

Div Com reviews winter preparedness in districts

*Inspects Blue Green projects of Smart City

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting of heads of the departments and Deputy Commissioners to review the winter preparedness in the districts of the division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr Devansh Yadav; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Inderjeet; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD, Mechanical Engineering Department, PMGSY, JPDL, Deputy Director FCS&CA, Deputy Director Health

The Deputy Commissioners appraised the Divisional Commissioner about the water, power supply position, availability of ration, fuel, LPG and other essentials in their respective districts.

Reviewing the power supply scenario in each district, the Chief Engineer PDD informed about the areas prone to breakdowns during the winters. He informed that necessary buffer stock has been maintained in districts for replacement of damaged transformers in the short-term period.

The Div Com instructed the Engineers of JPDL to keep men and machinery ready for restoration of power supply in case of disruption due to snowfall.



Div Com Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

Services, besides senior officers BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL, Oil Companies, Traffic Police and other concerned officers while other Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Div Com took district wise review of preparedness in the districts regarding maintenance of National Highways, link roads, water, power supply scenario, snow clearance and overall winter arrangements.

While reviewing winter preparedness for clearance of roads, the Div Com directed PWD, NHAI, BRO, MED to ensure tenders are floated for maintenance and ensure quick clearance during snowfall in the districts. He also stressed that the roads leading to tourist destinations should be cleared on priority so that tourists don't face any inconvenience.

The Div Com directed the concerned Engineers to make special arrangements for snow clearance in the districts which experience heavy snowfall to keep the roads traffic worthy.

The Heads of the Departments and Deputy Commissioners were asked to activate 24x7 Divisional and district level control rooms and notify helpline numbers and put them in public domain. The HODs were asked to issue duty rosters of staff on a regular basis and maintain adequate stocking of essentials to avoid shortage during traffic disruption due to snowfall.

The Div Com also passed directions to the health department to keep an adequate stock of life saving medicines, surgical equipment and other necessary medicines to avoid deficiency in the districts, besides ensure adequate heating

arrangements in health care institutions, Hospitals.

He also advised DCs to prepare disaster Management Plan and identify volunteers for quick response during any exigency.

The snow bound highway districts were directed to identify suitable shelter locations to use them during road blockade.

Meanwhile, Div Com conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city and inspected various ongoing Blue Green Projects being executed under Jammu Smart City Mission.

The Div Com was accompanied by CEO Jammu Smart City Limited Rahul Yadav; Additional CEO, Hitesh Gupta; project directors, site engineers and other concerned officers.

The Div Com visited Railway Station, Gorkha Nagar and took a round of the entire stretch along the Tawi Canal and inspected the pace of ongoing works there.

It was informed that the work is in progress on Blue green project for Tawi canal from Gorkha Nagar to Railway Station at the cost of Rs 17.83 crore.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner visited Bakshi Nagar and inspected the pace of ongoing works on the Blue Green Project for the Ranbir Canal from Paloura to Bakshi Nagar (Phase 1 and 2). It was informed that the project cost is Rs 20.17 crore.

It was informed that the project includes improved access to the park paved courts in Park area, green berm with gentle slope, construction of double storey Parking for 29 vehicles, pedestrian bridges to connect left and right sides of the Canal banks, replacing old electric poles with new one, park lighting, water ATMs and many other facilities.

The Div Com directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work keeping in view the quality parameters and complete the work within fixed timelines.



BJP delegation meeting Union Minister Shantanu Thakur at Jammu on Friday.

People of J&K see saviour in persona of PM Modi: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: A delegation of senior BJP leaders led by former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta today met Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and discussed several issues regarding development scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shantanu Thakur has arrived Jammu to visit Samba District tomorrow morning under the Public Outreach programme to take stock of public issues as well as development programmes.

The deputation comprised of senior BJP leaders Sat Sharma, Chander Mohan Gupta, Surjit Singh Slatia, Sham Lal Sharma, Ajay Bharti, Venu Khanna, Purinima Sharma, Arvind Gupta, Munish Khajuria, Naresh Singh, Karan Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Arjan Manhas and Ashok Kumar.

The BJP leaders from the UT appraised Shantanu Thakur about the issues being faced by border dwellers and MGNREGA workers. They also appraised Shantanu Thakur about the vast scope of religious tourism in the Samba district where two major shrines Utterbehni and Purmandal are located and visited by people from across the country. They also laid stress for proper development of both the shrines as due to lack of vision of successive Governments headed by NC and

Congress the Jammu region was always discriminated.

The former Deputy Chief Minister appraised the Union Minister of the pace of works on different development projects including the Smart Cities project, Railways and Highways' progress, civic edifice besides implementation of central welfare schemes and the feedback of masses.

