

Ladakh LG chairs meeting of 8th State Board of Wildlife

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, May 24: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) today chaired the meeting of the 8th State Board of Wildlife of UT Ladakh, here at Raj Niwas.

As per a statement, several points were discussed during the meeting, including clearance for various developmental projects in Ladakh from the State Board of Wildlife of UT Ladakh.

There were detailed discussions on the need for comprehensive planning on linear infrastructure activities as per instructions issued by the Government of India, the need for deviating roads from grazing lands and wetlands on the Hanle-Chumur route in the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary to protect the wildlife, the need to rationalise the boundaries of Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and Hemis National Park at the earliest, etc.

The Board members discussed various projects, including the construction of the Korzok-Nurbo-Sumdo road, Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok road, Mahe-Nidder-Rongo road, Lukung-Chartse road, and Chumathang-Chushul road among other projects.

Post-detailed discussion, the Board gave approval to all these projects keeping in mind their importance for national security and also for the ease and convenience of the people living in both these Wildlife Sanctuaries and Hemis National Park.

Renowned wildlife expert,

Khajuria leads Indian exporters to Spain

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: Romesh Khajuria, Chairman Wool & Woolen Export Promotion

board (WWEPC) while delivering welcome address said that more than 75 entrepreneurs, artisans and weavers from various parts of India are participating in the fair. While interacting with the international designers participating in the event, Khajuria stated that more than 70% of the Global trade is now based on the Global Value chain as raw materials and components cross borders often numerous times.

He further added that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi while taking on board All Indian Foreign Missions abroad, industry, State/UT Governments and other stakeholders urged them to expand those exports from India.

Displaying the products from all the regions in different cities of India, Khajuria said that the event aimed to promote export quality products, vocal for local, awareness and interaction on exports and various export related issues.

Ankita Mittal, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Spain, inaugurated the event along with Prithika Rani M, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Spain.

The event was jointly organized by

Council (WWEPC), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, led a delegation of Indian Exporters to Spain.

The Indian delegation is participating in the Barcelona Textile Expo in Barcelona, Spain.

Include KPs in Pratham Poojan at holy cave: TSPC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: Temples and Shrines Prabandhak Committee (TSPC) Tral Awantipora Kashmir and its subsidiary Navdal Tirath Committee (NTC) have reiterated its appeal to Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha who is also the chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) to include at least three persons from Kashmiri Pandit community in the Pratham (first) Poojan at holy cave of Swami Amarnath Ji to be conducted on June 3.

In a statement, president of the Committee, Dr Ramesh Bhat said that the Navdal shrine situated in Tral Pulwama is linked to visarjan (immersion) ceremony of holy Amaranth Ji Yatra as per the various religious texts on ancient Kashmir which are testimony to it.

He said prior to turmoil the Hindus of the area used to welcome

Narcotic smuggler held with intoxicant

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, May 24: Police today apprehended a narcotic smuggler and recovered intoxicant substance from his possession.

Cops from Police Post Bhalra in Baderwah while on routine checking duty noticed suspicious movement of a pedestrian Amjad Hussain Butt, son of Mohd Hussain Butt, resident of Chinar Mohalla, Baderwah.

During his search cops recovered Charas like substance and he was arrested on the spot.

In this case an FIR with number 64/2023 under relevant provisions of NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Baderwah and investigation started.



LG Ladakh, Brig (Retd) BD Mishra chairing a meeting at Raj Niwas on Wednesday.

Dr MK Ranjitsinh highlighted the need to control feral dogs in wildlife areas and requested the Indian Army to control the dumping of food waste to avoid feral dogs and bears in Ladakh.

He stated that a lot of problems arising due to the inclusion of a large number of areas of Ladakh in Karakoram/Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and Hemis National Park would be solved after the completion of the exercise of the process of rationalisation of wildlife boundaries by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

The LG Ladakh emphasised the need for a different road alignment from the wildlife areas and stated that strict punitive actions will be taken against culprits engaging in poaching activities.

He also inquired about the delay in putting up sign boards, barricades/fences on the Hanley-Chumur route to protect the wetlands and grazing ground and instructed the concerned officials to do it at the earliest.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh,

HC directs Rs 10 lakh compensation in electrocution case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 24: The High Court has directed the Power Department to pay Rs 10 lakhs to the kins of a young boy electrocuted 15 years ago.

