

Sinha inaugurates Forest Resource Management Center

Forest management, protection vital to achieve climate stability and sustainable development goals: LG

*J&K 3rd UT to implement NTPS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Forest Resource Management Center (FRMC) at Narwal and launched the National Transit Pass System today.

The Lt Governor said, the new state-of-the-art facility and the technological advancements will go a long way in ensuring required protection and management of our forests.

The FRMC has been planned to scale up the use of modern technology such as GIS, Remote Sensing and digital tools like mobile application in protection and management of forests. The FRMC will also play a key role in digitalization of forest boundary as well as for management of forests through geo reference based information and mapping.

The Lt Governor advised the department to maximise the use of technology in forest protection and climate change mitigation by protecting the natural resources, which will also support meeting of Sustainable Development Goals.

J&K UT is the third UT/State to implement the National Transit Pass System in the country. It replaces manual paper-based transit system by online transit system, promotes agro-forestry activities that will in turn help in increasing farmer's income, the Lt Governor noted.

Forest management and protection is vital to achieve climate stability and sustainable development goals. Reducing deforestation, tackling the loss of forest biodiversity and preservation of our natural heritage is critical for inclusive development, observed the Lt Governor.

"Nature unites us. I want every citizen to become Green Warrior and take action on climate change. We should have 10-point vision document which will act as an MoU of commitment with the society to protect the nature in the neighborhood," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also shared the efforts of the forest department in safeguarding the ecological wealth and making technological interventions an important factor in forest management.

In Amrit Kaal our aim is to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into development planning and work in a holistic manner for clean air, fresh water, biodiversity conservation and mitigation of human-wild animal conflict, the Lt Governor said.

Greater use of technology will help the field staff to make effective decisions for protection and management of forests and augment the efforts of the frontline forest field staff in securing this valuable resource, he said.

Today, Geo-tagging has revolu-



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during inauguration of Forest Resource Management Centre at Narwal.

tionized the management of different types of forest assets. GIS technology and Mapping have emerged as powerful instruments in conservation efforts. With GIS mapping and ground-based digitization, we can effectively tackle the challenge of encroachment, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Forest Department for digitization of all demarcated forests at beat, block, range and division levels. He congratulated PCCF/HoFF Dr Mohit Gera and his team for restoring the original glory of the Char Chinar in the iconic Dal Lake and further stressed upon taking up new initiatives dedicated to environment protection.

Citing the example from Ecuador which became the first country to grant "legal rights of the nature" in its Constitution, the Lt Governor advised that the sustainable development must recognize earth as a living entity. He also emphasised to expedite FRA cases especially pertaining to Individual Forest Rights and ensure that genuine claims are processed and decided expeditiously.

Appreciating the efforts of the department on afforestation through Green J&K Drive, the Lt Governor advised the department that such afforestation should lead to creation of livelihood.

He also directed the department to substantially increase the number of Women Self Help Groups and work towards women empowerment. The department should also take new initiatives under Jan Bhagidhara and create volunteers to spread the awareness on climate change.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor paid tributes to the Martyrs of the Forest Department. Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment enumerated various programmes and schemes dedicated to promoting green cover in J&K.

Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, PCCF &HoFF said that Forest Department is actively using Remote Sensing and GIS for forest protection and management activities and with the inauguration of the FRMC, the capability of Forest Department in use of

Policy pursued by J&K Govt is anti-poor: Farooq

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 16: Farooq Abdullah, the National Conference President and Member of the Parliament from Srinagar, on Thursday said the narratives of peaceable calm, development and prosperity peddled by the Government doesn't reflect the reality on the ground.

This he said while addressing people at Habbak today. Party's Provincial President (Kashmir) Nasir Aslam Wani was also present on the occasion.

Interacting with the workers, Dr Farooq said, "Three years on, there is little to show off a revitalised administration, increased job opportunities for our educated youth and infrastructure augmentation. There is pervasive rage among people, stemming from misgovernance and unaccountability. Claims of changed ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir

emanating from the Government are a bundle of lies to whitewash the devastating impact of the Gol's August 5, 2019 decisions on the people and economy of the erstwhile state."

Dr Farooq said such claims are akin to rubbing salt into the wounds of people of J&K, who are being denied democracy and not trusted with a popular government, whose democratic rights have been crippled and whose exclusive rights over land, jobs and natural resources stand liquidated.

