

Union Forest Secretary inspects Wular conservation works

Excelsior Correspondent

BANDIPORA, Apr 7: Union Secretary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EF&CC), Leena Nandan, today visited Bandipora and inspected Wular lake conservation works being taken up by Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA).



Union Forest Secretary alongwith others inspecting Wular conservation works on Friday.

Union Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary Forests Department, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Executive Director, WUCMA, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed, SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, Coordinator WUCMA, DFO Bandipora, and other senior officers of the district.

Union Secretary inspected various conservation and eco-tourism works being carried out by Wular Conservation and Management Authority.

Chief Executive Director (CED) WUCMA briefed the Union Secretary about the progress made in the conservation process including dredging operations being carried out in different sections of the lake besides informing about future

plans for developing Wular as a top tourism destination.

It was informed that the dredging work was carried out in critically silted portions of the lake under an area of 3.10 square kilometers was dewatered under Wular Action Plan thus enhancing the water holding capacity of the lake significantly.

The CED also briefed about the nature of catchment conservation works, biodiversity conservation works and eco-tourism development works that have been taken up under the Wular Action Plan including construction of non-motorable road (pathway) around the lake.

The officers said that Wular Lake is valuable asset of not only the district but for the whole UT and if the tourism potential here is exploited fully, it will entirely change the

socio-economic condition of the local population of the district. They informed that there is a huge potential for Water Sports besides having huge fish stocks in the lake. The administration also intends to develop a golf club on one of the islands inside the Wular, they added.

Union Secretary was appreciative of works taken up by the authority and said that the Union Government has prioritized conservation of this famous Lake with focus on tapping the vast ecotourism potential of the site.

She assured that the Union Government will extend adequate funding for all requisite works needed to be executed in the lake for its development and beautification.

Gaurav Gupta calls on LG Sinha

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Secretary, Jammu Club, Gaurav Gupta, today met with the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is also the Patron of the Club, to discuss various issues related to the development of the Club.

Gupta began the meeting by congratulating the Lt Governor for his recent achievement of breaking into the top 25 'Most Powerful Indians' list.

He praised the LG for his outstanding feat and stated that it is a well-deserved by the honour for him, Friday.

Gupta expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor for visiting the Club and said that his presence has motivated the members to become more proactive in pursuing the endeavours

initiated by the Club under his precious patronage and guidance. He added that Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory as a whole is moving fast on the path of development since LG Sinha assumed the charge of J&K. Gupta also acknowledged



Gaurav Gupta greeting LG Manoj Sinha with a flower bouquet at Raj Bhawan on Friday.

that the dream projects of Jammu, such as the Tawi River Front, Jammu Zoo, Tawi Barrage projects, etc., are seeing the light of day due to LG Sinha's relentless efforts in ensuring that equitable development is prioritized in J&K.



BJP senior leader and former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta kick starting blacktopping of road at Satwari on Friday.

Kick-starts blacktopping of road Modi Govt realizing dreams of J&K people: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi is leaving no stone unturned to fulfill the aspirations of the people of J&K by ensuring holistic development and prosperity.

He was addressing a gathering after launching a cleanliness drive in Greater Kailash area falling in Ward No 68. The drive was organized as a part of fortnight celebrations of party's Foundation Day.

Later, Kavinder Gupta and other BJP activists also felicitated the sanitation workers of the area.

Kavinder said that BJP through its strong credentials has proved today that democracy has fully flourished in India when it gave chance to Narendra Modi, a leader from a humble background to sit on the highest chair of the country.

He asked the party cadre to create connect with the masses to strengthen party at grassroots level. He said dispensing information on the public welfare schemes among people is the best way to convince them about bountifulness of BJP as this will

Social Media team calls on BJP leader

Bail to Sanjay is victory of people, slap to KCR: Chugh

Excelsior Correspondent



J&K Social media team who called on party national general secretary, Tarun Chugh posing for a photograph with him at New Delhi on Friday.