The kins of deceased-Shabir Ahmad Rather of Tral area of district Pulwama had approached the court in the year 2008 for compensation on account of death of the deceased-Rather due to negligence of the department and the court after a gap of 15 years held that the kins are entitled to compensation.

"Accordingly, this petition is allowed and the petitioners are entitled to a lump sum amount of Rs 10.00 lacs to be paid by the respondents within a period of two months", Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed.

Court also made it clear that in case the department fails to pay the amount with the stipulated period then the compensation amount shall become payable

along with interest @6% per annum to be calculated from the date of judgment till its final realization.

Court has directed the amount shall be shared as 50 percent in favour of mother, 25 percent each in favour of brother and sister of the deceased. As per the plea a college boy, namely, Shabir Ahmad Rather, lost his life to electrocution on 6th August, 2007, in Village Chandrigam Tral due to the electricity line passing through the compound of the house of deceased which had snapped and fallen on the water hand pump near to the house of the deceased causing electric short-circuit.

Court said, the deceased is deprived of his life by the act of negligence attributable to the State and, therefore, the petitioner-kins cannot be left high and dry at this point of time when many years have passed after the accident.

"It would be highly undesirable to relegate the petitioner-kins to the remedy under civil law without providing them succor. I am told that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in the Department of Power Development, has been coming up with Government Orders from time to time providing for payment of ex-gratia relief in favour of legal heirs of the deceased or to the injured, as the case may be", Justice Kumar said.

"Since I have already held that the accident, which consumed the life of the deceased, took place due to serious lapse on the part of the respondents, as such, by the aid of Government Orders issued by the respondents from time to time, particularly the latest one issued in the year 2019 under No.454-F of 2019 dated 24.10.2019, which provides for compensation of Rs.10.00 lacs in case of death, I am inclined to allow this petition and award a lump sum amount of Rs.10.00 lacs in favour of the petitioners. Accordingly, this petition is allowed and the petitioners are held entitled to a lump sum amount of Rs.10.00 lacs", Justice Kumar further added.



Shanti Paath being observed during inaugural of Central Sanskrit University's IGNOU Learner Support Centre.

Sanskrit University inaugurates its IGNOU Learner Support Centre

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: The Central Sanskrit University today inaugurated its Learner Support Centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Jammu at Shri Ranbir campus Kot Bhalwal.

IGNOU had earlier signed a MoU with the Central Sanskrit University (CSU) with one of the major activities envisaged being opening of IGNOU Learner Support Centres in different campuses of CSU. The CSU has the main campus in New Delhi and twelve Regional Campuses across the country in different States and Union Territories including the J&K UT.

IGNOU formally notified a Learner Support Centre at Central Sanskrit University Jammu campus for Master of Arts in Jyotish (MAJY), Master of Arts in Sanskrit (MSK) and Masters in Vedic Studies (MAVESO) and other related programmes. The LSC has been allotted the Centre Code 12132 by the Regional Services Division at New Delhi HQs. of IGNOU.

The inauguration-cum-induction programme was organized through face to face mode at Shri Ranbir campus and also through the online mode. Prof Shishir Kumar Pandey, Professor and Head, Department of Hindi, Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyanga University, Chitrakoot was the chief guest who addressed the function through online mode.

Dr Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu was the guest of honour on this occasion and addressed the function through online mode. Dr Asha Upadhyay, Regional Director I/C and Dr Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director, RC Jammu were present on the occasion at the Kot Bhalwal campus of Central Sanskrit University. Prof Madan Mohan Jha, Director, Central Sanskrit University Jammu and Dr D Dayanath, Coordinator of the LSC 12132 were also present on the occasion.

Burning issue of Rajouri GMC Lab shifting solved

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, May 24: Residents of Rajouri and its adjoining areas who are directly dependent on GMC Rajouri took a sigh of relief when GMC administration Rajouri announced rollback on its earlier decision of shifting Pathology/ Microbiology and Biochemistry Labs from Associated GMC Hospital Kheora to Mehra.

The BJP Rajouri unit consisting of hundreds of senior BJP workers and leaders led by District president Dinesh Sharma 'gheraoed' GMC Rajouri Administration over shifting of testing laboratories from Associated hospital to Mehra which was sheer injustice with the patients and local people.

