

Koul for strengthening party at grass root level BJP to hold booth level programmes in UT to intensify campaign: Raina

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: J&K BJP president, Ravinder Raina, has stressed on the importance of strengthening the party at 'booth level'. He was addressing Party's meeting at BJP

Abhiyaan', Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal addressed the meeting. BJP's district Prabhari and Seh-Prabhari participated in the meeting.

Raina said that the party would give the responsibility of Shakti Kendra to the senior

Modi while giving the credit to the common masses and the party workers.

Raina also said that strong organizational set up, direct bonding with the masses and soaring concern for society have made the BJP as the most popular party in the world along with India.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the senior party leaders explained the chronology of the various programmes to be conducted under the 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan'. He asked the district Prabhari and Seh-Prabhari to focus on the party's 'Alpkaal Vistarak Yojana' prompting them to allocate Shakti Kendras to the senior party leaders. He said that under this arrangement, using their vast political experience, senior party leaders would have the opportunity to concentrate on every booth individually to strengthen them at the grass root level.

Dr. Devinder Manyal shared the technical details of forms to be filled up by the party leaders at the booth level. He said that the party leaders must ensure the Social Media and IT in charges as the important part of their teams.

party leaders to strengthen the booths. "J&K BJP will hold workshops on 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' at Assembly constituency level in the UT.

"Booth Jeeta, Chunav Jeeta" is the basic mantra to win the elections," Raina told party men.

Besides, Raina, party general secretary (Org.), Ashok Koul and general secretary and in charge of 'Booth Sashaktikaran



BJP leaders at a party meeting at Jammu on Friday.

Headquarter's Trikuta Nagar here today regarding Workshop on 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan' to be held at Assembly constituency level in the UT.

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Ravish Trehan, MD Hillview Honda unveiling New City and e:HEV in Jammu on Friday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Hillview Honda unveils New City, e:HEV in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Hillview Honda, the authorized dealer of premium Honda cars, unveiled the New City (Petrol) and New City e:HEV models in Jammu today.

Unveiling the new Honda City, Ravish Trehan, Managing Director, Hillview Honda said, "Honda City has been our strongest pillar of business, defining the mid-size sedan segment and has achieved immense success during its 25-year glorious legacy"

As per a statement, the new models have sporty exterior styling, elegant interior enhancements, and advanced safety, connectivity, and convenience features. The New City (Petrol) and City e:HEV are BS-6 RDE compliant on E5 fuel and E20 material compatible.

The New City gets sporty and stylish new looks with a new sporty front grille, newly designed front and rear bumper, sporty fog lamp garnish, sporty trunk lip spoiler, and newly designed R16 dual-tone diamond-cut multi-spoke alloy wheels. The City e:HEV has a luxurious two-tone ivory

& black interior colour theme. Both models come with Honda Sensing, an advanced driver assist safety technology that alerts the driver to minimize the risk of accidents and in some cases intervene to mitigate a collision or lessen its severity.

The New City (Petrol) comes with a 1.5L i-VTEC DOHC engine with Variable Timing Control (VTC), which delivers high fuel efficiency, lower emissions, and spirited driving performance.

The New City e:HEV features Honda's unique self-charging and highly efficient two motor e-CVT hybrid system connected to a smooth 1.5-litre Atkinson-Cycle DOHC i-VTEC petrol engine, Intelligent Power Unit (IPU) with advanced Lithium-ion Battery and an Engine linked direct coupling Clutch. The e:HEV electric-hybrid system uses three driving modes - EV Drive, Hybrid Drive, and Engine Drive, along with Regeneration mode during deceleration. The system produces System Combined Max Power of 126 PS, Outstanding Fuel Efficiency of 27.13 km/l, and Maximum motor torque of 253 Nm @ 0 - 3,000 rpm.

Skyview by Empyrean offers 50% off on all adventure activities for women

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Skyview by Empyrean, an initiative of Empyrean Skyview Projects Pvt. Ltd that seamlessly blends hospitality and adventure in the mountains, is all set to celebrate Women's Week at its 22-acre property in Sanget Valley - Patnitop. From March 6 to 12, all women visitors can avail a 50% discount at the adventure activities offered at this mountain harbour.

