

CS takes stock of traffic movement on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway



Chief Secretary chairing a meeting.

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today held a meeting to take stock of the traffic movement on NH-44 (Srinagar-Jammu National Highway) here.

The meeting was attended by the senior officers from Divisional and District administration, Traffic Department, police and those from NHAI.

The Chief Secretary directed that Traffic Department will issue Daily Information Bulletin for stakeholders mentioning travel time taken by HMVs from Qazigund to Jakhani, loss of time due to shooting stones at Cateria Morh- Mehar and number of vehicles waiting to leave for Jammu.

their cattle and family members. The concerned district administrations were asked to ensure that unattended cattle do not wander on the highway.

In order to ensure hassle-free movement, it was decided that the



Opp. Apsra Cineplex Apsra Road, Gandhi Nagar

He also stressed on putting in place the robust communication and information mechanism by Traffic Police so as to regulate HMVs traffic at critical points like Qazigund- Banihal, Banihal market, Sherbibi, Panthayal, Mehar etc.

The traffic management authorities were asked to augment manpower requirement from all sources to regulate traffic in optimal manner, besides enforcing lane discipline in the critical stretches between Ramban and Banihal.

For seasonal migration, the Tribal Affairs Department and Deputy Commissioners were directed to ensure that no "Dera" is allowed to move on NH-44 especially between Qazigund and Ramban and they are provided with suitable conveyance to carry

JUTA changes mode of protest, to resume academic duties from today

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA) has announced to change the mode of ongoing protest for seeking CBI probe into the death of Prof Chandra Shekhar and in support of other demands.

From September 28, the teachers will resume all academic duties like delivering lectures and guiding research scholars. However, they will go to the classes by wearing black badges and will observe total non-cooperation with the university administration with regard to NAAC accreditation.

Decision in this regard was taken during a meeting of the JUTA Executive Council, here today, under the chairmanship of the Association President, Prof Pankaj K Srivastava.

It was also decided that no official communication from the office of the Registrar will be honoured and responded to till the case of appointment of Dr Chandra Shekhar's wife on compassionate ground is forwarded to the office of Lieutenant Governor by the administration and the Registrar is removed from the official

down convoy of HMVs may be permitted from 11 A.M in the morning from Qazigund up till 9.00 P.M on alternate days. It was said that the drivers should appropriately be made aware for not leaving their place of unloading and parking their vehicles anywhere on the highway.

Moreover District Administration Ramban was instructed to ensure deployment of adequate manpower and traffic management team at Banihal market to ensure no roadside parking of vehicles and occupation of carriageway by the 'Rehadiwallas'. It was said that the public transporters should also be persuaded not to park their vehicles on the NH for getting boarding of passengers but to use earmarked places only for this pur-

position. The Association members will also observe a peaceful protest march around the University Campus in support of their demands on every Thursday till their demands are met.

Reiterating that Dr Chandra Shekhar's death happened due to procedural lapse on the part of JUICASH and JU administration was also responsible for mishandling the situation after his demise, JUTA was of the view that had the decision of dissolution of JUICASH been taken earlier probably the teachers would have reacted to the situation differently.

The house took serious note of fact that JUTA's representation containing their request for CBI enquiry in the matter of Dr Chandra Shekhar's death was not forwarded to the office of the Chancellor by the university authorities.

The JUTA executive council decided that the efficacy of the mode will be assessed again after 10 days and if by any means the house feels that the administration has not taken corrective measures, then the teachers will be forced to change the mode of agitation which will be aggressive.

HC commutes death sentence into lifer in rape, murder case

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Sept 27: High Court has commuted the death sentence awarded by the trial court into life imprisonment in rape and murder of a woman with the direction to jail authority for processing the case of convict for remission of sentence by the Executive Authority.

The division bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice M A Chowdhary on perusal of the sentencing order dated 04.12.2012, passed by the Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, found that the convict was sentenced to capital punishment of death for the commission of murder punishable under Section 302 RPC. However, no sentence has been awarded for the conviction of rape punishable under Section 376 RPC, though the conviction was recorded for the commission of both offences.

The court in view of the inordinate delay in disposal of the case by the trial court and long incarceration spanning over two decades of the convict- Sonam Dorjay, instead of remanding the case to trial court, deemed it proper to decide the same by the court and directed the convict to undergo eight years imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 5000 for the commission of offence punishable under Section 376 RPC.

"The impugned judgment of recording conviction of the appellant-accused for the commission of rape and murder, is

maintained and upheld, however, the impugned order of sentence, is modified in terms of the order", DB concluded.

