

World Bank team concludes 5-day tour of J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 1: A high level team of World Bank comprising Hemang Karia, Task Team Leader, Deepak Singh, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Dr Chandershekar, consultant/former Chief Architect, Union Ministry of Health, Supriya Dua, Financial Expert, Arghya Ghosh, Livelihood Consultant, Peeyush Sekharia, Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Manzoor Khan, Operations Specialist today concluded its 5 day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

During last 5 days, the team had comprehensive discussion with Project Management Unit of Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project and various Project Implementation Units JKERA, PWD (R&B), I&CD, SMC, which are executing various sub-projects under different components of World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief Executive Officer J&KERA, during his meeting with World Bank team, said that 143 sub-projects, out of the total of 213 sub-projects, have been completed under different components of JTFR project. He added that an expenditure of Rs 1131.51 crore has been incurred under the project, so far.

The completed sub-projects included various vital road and bridge sub-projects in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, construction of BaLA (Building as a Learning Aid) designed schools across J&K, installation of 30 Manifold Oxygen Generation plants in hospitals located in most remote areas of the UT, providing of Critical Care medical equipments to District Hospitals across J&K, construction of various Storm Water Drainage projects, development of DSS (Decision

Support System), IOFS (Integrated Operational Forecasting System), study on MHRA (Multihazard Risk Assessment) for Strengthening of Disaster Management Capacity in J&K.

Dr Syed Abid along with the visiting World Bank team also visited under construction 120 bedded hospital at Bone & Joint Hospital which is being executed under JTFRP at an allotted cost of Rs 88.95 crore by NPCC (National Projects Construction Corporation). It was informed that around 48% progress has been achieved on the project, so far.

CEO ERA, directed the executing agency NPCC to ensure that the highest standards of construction be maintained on execution of works.

Dr Chandrashekar, Consultant, World Bank, former Chief Architect, Union Ministry of Health, asked the contractor that work on sub-project be executed in such a manner so that installation of medical equipments and other hi-tech equipments in the new building is synchronised and seamless.

The World Bank team also had a meeting with Saloni Rai, Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, during which progress achieved under the component of Restoration & Strengthening of Livelihoods being executed by I&CD was discussed.

The visiting team also had meetings with Senior officers of JKERA, PMU, JTFRP PWD, R&B, Kashmir and SMC where in they were briefed about progress achieved on components of construction of roads and bridges, construction of critical infrastructure, strengthening of disaster management capacity as well as strengthening of Urban Flood Management being implemented by these agencies respectively.



SSP Security, Civil Secretariat M Y Kichloo during workshop at Jammu on Saturday.

DIPR Jammu organises workshop on cyber security

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: A one day workshop on cyber security was organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations at the auditorium of its office complex, today.

The expert lecture was delivered by SSP Security, Civil Secretariat Jammu, M.Y. Kichloo. He shared information on cyber frauds and other ways people are cheated and exploited online.

He advised the attendees to use strong passwords, avoid trusting strangers online and not to use apps like Cam Scanner and others banned by the

Government of India. The lecture was followed by a question answer session in which the employees of the department and media persons also learnt ways to protect themselves online.

The workshop was attended by Joint Director Information Jammu, Sapna Kotwal; Dy. Director (HQ) Jammu, Dr. Rehana Akhtar Bijli; Dy. Director (PR) Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma; Assistant Director, Shabnam Jaipuria; Cultural Officer, Parul Khajuria; Information Officer, Ashu Thappa among other officers and officials of the department from Jammu division.

E-rickshaws and Navnirman Gas Agency office inaugurated

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Navnirman Gas Agency office and E-rickshaws were inaugurated by Kavita Ranpise, Circle/Regional CWWA Chief CRPF Jammu in Group Center CRPF Jammu Complex.

A function was organized on this occasion, wherein Neelima Sethi, Regional CWWA Head Group Center CRPF, Jammu welcomed and felicitated the chief guest and officers, subordinate officers, women members of CWWA and the CRPF personnel present.

Neelima Sethi in her address

camp that with the cooperation and efforts of DIG of Police, Group Center CRPF Jammu and his officers and personnel. Pollution free e-rickshaws have been made available from the resources of the Group Center for the purpose of gas agency office and different welfare work and cleanliness, this will not only benefit the families, personnel and children living in the camp premises but also Personnel living outside and their families will also be benefited.

