

Advisor Ladakh reviews arrangements for COVID vaccine distribution

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Dec 9: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula who is also the Chairman of State Steering Committee, for COVID-19 vaccination in Union Territory of Ladakh, convened a



Advisor Ladakh Umang Narula chairing a meeting.

review meeting regarding the smooth distribution of COVID-vaccine across the Union Territory, here today.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the collection of data from various stakeholders and other requirements such as cold chain maintenance and storage facilities, transport of vaccine, syringes availability, adequate and suitable vaccine administration personnel, locations for vaccination while respecting the cold chain, etc.

Advisor Ladakh directed the members to provide this data to the Health Department within the shortest possible time and also asked each Agency to

appoint a Nodal officer for coordination purposes. Keeping in view the timely delivery of vaccines to the remotest areas Advisor Ladakh directed that a coordinated plan be prepared by the both Districts with the Air force to ensure safe delivery of

vaccine to the snow bound areas in the region.

Earlier, Nodal officer Dr. Tashi Namgail made a Power Point Presentation and briefed on the various major tasks that are expected to be undertaken to carry out vaccination in UT-Ladakh. He also shared that, in order to roll out the Covid-19 vaccine in the country, the eVIN app will be fully repurposed and a faster, better app named as CoWIN Swill be used to ensure last mile vaccine delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine. The CoWIN app will digitally track stocks of vaccines and help stakeholders access data on availability, procurement and

keep track of beneficiaries who have been chosen/will receive the vaccine.

He further explained that as per guidelines of the Government of India, first priority would be given to Healthcare Workers (Government and Private Sector) and frontline workers from various Agencies.

After the presentation, members discussed various issues and shared their opinion to seamlessly and successfully implement the vaccination program.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary GAD, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Commissioner Secretary Health, Rigzin Samphel, Secretary/ Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas, Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar. Additional Director General of Police S.S Khandare, Inspector General of Police, ITBP, Deputy Commissioner Leh and Kargil, SSP Leh and Kargil, GOC 14 Corps, Air Officer Commanding 21 Wing, Director Health, representatives of CISF, CRPF through video conference.



Commissioner Secy Industries, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi meeting with a delegation at Srinagar.

Dwivedi meets delegation of PHDCCI, proprietors of Food Park

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Dec 9: A delegation of PHD Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Kashmir, today called on Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, regarding various issues for promotion of industrial sector and development of related infrastructure.

The delegation led by its President, Baldev Singh Raina, discussed different issues with the Commissioner Secretary including revival of industrial sector, announcement of new industrial policy, extension of two years duration in implementation of SME projects, cluster financing scheme of J&K Department Financial Corporation and J&K Bank by opening SME branches in each industrial estate, land for warehouses, facilitation centers, diagnostic study of industrial units etc.

The delegation requested Commissioner Secretary to provide them land located near highway in the valley for establishment of warehouse zones so the effect of the closure of National Highway will be minimum on industries.

President PHD also requested for establishment of facilitation centers at industrial estates and units to help new entrepreneurs. Further, the delegation demanded to expedite announcement of new industrial policy and provision of soft loans from banks instead of SIDCO.

Block Medical Officer Mendhar, Dr Parvaiz Khan when contacted said that after taking cognizance of this case, the complete detail has been ascertained. The construction of the building was started in 1997 by the RDD. BMO said he has written to the concerned officials about non-completion of this building and reason behind it.



Abandoned Health Sub Centre Chandyal building.

Health Sub Center of Chandyal village not completed since 1997

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, Dec 9: Construction work of the Health Sub Center at village Chandyal of Sangayot area falling under the Block Balakot of Mendhar Sub Division in Poonch district has been abandoned for the last 23 years.

Sources said that in 1997, the construction work of Sub Center, Chandyal was started by the Rural Development Department (RDD), which was taken up to the wall plate level. This was followed by an encounter with terrorists in the same area in which two militants were killed in 2004, during which the sub-center under construction was extensively damaged. No one paid attention till date towards this issue.

Local residents Mohammed Khan, Mohammad Taj, Ali Dad and others said that our village is a backward area. This is the last village of Mendhar Sub Division where neither there is any road nor any other facility. He said that this village has a population of more than 700 to 800 souls but

-Excelsior/ Rahi Kapoor

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Development only poll agenda of Apni Party: Malhotra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 9: Campaigning for its party candidate, Swan Das for District Development Council (DDC) elections in Samba areas, Vikram Malhotra said that Apni Party was the only political party contesting DDC polls with the sole agenda of development and public welfare.

Malhotra said that on one hand, the Kashmir based political parties that ruled Jammu and Kashmir had only sold hollow slogans to the poor and innocent people of the state, while on other hand the BJP has been raising emotional bogey and taking votes from the people of Jammu but ignored the issues of the developments.

