

NC MP takes up daily wagers issue in LS

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug 9: National Conference Member Parliament from Anantnag, H. Masoodi raised the issue of regularisation and removal of pay anomalies of daily-wagers and contractual employees in J&K in Lok Sabha under rule 377. Highlighting the plight of more than 60,000 Contractual workers, Contingent Paid Workers (CPW), HDF (Hospital Development Fund) workers, ad-hoc workers, CIC operators, Home Guards, Teachers of Tribal Seasons Schools, Zonal coordinators under Samagra Shiksha and Contractual Lecturers Health Workers & Asha workers, he said, they have been sweating hard for decades in various departments of Jammu & Kashmir. "These workers are hired on need basis by departments like; Jal Shakti, PDD, Health and

Education, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj etc and are paid meagre wages," he said adding, "Their constant protests over the last several months have remained unheard." Masoodi told in the Lok Sabha that these hapless are demanding regularization and an increase in their salaries in accordance with the Minimum Wages Act. The local response has been highly ineffective, where demands and well-being of our workers have not been heard, he added. "I strongly urge the Government to address the grievances of the daily wage workers by fast-tracking their regularization by fixing a reasonable time frame for their regularization, absorbing them as permanent employees in the department and issuing orders for their wages as per Minimum Wages Act," the J&K MP asserted.



By Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria listening public grievances at party office Jammu on Wednesday.

Billawaria conducts grievance camp at BJP Headquarters

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: To address the problems of the people, BJP J&K has initiated a weekly sitting of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), at Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar. In the series, Deputy Mayor JMC, Baldev Singh Billawaria conducted grievance camp today to listen and address the grievances related to the services provided by JMC. A representation from Ward No 73 stated that there is major problem of sanitation due to the blockage of deep drain with no provision of door-to-door garbage collecting autos. Complaint regarding cutting of grass around the Nallah was also highlighted. Ward No 49 representation stated sanitation and street light problem around Nallah and demanded that there is urgent need of fixing iron gratings. Ward No 45 representation stated need for the repair of street lights and High Mast lights in park and repair of Danga around Canal near Shiv Mandir. Ward No 24 representation highlighted sanitation problem. Ward No 50, 51 and Ward No 46 representation demanded street lights for the area. Ward No 22 representation said there is requirement of Grass cutting at Shishu Samadhi (Children Graveyard). Ward No

54 representation demanded repair of drain and highlighted problems of street lights. There is need of lifting the damaged garbage trolley at Sec-9, they added. Ward No 55 representation stated requirement of iron gratings and solving of sanitation problem. Ward No 47 & 48 representation demanded settlement of street lights problem. Ward 43 representation highlighted sanitation problem and lane drain blockage while Ward 42 representation highlighted street light and sanitation problem. Dy. Mayor sorted out many of their problems on the spot and assured the other visitors that a prompt action would be taken soon for the other issues presented. While expressing his views on activities and the public interaction programme, Billawaria said that BJP is committed to the welfare of people and Central Government led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is very particular to mitigate the sufferings of the masses in every aspect. He said that BJP has decided to provide all the administrative and other facilities at the doorsteps of Jammu people. BJP district president, Rekha Mahajan, corporators Anil Masoom and Anil Kumar accompanied Deputy Mayor and coordinated the camp proceedings.

LPEF holds convention, discusses demands

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Aug 9: One day convention of Low Paid Employees Federation (LPEF) was held here, today under the chairmanship of Noor Hussain Malik district patron, Kishtwar in which burning issues of the employees were highlighted. Senior Federation leaders from the UT of J&K participated in the convention. The Federation leaders from Jammu were led by Kabla Singh, acting State president and Anchal Dev Singh, convener and from Kashmir leaders were led by Javid Ahmed Shah general secretary, Kashmir and Abdul Rashid Bhat district president Anantnag. The convention demanded restoration of Old Pension Scheme, enhancement of medical Allowance, regularization of daily wagers, consolidated

workers, timely holding of DPCs in various departments, removal of grade anomaly and pay disparities in various departments, exemption of Income Tax up to Rs eight lakh, filling up of vacant posts in various government departments, two and a half day pay and Risk Allowance to employees. They also demanded delimitation of Patwar Halqa, reorganization of Forest Department, restoration of original spirit of SRO 43 and redressal of sectional problems etc. The convention besides Kabla Singh was addressed by Javed Ahmed Shah, Anchal Dev Singh, Manzoor Ahmed Kitchloo, Abdul Rashid Butt, Abdul Majid Bichoo, Mohammed Arif Mir, Arshad Rasool Sheikh, Mohinder Kumar, Abdul Hafiz Fani etc.

