



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meeting former Minister Sukhmandan Choudhary.

Former Minister calls on Lt Governor

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 18: Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan today. The former Minister apprised the Lt Governor about various issues pertaining to the revival of defunct cooperative societies, and welfare of farmers and Anganwadi workers.



Director Rural Sanitation Charandeep Singh handing over a certificate to a Safai Sathi.

Director Rural Sanitation visits Pallanwala to check progress of ODF+

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 18: Director Rural Sanitation, S. Charandeep Singh, paid a visit to Panchayat Pallanwala to check the progress of the Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) activities in the Panchayat. During the visit, the Director conducted a Mahilasabha and appreciated the efforts of the SAFAI SATHIS, who were engaged in door-to-door waste collection.

The Director also presented certificates to the Safai Sathies in recognition of their contribution towards the cleanliness and hygiene of the Panchayat.

The programme was attended by DDC Vice Chairperson Jammu, Suraj Singh, Sarpanch Pallanwala, Geeta Devi, ACD Jammu, BDO Rural Sanitation, DPO Jammu, BDO Khour and other officials of the department.

The Mahila Sabha was attended by a large number of local women. The Director appreciated the active participation of women in the sanitation activities in the Panchayat and encouraged them to continue their efforts towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area.

After the Mahila Sabha, the Director visited the Panchayat Ghar to inspect the model compost pits, soak pits, and magic

VLW suspended for fraud in MGNREGA

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR Feb 18: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara has ordered for suspension of a Village Level Worker (VLW) and a Gram Rojgar Sevak (GRS) over alleged fraudulent withdrawal of MGNREGA funds in Lolab area of the district.

"During the inspection of Development works of Block Sogam on 14-02-2023, a fraudulent draw in respect of work 'C/o irrigation well NLO Tahir Ajuan Khan' at Panchayat Halqa Takipora-C of Block Sogam has been observed", reads an order issued by the ADC.

"Prima-facie reveals that an amount of Rs. 0.059 lakhs has been fraudulently drawn and disbursed to the labourers under MGNREGA against the non-existing work by the Secretary

Dr Itoo reviews projects under JJM

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 18: Mission Director Jai Jeevan Mission (JJM), Dr GN Itoo held a review meeting of Jammu and Samba districts regarding the Mission,



JJM Mission Director, Dr G N Itoo chairing meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

wherein Chief Engineer, Superintendent Engineer and field staff participated, here

MeT forecasts 2-day rain, snow in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 18: The Meteorological Department today forecast scattered to fairly widespread light rain or snow in Kashmir for two days from tomorrow.

Srinagar recorded a low of 2.9°C against the previous night's 2.8°C. Today's minimum temperature was above normal by 2.8°C.

Qazigund recorded a low of 1.8°C against 1.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.4°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C above normal for the tourist resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 1.9°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.2°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 7.0°C above normal for the world famous ski resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 1.2°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 3.5°C and minus 7.8°C respectively.

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-Khurd'. It will be followed by a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which will end on February 28.



Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal interacting with NC workers in Sunderbani on Saturday.

BJP plunged J&K into ocean of miseries: Dr Mustafa Kamal

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 18: Additional General Secretary of J&K National Conference, Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal on Saturday blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Government in the Centre for allegedly plunging people of J&K into an ocean of miseries.

Interacting with the party workers at Sunderbani area of Nowshera Tehsil in Rajouri, Dr Mustafa Kamal lamented that the present Government has "dejectedly failed" to address the political and developmental aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that lack of direction and political will have compounded miseries of people of J&K. He said the BJP Government rather than engaging with aggrieved people with an aim to address their issues has chosen to tread the path of isolation, arrogance and confrontation contradicting the promises made to the people of the J&K.

Dr Kamal asserted that disenchantment among the people has reached an unprecedented level, adding that the sense of anti-incumbency against this present Government has reached to unbearable extent.

He asked the party cadre to Compensation for landslide victims demanded

Excelsior Correspondent
RAMBAN, Feb 18: Apni Party vice president and former Minister, Aijaz Ahmed Khan has expressed concern over landslide in Dalwah where two families became homeless and 14 other families suffered damages.

In a handout, Khan said that it was very unfortunate that no immediate relief was given to the victim families who became homeless because of the natural disaster.

Expressing concern about the incident he said that in this harsh winter it is near to impossible for victim families to sustain life without support from the administration.

The Apni Party leader said that LG administration should take a serious note of the issue and immediately depute a team for providing initial relief to victim families by making assessment of losses and then paying fair compensation to them.

He also demanded alternative shelters for the victim families.

North India's first Nuclear Plant coming up in Haryana: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Feb 18: North India's first Nuclear Plant is coming up in Haryana in the town of Fatehabad district in Haryana. Till date, an amount of Rs. 4,906 Cr has been spent out of total allocated funds 20,594 cr total Financial progress is 23.8% as on date," he

Disclosing this here 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 said that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime, one of the major achievements would be the installation of Nuclear/Atomic Energy plants in other parts of the country, which were earlier confined mostly to the South Indian States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh or in the west in Maharashtra.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that this is keeping in line with the priority to increase India's nuclear capacity, a number of path breaking decisions were taken in last over 8 years. He added that a bulk approval of installation of 10 nuclear reactors has been given a nod by the Modi Government.