Dr Farooq further said, "The hard earned gains of our Governments in terms of bridging building people's trust in Government has received a setback. The anti-poor, anti-trader and anti-consumer policies being pursued by the incumbent administration have further increased the wedge between the administration and people."

Civil Servants' capacity building to include 'Geospatial' technology: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Feb 16 : 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 today announced that in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's penchant for technology driven governance, the Civil Servants' capacity building will also include the latest "Geospatial" technology which is one of the most recent technologies available to us as well as the world over.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he has always been speaking about wider integration in working and the whole of Govt concept, and added that today he feels gratified to witness integration between two of the important Ministries associated with him, namely the



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Director Dr Srinivas, going around different sections of India's only academic institute of its kind, National Institute for Geo-Information Science & Technology(NIGST) at Hyderabad, on Thursday.

Personnel DoPT and Science & Technology/DST.

The Union Minister said that the NIGST (National Institute of Geo-Information Science & Technology) has the potential and expertise in Geospatial technologies to play a pivotal role in building the civil service. He said, as per National Geospatial Policy (NGP) 2022, online courses in geospatial science & technology areas are to be made available through iGoT Karmayogi platform.

The Minister visited the facilities of the Institute and interacted with the faculty and trainees there. A detailed presentation was also made before the Union Minister about NIGST and its various facilities, courses conducted etc.

During his interaction at NIGST, Dr. Singh said that NIGST can augment the civil service training eco-system with competencies & role based education in the areas of Basic GIS, Drone Survey & Mapping, GIS Analysis, Land Surveying, Cadastral Mapping, GNSS Surveying, Digital Mapping, LIDAR Mapping, Utility Mapping, 3D-City Mapping, Geoid Modeling, CORS Network etc.

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that, under prime Minister Modi's leadership, the National Geospatial

Policy (NGP), 2022 has laid down the overarching framework for holistic development of the Geospatial ecosystem to support the national development and economic prosperity. He said that it has laid emphasis on developing the Geospatial skill and knowledge standards across the country because need for Geospatial professionals, their training & development in diverse area of geospatial & allied technology has been spelt out in the policy. He also said that the NGP categorically talks about developing NIGST into a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for providing training in specialized courses in the domain of geospatial science & technology.

The Union Minister said that the restructuring process of the NIGST is underway to achieve the objectives outlined by the government and actions have been initiated for capacity expansion and improvement in the training quality with modernization of facilities including Digital Classrooms, Labs, Field instruments, Practical Field surveying exercises, Hostel facilities etc. He stated that the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has approved & implemented the new Institutional governance system with Board of Governors, Board of Evaluation and Board of Studies.

Deptt of Information launches public competition for redesigning of its logo

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 16: A contest for redesigning the logo of the Department of Information and Public Relations was thrown open today by the Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, Prema Puri in presence of Director Information Akshay Labroo at Civil Secretariat here.

Addressing the officers on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary observed that the need for redesigning of the logo of the

Department has invited public to redesign its logo and the submissions for same are purely online.

An award money of Rs 25000 for the first position holder, Rs 15000 for 2nd position, Rs 10000 for 3rd position and Rs 5000 for 4th and 5th position holders has been announced by the department, besides a commendation certificate to the winners. Each of the contestant has been asked to



Officers of DIPR during an event on Thursday.

Department was felt in order to get it in sync with the changing times, as the media landscape has seen phenomenal changes over the years. She highlighted that the redesigned logo is aimed to represent the current communications & technology landscape.

Speaking during the event, Director Information Akshay Labroo remarked that it is a participative process aimed at 'Jan Bhagidhara'. "It is an open public competition and the department wishes to adopt a new, contempo-

give a brief description of about 1000 words about his/her design of the logo.

The contest is open from 16th of this month till 2nd of March, 2023. The applicants have been asked to be cognizant of the new ethos and challenges the public communication is presently facing. They have been advised to keep in mind the new and emerging nature of this field while designing their respective logos for onward submission to the department.



Last remains of former DGP being taken for rites on Thursday.

Former DGP cremated with full State honours

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 16: Former Director General of Police, M M Khajooria was cremated with full State honours at the Shastrri Nagar crematorium today afternoon.

A team of J&K personnel accorded a ceremonial guard of honour to the former Director General, who passed away yesterday.