JAMMU, Apr 7: BJP national general secretary, Tarun Chugh today said that the bail granted to Telangana BJP president, Bandi Sanjay was not only a slap on the face of the KCR Government but also a victory for the common man whose cause Sanjay had been fighting in the wake of repeated incidents of question paper leakages.

Chugh, who on behalf of BJP president paid a visit to the family of Sanjay, said the KCR who is seeped deep into corruption has been trying to stifle the voice of lakhs of youth in Telangana. The way Sanjay had been waging a war against the KCR Government after it had cheated lakhs of students with leakages in question papers, be it of Public Service Commission (PSC) or otherwise exemplified the bottom that the KCR Government has touched in corruption.

He said the BJP is indebted

to the judiciary for bringing justice to the fore. Chugh said the arrest of Sanjay, who is a Lok Sabha member, was patently unconstitutional since the Lok Sabha is in session and the KCR Government did not even care to inform the Lok Sabha Speaker about it.

The BJP would continue its struggle to expose the KCR Government and would never be discouraged by repressive measures undertaken by the Telangana Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, a delegation of BJP Social Media team from Jammu and Kashmir headed by Ankit Gupta, convener; Nitish Mahajan, co-convener; Manjeet Jasrotia, Satish Jandyal and Bilal Parray called on Tarun Chugh and discussed various issues related to handling of party's social media campaign in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ankit Gupta apprised the senior BJP leader about the ongoing programmes of the party in J&K Union Territory.

He said "Our team doing their best in promoting the policies, programmes and schemes of Central Government in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir through various social media platforms like facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, etc."

Tarun Chugh said that social media is a major platform to get the party's ideology across to the masses. It helps common people in having direct links with the BJP. He said in today's era, social media is the only weapon by which people with anti-national mentality can be defeated.

Chugh asked them to continue their efforts in making people aware about the achievements of Central Government through social media campaign. Besides, efforts should be made to form WhatsApp groups in every district which would serve as a platform for exchanging information relating to the good work done by the Modi Government," he said.

Harsh seeks probe into allotments of Govt bungalows to BJP leaders

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: "While the Estates Deptt has submitted a list of 53 unauthorized occupants of Estates bungalows to the High Court, it continued to shelter them by not only allowing their illegal retention of such mansions but also providing them all luxuries items of furniture, fixtures, smart TVs, Refrigerators and other accessories in such bungalows out of Public exchequer".

This was alleged by Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and President JKNPP while speaking to media persons here today.

Seeking action against the Estates Deptt and Govt functionaries for concealing such valuable information from the court, Singh sought initiation of suo-moto contempt proceedings against the delinquent officers for keeping the High Court in the dock.

He said that the tax-payers money was being looted by the BJP and its allies not only through the Estate Deptt but also through the Police Deptt and its security wing by providing huge paraphernalia of security staff and vehicles to the leaders of

these parties without any entitlement.

Expressing his dismay over the silence of vigilante organizations, including CBI, ED and ACB over the open violation of SOPs and guidelines in the matter of allotment of Government accommodation, Singh said it was shocking to note the immunity granted to such blue-eyed leaders of BJP while the opposition leaders including ex-Ministers and heads of recognized political parties were hounded out of Estates quarters' years back through police force.

"Not only the Estates Bungalows but the security vehicles and PSOs were also being allotted purely on political considerations," said Singh and pointed out that all the EX-MLAs and Ex-Ministers of BJP and JKAP were provided security vehicles and huge paraphernalia of security personnel while denying bare minimum security to opposition leaders.

Seeking a high level probe preferably through CBI into the whole gamut of illegal allotments of Govt bungalows and huge encroachments of Govt lands and properties by BJP leaders besides provision of Govt vehicles and huge security paraphernalia to them, Singh called for punitive action against the officers who were acting more as BJP servants than public servants.

Mohanlal Sons announces '1 Rupee Loot'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Mohanlal Sons, India's oldest retailer, having presence in 17 cities across India, has just announced '1 Rupee Loot' offer for its customers.