The panel Counsel of J&K Legal Services Authority (LSA) who represents the appellant-convict in the instant case court said, has rendered valuable and satisfactory assistance to this court for disposal of the appeal. She submitted that the appellant-convict, who has already undergone the sentence of more than 20 years, be ordered to be released having regard to the remission policy.

Court opined that the ends of justice would be met by altering the sentence from death to life imprisonment for the commission of offence punishable under Section 302 RPC. "Death sentence is, thus, ordered to be commuted to life imprisonment and fine of Rs.5000 under Section 302 RPC. In default of payment of fine, the appellant-convict shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of two months".

"Since the power of granting remission is with the Executive, the Executive shall be well advised to consider the case of the appellant-convict for remission in terms of the remission policy as contained in the Ladakh Jail Manual", DB said.

Court in this view directed the Superintendent of Jail concerned to take note of the same and process the case of the appellant-convict expeditiously for consideration of remission by the concerned authorities.

pose.
During the meeting, the Divisional administration Kashmir was asked to encourage HMVs to use Mughal Road and ADG, Jammu was simultaneously asked to ensure better management of Poshana checkpoint to expedite checking of vehicles at the spot.

Further the NHAI was directed to follow timelines given during the last meeting for clearance of muck from Cateria/Morh and Mehar, black-topping of potholed portion on NH between Banihal and Ramban, completion of T-5 Tunnel and widening of Ramsoo- Rampari-Sherbibi stretch of the road.

The meeting also decided that suitable recommendations of joint study team of CBRI, Roorkhee and IIT, Jammu be taken for measures to be undertaken for stabilizing Cateria-Mehar section of NH-44. It was said that the same be implemented by NHAI in speedy manner so that the travel time on the highway gets reduced considerably.



NC president, Dr Farooq Abdullah listening to a delegation at his residence in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Ensure free movement of fruit laden trucks: Farooq

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Sept 27: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah today said that the present dispensation has miserably failed in ensuring hassle-free movement of fruit laden trucks on the Jammu- Srinagar highway saying such actions will have devastating, crippling effect on J&K's economy.

This he said while interacting with the delegation that had



Apni Party president Ataf Bukhari addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Bukhari seeks priority passage for fruit-laden trucks on highway

Excelsior Correspondent
*Urges to restrict entry of Iranian apple
SRINAGAR, Sept 27: Apni Party president Ataf Bukhari has demanded priority for passage to fruit laden trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu National

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

Highway. He also urged the Union Government to ensure that illegal import of apples is stopped to save the domestic fruit industry.

While addressing a press conference here today, Bukhari requested the Prime Minister to talk to Bangladesh to ease the export duty on Indian apples. He urged the J&K administration to ensure a priority passage to the fruit-laden trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

"A week ago, we approached Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and requested him to ensure that the road is thrown open for the halted trucks laden with perishable fruit and he directed the concerned officials to regulate these trucks on the highway. Last night, we were informed that the road is being cleared for the halted fruit trucks. I appreciate the efforts by the concerned authorities for throwing the road open for these trucks," Bukhari said.

"Given the pathetic economic condition of people here and given the fact that a dominant majority of the Valley's population is dependent on the

called on him at his residence in Srinagar. The visiting delegation apprised the party president about the plethora of issues concerning them. Dr Farooq carefully heard issues raised by the delegation members and assured them that he will air their woes at all appropriate levels.

The incumbent administration has so far failed to augment efforts of fruit growers by failing to provide them requisite logistic support, the halting of the fresh fruit laden trucks from Kashmir to different parts of the country is a point in case, he said.

"Our horticulturalists, small scale traders and our artisans all are suffering at the same time. It seems that the government has so far failed to understand the demands and requirements of people of J&K otherwise, they would have ensured that such vital sectors of our economy do not suffer this way," he said.

"Far from pulling JK from the great depression it finds itself in, the policies pursued by the incumbent JK administration have further compounded the woes of our people," he further added.

Bukhari expressed deep concern over the flooding of untaxed Iranian apples into the Indian markets. "We see plenty of apples coming from Afghanistan into the Indian market. But the question is whether this fruit really comes from Afghanistan or not. And, does that country produces apples in such a quantity or not?"

"We know that fruit is being imported via Afghanistan to evade taxes, as under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement there is zero duty on anything that comes from Afghanistan. The traders are evading duty by sending this fruit via Afghanistan. The government must take action to stop this illegitimate practice," he added.

Bukhari said the flooding of duty-free apple imports into the Indian markets is causing a dent in the Valley's fruit industry. Kashmir's majority population is directly or indirectly dependent on the fruit industry for its livelihood. The Government must take initiative to safeguard Kashmir's fruit industry from the losses, Bukhari said.