"The decision of shifting laboratories from Associated GMC Hospital to Mehra is a sheer injustice with those who are directly dependent on this GMC. We won't tolerate such anti-people approach of administration. Today we gheraoed GMC administration and in the interest of common masses and poor patients, they were forced to rollback on the already issued order," Sharma added.

Another issue resolved was related to medicines. The people often complain that doctors and consultants recommend those medicines which are not available in JanAushadi shops and same was conveyed by BJP leaders today to the GMC Rajouri administration. Taking cognizance of the complaint Medical Superintendent of GMC Rajouri & Associated Hospital Dr Mehmood issued a fresh order in which it is impressed upon the faculty Consultants and doctors to strictly write and prescribe the generic medicines which are available from Jan Aushadhi Kendra of the Hospital.

The other BJP leaders present were Kapil Sariyal, Kausal Gupta, Nisar Kauldhary, Harish Bharti, Arti Sharma, Rakesh Raina, Sanjay Sharma, Kausal Sharma, Kewal Sharma and others.

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PM Modi raises with Australian counterpart concerns over attacks on temples

Excelsior Correspondent



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Joint Press Statements, in Sydney on Wednesday. (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese India's concerns over incidents of attacks on temples and activities of pro-Khalistani elements in Australia, even as the two sides aimed to firm up a comprehensive trade pact by the end of the year.

After wide-ranging talks between Modi and Albanese, India and Australia inked a migration and mobility partnership pact that is aimed at promoting two-way mobility of students, academic researchers and business people and preventing illegal migration.

The discussions that took place on the third and final day of Modi's visit to Australia focused on the entire gamut of bilateral engagement as well as the possibility of cooperation in new areas such as critical minerals and renewable energy.

Modi and Albanese also witnessed the signing of the terms of reference of the Australia-India Green Hydrogen Taskforce which will explore opportunities in the area of renewable hydrogen.

In his media statement in the presence of Albanese, Modi said the bilateral relations are based on "mutual trust and respect" and that the Indian community in Australia is a "living bridge" between the two countries.

"Prime Minister Albanese and I have in the past discussed the issue of attacks on temples in Australia and activities of separatist elements. We discussed it today also," he said.

"We will not accept any elements that harm the friendly and warm ties between India and Australia by their actions or thoughts. I thank the prime minister for the actions that have already been taken. Prime Minister Albanese has once again assured me today that he will take strict actions against such elements in the future also," Modi said.

The prime minister used a cricket analogy to describe the fast-expanding India-Australia

Boycott those boycotting inauguration of new Parliament House: Brig Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: Brigadier Anil Gupta, the spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has called upon the people of India to stand against the opposition parties who have chosen to boycott the inauguration of the majestic new Parliament House.

Gupta expressed his disappointment at the politicization of this historic event, emphasizing that the opposition's reasons for boycotting are unfounded attempts to discredit the Government and overshadow the nation's assertion of independence and self-reliance.

He pointed out that the boycott has been orchestrated primarily by the Congress party, which originally proposed the idea of a new Parliament building.

However, he stated that the credit for its realization rightfully belongs to the Modi Government.

"Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, the Government completed the construction in less than 30 months, demonstrating its commitment to timely and efficient execution," Gupta said.

He said the concept, design, interior, and architecture of the new building are distinctly Indian, serving as a fitting gift to commemorate 75 years of independence and catering to future needs.

Gani Vakil seeks regularisation of daily wagers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 24: Senior vice president of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference and former minister Abdul Gani Vakil today said the Government has failed to announce a comprehensive plan for mitigating the sufferings of daily wagers, casual labourers, CIC operators, Anganwari workers, helpers and other classes of appointees working in different departments on an adhoc or contractual basis.

While touring several villages of Rafiabud and Sopore, which included Botingoo, Warpora, Dangerpora, Hachepora and Reban today, Vakil said it is unfortunate that despite repeated assurances by the current LG administration and the past Governments to regularise daily wagers and contractual employees, nothing could be done in this regard so far. No concrete policy decision has been taken by LG administration till date.

"The Government is acting as a mute spectator to their sufferings rather than mitigating the same. It is the responsibility of the administration to rehabilitate them by regularising their services as they totally dependent on the meagre income by working on daily basis especially as they are making their ends meet on daily earnings," Vakil added.

