

# Ramban to be developed on modern lines: Union Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Oct 20: Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of AYUSH, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai today said that the Union Government is committed to extend the bene-

generations. He singled out the schemes of Social Welfare and Health Departments as key indicators of promotion of women and children developmental initiatives. Dr. Munjapara directed the District Administration to explore the possibilities for the construction of Anganwari centres in con-



MoS for Women & Child Development Dr Munjapara Mahendrabhai during visit to Ramban.

fits of all the Centrally Sponsored Developmental and Welfare Schemes to the people of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The Minister said this while interacting with the PRIs during the review meeting convened to review the developmental scenario of the district.

Dr. Munjapara highlighted the creation of key infrastructural assets like orphanages, old age homes, destitute homes for safeguarding the interest of women and children. He urged upon Anganwadi and ASHA workers to nurture the young children from 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers so as to make healthy

vergence mode with MGNREGA. He directed the Education Department to ensure proper toilet facilities, besides taking other necessary measures in the educational institutions especially for female students to control school drop-out rate. He directed RDD to ensure execution of remaining sanctioned PMAY-G houses to saturate the scheme in the district.

He assured that he will take up the issue of establishment of Maternity & Children Hospital and shortage of medicines and paramedics in Health department with the concerned Ministry.

He committed to develop District Ramban a developed dis-

trict by creating modern infrastructure in all sectors especially Social Welfare, ICDS, Health, AYUSH, Education and allied sectors.

Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamsad Shan, and President Municipal Council, Ramban comprising of Chairpersons, BDC, Rajeshwar Kumar, DDC member, Shamim Akhter projected various demands of developmental needs of their respective areas and sought their early redressal.

Responding to the demands, the Minister said that their demands would be taken into consideration. He directed the district administration to identify land for the construction of 50-bedded AYUSH hospital and submit the proposal to his office for further course of action. He directed the District Administration to implement PNDT Act in letter and spirit in the district to discourage sex determination and female feticide to achieve one of the soul goal of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Scheme.

Meanwhile, Dr. Munjapara laid e-foundation of Water Supply Schemes (WSS) Balawat and Krawah to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.11 crore and Rs. 3.14 crore respectively. He also e-inaugurated developmental and public utility projects which include Amrit Sarovar at Sosni Mir Mohalla, Sangaldan, harvesting pond at Ludhni, Gandhri and harvesting pond at Nari Parthamulla, Gool.

The Minister handed over land passbooks to land owners under 'Aap ki zameen aap ki nigrani' besides distributing cheques under Tejaswani scheme, sanction letters of self employment scheme. He also distributed free Gas connection, under Ujjwala Yojana to Beneficiaries.

The Minister also handed over keys of tricycles to specially-abled beneficiaries provided by the Social Welfare Department. He also handed over keys of vehicles to beneficiaries under MUMKIN scheme.

Among others, Director, AYUSH, Dr. Mohan Singh, Programme Officer, ICDS, Jehangir Hashmi, ADC, Harbans Lal Sharma, GM, DIC, Ravinder Anand, ACD, Ashok Singh, CEO, Dev Anand, CMO, Dr. Kamla Zadoo, CHO, Anil Gorka, CAO, Dr. Ashwani Sharma, CAHO, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, DSHO, Dr. Vikas Gupta, besides other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

**Young man found dead**  
Excelsior Correspondent  
UDHAMPUR, Oct 20: A young man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a roadside Nallah near Mand, under the jurisdiction of Tikri Police Post.

The deceased was identified as Amit Gupta (36), son of Late Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, resident of Ward Number 15, near Raj Palace Udhampur. He was missing since last evening and his dead body was spotted this morning by some locals.

On being informed, a Police team from Police Post Tikri reached the spot and shifted the dead body to District Hospital Udhampur for the postmortem. Later, the body was handed over to the family members after completion of all the legal formalities.

According to family members of the deceased, he had left home last evening around 6 pm and was missing since then. For further investigations, Police have registered a case in this connection under Section 174 IPC.



J&K BJP leaders during a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

## BJP discusses issues of KPs, other employees working in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 20: The Committee headed by Dr. Nirmal Singh, senior BJP leader to look into the issues of minority community employees working in Kashmir here today held its first meeting.

Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP president presided over the meeting and discussed broader parameters of the Committee.

He said that employees working in Kashmir belonging to PM package, non package, all reserved categories and other vulnerable sections of the society are facing serious threat to their lives.

"Committee recognizes rights of every citizen including these employees to a safe and secure environment both at their work and lodging places. BJP has always been sensitive to the issues of masses and has taken

up same with concerned authorities," Raina maintained.

Nirmal Singh said that the Committee has received a lot of inputs from the concerned people and is looking into it to find an appropriate way out and has decided to interact with administration in order to have its feedback also.

"The Committee has invited responses/views of all the stakeholders particularly employees, individually as well as collectively. It is also proposing to visit various places in Kashmir inhabited by minority community to have a first-hand assessment of the prevailing situation there before finalizing its report," he further said adding: "The Committee has meanwhile appealed UT administration to release salaries of the employees before Diwali as a humanitarian gesture."