Senior leaders Gulam Hassan Mir, Dilawar Mir, Zaffar Manhas, Rafi Ahmad Mir, Malik Aftab, Farooq Andrabi, Muntazir Mohiuddin and Yawar Dilawar Mir also spoke on the occasion.



PHE workers staging protest dharna outside Chief Engg's office at B C Road in Jammu on Tuesday. Excelsior/Rakesh

PHE workers' protest dharna, indefinite strike enter 97th day

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: The PHE workers and daily wagers' protest dharna and strike continued on the 97th consecutive day today outside the office of Chief Engineer, PHE/Jal Shakti department Jammu and other Divisional and Sub-Divisional headquarters.

Jal Shakti workers are on strike since June 22, 2022 and demanding release of their pending wages and regularization of their services. Despite several rounds of talks with higher authorities in the Department, their issues could not be resolved in after three months by the Lt Governor's Administration.

A large number of PHE workers from various Divisions and Sub- Divisions in Jammu district, assembled outside the office of Chief Engineer PHE Jammu, at BC Road, under the banner of PHE United Front and held strong protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans in support of their demands and also against LG's Administration, BJP and other higher authorities in the J&K UT. Many of them were carrying banners and placards in their hands depicting slogans.

The employees representatives including- Ravi Hans, Navdeep Singh, Hoshiar Singh, Rajinder Singh, ML Sharma and others said that in the past they had called off their strike merely on assurances several times but nothing happened till date. Therefore, they have now decided not to call off strike



Jammu based reserved category employees staging protest at Panama Chowk, Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Jammu based reserved category employees stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association (AJBRCEA), Kashmir today staged a peaceful protest at Panama Chowk here.

A large number of Jammu based employees from various departments rendering their services in Kashmir Division participated in the protest and raised slogans in support of their demands while carrying placards in their hands.

The Association urged the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha J&K Administration to address their genuine demands including formulating a comprehensive transfer policy in a time bound manner by fixing a time period of 5 years, utilization of services of the employees in their respective district till the situation becomes conducive in the valley and not to pressurize the employees to

Dr Jitendra addresses BRICS meet, suggests joint fight against common challenges

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Sept 27: Addressing the 10th BRICS meet of Science & Technology Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh called for joint fight against common challenges.

order to resolve these challenges, it is imperative for us to join hands to innovate affordable scientific solutions. He pointed out that there are several areas where the lives of our people are directly

"Ease of Living" for common man; and a "science-based development". He said, India is moving along the mantra of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, and Jai Anusandhan,' which essentially



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the 10th BRICS meet of Science & Technology Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks, he said that Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) countries face many similar challenges such as ensuring food, affordable healthcare and energy access for its people, and addressing environmental problems like climate change, biodiversity loss etc.

The Minister also underlined the importance of Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) in bringing together our researchers to tackle new and emerging challenges.

Wang Zhigang, Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, Dr. Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzinande, Minister, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, South Africa, Paulo Alvim, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil, Valery Falkov, Minister, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Russia took part in the 10th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting along with senior officials and scientists.

benefited from our mutual cooperation like the establishment of a vaccine R&D centre, BRICS Network University, establishment of shared satellite constellation, mutual recognition of pharmaceuticals, etc.

The Minister said, BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, BRICS Youth Summits, BRICS Sports, and increase in exchanges amongst our scientific organizations, researchers and civil society have also strengthened our people-to-people contact.

Dwelling on the main session theme on "Strengthening BRICS STI Cooperation", Dr Jitendra Singh said, BRICS countries must deepen cooperation in the areas like Health, Agriculture, Water, Renewable Energy, biotechnology, Electric mobility, ICT, AI, Robotics and Environment. He said, the network of BRICS countries can collaborate to develop joint S&T solutions, commercialized to fit their local economies.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India would support BRICS efforts in developing innovative and inclusive solutions, including digital and technological tools to promote sustainable development and facilitate affordable and equitable access to global public goods for all.

The Minister pointed out that in time to come, BRICS shall hold global importance for being the most populated marketplace, driven by the knowledge economy and underlined that BRICS countries can collaborate to develop joint S&T solutions suited to local economies.

Referring to India's efforts and march in STI area, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always emphasized that ultimate aim of all scientific endeavour is to bring

believes in coordination of various sectors to make India a global centre of research and innovation.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to disrupt our world and India, being the fastest growing economy with the second largest population in the world, has a significant stake in the AI revolution. Recognizing this, we have established 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHS) in the country. International collaboration is embedded in it and we welcome researchers from foreign countries for collaborative research and sharing of knowhow, the Minister emphasised.

