

Bhalla sets July end deadline for completion of Teacher Bhawan, auditorium

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: Minister for Housing, Horticulture, Culture, Youth Services and Sports Raman Bhalla today asked Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board (JKHB) to gear up men and machinery to complete the



Minister for Housing Raman Bhalla inaugurating BSG complex at Gandhi Nagar on Wednesday.

Teacher Bhawan and fully air conditioned State of art auditorium at Gandhi Nagar by the end of July this year.

The Teacher Bhawan and auditorium is being constructed near Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar at an estimated cost of Rs 13 crore by JKHB.

Speaking after inaugurating renovated Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) complex at Gandhi Nagar, Bhalla said that the upcoming Teacher Bhawan would have a capacity to accommodate 50 persons, while the auditorium would have a seating capacity of 500 persons.

Commissioner JMC Kiran Wattal, Vice President BSG G A Qureshi, State Commissioner

BSG I D Soni, Advisor BSG Sohail Kazmi, besides other senior representative of BSG were present on the occasion.

The Minister informed that on the completion of these state of art facilities, the schools of Gandhi Nagar and its adjoining areas would be able to organize their

functions at 500-capacity fully air conditioned auditorium, while on the completion of 50-room capacity Teacher Bhawan, the teachers of other districts who would come to Jammu for their official work could get accommodation for stay on minimum charges.

Responding to demands of representatives of BSG, the Minister asked the authorities of Sports Council to install air conditioners in the newly renovated conference hall of Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG). He informed that Government has spent Rs 5 lakh for renovation of BSG building.

Earlier, the Minister visited Bilal Mohalla in Malik Market and Lower Gaddigarh and kick started construction work of local

road including deep drain taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakh and 200 meter protection wall of Balol nallah at Lower Gaddigarh to be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakh.

The Minister informed that to prevent soil erosion of 'bunds' of nallah embankments and save the land of Primary Health Centre at Lower Gaddigarh the Government has earmarked Rs 20 lakh for construction of protection wall. He asked the Town Drainage Department to work in double shifts to ensure completion well before the start of rainy season so that the residents do not face any inconvenience due to flash floods in nallah.

Mr. Bhalla said that Government has also earmarked Rs. 85 lakh for construction of 200 meter nallah including slab. He said the project is under progress on war-footing and would be completed within stipulated time frame.

Later, the Minister also met several deputation of Jammu East, Jammu West, R S Pura, Suchetgarh, Kathua district, Udhampur district and Gandhi Nagar constituency and listened to their development demands.

Most of the projected problems were solved on-the spot and remaining were referred to the concerned department for early disposal.

Poswal calls on Rajnath

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 25: Bharatiya Gujar Mahasabha, State president, Eshaq-ur-Rehman Poswal, today called on Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh and demanded starting of recruitment drive of Gujar and Bakkerwal youth in the security forces.

Poswal highlighted several problems of the Gujaris and Bakkerwals of J&K and demanded immediate steps from the Union Government to address the long pending issues of these downtrodden communities.

He informed Rajnath Singh that Gujar and Bakkerwal communities reside in far flung and inaccessible areas and as such don't have access to education.

He demanded that special recruitment drives should be started for the youth of these communities in the areas like Kupwara, Tangdhar, Macchal, Lolab, Keran, Rajouri, Poonch and other far off areas.

He also informed the Union Home Minister that these communities despite all odds and militancy threats, are nationalist to the core and peace loving people. In this regard, Poswal demanded from him that special focus should be given by the Central Government to these communities in the field of education, development and employment opportunities.

He also requested Rajnath Singh to visit some of the area inhabited by these Backward communities so that he could have on spot assessment of the problems being faced by these communities. He said that this would help in better understanding of the problems of these communities and for formulating welfare schemes in future.

Newly married attempts suicide over police in-action

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: A newly married woman allegedly tried to end her life by consuming some poisonous substance in the premises of RS Pura police station against police in-action.

As per police sources, Ritu Devi (23), daughter of Gurmeet Singh, a resident of Badyal Quazian, RS Pura was married to Goldy of RS Pura few days back. The family members of Goldy were not satisfied with the marriage and threatened the couple of dire consequences, they added.

"Ritu had already lodged complaint with the police, but no action was taken failing which Ritu went to police station RS Pura and consumed some poisonous substance this afternoon resulting she fell unconscious", they said.

Police immediately shifted the lady to nearby hospital and after preliminary treatment she was later referred to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where she was undergoing treatment, when reports last came in, sources added.