Protest at Top Sherkhania against smartmeters, Property Tax

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: People of Ward number 39 in Top Sherkhania area here today staged a protest demonstration against installing of smartmeters, imposing Property Tax and revoking of old age pension by the government. The protest was led by Rajinder Singh Jamwal, Councillor of Ward number 39 wherein a large number of locals of the area including women raised slogans against the hefty electricity bills which are being issued after the installation of Smart Power Meters. Addressing the protesters Rajinder Singh said that some households even received power bills of Rs. 3-4 lakh. He said that the government should immediately start pensions for old age, physically challenged people and widows which was stopped some months back. The protesters also demanded that the Property Tax should be withdrawn from J&K.

Intruder turns out to be Afghani

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, Aug 9: An intruder, who was arrested two days ago near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district by the Army, is an Afghan national with a disability in left leg. Abdul Wahid, in his early 20's, was earlier believed to be a resident of Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) who had inadvertently sneaked into this side before being caught by Army in Dabi-Basuni village ahead of the border fence in Balakote sector on Monday. "Wahid was handed over to police late Tuesday night and he is an Afghan national. His ques-

tioning is going on to ascertain the motive behind his intruding into this side," a police official said. However, nothing incriminating was recovered from his possession, the official said, adding this was for the first time that any Afghan national was arrested along the LoC in Mendhar sub-division of Poonch. The officials said the Army handed over Wahid to police as per the legal formality after completing his questioning. A video showed two Army personnel helping the crippled man to alight from the vehicle and walk into the police station. The officials said some Pakistani currency notes were recovered from him.

Massive protest against smartmeters, road blocked

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: Tensions flared in the Eidgah area near Aali Masjid today as residents blocked Dr Ali Jan Road, a crucial route leading to the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. The demonstration, organized in opposition to the installation of Smart Meters in the vicinity, has triggered widespread traffic disruption and raised concerns about emergency access. This road had already experienced obstruction on Tuesday when a significant assembly of men and women gathered, resulting in traffic chaos. However, today's protest escalated the situation, rendering the emergency route nearly impassable for the majority of the day. Chanting slogans and resolutely voicing their opposition to Smart Meters, the residents affirmed their determination to prevent the installation, citing potential adverse effects on economically disadvantaged individuals. "We are protesting against the Smart Meters and we will not allow their installation; we will persist here because it will disprop-

ortionately affect the underprivileged," declared one resident. Emergency services bore the brunt of the road blockade, with several ambulances stranded along the route. A significant number of patients were also ensnared in the traffic, striving to reach SKIMS, Soura for medical attention. While a few ambulances successfully navigated through the crowd, many patients, office-goers, and even schoolchildren returning from picnics found themselves immobilized. Rafiq Ahmad, a commuter trapped in the gridlock, lamented, "I waited for nearly 2 hours for the road to clear, but with no progress in sight, I opted for an alternative route to reach my destination. A journey that typically takes 15 minutes ended up devouring over 3 hours of my time." Even as the evening sun descended below the horizon, police efforts to pacify the protestors and reopen the road proved ineffective. The local Police Control Room (PCR) acknowledged receiving numerous distress calls from commuters throughout the day, underscoring the extent of disruption caused by the road closure.

FCIK elects General Council members, take oath

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) administered the oath today to the newly elected General Council members after the completion of the first phase of elections. The oath of office was administered to the members by the Chief Election Commissioner, Syed Nasir Bukhari, in the presence of other members of the election commission. FCIK said in a statement issued here. It noted that the General Council members have been elected by the general members from organized industrial estates including Anchidora, Anantnag, Aglar, Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Khumoh, Rangreth, Sanat Nagar, Shalteng, Zainakote, Sopore, Baramulla, Handwara, Kupwara,

Bandipora, Ganderbal, Zakura, Silk Park Zakura, Vessu Qazigund, Gagren, Lassipora, Shopian, Pulwama, Bijbehara, Wuyan, and others, besides the unorganized sector, in all 10 districts of Kashmir across varied lines of activities. "The constitution provides for the election of General Council members from the general members who, in turn, will elect the Administrative Council and the Executive Council to run the organization's affairs for the new term," FCIK stated, referring to its framed constitution. Speaking on the occasion, Bukhari mentioned that FCIK represented the coalescence of all industrial associations formed in the organized and unorganized sectors, which had consistently acted as the genuine voice of the industrial community.

