

PM wants to make J&K the Switzerland of India: MoS

Excelsior Correspondent

KUPWARA, Oct 20: Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Kapil Patil today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a dream to make Jammu and Kashmir the Switzerland of India.

The Minister was addressing a Public Sabha at Cheepora in Lolab Valley of the frontier Kupwara district.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are peace loving and it is because of the peaceful atmosphere which has created again that development is witnessing a sea-change in Kashmir.

He said Union Government and Lieutenant Governor Administration are making concerted efforts to rebuild J&K in every aspect and it is a matter of pleasure that corruption is drastically decreasing in the Union Territory.

The Minister enlisted various developmental programmes and welfare measures and asked people to take benefits of these centrally sponsored schemes, adding that while designing schemes, Prime Minister has taken care of every section of the society. He said people are receiving financial assistance by direct transfer to their accounts. He gave the reference of farmers.

Patil said that there would be no scarcity of drinking water anywhere in Kupwara district as the ambitious programme under Jal Jeevan Mission and 'Har Ghar Nal Say Jal' is progressing at a good pace.

Referring to the tourism sector, the Minister said that every spot of Kashmir is a tourist destination and the Government is making all possible efforts to boost this sector in a big way. He said that Bungus in Kupwara district is emerging as a world class tourist destination.

Patil said that he will pay special attention to Kupwara district being the Minister of Panchayati Raj and wished Kupwara to become number one district in the UT in terms of development. He urged upon PRIs, especially Sarpanches, to work more vigorously and vibrantly to earn development award for their constituencies which is being given on the basis of qualitative development.

The Vice Chairman DDC Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir also spoke on the occasion and projected developmental issues of the district.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray presented vote of thanks on the occasion.

Earlier, on reaching Cheepora, the Minister inspected the stalls displayed by various departments. The Minister took keen interest in the stalls and interacted with the organizers. He also distributed Golden Health Cards and Bank sanction letters among the beneficiaries.

Later, the Minister inaugurated upgradation of Khumriyal Ring Road constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,397 lakhs.

The Minister also inaugurated Water Supply Scheme at Shortmuqam-Kuligam, completed at a cost of Rs.649.28 lakh.

The Minister visited Amrit Sarovar at Vavoora Lolab, which was renovated at a cost of Rs. 6.22 lakh.

The Minister also laid foundation stone of construction of 2 BHK flats for DDC Members and BDC Chairpersons.

Later in the afternoon, the Minister met various delegations at DC office Kupwara, who projected various developmental issues of their concerned areas.

JAMMU, Oct 20: The ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI) Nagpur, Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) with the aim to promote academia and research co-operation between the two institutes in the area of Fruit Sciences.

Dr Dilip Ghosh, Director, ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur and Prof J P Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations, in presence of Dr A A Murkute, Principal Scientist and Dr A Thirugnanavel, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) from ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur, and Dr Pardeep Wali, Director Research, Dr A K Mondal, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Sushil K Gupta, Dean Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry and Dr Amit Jasrotia, Professor & Head, Division of Fruit Science from SKUAST-Jammu.

The ICAR-CCRI (formerly known as National Research Centre for Citrus) is an institute for research in citrus fruits with the mandate to undertake research on mandarin and acid lime to increase the productivity through developing better varieties, standardizing appropriate agro-techniques, integrated pest and disease management and developing technologies for improved storage, packing processing and waste utilization. At present, ICAR-CCRI is the nodal body of citrus research in India.

Dr Ghosh stated that this partnership is aimed at facilitating a close cooperation between both the organizations and would be a milestone in the area of production of the disease-free quality planting material of Citrus in the country.

Dr Ghosh handed over 125 plants to the Head, Division of Fruit Science of the University, comprising 12 citrus varieties for plantation and evaluation under Jammu agro-climatic conditions.

Prof Sharma and Dr Ghosh also planted some species in the Citrus Block of the Division of Fruit Science at University Research Farm, Chatha. The MoU proceedings were coordinated by Dr Mahital Jamwal, Associate Director (Research) of SKUAST-Jammu.

VC SKUAST-Jammu & Director ICAR-CCRI displaying copies of MoU signed between the two institutions on Thursday.