"The scrapping of Article 370 has been seen as removal of major hurdle in the development and now the people are expecting colossal development in the UT with services and facilities reaching at their doorsteps," Kavinder said, adding that all eyes in J&K are on Central dispensation to relieve them from the morass of decades together because in PM Narendra Modi's personality they see a saviour and well wisher.

Kavinder said that the Public Outreach Programme series has given much to the people and they always expect more from it. He said that this programme has been acting as a bridge between the people of J&K and the Central Government, as all their aspirations and demands reach out to concerned quarters at the Centre without any risk of middlemen altering the same as the Union Ministers are the main stakeholders. He said that people are happy with this endeavour and wanted this to continue in the times to come.

India proud to be friend, partner in liberation war of Bangladesh: President Murmu

NEW DELHI, Oct 14:

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said India is proud to be a friend and partner in the liberation war of Bangladesh and continues to share the development journey with it.

She said that liberation of Bangladesh and its rise and prosperity is an inspiring story for the world community.

"Youth of Bangladesh have a past which is full of glory, and a future that is full of promises," Murmu said, while addressing a youth delegation from Bangladesh, who had called on her at Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

President Murmu said India is proud to be a friend and partner in the Liberation War of Bangladesh and continues to share the development journey with Bangladesh, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement.

"It is important for us to preserve this spirit, which continues to inspire the deep friendship between our two countries and our people," it said.

The president said that Bangladesh occupies a very special place in the hearts and minds of every Indian.

"Our countries share deep civilisational links. We share many things between us including art, music and literature," Murmu said.

She said that India has always attached the highest priority to its friendship with Bangladesh and we remain committed to realising its full potential. "Our deep cooperation shows the importance that both countries attach to this relationship," the president said.

She recalled her recent meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Delhi and in London.

The president stated that both India and Bangladesh have a young population.



More than half of India's population consists of young people and Bangladesh's demography is similar to ours, with a large youth population," Murmu said.

She said that as innovators, creators, builders and leaders of the future, the youth of both countries need to engage in cutting-edge areas such as green energy, start ups and technology enabled services in finance, health and education.

The president noted that while there is already a lot of people to people contact between India and

Bangladesh, "we need to do much more."

In this regard, the youth of both countries can play a leading role, she said.

The president expressed hope that the members of the delegation will use this opportunity to gain insights and experiences on various aspects of India, its diversity and the developments in areas pertaining to science, technology, arts etc.

She said that just as youth of Bangladesh work hard to build the Sonar Bangla, they should also work with the same passion and sincerity to usher in a golden era of peace, prosperity and friendship among the people of India and Bangladesh.

Addressing the delegation members, the president said that they all are future leaders of Bangladesh.

"They are the custodians of the future of not only Bangladesh but also of the unique relationship of India and Bangladesh," Murmu said. (PTI)

Illegal soil lifting going on unabated in Kanispora, admn to take action

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 14: The District Mineral Officer (DMO), Baramulla, Zahid Peerzada today said that he will look into illegal soil lifting in Baramulla and take necessary action.

As per details available with Excelsior, permission was granted by the authorities to one for lifting nearly 450 truckloads of soil; however, the same has now gone beyond 1000 truckloads since the day the permission was granted by the District Mineral Officer (DMO), Baramulla.

Further, while it was stated in the disposal permit issued that the soil extracted will only be used for Government works, however, the details suggest that the same is being sold to the private parties carrying out the landfilling.

As per the permit, the soil extracted is supposed to be used for the execution of Government works namely Repairs to Chain Link Fencing, Construction of Gates/Leveling of the playground at Tulibal, Sopore.

It has also been stated in the

disposal permit that the lifted soil shall be strictly used for the Government works and in no case be used for filling of Abi Awal Land, however, on the contrary, there is a violation going on. The violation of the conditions laid down, as per the permit, will result in the cancellation of the same.

Concerning the royalty paid to the Government, details reveal that while nearly 100 truckloads of soil are being lifted from the spot, the royalty amount is paid just for 10 trucks regularly regarding which the receipts are available.

The permission for the lifting soil earlier, as per documents, was up to September 30, however, the same was later extended till October 30 after the concerned stated that due to the bad weather, the Disposal Permit was not executed fully.

The locals have also alleged that the lifting of the soil is also causing issues for the children who are studying at a school which is adjacent to the spot from where the soil is being lifted.

Akash team visits MHAC Nagbani

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: Akash Byju's team of experts visited MHAC Nagbani School and had an hour long counselling and interactive session with the students there.



Akash Byju's team presents citation to Meenu Betab, Supervisory Head MHAC Nagbani.

The Akash experts suggested a customized learning programme to the students and suggested them to opt those streams in class XI on which they have aptitude and excellence as shown by their results of class IX and X.