ADGP approves promotions of 485 HCs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, today approved the promotion of 485 Head Constables to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. This move has come following the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, which was constituted to assess the suitability of eligible Head Constables for promotion to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspectors. "ADGP Kashmir has approved the promotions of 485 Head Constables, who have their lien and seniority within the Kashmir Zone, to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspectors," stated a police spokesperson. Kumar has congratulated the promoted officers and their families, expressing the hope that they will strive to work diligently to maintain public peace, tranquility, and law & order in the Union Territory of J&K.

employee's activity is being noticed by the police and no one should think they could easily get over the law's hands. Shiv Kumar, SSP, who is Principal PTTI Vijaypur, also emphasized upon the employees

PTTI Vijaypur organises lecture on vigilance awareness

Excelsior Correspondent

VIJAYPUR, Aug 9: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur today organised a lecture on vigilance awareness for the police personnel and trainees

to promote integrity and transparency while maintaining the highest standards of honesty in the service. Zia-ul-Haq, DySP (outdoor), Kuldeep Raj, DySP (indoor/tech), Inspectors Surinder Paul Singh, Vishal Kumar (CDI), Javed Hussain (RI), Mulkh Raj, Ram Lal, Kanwal Raina, Vivek Kalsotra, Himanshu Dutta, Ashish Darnat among others were present on the occasion.



Police officers and trainees attending a lecture on vigilance awareness at PTTI Vijaypur on Wednesday.

as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week. A statement said that Khushwant Singh, DySP (Admin) PTTI Vijaypur, stressed upon the employees to refrain from corrupt practices as it could affect them and their family members' dignity. He described corruption as the biggest threat in the growth, development, peace, and prosperity of the country. According to him, every

to promote integrity and transparency while maintaining the highest standards of honesty in the service. Zia-ul-Haq, DySP (outdoor), Kuldeep Raj, DySP (indoor/tech), Inspectors Surinder Paul Singh, Vishal Kumar (CDI), Javed Hussain (RI), Mulkh Raj, Ram Lal, Kanwal Raina, Vivek Kalsotra, Himanshu Dutta, Ashish Darnat among others were present on the occasion.

Pawan Kotwal launches SIDCO's website

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Aug 9: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, launched the official website of Sindu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO), here at Civil Secretariat today. The newly unveiled website offers an array of features designed to provide visitors with an engaging and informative experience. The website's dynamic home page offers a snapshot of SIDCO's core values, goals, and significant achievements. It serves as a gateway to timely updates and crucial announcements. This section delves into the rich history of SIDCO, its visionary leadership, and its pivotal role in shaping Ladakh's infrastructure landscape. It underscores the corporation's dedication to regional development. Visitors can explore a comprehensive portfolio showcasing both ongoing and completed projects undertaken by SIDCO.

Each project is accompanied by detailed insights, progress reports, and visual documentation. This service section outlines the diverse range of services offered by SIDCO, encompassing project conception, execution, and maintenance. The corporation's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices is also prominently featured. "The launch of the website marks a significant milestone in advancing SIDCO's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and effective communication for its diverse stakeholders," said Dr Kotwal. He emphasized that for sustainable development of the industrial sector in Ladakh, it is imperative that the corporation works with a prospective vision besides an effective strategy in tune with modern trends and mechanisms. Commissioner Secretary/ Managing Director of SIDCO, Ajeet Kumar Sahu also graced the occasion, alongside other distinguished officials of the corporation.

Commissioner Secretary/ Managing Director of SIDCO, Ajeet Kumar Sahu also graced the occasion, alongside other distinguished officials of the corporation. Fondly recalling Prime Minister's visit to LPU during the 2019 Indian Science Congress, where he coined the "Jai Anusandhan" slogan, Dr Mittal emphasized the significance of fostering research, innovation, and industry-academia collaboration for economic growth. Underlining LPU's contribution to national skill development, Dr Mittal highlighted the institution's role in providing industry-aligned education. He expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's support to the education sector and praised the New Education Policy (NEP) initiative. Dr Mittal extended LPU's willingness to assist in implementing the NEP policy. During the meeting, the



View of a dilapidated road near Islamia College leading to Makhdoom Sahib's Shrine in Srinagar on Wednesday.

— Excelsior/Shakeel

All roads to Makhdoom Sahib's shrine in shambles, people aghast

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: The roads leading to the revered shrine of Makhdoom Sahib here have been in a state of disrepair for several years, causing immense hardships to commuters and residents alike. The deteriorating condition of these roads has not only created difficulties for daily travelers but has also raised concerns among local inhabitants. The stretch from Gojwara to the Makhdoom Sahib shrine has deteriorated significantly, mirroring the condition of the road connecting the shrine from Islamia College. Adding to the woes, the road leading from Ganjbakhsh Park to the shrine is also riddled with numerous potholes, rendering even pedestrian movement cumbersome.