A galaxy of senior serving and retired officers from Civil and Police administration that includes DGP, J&K, Dilbag Singh, Retd. Chief Secretaries, B R Kundal & B R Sharma, Retd. DS/GP, Dr. Ashok Bhan & Dr. S P Vaid, Commandant General HG/CD/SDRF, Dr. B Srinivas, Spl DG Crime, Shri A K Choudhary, SJM Gillani, Dr.

S D Singh Jamwal, Shri Mukesh Singh, Shri M K Sinha, Shri Danesh Rana, Alok Kumar, and people of different walks paid their last respect to the departed officer.

DGP Dilbag Singh visited his home last night and paid respects to the departed soul and shared grief of the bereaved family members and relatives. The DGP has said that the departed officer will be remembered for his services to the people and to the department.

M.M. Khajooria was the 2nd DGP of Jammu and Kashmir and led the force from 16-01-1985 to 25-05-1986. He has the distinction to be the first Police officer from J&K to be inducted into the Indian Police Service (IPS).

Govt harassing people by demolition drive: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 16: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti today accused the Government of harassing the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehbooba told reporters in Kupwara during her visit that for the first time she has seen a Government that is transforming poor's homes into schools, hospitals and parks.

"They are demolishing the houses of the poor. For the first time, I have seen such a government that says that they will convert poor's houses into a school, hospitals and parks. Have you seen this happening anywhere in the world that Government demolishes houses of people to construct hospitals," she added.

The PDP president asked the government to provide infrastructure to already existing hospitals before constructing new ones by demolishing homes of poor.

"Are there doctors in the hospitals in villages, is there any other infrastructure? First provide doctors and infrastructure to the existing hospitals and then construct new hospitals," she suggested.

She said that the government should stop harassing the poor people in J&K.

"They have a lot of land and lakhs of kanals of land are with security forces. The BJP claims that the security situation has improved in J&K, then some forces must move out and the land be used for constructing hospitals and schools. Why are they harassing the poor," he asked.

"The Government is just harassing the people of J&K to suppress them. They want that Kashmiris should forget Kashmir issue and stand in queue for 5 kg ration. For this Kashmir issue our graveyards have been filled, our women have been widowed and children orphaned," she said.

She said that the BJP government at centre had made only fake promises.

"The said that if the BJP will come to power at Centre then they will deposit Rs 15 lakh in the accounts of poor and will provide 2 crore jobs annually. What they did, they snatched jobs from the people and they gave people's money to Adani. They themselves say that they "Jumla" their words should not be taken seriously," she said.

Cong fully capable to fight against wrong policies of BJP: Vikar Rasool

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 16: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress (JKPCC) President Vikar Rasool Wani today reiterated Party's commitment to continue its fight against wrong and oppressive policies of BJP.

He also demanded full compensation to people affected during eviction drives in J&K and asked the Govt to stop demolishing hos-

stitutions from the Congress Party given its sacrifices and selfless services.

He also urged the Party cadres in J&K to ensure successful 'Haath Se Haath Jodo Abhiyaan', which is another nationwide programme of Congress Party launched to reach out to people at village level across the country.

Senior Congress leaders Mohd Anwar Bhat also spoke on the



JKPCC President Vikar Rasool with leaders from various parties who joined Congress in Srinagar on Thursday.

- Excelsior/Shakeel

es and business establishments, terming anti-encroachment drives another oppressive measure on the part of BJP Govt towards people.

The PCC President was addressing Party workers at Srinagar Party Office. On this occasion prominent leaders from AAP and BJP also joined Congress Party.

Vikar Rasool lashed out at both Centre and State Govt for disappointing people on various counts and termed the eviction drive in J&K a well-planned conspiracy to terrorize people.

"People are feeling suffocated under the present dispensation at Centre and yearning for change, which is going to happen in 2024, when BJP will be thrown out of power for adopting anti people policies," Wani added.

JKPCC President emphasized the Party workers and new entrants to work for the betterment of the people, who have great expecta-

occasion and urged the Party workers to connect with the people at grass root level and seek their support for the Party, which is the only viable and strong political force which can fight for their whether in power or out of power.

Congress leaders Abdul Gani Khan, Umer Jaan, Altaf Malik, Shameema Iqbal, B A Khan, Dr Fayaz Khan, Waseem Shalla,

* Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Basharat Bin Qadir, Asif Beigh, Shameema Iqbal, Firdous Wani and various other leaders and works were present on this occasion.