"Apart from this, day-to-day improvement is going on in various areas in the Campus and it will not be an exaggeration to say



Dignitaries posing for photograph after inaugurating gas agency.

informed that many development works are being carried out in this Group Centre. A new gas agency office has been constructed in the same way, as well as e-rickshaws have been made available to facilitate the family and employees residing in the camp premises.

Chief guest Kavita Ranpise in her address said that today it is a very special day for all of us in which the benefit were implemented for personnel residing in

that Group Center CRPF Jammu is moving towards an ideal Group Centre", she added.

All the above programs were successfully organized under the leadership of Bhanu Pratap Singh, DIG, Group Center Jammu, in which Prem Chandra Gupta (Commandant) of Group Center, Jammu, Rajesh Kumar (Deputy Commandant), Sumit Verma (Deputy Commandant), other officers and subordinate officers and jawans were present.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 1: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for celebration of forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Shopian, Budgam and Bandipora districts participated in the meeting through video conferencing while Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chief Engineers of various departments, officers of police, Traffic department, Information, Waqf Board, Health Department, SMC, attended the meeting in person.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com stressed for making all the necessary arrangements to facilitate people on the upcoming auspicious occasions. He directed the officials of KPDCCL to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all the congregation sites during the entire period. He also directed the restoration of street lights in and around these areas.

The Div Com also directed for making provision of safe drinking water, adequate supply of ration, health care facilities, fire fighting arrangements, parking facilities and ensuring cleanliness at Hazratbal Shrine, Jenab Sahib Saura, Assar I Sharief Kalashpora, Aham-i-Sharief Bandipora, Kabamarg Anantnag, Pethmakham Budgam and at all other Masjids and shrines where large number of devotees are expected to arrive.

He directed Road Transport Corporation officials to make

buses available for the transportation of devotees on all routes leading to Hazratbal. He directed for making parking facilities available at Kashmir University and NIT. Besides, he also directed the plying of electric Autos for elderly people from parking places to Assar-i-Sharief Hazratbal to facilitate them during their visits to shrines on auspicious days.

The Div Com directed RTO Kashmir to designate routes for devotees and streamline the flow of traffic.

He also directed for establishing facilitation centres for devotees by the Waqf board and Traffic Police for making announcements to guide the public. Also, he asked for the establishment of health camps with dedicated staff and all facilities.

Regarding addressing the dog menace around the Hazratbal Shrine, it was informed that SMC already conducted a dog catching drive. On the occasion, Div Com directed CEO waqf board to install iron mesh at the gates of the shrine so stray dogs do not enter the premises of lawns of the shrine.

Moreover, Div Com directed Waqf Board and LCMA to make water fountains at Hazratbal functional and asked CE KPDCCL to supply electricity regularly for the activity.

He directed ADC Srinagar to conduct visits to the congregation sites of the city to ensure all the arrangements are put in place.

Reliance Jewels launches exquisite collection of gold, diamond jewellery 'Mahalaya'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Reliance Jewels has launched an exquisite collection of gold and diamond jewellery "Mahalaya", inspired by the glory and grace of Maharashtra to mark the upcoming auspicious and celebratory festive season.

The name Mahalaya is a culmination of greatness and beauty, MAHA meaning great and AALYA meaning beauty that is found in almost every aspect of life in Maharashtra.

Reliance Jewels' new Mahalaya collection is an exquisite handcrafted collection of gold and diamond jewellery designed taking inspiration from the lustrous weaves of Paithani silk saree to fascinating visuals of Warli tribal paintings, from scenic beauty of hills and valleys to the grandeur of Gads and Wadas and Royal Regalia, a jewellery worn by the royals.

Customers get to choose magnificent designs in gold and diamond from a variety of intricately designed and artistically crafted jewellery pieces that encapsulate these inspirations. While their designers draw inspirations from different regions, the final Jewellery collection is designed to suit each and every Indian woman.

In order to make this festive season even more special for their customers, the brand has designed and curated this spectacular collection in the form of beautiful necklace sets, pendant sets, mangalsutras, ear-rings, rings, bracelets and bangles in this collection are unique and represent the glory and grace of Maharashtra.

In addition to the new jewellery pieces, patrons can also avail of upto 25 per cent off on making charges of gold jewellery and diamond Jewellery value. The stunning collection will be exclusively available at all Reliance Jewels Flagship showrooms across the country and a select range will be available on the Reliance Jewels website.

