

Lithuania Minister meets Dr Jitendra, seeks StartUps collaboration with India

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 28: Lithuania Minister of Economy and Innovation, Karolis emaitis today called on 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 at North Block here and sought StartUps collaboration with India.

Accompanied by a high level delegation from his country, the Lithuania Minister also discussed ways and means to revive the 2010 Agreement with in the areas of Science & Technology.

Both India and the Republic of Lithuania agreed to work in the areas of deep tech StartUps and also forge lasting ties in manufacturing of semiconductor chips.

Responding to the keen interest of Dr Jitendra Singh to give a further fillip to Start-Up culture to create more job opportunities and wealth creation, Karolis emaitis assured the Indian Minister that Lithuania has robust know-how and capacities in life sciences, biotechnology and other STEM areas and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh with Lithuania Minister of Economy and Innovation, Karolis emaitis who called on him at North Block, New Delhi on Tuesday.

mentioned that a global MNC from his country, "Teltonika" is working with Taiwan for manufacturing of sophisticated chips and the company has a presence in India also and can take collaboration of chip making to a new height in years to come.

The Department of Science & Technology through MEA has been negotiating a Science & Technology Agreement with the Government of Lithuania since 2010. In April 2010, a revised Indian counter draft incorporating few minor modifications was formally submitted to the Lithuanian side. Formal response of the Lithuanian side is still awaited. Copy of the last version may be handed over to the Lithuanian Vice Minister.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has made rapid advances in the last 9 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in areas of Science, Technology and Innovation and conveyed to the Lithuanian side that India is ready to extend all help to its age-old partner. He said, apart from rapid and globally recognized achievements in Space, the Biotech laurels in terms of 4 Indigenous Vaccines of COVID is before the world. The Minister said, India has supplied over 723 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine to 94 countries and also shared the COWIN app for efficient vaccine delivery.

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Sarita tours Samba, assess saturation of deliverables under self employment schemes

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 28: Commissioner Secretary, Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, today toured Samba, in connection with her follow up visit under My Town My Pride 2.0 as Prabhari Officer, to assess status of saturation of deliverables under self employment schemes.

President MC Samba along with Councillors, district officers and departments dealing with self employment schemes besides others were present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary laid stress on saturation of self employment schemes in the Municipal Council Samba. She had a detailed discussion regarding department wise number of cases sponsored and sanctioned besides deliberating on scope for sanction of more cases.

She exhorted upon the Councillors to disseminate the information in their areas so that more people are brought under the ambit of self employment schemes.

In MC Samba, 71 persons have been benefitted under different schemes of Mission Youth, DIC, KVIB and NULM involving a loan amount of Rs. 108.73 lakh with Rs 13.52 lakh

asked the banks to minimise the time for disbursement of sanctioned/sponsored cases. She also directed for holding special camps in MC Samba with participation of concerned departments, EOs, members of Council, banks in coordination with district administration to create awareness regarding self employment assistance under various schemes.

The departments dealing with self employment schemes like KVIB, DIC, NULM, Handloom/Handicrafts, Employment explained in detail the guidelines of the schemes, eligibility criteria and quantum of financial assistance that can be availed.

PHE retd employees demand full pensionary benefits

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: Public Health Engineering Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu Province has demanded full benefit of pensions to the beneficiaries under SRO-149 and SRO-59 besides fixation of pay irregularities due to extension of benefits of SRO-59 of 1990 beyond date of withdrawal of SRO-59.

Referring to the apex court verdict, they pointed out that considering the legal principles as well as precedents settled, the court said it was of the considered opinion that even though the excess payment of salary/pension can not be recovered from the Group-III and Group-IV

employees as well as from the retired employees, the excess payment shall be recovered from the officials, who are responsible and accountable for the erroneous fixation of pay or excess payment to salary/pension/other monetary benefits.

They also demanded Medical allowance as per UT/ Central Govt norms. They sought the personal intervention of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha into their matter.

