tamil Nadu, at present deployed with Rashtriya Rifles, later succumbed to injuries in the local Unit hospital.

The body of jawan was brought to the sub-district hospital in Mendhar where the body was handed over to the army after the post-mortem, Block Medical Officer said.

The Army sent the body to his native village for the last rites after a written formality. A case has been registered at the Police Station Mendhar and investigation taken up.



Participants during a media workshop at Samba on Wednesday.

## PIB Jammu organises Rural Media Workshop at Samba

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SAMBA, Nov 9: To build a direct interface between PIB Jammu and the journalists working at district and sub-district levels across Jammu division, Press Information Bureau, (PIB) Jammu, today organised Rural Media Workshop (Vartalap) at district Samba.

The workshop was inaugurated jointly by Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry and Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta in presence of Ayushi Puri, Assistant Director & Sheikh Mudaris Amin, Media & Communications Officer, PIB, Jammu.

In his address during the workshop, Additional Director General, Northern Region, Rajinder Chaudhry said that the media at the district and sub-district levels must use PIB backgrounders containing valuable information for development stories with infographics that must be brought to the public for information and feedback. He further emphasized that media should follow and use PIB Fact-check to counter false information and rumours that sometimes confuse public when some false information is viral on different social media platforms.

Chaudhry also gave a presentation about various media activities

carried by PIB, J&K and Central Bureau of Communication, J&K.

In her inaugural address, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta appreciated the efforts of PIB, Jammu for organizing this media workshop which is the best platform for a dialogue between media and Government that is the need of the hour. She further said that this is the era of revolution, reforms and transition being technology driven when 225 public services are online for the welfare of the public at large. She emphasized that the need of the hour is to inform public through media about these online services so that they will be able to make best use of these online services for their all round welfare.

Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Miss Ayushi Puri in her remarks emphasised on the importance of 'Rural Media Workshop' 'Vartalap' which is a platform for journalists working at district level to gain some insights about their role in development Journalism & responsible reporting. During the Vartalap, the journalists put forward some issues regarding welfare and accreditation before Additional Director General, PIB, Rajinder Chaudhry who assured them to take up their genuine issues before the concerned authorities for an early redressal.

## Paucity of Funds: Ward 59 only got 50 pc street lights

**Sanjeev K. Sharma**



JAMMU, Nov. 9: As the tenure of elected body of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has hardly a year left, the lane and drain works has not been completely done in Ward number 59 and only 50 per cent of street lights were provided to the Ward against its total requirement while some of the installed street lights have now turned faulty.

This was informed by Ashok Singh Manhas, Ward number 59 Councillor who initially won the Urban Local Body election as an Independent candidate but later on joined BJP and this is his second term as a Councillor from the same Ward.

"Due to paucity of funds, work of lanes and drains has not been fully completed in my Ward as we only did 70 per cent of it but the roads there are well repaired while I only got 50 per cent street lights of the total requirement in my Ward and many of these are now in non-functional state," Manhas said during an interaction with the Excelsior.

He also claimed that so far no solution has been reached for the problem of stray animals especially dogs as JMC lifts these animals and again leaves them at the same place after performing sterility on them.

Manhas informed that his Ward includes areas of Paloura Top, Mandik Nagar Phase I & II, Pandoka, Tara Vihar, Khajuria Mohalla, JK Colony, Mohalla Bhaktan, Ambedkar Nagar, Adarsh Nagar, Paloura Top Phase I, II, III and few other small areas.

## MUNICIPAL WARD UPDATE

On water and power supply in the Ward, he informed that power supply these days is good but the water is supplied on alternate days as infrastructure like supply motors, pipes etc are very old and need replacement.

"Recently installed smart meters in my Ward are giving hefty bills thereby triggering public resentment but the actual need is to make the public aware on judicious use of electricity," the Councillor said.

He further said that fogging is being done in the Ward to prevent breeding of mosquitoes in order to safeguard the public from dengue fever which has now spread in the city like an epidemic.

"We send dengue positive reports to the anti-Malaria section and they in turn send their team for fogging the affected area," Manhas maintained adding that the Ward also has a pond for which he is in continuous efforts to develop the water body properly.

"Rs. 25 lakh has been already spent on boundary around the pond with grill work while another tender of Rs. 1.38 crore under a scheme of Union government is under-process for further improving the pond," he further said.

The JMC Councillor also said that there are four parks in the Ward all of which are properly developed with paths, plantation of trees and plants etc.

He further said that the Ward has no playground for the children.

"There is an open air gym at the park in Bua Dati temple while other parks in the Ward are at Paloura Top, Mandik Nagar and in JDA colony," he continued adding that the Ward also has a public toilet and a Ward office besides a Garbage Transfer Plant to process the garbage.

his Ward has six Nallahs but there was no incident of any flood as these Nallahs were properly constructed under his supervision during his earlier tenure.

He also said that garbage disposal problem in the Ward has now been solved by the autos moving from door-to-door to collect the garbage.

"There are also drug peddlers and addicts in the Ward and we often raise the issue in police-public meetings," he said.

Manhas informed that during COVID-19 pandemic triggered lockdown he remained busy in helping the needy people in his Ward and also distributed ration among them apart from motivating them for COVID-19 vaccinations.

"As far as Ayushman Cards are concerned, maximum of my Ward resident have got them by now and similar is the case for Voter and Aadhar Cards but still we organize camps for making these cards for the left over public," he said.

Manhas said that the new pension rule to benefit exclusively the elders, widows and physically challenged persons from Below Poverty Line is creating problems but the Social Justice Committee of JMC is taking the issue with government.

The Councillor said though