He criticized the authorities for claiming Srinagar's status as a Smart City while failing to provide its residents with decent roads. Fayaz Ahmad, a shopkeeper near Bahaodin Chowk, highlighted that all three routes to the shrine - Nowhatta, Ganjbakhsh Park, and Gojwara - are in an equally dismal condition. He expressed that both locals and pilgrims visiting the shrine are grappling with these subpar conditions. "Due to the shrine's significance, these roads witness a constant influx of people. The presence of a Ganesh Mandir in the area further compounds the problem, as visitors to the temple, hailing from various parts of the country, are also affected," he said. While one of the roads underwent macadamization a few years ago, the residents said, its condition deteriorated within a short span. "For over 3 years now, the road has been in a lamentable state. The elderly residents are experiencing health issues due to the pervasive dust," residents reported.

Tasleema, another resident, lamented that despite road repairs taking place elsewhere, their grievances have been consistently ignored by the authorities. "We have raised the issue multiple times, but it seems our pleas are falling on deaf ears," she expressed. Tariq Ahmad, a resident of Bachdarwaza situated along the road leading to the shrine from Islamia College, lamented that the road's deplorable state has persisted for nearly 8 years, causing ongoing hardships. He noted, "The road is already in a dire condition, exacerbated by a dysfunctional drainage system. Accumulated drain water worsens the walking conditions. Unfortunately, the situation has remained unchanged for several years, despite our continuous appeals to the Government."



Artists of HDCS staging Nukkad Natak in Jammu.

HDCS stages two 'Nukkad-Natak' on anti-drug addiction

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: On the theme of 'Anti-drug addiction', HDCS staged two "Nukkad" shows at Nund Public Higher School, Muthi and SNS Vidya Mandir, School, Camp Road Talab Tillo, Jammu. The Nukkad shows are being performed in the ongoing weekly Nukkad Natak series organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Jammu under the guidance of Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL. The Nukkad Natak, "Say no to Drugs" was written by Shashi Bhushan Sharma and directed by Shazia Khan. The message regarding to keep away from drug addiction to all especially the young students was strongly

conveyed by the artists to the audience who witnessed the play in a large numbers at Schools in the each Nukkad performance. The views of the public on the awareness given through the Nukkads was also sought at the end of the each Nukkad Natak performances. The public spoke persons appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Secretary Manhas for organizing such awareness creating Nukkads. Artists who performed in Nukkad Natak were Shazi Khan, Irfana Banoo, Neha Manhas, Ajay Sharma, Vishal Malhotra, Shivam Sharma, Kamakshya Dogra and Ridhima Kalsi. Dr Sudhir Mahajan, SDI was the overall incharge of the programme who is also monitoring the shows in the whole Jammu Division.

MP Dr Ashok Kumar Mittal meets PM Modi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: Dr Ashok Kumar Mittal, Chancellor of Lovely Professional University and a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, recently held a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with his family.

Mittal family presented a Punjabi hand-woven shawl (phulkari) and a bouquet to the Prime Minister. His daughter and son-in-law, Sriшти & Sreshtha Khetan, gifted a frame featuring a picture of PM Modi and his late mother. Additionally, Dr Mittal and his son Pratham Mittal presented a portrait of the Prime Minister, created by an LPU student. PM Modi kindly signed a book by Murlidharan Khetan, Sreshtha Khetan's grandfather. The discussions between PM Modi and the Mittal family spanned education and development topics. PM Modi praised Dr Mittal's insights, expressing his own affinity for education reforms. Recognizing science and technology's pivotal role in progress, the Prime Minister recounted the evolution of the "Jai Anusandhan" slogan. He explained how this slogan, an augmentation of "Jai Kisan," "Jai Jawan," and "Jai Vigyan," underscores the importance of science and technology across sectors such as agriculture, defense, and healthcare. The meeting showcased a convergence of ideas and a shared commitment to advancing education, innovation, and development.



Mittal family presenting a hand-woven shawl to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jalandhar.