7 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Akhnoor, Arnia, Bishnah, Phallian Mandal, Chatha and Chakroi Police seized 7 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

As per police sources, teams from Police Station Akhnoor led by SHO Inspector Hilal Azhar, Police Station Arnia led by SHO Inspector Sumeet Sharma, Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma, Police Post Phallian Mandal led by PSI Ajesh Singh Jammwal, Police Post Chatha led by PSI Harjinder Paul Singh and Border Police Post Chakroi led by PSI Ishfaq Ahmed Kasana raided at different locations in their respective areas and seized 7 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same. The mining was being done in violation of order of High Court of J&K.

In order to strictly implement the drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators of the law, Jammu Police has initiated strict action.

Shahid attends International Conference at Italy

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 1: Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary attended the International Conference on Sustainability and Bio-cultural Heritage of Transhumance at University of Molise, Italy, representing India at the international collaboration hosted by the Republic of Italy. The conference focuses on sustainable efforts for inclusive development of migratory population in more than 15 countries.

Dr Shahid Choudhary made a detailed presentation about efforts of Government of India and Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for sustainable and integrated development of Transhumant tribal population in the region, including the socio-economic survey for development, transit and transport support for migration, relief in natural disasters, focus on education and healthcare, opportunities for livelihood, Skilling and use of technology for welfare.

The programme includes visit to various areas including Isernia, Campobasso, Benevento, Florence, Venice and other regions in Italy for firsthand assessment of research-supported welfare and development initiatives for Transhumant population.



Secretary TAD Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary during International Conference at Italy on Saturday.

Transhumance is historically widespread throughout much of Italy, France, Spain and most of the Balkan countries where nomadic cattle and sheep herders travel long distances in search of greener pastures in summer and warmer climatic conditions in winter. Governments and research institutions have come together for sustainable support to this historic phenomenon.

Wiladimir Mejia from Columbia University, Nicco Bartoleto from Italy, Letizia Bindi from University of Molise, Mauro Giardiello from Institute of Social Sciences, Mark Steins from Food & Agriculture Organisation and other senior officials and researchers discussed various common frameworks for cooperation with J&K Tribal Affairs Department and nodal Universities.

Margharita DiPaulo from the Centre for International Relations, Italy was nominated

as designated authority to work on proposals for PhD programmes and other joint research and policy courses in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Government. The proposed MoU will offer PhD programs in various aspects of tribal transhumant socio-cultural life in J&K with exposure to similar pattern of vertical Transhumant migration in various other countries in Europe.

J&K has world's largest Transhumant tribal population which is under policy focus of Central and UT governments and a number of planned initiatives have been started over last two years. The international research and policy collaboration will also offer resource support for various welfare and developmental activities apart from policy collaboration. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India approved the visit of Dr Shahid Choudhary to Italy last month.

Warm farewell given to Rakesh Kumar on retirement

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Rakesh Kumar (IRS-IT 2004) Commissioner of Income Tax posted at Jammu, retired from Govt service after putting in a distinguished service of 36 years.

During his service career, he worked on important posts at various places including Jammu, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Kathua and Delhi.

His core areas of specialisation were tax laws including international taxation, Office Administration and Vigilance work.

A special function was organised in Income Tax office

Jammu in which the services rendered by the retiring officer were highlighted and remembered.

Senior officers of department who were present on this occasion included Mona Singh Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Baljit Kaur, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, Satbir Singh, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Amit Kumar, Daanish Augustam, Rahul Padha all DCITs. A large number of Income Tax officers and staff members were also present. They wished the retiring officer a happy and healthy post retirement life.



Manmohan Choudhary addressing a press conference at Jammu on Saturday.

Jat Mahila summit to boost community's struggle over demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: For encouraging participation of the women folk in the community's struggle over long pending demands, All India Jat Mahasabha (J&K) is going to organize first ever 'Jat Mahila Adviveshan' in Jammu on October 9.

"Time has come for all women to stand shoulder to shoulder with men to further strengthen the movement and this would further send a message to the administration that the community of nearly five lakh people cannot remain muted and ignored for long," said Manmohan Choudhary, President of All India Jat Maha Sabha, while addressing a press conference, here today.

Pertinent to mention that the Jat community in J&K has been demanding reservation under

OBC category, ownership rights over the custodian land allotted to the families after Indo-Pak war of 1965 and 1971, payment of Rs 5.5 lakh grant to the left over families and release of promised payment of Rs 25 lakh for one time settlement.