The Minister said that the Department of Atomic Energy, GoI has also been given permission for forming joint ventures with PSUs for resources to opening up of atomic energy plants, which is an upcoming and promising sector, having potential to fulfil India's all energy needs in times to come.

"Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) having two units of 700 MWe capacity each of Pressurised Heavy



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media about Nuclear Plants in the country, at New Delhi on Saturday.

NPP holds massive protest near Mantalai

Excelsior Correspondent
CHENANI, Feb 18: NPP activists led by Harsh Dev Singh, former minister today held a protest at Choka Nala on Mantalai road against the Govt and PHE Deptt in particular for their neglect, harassment and persecution at the hands of Govt functionaries.

The protesters raised slogans against Jal Shakti Department and BJP Govt for depriving them of drinking water in the rural belt and for harassing them in the name of anti-encroachment drive. The protest was joined by hundreds of women, children, old and young from village Kossar, Choka Nala, Banek and adjacent localities which resulted in disruption of vehicular traffic for over three hours.

They also torched the effigy of the Government. The dharna was called off only after the assurance of SDM Chenani and Xen PHE Udhampur for immediate redressal of the genuine concerns of the public of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Harsh Dev cautioned the Govt to refrain from harassing rural folk and from depriving them of their basic fundamental needs. He strongly supported the demand of the public of Panchayat Kossar and adjoining localities for utilizing the water resources of the area so as to fulfill the drinking water requirements of

the people of the said areas only before diverting the water channels to other areas. He said that PHE Department move to supply water from Kossar and Choka Nala to Mantalai Yoga centre and other hotels, huts by depriving the local people of the native Panchayat had sparked massive outrage in the area and needed to be reviewed. There was massive resentment among the locals who were reeling under drinking water scarcity, but the PHE Department had chosen to oblige its political bosses by embarking upon the new water supply projects so as to favour the rich and influential by 'robbing' the poor indigent masses of their water resources.

He said that the available water resources at Kossar and Choka Nala should be used for supply of water to the said areas and Mantalai Yoga centre and other establishments should be supplied water from the Tawi river flowing adjacent to the said centre.

Harsh Dev further cautioned the government to refrain from evicting the poor and landless farmers from their marginal land holdings which were their only source of survival and livelihood.

Protest dharna was attended by Sumita Devi Sarpanch, Pawan Sharma Sarpanch, Sudesh Kumar Sarpanch besides dozens of other Panchs of the area.

Meraj-e-Alam being celebrated with religious fervor

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 18: Thousands of devotees from across Kashmir thronged Hazratbaba shrine as Meraj-e-Alam is being celebrated with religious fervour today.

Thousands of people from across the Valley are holding night long prayers at the shrine on the occasion of Meraj-e-Alam, the night when Prophet Mohammad (SAW) made the journey across the skies.

Thousands of devotees offered congregational prayers in the shrine, housing the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The celebration of Mehraj-ul-Alam (PBUH) usually involves prayer, recitation of the Quran, and gatherings where the story of the Prophet's journey is told.

The administration had made special arrangements and traffic was manned to ensure smooth movement. Many makeshift refreshment and medical camps

Station Litter and investigation was taken up.

"During the course of investigation of the case, by utilizing technical and human resources many suspects were called for questioning from where it came

to surface that some persons have used bleaching powder for catching fishes at Canal which acted as a source of water for said fish farm, due to which the farm fishes got killed," police spokesman said.

All the accused persons involved in the act have been arrested.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com



NPP leader Harsh Dev leading public protest against PHE near Mantalai in Chenani.

JU Deptt of Dogri releases book written by T R Magotra

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 18: The prominent Dogri writer, T R Magotra's book entitled 'Jammu Padshahi'

She said a language can survive and progress only if it is used in all walks of life like a day-to-day conversation, education, business, media etc. Special efforts are required to popularize Dogri among the younger generation and children, she added.

T R Magotra also spoke on this occasion and threw light on the contents of released book.

Dr Padam Dev Singh, Asstt Professor of the Department, read out a paper highlighting the literary merits of the Magotra's book 'Jammu Padshahi.'

Admin starts demarcation of Govt institutions

Excelsior Correspondent
POONCH, Feb 18: After the constitution of a Commission to demarcate District Hospital Poonch, Tehsil Mandi has now issued an order to demarcate the land of four Government institutions in his jurisdiction.

Tehsildar Mandi has asked Commission to demarcate the land of Sub District Hospital Mandi, Tehsil Complex Mandi, Girls and Boys Higher Secondary Schools Mandi on February 22, 23 and 24 and submit report by or before February 26.

Pertinent to mention that there are eight Revenue officials including three Naib Tehsildars in the said Commission for demarcation of the Government institutions in Mandi Tehsil of district Poonch.

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