Fondly recalling Prime Minister's visit to LPU during the 2019 Indian Science Congress, where he coined the "Jai Anusandhan" slogan, Dr Mittal emphasized the significance of fostering research, innovation, and industry-academia collaboration for economic growth. Underlining LPU's contribution to national skill development, Dr Mittal highlighted the institution's role in providing industry-aligned education. He expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's support to the education sector and praised the New Education Policy (NEP) initiative. Dr Mittal extended LPU's willingness to assist in implementing the NEP policy. During the meeting, the

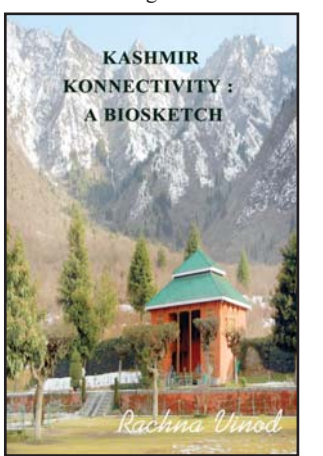
immersive exploration of the tapestry that is Kashmir. With the stroke of a pen, the author weaves a narrative that goes beyond mere words, breathing life into the very essence of the region. "Kashmir Connectivity: A Biosketch" is poised to take its readers on an unforgettable journey through the mesmerizing landscapes of the enchanting Kashmir Valley. In a world where the written word has the power to bridge distances and bring cultures together, "Kashmir Connectivity: A Biosketch" stands as a testament to the enduring human need for connection and understanding. As the pages unfold, readers are invited to partake in an enriching and enlightening experience, one that transcends the boundaries of time and space, forging a lasting bond between the reader and the soul of Kashmir. Another addition to the e-books by Rachna Vinod, this novel beckons readers to embark on an

Rachna Vinod's latest e-book on Kashmir released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: In a literary endeavor that promises to ignite the imagination and captivate the hearts of readers, the novel titled "Kashmir Connectivity: A Biosketch" is poised to take its readers on an unforgettable journey through the mesmerizing landscapes of the enchanting Kashmir Valley. In a world where the written word has the power to bridge distances and bring cultures together, "Kashmir Connectivity: A Biosketch" stands as a testament to the enduring human need for connection and understanding. As the pages unfold, readers are invited to partake in an enriching and enlightening experience, one that transcends the boundaries of time and space, forging a lasting bond between the reader and the soul of Kashmir. Another addition to the e-books by Rachna Vinod, this novel beckons readers to embark on an

immersive exploration of the tapestry that is Kashmir. With the stroke of a pen, the author weaves a narrative that goes beyond mere words, breathing life into the very essence of the region.



The e-book published by Inkalaab Publication, Mumbai was released on Google Play Store and in Kindle version on Amazon.

RC Jammu supports specially abled child with wheel chair

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 9: Rotary Club of Jammu under the president ship of Sat Pal Verma today supported a specially abled child of Central Basic Higher Secondary School Jammu with a wheel chair.

Principal for further distribution amongst the girls students of the School.

The chair was handed over to the Rohit Singh of class 10th child in presence of his parents, Principal of the School Vinod Bhat and staff. The lower limbs of the Boy are paralyzed and this wheel chair will help him to continue his studies smoothly. The Wheel Chair was sponsored by one of the members of the Club, Dr Puneet Gupta in the memory of his late father. Further, Rotary Club also handed over 200 sanitary pads to the

RC Jammu has taken over the project of distribution of sanitary pads to the girls' school of Jammu and adjoining area. The

distribution is duly sponsored by Kamini Mather (charter president of RC Jaipur Vision). Kamini has supplied more than 1000 pads to RC Jammu for further distribution under the Project.

7 held, vehicles seized for illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 9: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police today arrested 7 persons, seizing as many vehicles in Baramulla. A police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg Intiaz Ahmed assisted by SHO PS Kunzer, seized 4 vehicles-3 tippers and a tractor-and arrested 4 drivers for their involvement in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Chichiloora and Gokhama Kunzer, police said. "They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Jath son of Gulham Hassan, resident of Nund Reshi Colony Bemina, Bilal Ahmad Lone son of Abdul

Rashid Lone, resident of Goigam Kunzer, Sameer Ahmad Shah, son of Gh Rasool resident of Gonipora Kunzer and Mohd Altaf Shah son of Ali Mohd resident of Takiya Gonipora," police said. Similarly, in another action, police said, seized 3 vehicles and arrested 03 drivers for their involvement in the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Ferozpora, Tangmarg. "They have been identified as Abdul Rashid Reshi, son of Abdul Rahim Reshi, resident of Baderkote, Mohd Iqbal Mir son of Gulham Ahmad Mir resident of Kulhama & Adil Ahmad Dar son of Gulham Ahmad Dar resident of Hardu Shooraa Kunzer."

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