People including Government officers during an outreach programme at Zanskar in Kargil district.

## CBC organizes outreach programme in Zanskar

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Oct 20: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today organized an Integrated Communication and Outreach Program (ICOP) in Ladakh region for awareness on the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for minorities.

The programme was organized by CBC's Field Office Anantnag at Government Higher Secondary School, Padum in Zanskar at an altitude of 12,000 feet. It was first such type of an outreach programme in decades to be organized by the Bureau in the region.

Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, Punchok Tashi was the chief guest on the occasion. In his presidential address, Tashi said that the PM's 15 Point Programme represents the Government's commitment towards the development of religious minorities and impressed upon the stakeholders to ensure timely implementation of schemes under the programme for equitable development of Zanskar sub division and Ladakh.

Ghulam Abass, Joint Director CBC J&K and Ladakh region, in his address said that CBC has taken the initiative to reach out to the people Zanskar in order to empower

them with the information on various developmental initiatives undertaken by the Government. He made special mention of Ayushman Bharat and Poshan Abhiyan terming these flagship schemes as groundbreaking in achieving a prosperous India.

In his introductory remarks, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag and Leh presented an overview of the mandate and activities of the CBC in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions. He provided a detailed insight into the different schemes being implemented across different sectors by various ministries under the PM's 15 Point Programme.

The programme was also attended by Block Development Council, Chairperson Stanzin Sandop, Block Development Officer Zanskar Tsewang Rigzen, In-charge Tehsil Zanskar Talib Hussain, Senior Medical Officer, Dr Nawang Chosdol, prominent citizens and representatives of various religious bodies.

A stall of Health Department was set up at the venue wherein free medicines and COVID-19 vaccination was provided. Theme based cultural programmes were also presented by cultural parties sending across messages about various welfare schemes. Students took part in an open quiz.

# CJ inaugurates Medical Aid Centre at High Court Complex

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, today inaugurated Dispensary cum Medical Aid Centre at High Court Complex in presence of companion Judges Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sikhri.

The Medical Aid Centre has been updated to provide facilities like basic and emergency medical services like ECG, Blood Sugar Test, Covid testing, Vaccinations and related facilities to the Judges, Advocates, employees and litigants of High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The dispensary will also have an in-house pharmacy to provide free of cost specific medicines besides conducting regular necessary vaccination drives, Covid testing from time to time and other necessary exigencies.

The Medical Aid Centre has been a long pending demand of Advocates and the opening of this healthcare unit has been highly hailed by the Judges, Registry Officers, Advocates, staff and general public.

Chief Justice also inspected Institution Library, Lawyers room and Lawyers Library and gave certain on spot directions.

On the occasion, Register General, Sanjeev Gupta, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Rajeev Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar Judicial Srinagar, Joint Registrar Judicial, Joint Registrar Inspection, Convener Bar Association, Srinagar, Deputy Director Health Services, Kashmir, CMO Sgr., Senior Medical Officers, Advocates, registry officers and



Chief Justice Ali Mohd Magrey inaugurating Medical Aid Centre at High Court, Srinagar

other staff members of High Court of J&K and Ladakh were also present.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice convened a meeting with Goonmeet S. Chauhan, Chief Architect vested with the projects of construction of new High Court complexes at Jammu and Srinagar.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sikhri

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

were also present in the meeting. Chief Justice took stock of development of projects of construction for new High Court Complexes at Srinagar and Jammu.

The Chief Architect displayed a presentation before the Chief Justice in presence of High Court Judges regarding the projects, in the conference hall of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar.

Chief Justice emphasized proper and timely completion of these vital projects. He said that conducive infrastructural environment and aesthetic is a must for Advocates and litigants for smooth working of courts.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice during his maiden visit to Budgam

inaugurated residential accommodation structure for Judicial Officers at Court Complex Chadoora.

The newly constructed residential accommodation is 2 BHK and has other facilities for comfortable stay of Judicial Officers.

Administrative High Court Judge for District Budgam, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul besides Principal District and Sessions Judge Budgam, Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, S F Hamid, Registrar General of High Court Sanjeev Gupta, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice Rajeev Gupta, CJM Budgam, DLSA Budgam, Fozia Paul, Sub Judge Chadoora, Tabassum Parry, Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar High Court, SSP Tahir Saleem, SDM Chadoora, Munsiff Chadoora, Istiaq Baba and other Judicial and Civil officers were present.

On the occasion, Chief Justice also reviewed progress on ongoing projects including fencing of Court Complex, land acquisition, construction of lawyers chamber, washroom facility and matters related to construction of new Court Complex at Chadoora.

Chief Justice directed the concerned execution agency to expedite work on the new Court Complex and ensure timely completion of all the projects.



Harsh Dev Singh addressing AAP rally at Udhampur on Thursday.

## Emergence of AAP a turning point in political history of J&K: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 20: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held a rally at Udhampur to felicitate son of the soil, Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and three times MLA who had been recently declared as Chairman of J&K AAP State Co-ordination Committee.