ARTO Doda suspends 5 Registration Certificates, 2 Permits of vehicles

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Feb 28: Assistant Road Transport Officer Doda, Er. Kuldeep Singh has suspended RC/Permit of 5 vehicles for a period of 03 months under section 53 and 86 of Motor vehicles Act, 1988 amended Act 2019.

"Taking Cognizance of prima-facie use of five Motor Vehicles in the commissioning of the offence of illegal transportation of live stock of animals especially bovine animals and in view of violation/contravention of all the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act & Rules framed there under for transportation of bovine animals, besides in contravention of rules prescribed for transportation of animals under Animals Transportation Act, 1978, the permit and RC of Vehicles bearing registration No JK06B-1557, JK06B-2363 and

Bipul Pathak visits Badhori Panchayat, reviews development projects

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 28: Director General, Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), Bipul Pathak, today visited Badhori Panchayat of Bari Brahmama block as Prabhari Officer.

Block Development Council Chairman Bari Brahmama, Additional District Development Commissioner, Samba, Sarpanch, BDO among other officers and PRI members were present on the occasion.

DG IMPARD had a detailed review of development programmes being executed in the panchayat. He took stock of

grievances and demands of people of the area besides seeking follow up on several deliverables of fourth phase of 'Back to Village' programme.

Bipul Pathak emphasised on saturation of deliverables under Self Employment in panchayat through various government sponsored schemes. He also laid focus on ensuring enhanced basic amenities like Electricity, Tap Water Connections, Education, Roads, Health, and others. He stressed on responsiveness and coordination of line department officials with the PRI representatives for overall development of the panchayat.

DG also had discussion on saturation of all deliverables under "Swachh Gram Programme, Jan Bhagidari, Land Passbooks, Golden Cards, com-

pletion of pending inheritance mutations, distribution of e-Shram cards, 100% Aadhar Seeding/ Penetration, rejuvenating self-employment across the Panchayat by facilitating interaction of eligible youth with concerned agencies/marketing awareness programmes, Jal Jeevan Mission, Panchayat Paani Samitis, formation/activation of Panchayat Youth Clubs and Mission Amrit Sarovar.

He directed the officers to review the responses from all Back to Village programmes with special reference to demands and complaints.

He also asked them to prepare a report regarding redressal of all demands and complaints being covered under Back to Village programme.



Dr Karan Singh along with son Ajatshatru Singh and other trustees performing Pooja of Lord Shiva at Ranbireswar Temple, Jammu.

Dr Karan pays obeisance at Ranbireswar Temple

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh today paid obeisance at the Ranbireswar Temple here and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union Territory.

On the occasion, Ajatshatru Singh, Senior Advocate Ajay Gandotra (president of the Trust) along with Ashok Kumar Sharma (secretary) accompanied the Chairman Trustee.

JKSAC's plea to Chief Secy

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: The Jammu Kashmir Sharnarthi Action Committee (JKSAC) appealed to Chief Secretary, Dr Arun K. Mehta and Secretary DMRRR to impress upon the MHA visiting team headed by Joint Secy Prashant Lokhande for the extension of relief package scheme of Rs 5.5 lakhs to accommodate the left-out families which is under their consideration.

In a meeting of JKsac held at village Abtal in Samba today, the participating members of district Samba committee made a humble appeal to visiting MHA team to extend the relief package scheme of Rs 5.5 lakhs for another two years to accommodate the over left-out 5000 families as the same has been closed by MHA on Feb 22, 2022.

While addressing the participant members, Gurdev Singh, president expressed his serious concern regarding the closure of relief scheme and termed it as arbitrary and illogical as the order for closure of the scheme issued without ascertaining the factual position and without seeking the feedback from the concerned sub-ordinate office of UT of J&K. He said that sudden

Dr Karan Singh performed Pooja of Lord Shiva at Ranbireswar Temple and went through the Temple complex to enquire about the facilities being provided to the devotees. He expressed satisfaction over the facilities and gave necessary instructions on the spot.

The Chairman Trustee asked senior functionaries of the Trust to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

and untimely closure of the relief scheme has deprived more than 8,000 DPs of Jammu based bonafide families of 1947, 1965 and 1971 of the benefits of the relief scheme.