A handout of 'Mohanlal Sons' stated: "Buy any Kurta or Jacket and get another for just Rupee 1 and the offer is valid on both Men's and Kids' Collection."

India's Oldest Retailer invited the customers to visit its store or website today to explore over 1000 styles of Chikan, Cotton, Handloom, Ikkat and Silk Kurtas, Pathanis and Jawahar jackets.



"The offer is valid from April 7 to 9, 2023 only with the terms and conditions," the handout maintained.

Several join BJP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Several people joined the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) during the party workers meeting and joining programme at party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar here today.

They joined the party in presence of BJP Minority Morcha, president, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Santokh Singh general secretary, Inderjeet Singh and others. They were heartily welcomed into the party fold by the leaders.

A large number of people, mostly youth attended the programme during which the participants raised slogans in favour of Ranjodh Singh Nalwa and pledged their support and alle-

giance to him. Nalwa welcomed their decision of joining BJP Minority Morcha. He assured them that the party will stand by them every moment and struggle for their rights, development and basic needs.

Nalwa claimed that other parties are playing divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir but in today's world, there is no space for those who spread lies and play dirty politics.

Nalwa said that BJP is the sole party that is committed to serving the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

Prominent among those who joined BJP included Jasbir Singh, Gurdeep Singh Babbi and others.

Reliance Jewels unveils majestic Thanjavur collection

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Reliance Jewels has launched an exquisite jewellery collection, Thanjavur, to mark the occasion of Akshay Tritiya.

The collection draws inspira-



tion from the artistic traditions of Thanjavur temples, the royal Darbar Halls of its palaces, the adorable Bommai dolls and the majestic Poompuhar ships.

It was launched at a special event in Shangri-La, Bangalore, which was attended by customers, media, and leading members of the fashion fraternity.

Thanjavur offers an array of exquisite jewellery pieces that suit every occasion, from weddings to festive events.

It includes stunning necklace sets, chokers, layered neck-

laces, bangles, bracelets, earrings, rings, waist belts, maang tikkas and ear chains; each crafted to exude elegance and sophistication.

A runway show illustrating the extensive range of gold and diamond jewellery pieces offered by Thanjavur was held at the launch event.

Highlight of the event was Bollywood actress Jahnvi Kapoor walking the ramp wearing the showstopper piece - a diamond-studded necklace and earring collection inspired by temple mix designs, crafted in rose gold.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels, said, "We are proud to present our Thanjavur collection this Akshaya Tritiya across India. It captures the essence of the rich heritage of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu."

Expressing her delight at the event, Jahnvi Kapoor said, "It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Thanjavur Collection launch by Reliance Jewels. The jewellery pieces are stunning and truly capture the essence of the Thanjavur's rich heritage."

The Thanjavur collection is available at all Reliance Jewels outlets across India.

Reliance Jewels is offering up to 25 per cent off on gold jewellery making and diamond jewellery invoices from 1-24 April, 2023.

DC Rajouri unveils admission prospectus for Eklavya Model Residential School

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Apr 7: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal unveiled the admission prospectus for the upcoming academic year 2023-24 of Eklavya Model Residential School, marking the second academic session for the School.

The school was established with the noble objec-

tion of providing quality education to students from schedule Tribe communities. During the unveiling ceremony, the DC emphasised the importance of education in empowering young minds and creating a better future for the country. He highlighted the need for equal access to education for all children, irrespective of their background or socio-economic status.



DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal and others during unveiling of admission prospectus of Eklavya Model Residential School.

The Eklavya Model Residential School is affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and offers education from class VI to XII.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Khurshid; Chief Education Officer, Sultana Kouser; District Social Welfare Officer, Wakeel Ahmed Bhat and teachers of the school were present at the event.

Handwara village faces hardships due to absence of concrete bridge

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 7: Residents of Bakiaker hamlet in Handwara area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district have been facing extreme hardships for more than 10 years as a result of the absence of a concrete bridge.