Those who joined Congress, included Gh Mohd Dar (District President Bandipora AAP), Nasir Ahmad (NC District Vice President, Srinagar), Farooq Rather (Sarnanch Sopore and Distt Vice President BJP), Mohd Shafi Khan from BJP and others.

Patwari attached, explanation sought from Tehsildar

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Feb 16: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan today attached and imposed fine on a Patwari and sought explanation from Tehsildar & NT following reports of fresh attempts being made to encroach the Govt land.

Following the report about a fresh attempt made to encroach upon state land in Tehsil Bhagwah, the Deputy Commissioner imposed a fine and also attached the Patwari of Patwar Halqa Bijarni for failing to protect the Government property, an official of district

administration said. The Tehsildar Bhagwah and Naib Tehsildar concerned have also been asked to explain their position for the dereliction of their legitimate duties.

On the direction of the DC, the ACR has sealed the under construction structure and an FIR was lodged against the encroacher.

Saying that the field staff would be held responsible for any kind of fresh encroachments on Kacharic and State land in the district, the DC has asked ADC, ACR and SDMs to closely monitor all the issues related to public/government land.



CEO SMVDSB Anshul Garg chairing a meeting of senior officers of the Shrine Board and Narayana Hospital.

CEO SMVDSB reviews functioning of Narayana Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Feb 16: CEO of SMVDSB, Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting, to critically review the functioning of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Kakryal.

The Meeting was attended by senior officers of SMVDSB and Narayana Hospital besides other stakeholders associated with the Hospital. Post elaborate review/deliberations over varied aspects of functioning of the tertiary care hospital, a number of decisions having far-reaching implications for the patient community were taken.

The deliberations/decisions taken at the meeting, inter-alia, include not considering any price revision for the time being to keep the treatment at an affordable level, the need and extent of steps required for enhancing the operational capacities/standards of patient care, addressing the foreseen/unforeseen future challenges over the time horizon of next few years, working towards adoption of

best management model for the ultimate benefit of patients of the region, financial implications of growth initiatives, the review of the functioning of Hospital's OPD at Jammu etc.

Anshul Garg expressed satisfaction on the overall working of the Hospital in the last several months, resulting in the Hospital becoming a treatment destination of choice for an increased number of patients. In particular, he mentioned about the Hospital's achievement of treating more than 17,000 patients since October 2020 under the UT sponsored Ayushman Bharat scheme.

He also noted with satisfaction that the Kidney Transplant Program of the Hospital is likely to start very soon after securing required statutory clearances from all quarters. Towards the end of the Meeting, the CEO emphasized that all stakeholders associated with SMVDNSH must relentlessly work for providing splendid healthcare services to people of the region with special focus on reaching out to the deprived segments of society.

Temps rise in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 16 : The minimum temperature saw a rise in Kashmir with Srinagar and Qazigund recording above sub-zero level today.

A Meteorological Department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 1.3°C against the previous night's minus 0.2°C. Today's minimum temperature was above normal by 1.2°C for the city.

Qazigund recorded a low of 0.05°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.9°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for the tourist resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against minus 4.2°C

on the previous night and it was 4.8°C above normal for the skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 0.8°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 7.0°C and minus 10.8°C respectively.

The MeT department has forecast occasional cloudy but mainly dry weather till February 18 and possibility of light rain and snow in plains and light to moderate snow in middle and higher reaches during late night of 19th to 20th afternoon.

While Chillai-Kalan, the 40-day long harsh winter period that started on December 21 has ended, Kashmir is under the grip of a 20-day-long period called 'Chillai-Khuird'. It will be followed by a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which will end on February 28.

10 vehicles seized for illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 16: At least 10 vehicles have been seized for illegal mining in Jammu District on Thursday, police said.

They said that two tipper were seized by Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu, 4 vehicles by Police Station Gharota, one vehicle by Police Station Akhnoor, one tractor trolley by Police Post Phallain Mandal, and two tractor trolleys by BPP Jogwan.

The recoveries were made by SHOs Bagh-e-Bahu, Inspector Surinder Raina, SHO Gharota, Joginder Singh Chib, SHO Akhnoor, Inspector Harjeet Singh, incharge PP Phallain Mandal PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal and incharge BPP Jogwan, PSI Kapil Singh Wazir.

"The seized vehicles were mining in violation of the High Court order," police further said, adding that the DMO Jammu has been intimated about the seizures.