The fact that the essential service departments like PHE, PWD, R&B and Social Welfare are totally run by said daily wagers and virtually they make these departments functional otherwise people will have to face hardships but it is surprising that the Government is giving a deaf ear to the demands of the daily wagers and is making no effort to restore their livelihood as they are making their ends meet on daily earnings.

of the Australia-India comprehensive economic cooperation agreement later this year," he said.

"I am visiting Australia within two months of the visit of my friend, Prime Minister Albanese to India. This is our sixth meeting in the past one year. This reflects a depth in our comprehensive relations, convergence in our views, and the maturity of our ties," he said.

"In the language of cricket, our ties have reached the T20 mode," Modi said. "The India-Australia friendship is a special one."

He also invited Albanese and Australian cricket fans to India for the Cricket World Cup tournament which is taking place in the country later this year.

Describing his meeting with Albanese as "constructive", Modi said they deliberated on taking the Australia-India comprehensive strategic partnership to "greater heights" in the next decade.

"Last year, the India-Australia economic cooperation and trade agreement came into effect. Today, we have decided to focus on a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA). This will further strengthen our economic partnership and open up new avenues for cooperation," he said.

In his remarks, Albanese said the aim is to conclude the CECA by the end of the year.

"We reiterated our shared ambition for an early conclusion

of the Australia-India comprehensive economic cooperation agreement later this year," he said.

Modi said the India-Australia relationship is not just limited to the two countries as it is also linked to regional stability, peace and global welfare.

"We had constructive discussions on strengthening our strategic cooperation in the sectors of mining and critical minerals. We identified concrete areas for cooperation in the renewable energy sector," he said.

The two prime ministers also reiterated their commitment to an open, prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific.

"India-Australia cooperation can be beneficial for the growth of Global South also. The Indian tradition of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam that views the entire world as one family is the central theme of India's G20 presidency," Modi said.

In his remarks to the media, Albanese announced the establishment of a new Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru primarily to connect Australian businesses to India's booming digital economy and innovation ecosystem.

"This is a relationship we need to invest in. Our strong partnership with India will deliver benefits for Australia in trade, investment and business, and in regional security and stability," he said. (PTI)

Book on eminent Sikhs of J&K released by Pradeep Dutta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: Senior Editor Times Now Pradeep Dutta released book - 211 Sikhs - by well known acadmecian and writer, Jasbir Singh Sarna,

ary centres and their preachers in propagating Sikhism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Book includes people from the fields of politics, science, religion, humanitarianism, journalism and culture.

Book also includes chapter on decorated Sikh soldiers from this region like Paramveer Chakra awardee Capt Bana Singh - who stood like a wall to defend motherland India - to see tri color fluttering at icy Siachen Heights.

"Reading stories of successful people from your community can leave an indelible impression on the people and their lives," said Sarna, while explaining reason behind scribbling this new book.

From their struggles to their passion and achieving great reputations, there is an endless number of things that one can find in this book.

"Keeping that in mind, I formulated a list of 211 people from my community, who not only excelled in their careers, but also gave the power to dream to millions of others in our community," explained Sarna.

Sarna's previous work - The Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir - is considered to be one of the best book on miniscule minority till date.

Amit Bharrdwaj, senior video journalist, Times Now, was also present during book launch ceremony. He appreciated Sarna for his new book and wished him to write more and more books on Sikh culture and history.

Assault on Congress corporator: one held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 24: Police today claimed that they have arrested one person in connection with the assault on a corporator of the Congress party.

Racchpal Bhardwaj (42) son of late Kesar Ram of Sujalpur, who happens to be the corporator of Ward number 72, Jammu, was allegedly assaulted by a group of 5-6 people on May 23rd evening near his house, resulting in injuries to the Congress leader.

"The alleged prime accused in the assault case, Anil Singh, has been arrested after night-long raids conducted by different teams of police in various suspected locations," SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli said in a message.

"While the alleged prime accused has been arrested many have been detained for questioning, while further legal proceedings are going on," the police officer further said.

According to the police officers, raids are going on across different locations to nab the other accused.

Corrigendum

Apologies for the error in the report titled "Hassle-free exchange of Rs 2000 notes begins in J&K" carried in May 24th edition, Sandeep Choudhary, Branch Manager of SBI's Lal Chowk, Srinagar Branch, has been inadvertently quoted. The same comments have been made by another banker. The error is regretted.