Singh said order issued by MHA is absolutely contrary to couple of earlier statements made by Home Minister, Amit Shah, wherein he assured time and again that benefits of ex-gratia relief scheme of Rs 5.5 lakhs would be provided to all the bonafide DPs families settled in Jammu and even including other parts of the country.

He appealed to visiting team to take up the issue of the extension of scheme for another two year on priority with Ministry of Home Affairs to provide benefits of the scheme to the remaining thousands of families.

He further appealed to the PM and Home Minister to implement the Joint Parliamentary Committee report No. 183 to resolve the DPs long pending settlement issues as well as de-freezing of their share of seats out of 24 as per their population.

Bhagwan Singh, Joginder Lal, Tarseem Singh Chib, Subash Chander, Manmohan Singh, Pishori Lal and Rattan Lal also spoke on the occasion.

AJKPC seeks security audit of politicians, retd bureaucrats

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: While expressing serious concern over recent attacks on civilians in Kashmir including a former Panchayat member and a bank security guard namely- Sanjay Kumar in district Pulwama of Kashmir division, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference(AJKPC) has urged the Government of India to take stringent action against the culprits and given them deserved punishment for their heinous acts against the humanity.

While addressing a press conference here today Anil Sharma, president of AJKPC along with other senior functionaries of the organization demanded security audit of leaders of the political parties and former bureaucrats residing in Jammu division and using the services of additional cops to sensitive areas of J&K.

Sharma alleged that several Districts SPs of Jammu Zone have allotted Personal Security

Officers (PSOs) to the ineligible and insignificant leaders of the political parties and retired officers without even accessing any security threat to them and these people without facing any actual risk are using these PSOs as status symbol.

He claimed that other than twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, most of the districts of Jammu division are peaceful but even there the DSPs have accorded PSOs to the retired officers and self claimed leaders without following any standard operating procedures (SOPs).

AJKPC leader demanded immediate security audit of all such people who are residing in peaceful areas of Jammu region but enjoying security protocol with their political clout just to please their sense of self esteem. He requested the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and DGP Dilbagh Singh to issue orders for relieving the PSOs of all such people who actually do not need any security cover.

The AJKPC president stated that recent attacks on civilians in Kashmir division is a serious threat to national security therefore, it is important that a thorough security audit is planned and executed.



A scene from the play 'Bali and Shambhu' staged at Abhinav Theatre on Tuesday.

'Bali and Shambhu': A simple tale told with a lot of heart

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Feb 28: Staged under the banner of Bhartiya Kala Sangam on the fourth day of the ongoing Festival of Plays, the Hindi play 'Bali and Shambhu', despite its dialogic form came out as an immersive performance that was savored by the audience, at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Written by Manav Kaul, a Baramula-born-Mumbai-based writer/actor, and directed by Mohit Mehra, the play is about the two senior inmates of an old age ashram. The grumpy, irritable Shambhu who doesn't like sharing a room with Bali, an extroverted, joyous, young at heart, ultimately comes around to accommodate him. Shambhu is bad-tempered because of traumatized memory of his daughter Titli, who haunts him as a spirit. Bali, on the other hand, is forced to take refuge in the old age home because his family doesn't want him with them. After a series of encounters full of conflict, the two diametrically opposite characters eventually become one.

Sandeep Verma as 'Shambhu', the cantankerous old man, and Vivek Sangotra as boisterous 'Bali', emerge as the mainstay of

the play. The chemistry between the two, who also show mischievous sides, brought alive a simple tale with a lot of heart. Swinging from one emotion to another, the play steered away from becoming excessively sentimental. The perfect timing of both actors along with small gestures and movements created moments of subtle pathos as well as humor on stage.

The set design was kept simple with two diagonally placed cots in the foreground. The freeze frame and synchronization between the change of lights with the change of scenes and controlled background music added to the overall quality of today's performance which slowly and steadily evolved as a well-orchestrated melody.