"Jat community has been struggling since 1947 when it was uprooted from native places across PoK and Chhamb area during the last three Indo-Pak wars. All such families have been settled all along the border from Kathua to Chhamb area. Their sufferings continue because of lack of Government policy, economic backwardness, meager land holding and no alternative source of income," said Manmohan Choudhary.

He lamented that all these issues have had been projected before the successive Governments since 1947 but nothing was done except promises and lip service to the community. "Eleven states have accorded OBC status to the Jat community in India but administration of UT in J&K continues to deny and delay the same," he said.

Expecting tremendous response from the community women for the forthcoming summit, Manmohan Choudhary said that the women power through All India Jat Maha Sabha Nari Shakti Maha Sammelan will provide full might and impetus to the ongoing struggle.

Informing that next course of action will also be collectively decided by all during the event, which will be held at Golden Leaf Banquet, Babliana Road, Gangyal, the Jat Maha Sabha leader sought support of the entire community over the demands.

Others, who were present in the press conference, included Brig Pawan Sauntra, Col S R Choudhary, Avtar Krishan Choudhary, C A Sunil Choudhary, Prem Pal Choudhary, Rashpal Choudhary and Rattan Choudhary.

Hillview Honda celebrates 25th Anniversary of Honda City

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Hillview Honda, authorized dealer of premium Honda Cars in Jammu, today celebrated 25th Anniversary of Honda City, where all the five generations of Honda City were displayed.

Speaking during the celebrations Ravish Trehan, Managing Director, Hillview Honda, said, "The Honda City was first introduced in India in January 1998, Honda City has been the country's most successful mid-size Sedan. The City is in its fifth generation now, and each one of these five generations has enjoyed its run in the Indian Market. We started our journey with Honda in Jammu and

City e:HEV features Honda's unique self-charging and highly efficient two motor electric hybrid system connected to a smooth 1.5-litre Atkinson-Cycle DOHC i-VTEC petrol engine, that aims to offer World's Best Electric-Hybrid performance with an exhilarating drive, overwhelming fuel efficiency of 26.5 km/l and ultra-low emissions. Honda has also introduced its Advanced Intelligent Safety Technology "Honda SENSING" for the first time in India with the new City e:HEV. The company has reiterated its global vision to realize carbon neutrality and zero collision fatalities by 2050.

"The Advanced Intelligent Safety Technology "Honda Sensing" utilizes a high perform-



Honda cars on display during 25th Anniversary.

Kashmir in 2008, when third generation Honda City was making its impressions in market and sold sizeable numbers. The most favorite was fourth generation of Honda City which was liked and loved by masses and the legacy is being carried forward by fifth generation Honda City".

He informed that in May 2022, Honda launched its much-anticipated New City e:HEV in the country. City e:HEV is the first car in the mainstream segment equipped with strong hybrid electric technology. The

ance front camera with a wide-angle, far-reaching detection system to scan the road ahead and alert the driver to minimize the risk of accidents and, in some cases, intervene to avoid or lessen the severity of a collision. Collision Mitigation Braking System (CMBS), Adaptive Cruise Control, Road Departure Mitigation (RDM), Lane Keeping Assist System (LKAS), and Auto High-Beam are the signature features of Honda Sensing", Ravish Trehan informed.



DC Jammu during visit to Surinsar.

DC inspects development works in Surinsar area

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa today conducted an extensive tour of Surinsar area and inspected the progress on the under execution development works there.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a round of Surinsar lake and inspected the pathway damaged in recent torrential rains.

The DC asked the CEO SMDA Gurvinder Singh to engage a Consultant and prepare the DPR for the reconstruction of the pathway along with the lake.

She also visited Aithen to review the status of water and cleanliness of a pond. The DC asked the concerned official to desilt the pond and also prepare an estimate for the construction

of boundary wall around it.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Special Summary Revision camp held at Government Higher Secondary School Surinsar and local polling stations.

All the BLOs were present at their respective polling stations along with electoral rolls and requisite forms.

The DEO said that the special camps have been organised across the District for inclusion of new voters/Correction/Deletion of names.

She also instructed the BLOs to work with utmost dedication and caution while registering new voters, making corrections and deletions to avoid any kind of inconvenience to the people in future.

Similar camps will be organized on the 2nd, 15th and 16th of October '22.