According to MLC registered at GMC police post, the lady consumed poisonous substance at her residence not at home, but the eye-witnesses revealed that the girl inhaled the poison at police station, sources stated.

However, a case in this regard has been registered at police station RS Pura and investigation started to ascertain the exact reason behind such extreme step.



Minister of State for Fisheries, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma addressing public grievances camp at Ramkote on Wednesday.

Manohar convenes public grievances camp

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, June 25: Minister of State for Fisheries, Cooperatives, Finance and Planning Dr Manohar Lal Sharma convened a public grievances camp at Ramkote in Billawar here today.

Assistant Commissioner (Dev) Kathua, XEN's of PDD and PMGSY, AEE PHE, DFO, TSO, Tehsildar Billawar and other district and tehsil level officers, Sarpanchs, Panchs and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

Panchs & Sarpanchs of Ramkote, Kashed, Amwala, Dhanni, Makwal and adjoining areas projected their demands seeking an immediate redressal to the same.

The issues raised by Sarpanchs and Panchs were motarable road from Ramkote to

Kashed, electric poles for un electrified habitations, up gradation of middle school Makwal, delay in completion of water supply scheme Amwala, filling up of vacant post of Urdu teacher in Primary School Dhanni etc.

Dr Sharma listened to the grievances of the people and issued on the spot instructions to the field functionaries of various Government Departments to redress the same on priority. He directed PHE Department to make arrangements for drinking water supply through tankers and allied arrangements. He also directed BDO to clear the pendency under MGNREGA and furnish compliance report within a week's time.

On the occasion, Sharma announced thirty electric poles for left out areas of Makwal, Dhlair and Kashed.

International conference on 'Sustainable Resource Development in Himalaya'

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, June 25: On the second day of the international conference on "Sustainable Resource Development in the Himalaya" two Technical sessions were conducted chaired by Dr Bindra Thusi and Professor Jonathan Craig.

Deskyong Namgyal and Dr Amjad Ali of GDC Kargil made presentations on impact of tourism on ecology of Changthang with special reference to birds and Sea-buckthorn-next generation eco friendly crop for fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

Dr Sejal Worah Director WWF India presented her work and models on conservation and development challenges in the Himalaya. Thilas Chorol of Ladakhi Women's Travel Company spoke on "Empowering Ladakhi Women."

In the discussion session, various models were proposed and discussed for implementation in order to make Ladakh a sustainable and workable model.

In the second session, chaired by Jonathan Craig, Dr Hakam Al Alami, Advisor to HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan gave a presentation on water and sanitation highlight-

ing various models followed in the Himalayan countries and across the world. He emphasized on sustenance of water resources and proper sanitation management in the fragile Himalaya.

Dr Shamsudduha from IRDR, University College London, spoke on ground water resources and challenges with special reference to the Indian Subcontinent.

Dr Gareth, UK, gave a presentation on engineering challenges for development in the mountainous areas while Professor Dipanker Sen Gupta of Jammu University gave a presentation on Markets, Institutions and Regulatory Regimes for a market for water in rural Northwest India.

Zain-ul-Abideen of Leh gave a lecture on changing social fabric of Ladakh through time. Dr Naveen Hakho of the University of Jammu gave a presentation on potential for conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbon resources in the Himalayan region.

Professor Joe Moore of Energy Geoscience Institute spoke on geothermal potential of the Himalayan countries with special reference to Ladakh and across the border in China.



Protestors raising slogans during demonstration at Jammu on Wednesday.

JKTF holds protest, demands release of salary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) held a protest demonstration and demanded release of salary grants of SSA/RMSA teachers and masters.

Large number of teachers/masters assembled outside Press Club under the leadership of State general secretary of JKTF Ganesh Khajuria and raised slogans in favour of their demands.

The protestors said that the teachers working under SSA/RMSA are at the verge of starvation as they have not got their salary for the last six months. Ever since the start of SSA/RMSA Schemes the teachers are facing a lot of problems and the officials at the helm of affairs particularly of the Directorate of SSA/RMSA are wholly responsible for the sad state of affairs, they added.

They further stated that the

delay in the release has caused a great resentment among the teaching community, who have lost their patience and been forced to come on the roads for the redressal of their just and genuine demands.

The leaders served an ultimatum to the Director SSA/RMSA Jammu to release the grant within ten days otherwise JKTF would be forced to launch an agitation for the fulfillment of their demands.

They also appealed to the Chief Minister to personally intervene in the matter so that the teachers working under SSA/RMSA could be saved from further harassment.