The team spoke high about the teachers of Nagbani for being the reason behind success of their students and for putting their relentless efforts and commitment for inspiring the students continuously on every step helping them push their boundaries and achieve

great dreams. A special word of appreciation was mentioned in favour of Meenu Betab, Supervisory Head for being the guiding force behind. A citation was presented to her on this occasion.

GCoE Jammu organises webinar on teaching apps

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: The Department of English and Department of ICT of Government College of Education (GCoE), Jammu today organized an online national webinar on 'Integrating ICT in Education : Teaching Apps for New Age Teachers'.

In the inaugural session, Principal, Prof Aekta Gupta appraised the audience about the objective of the webinar. She said that the B Ed College has taken the initiative of implementing the vision of NEP 2020 for integrating new age technology for training the teachers for the future tech-savvy generation and to promote teaching, learning and evaluation through hybrid mode of teaching.

Prof Shalini Rana, organizing secretary of the program, also asserted that now the teachers will have to keep pace with changing technology and update and up skill themselves for teaching the future generations.

The Resource Persons for the first session were M Prasanna Venkateshwaran, ELT Professional, ELTAC Services, Chennai and Prof Vargeesh Vargeesh K M from the

Department of English of St Joseph's College, Tiruchy, Tamil Nadu.

The resource persons delivered hands-on interactive sessions on latest teaching apps for Teaching Languages and Lesson Plan Apps for Gen Z Teachers. They gave detailed presentations on the use of templates for making Lesson Plans quickly. They also appraised the pupil-teachers about the use of apps like Nearpod, Chalk Board, Planboard, Kahoot and other apps available for effective teaching as well as prompt evaluation.

The program was convened by Dr Deep K Bangotra, HoD, Department of ICT. In his address, he said that this webinar is just the beginning of a series of programs on integrating ICT in Teacher Education and Training. The program was attended by Prof Anju Bala (B Ed. Coordinator) and Dr Rajinder Kour (M Ed. Coordinator) and advisory members Dr Jyoti Parihar and Prof Radhika Mahajan. All the faculty members participated in the program. Vote of thanks was presented by Monali. The program was conducted by Shalini Khajuria, Muket and Shriya.

PTTI, CUJ hold workshop on 'Security Challenges'

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Oct 14: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur in collaboration with Central University Jammu (CUJ), Department of National Security Studies organized a two days capacity building workshop for Police Officers on the topic "Major Security Challenges in view of

the security scenario of J&K Union Territory. He has also directed Police officers to upgrade their skills so as to deal with cyber crime effectively.

Prof Sanjeev Jain discussed merits and demerits of this 5G Technology during the workshop.

Khalil Ahmed Poswal, Principal PTTI Vijaypur gave the welcome address and also presented



ADGP Mukesh Singh speaking during the workshop organised at Central University of Jammu in Samba on Friday.

emerging 5G Technology", here today.

The workshop has been organized on the directions of DGP, Dilbag Singh after the implementation of 5G Technology. Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu Zone along with Prof Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu inaugurated the workshop which was attended by 25 Officers of J&K Police at Central University Jammu.

The ADGP Jammu presented a detailed note on the working of 5G Technology and the possible threats

an introductory note during the event. Dr J. Jagannathan, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of National Security Studies, CUJ coordinated today's conference.

Eminent personalities who spoke and shared their experiences in the conference include Dr Chaitanya Giri, Consultant Policy Diplomacy (RIS), New Delhi, Nisheth Dixit, Advocate and Cyber Law Consultant, New Delhi, Dr Harneet Kour, Research Associate, ISRO, CUJ and Dr Misbah Shafi, Research Associate, ISRO, CUJ.

BMS welcomes Govt move on wage revision

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) has welcomed the Government decision with regard to revision of wages of scheduled employment.

A meeting of the BMS was held here today under the leadership of state president, Ashfaq Chouhan in which the Sangh welcomed the fulfilment of its long pending demand of revising the applicable minimum wages in UT of J&K vide notification issued yesterday whereby minimum Daily Wages have been increased by 38 % to Rs 311 for unskilled, Rs 400 for semi-skilled, Rs 483 for skilled, Rs 552 for highly skilled and Rs 449 for Administrative/Ministerial employees respectively.

BMS has been raising the issue for years and a memorandum was also submitted to the Lt Governor for redressal of this long pending demand of marginalised working classes across the industry and since notification has been issued by UT administration. BMS has welcomed the notification and expressed sincere grati-

tude towards the labour authorities for the same.

It is further deliberated in the meeting that another long pending demand of BMS since 2012 for linking Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) with minimum wages as applicable under Central Minimum Wages, has not been considered in the said notification, and so BMS once again reiterated that VDA must be linked with minimum wages so that the actual face value of minimum wages may be kept intact for coming years covering inflation till future revision in minimum wages.