The other members of the cast who also did a commendable job were Kajal Bhagat as 'Titli', Bobby Thakur as Gautam, Secta as Jhilmil, and Ayaan as Shubankar. The backstage team included: Lights - Aditya Bharati, costume- Tavleen Kaur, music - Ankit Sharma, makeup - Lakshmi Sharma, and set - Rajat Kholi/Aditya Sharma.

Tomorrow, Sangam Theatre Group, from Reasi, will present Rajesh Singh Raju's play 'Vikram'.

DC Ganderbal, Director I&C visit Rangil, listen grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

GANDERBAL, Feb 28: The Director Industries & Commerce (I&C) Kashmir, Saloni Rai today visited Panchayat Rangil Ganderbal as a part of follow up programme of phase four of Back to Village (B2V-4), as the Prabhari Officer and conducted scheduled activities there.

The Prabhari Officer accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir along with the officials of line departments organized Gram Panchayat and conducted inspection of stalls installed by various departments there.

An overwhelming response of the public was witnessed during the follow up programme.

The DC and Visiting Officer interacted with PRIs, SHGs and the general public who also projected several demands and highlighted their problems. The line departments apprised her about the developmental works going on in the Panchayat.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC shared the Action Taken Report of the grievances and issues raised during the B2V4

and said that the issue of playground is also resolved which was lingering for over the last two decades. He assured the locals that maximum demands shall be fulfilled very soon.

Director I&C interacted with the officers of line departments and enquired about the steps being taken for early redressal of grievances projected during Back to Village phase fourth.

The Prabhari Officer advised the officers present on the occasion to work in close coordination for the development of villages. She also urged the local youth to take benefit of self-employment schemes as the objective of such schemes is to ensure saturation of demand for self employment.

On the occasion, the duo distributed sanction letters to the beneficiaries of self-employment.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani, Chief Planning Officer Irfan Giri, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr Bashir Ahmad, ACP and other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion.



Senior AAP leader Taranjit Singh Tony kick-starting blacktopping work in Suchetgarh area of Jammu.

Cover all Zero line villages under Modern Village Scheme of RDD: Tony

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has urged the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to cover all the Zero line villages at border under the Modern Village Scheme of Rural Development Department (RDD).

He raised this demand while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the blacktopping work of road from Chowani Post to the Zero line of border in Suchetgarh area. Tony said that the development of this road to

make it fit for use was a long pending demand of the people of this area and the same has been finally fulfilled.

Tony said that it was only after 1967 that the people started residing in this village but there was no development on zero line earlier which reflects the failure of the successive regimes in J&K. He said that after completion of blacktopping work of this road, the people of this region will get highly benefited.

The DDC Member said that he has been in direct contact of the authorities in the concerned departments and they have geared up to deliver Government services to rural people at their doorsteps. He said that border areas deserve prime focus of the Government as these are linked to the security of the nation and the safety of people. He said that it is the people who are the first to face the brunt in emergent situations.

Tony also appealed the BSF authorities to allow the farmers to cultivate their land on zero line as the Pakistan farmers have fully cultivated their land on zero line. He also appealed the Chief Engineer Irrigation Department to gear up the tubewell irrigation and lift irrigation to provide regular water supply to farmers as and when required.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Sarpanch Sarbjit Singh, Sham Lal Bhagat (district president), central joint secretary Jammu Urban DC Raj, Mandeep Choudhary, Bal Krishna, Shakti Bhagat and Vicky.



PGCIL officials during ACWG meet at Gurugram.

POWERGRID generates awareness about G20 ACWG meet

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 28: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE of Ministry of Power, organised various programs in Gurugram to generate public awareness about the upcoming meeting of Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) of G-20 Forum.

As per a statement, the meeting of the Forum shall be held from March 1st to 3rd at Gurugram under the directives of Central Vigilance Commission.

As part of the awareness, the POWERGRID organised debate and quiz competitions, essay writing and poster making competitions, and quiz and poster making competitions in the universities, colleges and schools of Gurugram in order to engage and educate the young minds on the importance of combating corruption.

To further strengthen the goal of creating mass awareness, POWERGRID also organised awareness programs for general public through street plays at major public places in Gurugram.