Guests can go for a ride on the Skyview Gondola (open-way), one of the highest CEN-certified gondolas in Asia covering 2.8 km in flat 10 minutes and soak in the captivating and stunning Himalayan Mountain range. Enroute tourists can enjoy sights of terraced valleys, pine forests, flowers in bloom, lush meadows and panoramic views of the snow-covered mountains at the offer price of just Rs 550 + GST.

Apart from this, the guests can also avail a 50% discount on the zig zag zip line - the longest in Asia as well as on mountain biking, the magic carpet and the tubing sledge. One can also opt for curated trekking itineraries, camping or take

nature walks with naturalists and trekking specialists to ensure every guided experience is memorable.

For those who want to gift themselves or their loved ones something special from the region can head to the Hands of Gold artisanal boutique at the property that displays traditional and authentic Kashmiri handicrafts and local products.

Skyview by Empyrean houses luxury rooms and suites with restaurants offering guests the best-in-class services. The Banana Leaf restaurant and the Skyview Café on the property offers delectable Indian, Chinese and continental cuisine. Guests visiting the property between March 3 to 26 have a special treat in store during weekends as Chef Anuj Bhagat will serve a special menu comprising a variety of aromatic and spicy Thai food at The Banana Leaf Restaurant.

The Skyview by Empyrean Women's Day package can be availed between March 6-12, 2023 and includes a 50% discount on all adventure activities, complimentary access to the Club House to play Pool/Snooker, Foosball, Air Hockey and board games.



MP GA Khatana chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

MP Khatana reviews development activities in Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Ghulam Ali Khatana, today chaired a meeting of officers to review development projects being executed in Srinagar district.

The meeting was attended by * Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Joint Director Planning and other district officers.

MP took detailed assessment of various development projects being implemented by Rural Development, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health & Medical Education, Jal Shakti, Power Development, Agriculture and allied departments.

During the meeting, ADDC

Traffic suspended on Jammu-Sgr NH

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: The traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was suspended today to allow the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to undertake necessary repair and maintenance work.

This was the second time during past eight days that traffic on

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

this National Highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was suspended for 12 hours.

Official sources said that J&K UT administration had recently announced the suspension of vehicular traffic on the

briefed the MP about the status of developmental programmes being implemented in the district. The MP was given a thorough presentation on implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and other beneficiary oriented schemes besides 100 per cent saturation of these schemes in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Khatana expressed satisfaction over the pace of progress on several development works. While seeking feedback on each project, he called upon the officers to identify all the bottlenecks, if any, to achieve set targets in given timelines. He exhorted upon the officers to expedite the ongoing works for timely completion. He also asked the officers to remain available for the people so as to ensure timely redressal of their issues and concerns.

highway between Nashri and Banihal on February 24, March 3 and March 10 to facilitate the NHAI to undertake important repair and maintenance work in the wake of damage caused by landslides, mudslides and shooting stones. "The highway was closed for traffic from Nashri towards Banihal and vice versa from 6 am Friday to 6 am Saturday. A similar dry day will also be observed on March 10," a senior Traffic Police official said. He said no vehicular traffic was allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar side on Friday morning to ensure repair and maintenance of the highway in a hassle-free manner. The tunneling work at Panthyal is also going on at war footing so that it should be thrown open to traffic shortly. This spot has become more dangerous as shooting stones and falling of boulders goes on frequently there.

Unacademy opens two new centres in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Unacademy, India's largest online learning platform has opened two new centres to further expand its reach and enhance student learning.

The new centres, located at Narwal Bypass and Trikuta Nagar are equipped with state-of-the-art

facilities and will provide classroom coaching for NEET, JEE and Foundation courses for Class 8th, 9th and 10th. Unacademy has been at the forefront of online learning revolution in India, providing quality education to millions of students. The new centres are a part of company's efforts to make quality education accessible to even more students, particularly those who prefer offline learning or face internet connectivity issues. "We are thrilled to open our new centres in Jammu and offer students the opportunity to learn from some of the best educators in the country," said Arun Mishra,

Academic Head for Unacademy Jammu. "The new centres will provide students with access to high-quality education, regardless of their location or connectivity issues. We believe that quality education is the key to unlocking a child's potential and we are committed to making it accessible to all," he

maintained. The new centres are built in line with the latest infrastructural requirements having multiple classrooms equipped with projectors, whiteboards and other teaching aids to facilitate effective learning. Unacademy has equipped the classrooms on campus with speaker tracking cameras to ensure a better hybrid teaching-learning experience. The academic team has top faculty in Jammu having teaching experience of more than 15 years. Over the years, this team has assisted thousands of students in achieving remarkable results in various competitive exams.