Among others present were Rajinder Gupta, Satish Dutta, Gopal Singh, Surat Singh Toofani, Raj Singh, Lalita Sharma, Darshan Sharma, Ravinder Singh, Yashpaul Sharma, Ganesh Sharma, Subhash Singh, Davinder Singh, Baljit Singh, Surinder Choudhary, etc.

Tarigami seeks ATR on House Panel recommendations

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 25: State Secretary CPI (M) Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has expressed shock and grief over the tragic road accident on highway at Sangam in Anantnag in which at least 3 persons died and 30 were injured.

Tarigami urged the Government to provide free of cost medical treatment to the injured persons and ex-gratia to the families of deceased.

Voicing concern over growing road accidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Tarigami has asked the Government to come out with a report on action taken over recommendations of a House Committee (HC) headed by him that was constituted to prepare a comprehensive report on causes and measures to bring down the number of road mishaps in the state.

He said over two years have passed since the panel submitted its report, but the Government is yet to come out with its action taken report on the recommendations.

"This speaks volumes about the Government's indifferent attitude towards this serious humanitarian crisis," he alleged.

Naib Tehsildar, others booked by Vigilance

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 25: The Vigilance has booked a Naib Tehsildar and others for committing fraud in attestation of mutation of land and conferring undue benefits top some people.

Considering the fact finding report of D C Ganderbal, the State Vigilance Commission referred the issue to Director Vigilance for verification against Ghulam Nabi Wani, then Naib Tehsildar and others regarding the allegations of fraud.

Upon this the Vigilance Organization registered case FIR number 27/2014 Police Station Vigilance Organization Kashmir under Section 5(2) P C Act Svt 2006 read with Section 120-B RPC. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

Two held with 11 pieces of 'Neelam'

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, June 25: Police today arrested two persons along with 11 pieces of precious stones 'Neelam' from Thathri.

A police spokesman said that, police team deployed at Kalnai Bridge, Thathri came to know that four persons namely Masood Ahmed, son of Mohammad Sharief Matto of Bathri, Nisar Ahmed, son of Abdul Rehman of Challar Gundoh, Ikhlaf Ahmed, son of Mohammad Shafi of Polie, Gundoh and Dalmir, son of Abdullah of Hoshiarpur Punjab are coming towards Thathri and are carrying precious stones 'Neelam'.

Accordingly, police arrested two persons namely Nisar Ahmed and Dalmir and recovered 11 pieces of precious stone 'neelam' from their possession.

However, two persons managed to escape from the spot and manhunt has been launched to nab them.

A case under FIR number 48/14 under Section 4/5 Sapphire Act has been registered at police station Thathri and investigation started.

Daily wagers stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: Hundreds of daily wagers of Power Development Department (PDD) staged a dharna in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park here in protest against the delaying tactics adopted by the Government in regularizing their services and increasing their rate to Rs 300 per day.

The dharna was held under the leadership of Ram Krishan a senior leader of Daily Wagers Union.

Kabla Singh president LPEF while addressing the demonstration deplored the callous attitude of Government for not addressing the long outstanding demands of the daily wagers due to which they are facing enormous financial problems.

Hans Raj Goswami secretary LPEF Hiranagar, Bhagwan Dass cashier, P C Sharma president PEEU, Radhaya Sham and Sanjay Singh were among others who addressed the demonstration.



Union Tourism Minister Shripad Yesso and others in a function at Reasi on Wednesday.

Union Tourism Minister inaugurates Hotel Chenab View at Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, June 25: Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Shripad Yesso today inaugurated Hotel Chenab View at Reasi.

The Minister on the occasion said the Government is doing its best to provide all the possible facilities at various tourist spots for attracting more and more tourists to the State which in turn could fetch lot of income to the people connected with the tourist business.

The Minister while appreciating the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development

Corporation, called upon the management to work with more zeal and dedication for making it more vibrant and commercial.

He also stressed upon the Corporation workers for providing better hospitality facilities to the visiting tourists. Government of India works on only one philosophy 'Goa Ho Ya Reasi Apna Desh Apni Matti', he added.

The others present on the occasion, included Nirmala Sharma Labour Commissioner, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudary DDC Reasi and Soujanya Sharma, Director Tourism Jammu.



Vice president JKPC and AICC member, Abdul Gani Vakil addressing a public meeting at Rafiabad.

Congress has bitter experience of forging pre-poll alliance: Vakil

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: Vice-president, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPC) and Member AICC, Abdul Gani Vakil today said that Congress has a bitter experience of forging pre poll alliance with any party as it has proved counterproductive and disastrous for the party.