SKUAST-Jammu and ICAR-CCRI Nagpur ink MoU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 20: Two persons were killed and ten others were injured when a General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) tipper rolled down into a deep gorge in the Sasoma-Saser La area of Nubra valley.

According to SHO Nubra Inspector Stanzin Kongma, the unfortunate incident occurred on Wednesday while road construction work was under way. He said two people were killed in the mishap while 10 others suffered grievous injuries. The injured are being treated at a hospital, he added.

The officer said that the deceased were identified as Ajit Hansda son of Babushal Hansda, resident of Jarkhand and tipper driver Kuljeet Kumar son of Piya Singh, resident of Seri Bhaderwah (Doda).

He further informed that one other person identified as Babu Murmu son of Poulus Murmu, resident of Chavkidh (district Shabigang) were killed in another accident occurred on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, family of Kuljeet Kumar of Bhaderwah, who died in the accident, appealed the Union Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh to make arrangements to shift the mortal remains of their beloved at their native place.

Responding to their request, Dr Jitendra said that his office has asked the LG Ladakh to make arrangements to shift the mortal remains of Kuljeet Kumar from Nubra to Bhaderwah.

"My Jammu office was approached by the family of Kuljeet Singh son of Piya Singh, resident of Seri #Bhaderwah, district Doda, who was posted in Nubra valley Ladakh and has unfortunately passed away over there. My office has immediately contacted the office of LG Ladakh and the required arrangements are being made to shift the last remains of the deceased from Ladakh to Srinagar and there from to his native place. My staff is in touch with the deceased's family member," the Union Minister said in a facebook post this afternoon.

BDO attached to Administrative Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 20: Manzoor Hussain, Look-after BDO of Block Marwah and Warwan in district Kishtwar has been attached in the Administrative Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Civil Secretariat Jammu with immediate effect.

An order in this regard was issued today, according to which Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar shall give additional charge of both the blocks of Marwah and Warwan to any competent officer posted there till a regular incumbent is posted.

DC Bandipora chairs District Level Implementation & Monitoring Committee mee

Excelsior Correspondent

BANDIPORA, Oct 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad today chaired a meeting of District Level Implementation & Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) in his office chamber, here.

The meeting was held to recommend the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) to start work on all Primary Agriculture Credit Societies in the district and keep regular monitoring on a periodic basis. He said the scheme has an extremely bright future and needs to focus on it with added dedication.

The DC stressed on proper implementation of all need based schemes in vogue in a time bound manner as per laid down specification and guidelines. He asked the concerned officers to recommend the PACS selected by the BCC Bank as per clause 3.12 of the schemes for computerization projects.

Earlier, the DC received feedback from the officers and gave directions to them regarding smooth implementation of computerization of the records of the societies.

10 Primary Agricultural Cooperative societies were approved by the chairman and are supposed to be computerized in three phases.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Registrar Cooperative headquarter Mohammad Muqadis Bhat, District Development Manager NABARD and Chief Manager Central Cooperative Bank Baramulla.

Chairman, MGSB, Shivang Satya Gupta, flanked by others addressing press conference in Jammu on Thursday.

-Excelsior/ Rakesh

CGPWA organises symposium at Balgran

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 20: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) organised a symposium on 'Swachh Abhiyan' at Balgran here today in collaboration with the Bal Bharti Public School and School for Hearing Handicapped.

Former Chief Secretary, BR Sharma was the chief guest, while Kuldeep Khoda, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner and the President CGPWA presided over the function.

President of Balgran, Charitable Home for Destitute Children, AK Khajuria and president of Samaj Kalyan Kendra, (SKK) which runs a School for deaf and dumb, KB Jandial, general secretary of CGPWA, were also present.

Students of both Schools spoke about the significance of cleanliness for which a month-long nationwide campaign has been launched by the Prime Minister. Three students of School for Hearing Handicapped, Ritesh Singh of 12th class, Garima Misri and Fozia Shamash, both of 11th class expressed their views on the theme through sign language

which was profusely applauded. Teacher Seema Rani translated their sign language into English and Hindi for the audience. Three students of Bal Bharti- Mukesh of 10th class, Priyanka of 9th class and Gun Gun of 7th class also spoke on the subject.