A newly opened centre of Unacademy in Jammu.

Nothing for HM to shout from the rooftops: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami criticized Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks made during his virtual address to Kashmir Mahotsav organised by Indian Institute of Sustainability, Gujrat University. "There is nothing to boast about Jammu and Kashmir. The Home Minister's assertions regarding holding of panchayat elections are in deep contrast to the facts. The panchayat elections were earlier conducted in 2001, 2011 and 2018," Tarigami said in a statement. "Moreover, similar elections are being held in rest of the country but people are not being deprived of the right to elect their assemblies. The Panchayat Raj Institutions could not be a substitute of the assemblies, which are the only representative bodies in States/UTs empowered to legislate on public issues," he further said. The CPI(M) leader said that the legislature remains the crucial

pillar of democracy in federal structure, but unfortunately the GoI has virtually demolished this pillar in Jammu and Kashmir. "Even after completing the so-called delimitation process and revision of electorates, the Government has no tenacity to hold the Assembly elections," he added. "Additionally, if J&K's post abrogation situation is presented by the Government as a model of democracy then who stops them to replicate it in 'Gujarat' or other BJP ruled states?" questioned Tarigami. He said that growing unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir has left thousands of educated youth distraught but that has not been discussed by the BJP leaders. "The unemployment rate in this region has touched a staggering 21.8 percent, which is the highest in the entire country. There is nothing for the Central dispensation or Home Minister that needs to be shouted from the rooftops," said Tarigami.

2nd UT Level Apex Committee, Technical Working Group meeting held at SKUAST-J

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: The second Union Territory Level Apex Committee and Technical Working Group (UTLAC & TWG) meeting was held at SKUAST, Jammu under the chairmanship of Former DG, ICAR and Secretary DARE, Dr. Mangla Rai.

The Agriculture Production Department, J&K, in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir has planned to implement the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) with a mission mode for transformation and inclusive development of agriculture and allied sectors across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Dr. Mangla Rai took an exhaustive review of export promotion plan and discussed the ratification with other members of the Apex Committee and experts who presented the plan for different commodities. He assessed the development, monitoring and implementation of export plan for completion of each component of the plan. The plan after ratification shall constitute an integral part of the IFAD project.

A threadbare discussion was held among the experts and scientists wherein export policy propos-



Apex Committee meeting in Jammu on Friday.

al for various commodities were presented and ratified. A broad outline of all the said proposals was discussed in detail for framing a proposal keeping in mind both short term and long term goals by identifying issues, analysis based data and solutions also thereof.

The goal of the committee is to provide facilities and give boost to export of various commodities of J&K UT. The approach of Comprehensive Agriculture Policy is farmer centric enabling greater farmer participation in policies and ensuring that their valuable suggestions are taken into account in decision making.

The Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) has already identified 29 projects aiming at complete transformation of agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir by reaching out to 13 lakh farmer households and 2.9 lakh marginal farmers. To facilitate the initiative, the Agriculture Production

Department in consultation with SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir is meticulously planning, making milestones and preparing targets for export plan.

During the meeting, it was discussed to develop robust cold chain supply system and logistics in J&K. The committee also recommended to conduct baseline survey of villages where the holistic development project will be implemented.

The meeting was attended by Dr. P K Joshi, Secretary, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST J&K, officers of SKUAST Kashmir and SKUAST Jammu and officers of line departments.

Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. S.K. Gupta, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu.