Pertinent to mention here that erstwhile state of J&K had issued SRO No. 3 dated Jan 04, 2013 regarding linking VDA with minimum wages and convened various meetings for the same but nothing fruitful has been done so far on this issue. BMS appealed the advisor to LG RR Bhatnagar for considering this long pending demand also on merits as assured in the meeting of advisory board held recently so that actual benefit of revised wages may be ensured to working classes.

Jammu based quota employees working in Valley stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: The members of All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association, Kashmir continued their protest on the 136th day at Ambedkar Chowk Jammu today.

AJBRCSEA Kashmir urged the Lt. Governor led administration and Ravinder Raina, BJP chief for J&K for fulfilling their promise by making an amendment in inter-district/ inter-divisional recruitment policy. The time bound transfer clause in it should be amended.

"There was immediate need to amend transfer clause in the Policy so that these employees be transferred to their domicile districts after successful completion of that time period," one of the protesting employees said. They also urged the Lt. Governor led Administration to release the withheld salaries of the employees which is kept withheld by the DDOs of some departments

from the last couple of months before Diwali as the religious festival of the minority employees working in Kashmir.

AJBRCSEA Kashmir also con- doloed the sad demise of mother of Ghulam Mohammad Lone, Chief Education Officer Bandipora and Baramulla and the sad demise of the son of Khalid Mehmood Khan, senior Trade Union leader and State vice president Employees Joint Action Committee.

In a statement, AJBRCSEA, Kashmir expressed grief and sorrow on the sad demises who left for heavenly abode. Members of AJBRCSEA Kashmir further prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Members of AJBRCSEA Kashmir Anil Radha, Vipan Kumar, Romesh Chand, Naresh Kumar Bhagat and Deepak Kaith, Devinder Bangotra, Naresh Bhagat, Mangal Angral and Ajay Kumar were also present.

Army pays rich tribute to its canine warrior 'Zoom'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 14: Army on Friday paid rich tribute to its canine warrior 'Zoom', who succumbed on Thursday to gunshot injuries received during an encounter in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir earlier this week.

In a solemn ceremony at Chinar War Memorial, Badami Bagh Cantonment here, Chinar Corps commander, Lt Gen ADS Aujla, and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldier, Srinagar-based PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said.

During the operation at Tangpaw in Anantnag, Zoom played a key role in not only identifying the precise location of the terrorists but also in disabling one of the terrorists, he said.

However, the intrepid canine in the process suffered two gunshots, he said.

Despite being injured, Zoom located the other hiding terrorist and returned from the target area, and fainted due to severe blood loss. His action galvanised the team to speedily serve justice to the two L&T terrorists, the PRO said.

The canine trooper was subsequently immediately evacuated to Army Veterinary Hospital in Srinagar, where he fought till the very end. He breathed his last at 11:50 AM on Thursday. The Army canine was an invaluable member of the Chinar Warriors. Despite his young age of two years, Zoom was a veteran of multiple counter-terror operations, where he had distinguished himself with his energy and courage, Col Musavi said.

In Zoom, Chinar Corps has lost a valiant team member, who will inspire all ranks to undertake their task with humility, dedication and courage, he added.

SC/ST convention on October 16

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisations J&K discussed the agenda for the forthcoming 3rd National Convention to be held at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Jammu complex on October 16.

In a meeting held here today, RK Kalsotra, State president of the Confederation, flanked by Lakshman Bhagat and Rangesh Hans State, coordinators highlighted that the theme of this convention is 'Save Rights, Save Constitution'. Dr Udit Raj, National president of the Confederation will be the chief guest while many other delegates from various states will join the convention. The program will commence at 10 am sharp.

5 AEEs shifted, placed in PHE, I&FC

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 14: The Government of Union Territory of Ladakh has issued orders of transfer and posting /adjustment in the Department of PHE, I&FC department.

Anil Kumar, presently posted as I/C Assistant Engineer in Igoo-Phey Division Leh, after being promoted has been posted/adjusted as I/C Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the same Division against an available vacancy.

Rajesh Sharma, presently posted as I/C Assistant Engineer PHE Division Leh has

now been posted as I/C AEE in the Igoo-Phey Division against an available vacancy. Yogesh Kumar, presently posted as I/C AE in I&FC Division, Leh has been posted as I/C AEE in the same Division against an available vacancy.

Javed Iqbal Ganayee, presently posted as I/C AE in I&FC Div Kargil has been transferred and posted as I/C AEE in PDC, Civil Div-I, Kargil while Gulam Hussain Najari, presently posted as I/C AE in I&FC Div Kargil has been placed/ adjusted as I/C AEE in I&FC Division Leh against an available vacancy.

Rajesh Sharma, presently posted as I/C Assistant Engineer PHE Division Leh has