He said that Congress cannot afford to commit another mistake of this nature in view of the fact that its existence is at stake in the State particularly in valley, adding everyone must accept and endorse the mood of electorates who want development and prosperity of the State and if Congress can plead and put its manifesto before them, no force can stop Congress to achieve and regain its glory.

While addressing public meetings at Braman, Reban, and Shogpora Tragpora in Rafiabad, Vakil said that Congress High Command must respect the aspirations of grass root Congress workers who worked day and night to keep the party's name alive in the State especially during the turmoil.

It was due to sincere efforts of Mr Azad who incultured the work culture of double and triple shifts so that people of the State could experience a massive change, infrastructural development in short period of time, Vakil said and reiterated that Azad's contributions both in the capacity of Chief Minister of J&K and Union Minister are exceptional and remarkable.

Vakil said Ghulam Nabi Azad's 2½ year tenure as Chief Minister of J&K State can be laminated as an unforgettable developmental era. "His historical decisions like creation of eight districts, implementation of Roshni Scheme, construction of Yatri Niwas, Haj House, and Legislature Complex display the visionary ability of this great leader.

Jats protest at Samba

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, June 25: Jats of Jammu and Kashmir today held a protest demonstration at Tehsil Office, Samba for granting OBC Status to Jats and for settlement of refugee issues of PoJK 1947, 1965 and 1971 under the able leadership of Ch. Kamal Singh, President Jat Kalyan Sabha, who is spearheading the agitation for the last more

Border is likely to be included in RBA category and sometimes they are pretending strip of 8 kms along the International Border is likely to be covered under ALC category, he added.

He said that these all are white lies of the political leaders of ruling alliance in the State and till not even a single village of the community has been included in the RBA category. With the result the



Jats protesting at Samba on Wednesday.

JKSPA to organize protest rally on July 3

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: All J&K State Pensioners' Association (JKSPA) will organize a protest rally on July 3, 2014 here at Press Club to press the Coalition Government of the State to address the long pending demands of the Association.

This was announced by general secretary of the Association, Madan Lal Abrol while addressing the media persons at Jammu.

Abrol said the State pensioners have been struggling for last over four and a half years in connection with problems relating to the implementation of 6th Pay Commission but Government did not give reasonable response till now while at the same time it enhanced the salary of legislators three times with perks amounting to more than ninety thousand rupees per month.

This attitude of the Government of giving priority to

the legislators and showing the utter neglect to the pensioners and employees is highly unethical and discriminatory, he added.

Reiterating the demands of pensioners, which include release of remaining installments of 6th PC, enhancement of medical allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 1000, release of 6% DA arrears from January 2009 to June 2009, 10% DA installment from January 2014 onwards and additional quantum of pension in favour of State pensioners on the analogy of Central Government, Mukand Lal Sharma, convener of the Association, appealed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the genuine demands of the State pensioners without any delay.

He also appealed all the State pensioners to reach Press Club on July 3, 2014 at 10:30 am sharp and participate in the protest rally to press the Government to solve their long pending demands.

than nine years.

Addressing the demonstrators Ch Kamal Singh said that Jats of all other states of Indian Union have been granted OBC status and the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been left out. The leaders of ruling alliance in State are misleading the community on one pretext or the other. Sometimes they are promising the strip of 8 Kms along the International

community has got annoyed with the ruling Congress and National Conference Party and now people of the community have taught a lesson to both these parties in the recently held Parliamentary elections in the State of their partisan attitude. He warned the ruling alliance to desist from delaying tactics and misleading the innocent community who have suffered a lot during the partition of the country and in various Indo-Pak conflicts time and again.

Ch. Kamal Singh informed the media that more than 70% of the community are refugees of Deva Batala, Bhimber and Chhamb and are settled along Indo-Pak Border and Actual Line of Control from Kathua to Uri and have to suffer a lot during the Indo-Pak wars of 1974, 1965 and 1971 and 1999 Kargil Conflict. They could not provide standard education owing to their habitations on borders which always remained disturbed after independence. They are living a pathetic life without proper civic amenities in the area.

PMGSY JE remanded to police custody

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 25: Principal Sessions Judge Kathua, Vinod Chatterji Koul (Vacation Judge Kathua) today granted remand of Mohammad Younis, Junior Engineer PMGSY, Division Billawar, till July 1, 2014.

The JE was caught red-handed by a team of Vigilance Organization while accepting Rs 1 lakh as bribe.