'Law doesn't allow anyone to both approbate, reprobate' Policy decision of Govt can't be disturbed unless found irrational, arbitrary: HC

*Says SO 60 valid legislation to facilitate infra development

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Making it clear that law doesn't allow anyone to both approbate and reprobate, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has held that policy decision of the State cannot be disturbed unless the same is found to be grossly arbitrary or irrational and Government has rightly liberalized the establishment of stone crusher units across the Union Territory by framing J&K Stone Crushers/Hot and Wet Mixing Plants Regulations Rules, 2021.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal was dealing with the petition filed by the inhabitants of village Sheva Shirshu

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed, "on one hand the petitioners are relying on SO 60 of 2021 whereby they have projected that the respondent has not complied with the stipulation as envisaged in SO 60 and in the same breath, they are challenging the vires of the SO", adding "the respondent has complied with the provisions of Rules which were prevalent in 2017 by obtaining NOCs from all the departments. Moreover, he has fully filled the criterion as per new rules promulgated vide SO 60 of 2021".

"The counsel of the petitioners is blowing hot and cold in the same breath which is not permissible under law", adding "the law does not allow anyone to both approbate and reprobate. A person cannot be allowed to have the benefit of an instrument while questioning the same". Stating that the policy decision of the State cannot be disturbed unless it is found to be grossly arbitrarily or irrational, Justice Nargal said, "the respondents have promulgated the SO 60 of 2021 with a view to promote ease by simplifying the things to encourage entrepreneurs to set up these plants to operate their stone crusher units by obtaining only two documents/clearances from Deputy Commissioner and the Pollution Control Board".

"It can safely be concluded that the policy framed by the Government vide SO 60 is a valid piece of legislation and cannot be interfered, which has in a way liberalized the establishment of stone crusher units", High Court said, adding "it goes without saying that for the growth of the country and infrastructural development, the stone crusher industry plays a pivotal role and without operating the same, the development of the country will come to a standstill". Accordingly, High Court dismissed the petition.

After hearing battery of lawyers for the respondents,

Doda questioning Standing Order (SO) 60 dated 23.02.2021 issued by Department of Geology and Mining, which according to the petitioners is in violation of the directions issued by the Division Bench of the High Court in Public Interest Litigation titled Mohamad Maqbool Lone Versus State and Others.

The petitioners also questioned the establishment of stone crusher unit in their areas, which according to them is against the mandate and spirit of judgment passed by the Supreme Court and is also against the provisions of the Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010 and Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Rules, 2011.

The counsel for the petitioner questioned SO 60 of 2021 dated 23.02.2021 whereby J&K Stone Crushers/Hot and Wet Mixing Plants Regulations Rules, 2021 were notified on the ground that the same is contemptuous to the order passed by the Division Bench. "If the SO is allowed to be operated, it will defeat the purpose of environmental laws as well as the guidelines which have been framed by the Supreme Court", the petitioners submitted.

Counsel for the respondents drew the distinction between SO 60 dated 23.02.2021 and SRO 302 dated 19.07.2017 and submitted that SO 60 of 2021 has been framed in exercise of powers conferred by Section 15 and Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. It was further submitted that the writ petition has been filed on misconceived, false and frivolous claim by relying upon the provisions of SRO 302 of 2017 which have since been repealed with the coming in force of SO 60 of 2021 dated 23.02.2021.

After hearing battery of lawyers for the respondents,



DC Baramulla Syed Sehrish Asgar chairing a meeting.

Land acquisition, work on NH-1 project to be expedited: Dr Sehrish

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, Mar 3: To review the functioning of Revenue Department and land acquisition processes of Srinagar -Baramulla-Uri National Highway H-1 project, progress made in adopting of online services and other revenue related matters, a meeting of all Revenue Officers of the district was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar at DC Office here.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of online services, schemes and revenue related matters and status of grievances redressal mechanism, status of pending court cases through RCCMS and implementation of

e-Office, etc.

While reviewing the progress of the Srinagar - Baramulla - Uri National Highway project, the DC asserted that the project is of strategic importance and stressed for its timely completion. She directed that land acquisition processes for construction and widening of the highway project be expedited.

With regard to online services, the DC directed all the concerned officers to adopt online services in their respective offices so that it becomes easy for the people to get information in a digital form.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Sub Divisional Magistrates of Pattan and Uri, all Tehsiladars besides officials of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.