The rally, comprising several bikes, motor cars, minibuses, buses carrying party workers and supporters, started from Tikri and passed through several localities and markets including Garhi, Rehmbal, Chopra-shop, Domail, Salathia Chowk, Talab Sailan, Kaller and culminated at Kashirah where the senior leader of the party addressed the mega event.

Describing Aam Aadmi Party as the lone voice of the poor and downtrodden, Harsh Dev Singh said that it alone could fulfil the aspirations of the public at large and steer the erstwhile State out of the morass of poverty, underdevelopment, corruption and communalism.

He said that having experimented with various traditional parties, both national and regional, the people of J&K were a disappointed lot desperately seeking a change in the political landscape of the erstwhile State. "Their disenchantment with such parties was conspicuously manifesting itself in ever increasing numbers of political activists, professionals, women

and youth joining AAP which has emerged as the only ray of hope in the UT," he said and added that the revolutionary moves of AAP in Delhi and Punjab had once again revived the people's faith in the political system with common masses awaiting the much needed change in J&K as well.

Claiming that the gigantic emergence of AAP would prove a turning point in the political history of J&K, Singh said that not only had the AAP revolutionized the Education and Health sector in Delhi but also set an example of moral propriety of highest order by sacking one of its own ministers in Punjab.

Yash Paul Kundal, former Minister and Chairman SC/ST Cell of AAP, urged upon the party activists to contribute their might for strengthening the Party in J&K and for carrying forward the policies and programmes of Kejriwal. He expressed the hope that peoples' growing support for AAP would surely catapult it as the largest party of J&K in the coming times.

Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion, included Raj Kapoor, Rajesh Padgotra, Amit Kapoor, Harpreet Singh, Dharam Singh, Col Som Raj, Ravi Shastri, Rampaul Bhagat, Balbir Singh Anthal, Nazia Farooqi, Meena Kumari, Rajesh Verma, Pawan Dev, Lovely Sambhal and others.

## Events like Literary Festival can be of great help: Siddhartha Gigoo

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: Siddhartha Gigoo, novelist, short story writer, today said that Kashmir urgently needs the literary festival like one organised by Kumaon Literary Festival.

Speaking to Excelsior on the sidelines of the two days festival that was held at SKICC in Srinagar, Gigoo said events like this can provide great help.

**Siddhartha Gigoo is a novelist, short story writer, anthologist, and filmmaker. In 2015, he won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for his short story, 'The Umbrella Man'. His stories have been longlisted for Lorian Hemingway Short Story Prize (2018), Royal Society of Literature's V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize (2018) including others.**

**Q: How important are these festivals?**

**Siddhartha:** Quite important. Good things will come out of it. At least there has been an attempt to get people together and that is the bright side of it. And for me, such events become a reason to come and visit Kashmir. The organizers of the Kumaon Literary Festival have dedicated their lives to promoting literature in Kashmir and elsewhere; they want to bring together writers, artists, and musicians. They have been doing this for the past so many years. And, I think Kashmir needed this as there

are a lot of youngsters who would love to talk and share their stories.

**Q: How is it to be back in Kashmir?**

**Siddhartha:** Over the last 32 years, I must have come here some 8 or 9 times and all visits have been very strange keeping in view the history and what happened. To come here as a tourist and meet people, and talk about things, is strange; you are coming to a place, where you were born and brought up, as a tourist; that is strange. As of now, I am having a moment that is more inward. I am reliving the past



Renowned author, film maker, Siddhartha Gigoo on the sidelines of Kumaon Literary Festival at SKICC.

**-Excelsior/Shakeel**

who has seen it, I live with what has happened almost every single day. Recently one more Kashmiri pandit was killed and I remember Dr. Farooq Abdullah's statement who said that this will not stop; it was so disturbing that I cannot even tell you. Kashmiri pandits are living with that scar waiting for justice; this is a paradoxical situation. I still am optimistic about all of it but every time a Kashmiri pandit or anyone else is killed here, it gets me thinking about what is wrong with the people of this place. All I can say is that for me

Kashmir continues to be a disturbing and dangerous place.

**Q: You live in Delhi, any plans to return?**

**Siddhartha:** I don't see any scope for us to come back; because this madness has been going on and every time a Kashmiri pandit is killed, what they are trying to say is just stay out. It is a warning. It is just not about killing a person, there is more to it. When I told my mother that I was going to visit Kashmir for a festival, she abruptly expressed her concern, and there was a context to that concern. I don't feel like coming back, not like this. Not at all! I need to have a conversation with myself. Maybe I will sit somewhere and that might not even be a conversation, maybe there will be some tears because I can see myself as a fourteen-year-old boy cycling down the boulevard from downtown, but that time, little did I know that a few later this would happen, what happened in 1989, and what happened after that.

**Q: Will this event start a trend in Kashmir?**

**Siddhartha:** It should and I already said that Kashmir needed this, we now need to have these events across the educational institutions because there is a need for telling the stories, and events like these, provide great help in that.

**Q: Do you still live in the past?**

**Siddhartha:** As somebody

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