The Minister reiterated that India remains committed to environmental and climate causes. We have launched the National Hydrogen Energy Mission and several such initiatives to fulfil India's commitment at COP 26 of achieving net zero emissions by 2070 and meet 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.

In the closing session, where BRICS STI Declaration 2022 was adopted, Dr Jitendra Singh said, advancing BRICS innovation enterprises, developing next generation BRICS scientific leadership and enabling resource sharing should be our guiding strategy of BRICS STI partnership. He said, BRICS countries may explore opportunities of technology transfer & mechanism thereof and adaptation of intra-BRICS technologies among member nations.

Dr Jitendra Singh thanked China for hosting 2022 BRICS Summit successfully and organising a series of high level sectoral meetings including the 10th Meeting of BRICS S&T Ministers and 12th Meeting of Senior officials.

Div Com inaugurates Special Exhibition-cum-Sale at Jammu Haat

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: A one month Festival Special Exhibition-cum-Sale was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar,

Archives, besides a scintillating cultural and folk music presentation by the artists of Information Department.

The stalls displayed were mainly of White House Enterprises, Kashmir Silk,



Divisional Commissioner inaugurating Festival Special Exhibition.

here at Jammu Haat, Exhibition Ground in the presence of Director, Industries & Commerce, Vikas Gupta and General Manager, District Industries Centre, Virender Kumar Manyal.

In his welcome address, the Director Industries & Commerce said that the main aim of such exhibitions was to provide a platform to the local manufacturers, artisans, craftsmen and service providers to promote and sell their products. He further elaborated that such exhibitions are being conducted by the department on regular intervals.

The main attractions of the exhibition were the showcasing of different products manufactured by PMEGP units, Entrepreneurs, weavers, artisans associated with Handlooms, Handicrafts and Industries and Commerce Department, stalls by Horticulture and Department of

Sarveshwar Foods, Mahajan Rice Mills, Sifti, AVD Motion Pictures, DSD Knitwear, A One Dance and Aerobatics, Naturis Cosmetics, Kanwal Food & Spices, JK Industries, Shapes Furniture and many more.

While taking the round of the stalls, the Director apprised the success stories of the entrepreneurs who availed the benefits of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme [PMEGP] and Women Entrepreneurs financed through the Industries & Commerce Department.

Such entrepreneurs are inspiring other youth to become entrepreneurs and concentrate on becoming 'Job Provider' instead of 'Job Seeker' for which the interested candidates shall also be extended financial assistance under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme [PMEGP].

Fraudster arrested by Crime Branch

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: Crime Branch Jammu has arrested a fraudster for duping the complainant of an amount of Rs 4.5 lakhs.

The accused, namely Navdeep Singh, son of Nirmal Singh of Sanjay Nagar, Jammu, was arrested by Special Crime Wing, Jammu for his involvement in cheating and fraud in case FIR No 26/2022/U/S 420, 120-B RPC Police Station Crime Branch, Jammu.

Claiming himself to be proprietor of NAS Enterprises, Malik Market Channi Rama, Jammu, the accused allegedly gave a contract

to the complainant for installation of 13 HVDS Electrical Poles at DT, 56 Sector-4, Channi Himmat, Jammu and also installation of 32 HVDS Electrical Poles at RC Feeder 1, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The accused promised to pay Rs 12000/- per pole to the complainant and thereby allured a sum of Rs 4.5 lacs as advance money from the latter through cheques and cash for the installation of electric poles.

After a preliminary verification, a case FIR No. 26/2022/U/S 420, 120-B RPC Police Station Crime Branch, Jammu was registered and the accused was arrested from Udhampur.

DC reviews delineation, demarcation exercise

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Sept 27: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today chaired a meeting of Revenue officers of Sub Division Jammu South and North to review and discuss the delineation and demarcation of land which do not form part of water course/ source but have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, Darya, Nallah etc in revenue records.

ADC (L&O), Harvinder Singh, SDMs North Jammu, Udhm Dass, SDM South Jammu, Abhishake Abrol Tehsildars of both Sub-Divisions were also present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on the working of SDLC (Sub Division Level Committees) headed by SDM/ACR. While discussing the issues, the Deputy Commissioner gave several directions to revenue officers to conduct the exercise.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned revenue authorities to include state/private land while conducting surveys. She also directed for on the spot verification of land of Flood Control, Irrigation and UEED departments.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the revenue authorities to take necessary measures for preparation of maps through DGPS/ GIS for conducting the delineation exercise.