B R Sharma emphasized the role of students in the success of Swachh campaign and said that students should emulate this habit right from beginning and make it a part of their lives, while Kuldeep Khoda in his presidential address lauded the views expressed by the students on cleanliness and said that every citizen including our youth must emulate the habit of cleanliness in their lives to make our cities cleaner.

Khoda and Sharma also presented cash awards to the toppers of the School in J&K School Board examinations on behalf of the Samaj Kalyan Kendra.

VK Raina conducted the program.

Earlier, the president and general secretary Balgran took Khoda and Sharma around the School and Orphanage and apprised them of the functioning of both Institutions.

and physical/ financial progress of the works approved under ABDP Plan.

He visited the Block Headquarter Sumb and participated in the multipurpose public camp organized at Block headquarter

planning, development and monitoring Department, Sonu Pargal today visited aspirational block Sumb of district Samba to review the progress of the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP)

The visiting officer then interacted with the PRI members namely Ramesh Singh- BDC Chairman, Suraj Parkash Verma- Sarpanch Panchayat Baletar, Kranti Kiran Sarpanch Panchayat Kard, Baldev Singh- Sarpanch Panchayat Patyari and other panches of various wards and discussed in detail about various works approved under ABDP Plan of Sumb block. The officer gave patient hearing to the PRI members and general public.

Later, Sonu Pargal along with BDO Sumb & PRI members visited sites of the works approved under ABDP Plan viz. construction of T/road from Samotha to Beli, Panchayat Goran; construction of T/road from PMGSY road to Govt. Middle School Jattah, Panchayat Kard along with foot bridge; repair & renovation of Labour Room at PHC Sumb; and Installation of automatic analyzer at PHC Sumb.



Lt Governor R K Mathur chairing a meeting of State Board for Wildlife at Leh.

LG Mathur chairs meeting of State Board for Wildlife

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 20: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur today chaired the 7th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife of UT Ladakh, at Raj Niwas.

Emphasizing the need to tackle the issue of feral dogs in Ladakh, LG Mathur advised the Wildlife Department to coordinate with Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) and provide necessary assistance to them, including the utilisation of out-sourced staff, to conduct sterilisation camps across Ladakh to neuter feral dogs.

He further advised AHD that necessary support may be provided to Indian Air Force (IAF) to conduct sterilisation camps at the IAF station to ensure air safety. He directed AHD to work in coordination with the Indian Army and IAF to ensure that food waste is not thrown in the open. He stressed the need to conduct the sterilisation of feral dogs in April or May next year and complete the process within a period of three months.

LG Mathur stated that the rationalisation of boundaries of Wildlife sanctuaries is being done in consultation with local stakeholders for ensuring that ownership of lands remains with the people residing in these areas.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson; EC LAHDC Kargil Mohsin Ali; MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Nangyal and wildlife expert Dr Ranjit Singh, who also attended the meeting, gave suggestions to tackle the issue of feral dogs and

rationalisation of boundaries of wildlife sanctuaries.

Earlier, Dr S Sathyakumar from WII informed that four reports on the assessment of wildlife values and land tenure based on the rationalisation of boundaries of Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary have been prepared and shared after proper consultation with the residents of Changthang and Nubra areas. He informed that the final report would soon be submitted.

Director, AHD, Dr Mohammad Raza, informed about sterilisation camps being conducted in both Leh and Kargil under which 3544 feral dogs have been neutered this year.

Advisor, Umang Narula; Principal Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Commissioner/Secretary, Padma Angmo; Secretary, PDD, Ravinder Kumar; DIG Ladakh Police, Sheikh Junaid; Chief Wildlife Warden, Sajad Mufti; Director, Sheep/Animal Husbandry, Dr Mohd Raza; Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dr Satya Prakash Yadav; Scientist, WII, Dr S Sathyakumar; representatives from Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India; Officer Incharge, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa; Dr Padma Gurmet; Senior Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation, Dr Yash Veer Bhatnagar and Trustee, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, Dr RK Singh, were among those who attended the meeting virtually.

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