The locals said that the Handwara division of the Roads and Buildings Department restored the existing bridge after it was damaged by flash floods in 2014. However, they said that despite numerous requests from the locals, no replacement bridge has been built.

Locals claim that they frequently approached the Handwara division of the Roads and Buildings department to request the replacement of the old bridge and its repair. However, to the dismay of the people, the department did not do anything more than fix the old bridge.

"Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) have had to take a longer route as a result of the

lack of a new bridge, raising the cost of transportation. A number of homes have been destroyed as a result of emergency services, such as fire tenders, being delayed in their response," locals said.

The locals said the horticultural industry, which is the main source of income for the majority of locals, has been impacted by the lack of a bridge. They claimed that despite being 4 km from Sub District Handwara, the Bakiaker village's 600 homes had not received even the most basic services from previous administrations. "We have made many requests to the relevant authority, but no remedy has been provided," locals said.

The residents demanded the intervention of DC Kupwara and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to fulfil their long pending demands.

Before beginning construction on the bridge, an official of the Roads and Buildings Department's (R&B) Handwara division revealed that they were awaiting funding approval.

Patoli Brahmana residents demand connecting OHT with tube well

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: The residents of Patoli Brahmana have expressed serious concern over the delaying tactics of Jal Shakti Department in making the overhead tank in the area functional.

The inhabitants of the area said that overhead tank has been constructed over four years back and a tube well has also been constructed in the area over one year back but till date the Department has failed to connect the overhead tank with tube well for supplying safe drinking water to the people of the locality.

Pran Nath Bhat a local resident said that the issue was

taken up with the Jal Shakti Department many times but to no avail. He said huge amount was spent on the construction of overhead tank and tube well but without any utility as both are lying idle.

He in an appeal to Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti sought his immediate attention in the matter. Nana Ji Raina ex Sarpanch said that the Department has made people to suffer by not connecting the overhead tank with the tube well. "What was the fun of constructing OHT and tube well and spending such a huge amount on their construction when people where not to be provided the water supply", he asked?

EPFO Jammu attains milestone average income

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 7: Consistent efforts were made to ensure that the corpus of Administrative Account (Account No-2) remains in a healthy position and keeps growing on a regular basis by the EPFO Regional Office Jammu.

The EPFO conducted seminars and awareness programmes by organizing camps (like Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 program) at different locations. Consistent communications were made for remittances of outstanding dues by many defaulting establishments. Regular follow ups were done with establishments through emails and phone calls.

All these measures have resulted in significant increment receipts in EPF Account which achieved a milestone of average income of Rs 75 Lakhs per month in its administrative

account during the financial year 2022-23 in comparison to the same being at Rs. 57 Lakhs per month in the year 2020-21 and Rs. 68 Lakhs per month in the year 2021-22," a release said.

Overall growth in the year 2022-23 is Rs. 18 Lakhs (31.60%) as compared to 2020-21 which is the landmark achievement for EPFO Regional Office Jammu. This has not only ensured growth in income of EPFO but also indicates growth in coverage of establishments under the EPF&MP Act, 1952 and increase in the membership while ensuring timely payment of PF contributions in members' account, EPFO Commissioner Razwan Uddin said.

"Return rejection ratio of claims in respect of Regional Office, Srinagar was brought down from 35% to 11% through specific targeted efforts," he said.

7 vegetable shops challaned

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Apr 7: Executive Magistrate Surankote today challaned seven vegetable shops in Surankote market for overcharging.

Official sources said that on the basis of complaints being received that during the month of Ramazan, vegetables, fruits, meat and other items were not available as per the rate list issued by the Government and even the rate lists were not pasted in shops, Executive Magistrate Surankote along with

his team launched a market checking drive.

During the drive, seven vegetable shops were challaned in Surankote market for overcharging the customers and an amount of Rs 2,200 as fine was realized from the erring shopkeepers.

Naib Tehsildar Surankote, Mohd Afzal, said that beside challaning, all shopkeepers have been asked to sell items as per the rates approved by the administration and not to sell rotten items. He said action under rule shall be taken against all those who will not abide law.