He observed that the Samba

Heroin worth Rs 1.2 cr seized, notorious drug dealers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Dec 9: Anti Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) of Jammu and Kashmir Police apprehended another gang of drug dealers and seized heroin like substance worth Rs 1.2 crores. This is back to back second seizure by ANTF within a week's time.

According to SP ANTF J&K Vinay Sharma, their unit received specific information that some contraband drug deal is going to be struck at Pohru Chowk, Nowgam between drug cartels operating in many districts of the UT.

On receiving this information, a team of ANTF J&K went to the spot and apprehended two individuals namely Mushtaq Ahmed Ganai, son of Ghulam Hassan Ganai of Pulwama, at present residing at Nowhatta and Abdul Rasheed Ganai, son of Abdul Rehman Ganai of Baramulla. Heroin like substance worth Rs 1.2 cr was recovered from their possession, SP added.

An FIR has been registered in this matter under relevant Sections of law and ANTF J&K is investigating further links, SP informed.



Senior BJP leader and former DyCM Kavinder Gupta addressing a public meeting in Udhampur.

BJP to continue development spree with endurance, pace: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Dec 9: Bharatiya Janata Party has embarked on a journey in J&K to ensure all round development and the party is bound to go full throttle to achieve this mission in days to come.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta in a series of public meetings held in and around Udhampur today.

"Unlike NC, PDP and Congress parties which seek mandate using divisive tactics, the BJP has taken the 'development route' to become popular among the masses. It has set the goal of serving the society with-

out distinction and discrimination of region, religion or linguistic contours. This is the reason that people of all hues and ethnic groups have started showing faith in the party which earnestly believe in Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas", senior BJP functionary said adding that Government has given another chance to electorate to strengthen BJP once again by means of giving majority in DDC polls to ensure that party continues with the development spree with more confidence and added pace.

"Besides number of bountiful schemes designed for the welfare of people, there are various infrastructure projects in the offing which will change the face of J&K as far as development scenario is concerned. The prerequisite for development in the region is people's continuous support to party as the case was in the earlier electoral contests", he said adding that BJP in power means public welfare initiatives acquiring momentum of sort which people have never seen in the past.

The senior BJP leader listed several projects which took shape during earlier tenure of BJP in J&K including IIT, IIM, AIIMS, modern parking complex at Bus Stand, etc.

Kavinder made it clear that the era of 'lack of facilities and edifice' ended in J&K only after BJP took the reins and supporting party in DDC and other ensuing polls is nothing but a holy service towards restoring pristine glory of the Union Territory.

Country can't become superpower without farmers' support: Bhardwaj

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 9: Senior Congress leader and former J&K High Court Bar president, M K Bhardwaj today said that the existence of a rural and agro-based economy and making country a superpower is not possible without uplifting the farmers and protecting their interests.

"The emergence of a strong India is directly related to the socio-economic conditions of the farming community. "Agar Kissan hai to Desh hai, agar Kissan Nahin to Desh bhi Nahin," he stressed.

Addressing an impressive public meeting in support of the Congress candidate for DDC elections in Bishnah block, Motam, Bhardwaj lamented that the BJP and its so called strong leaders must bear this hard reality in mind and stop making mindless statements in the name of farmers' welfare and their upliftment. Had there been any truth in their statements, the farmers would not have been protesting on the roads day and night in these harsh wintry conditions.

"You owe an explanation to the nation as to why the farmers have been forced to hit the roads for their genuine and legitimate demands," he asked the BJP leaders.

Bhardwaj criticised the Narendra Modi Government for not accepting the just demands of the farmers to withdraw the

Opposition delegation meets President, seeks repeal of farm laws

NEW DELHI, Dec 9:

A delegation of Opposition leaders today met President Ram Nath Kovind and sought repeal of the three farm laws against which thousands of farmers have been protesting on various borders of the national capital.

The five-member delegation comprised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja and DMK leader TKS Elangovan.

"We met the President and informed him of our view regarding the three farm laws. We have asked for their repeal. We informed the President that it is critical that they are taken back," Gandhi told reporters after the meeting.

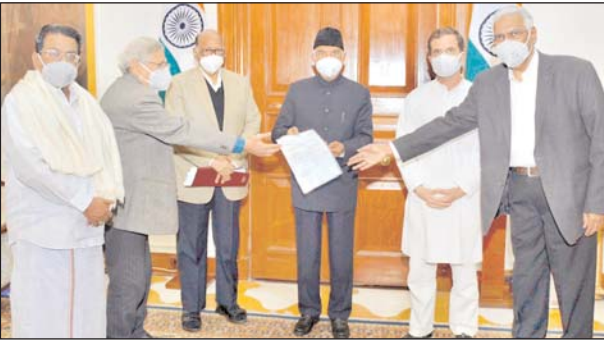
He said the way the farm laws were passed in Parliament, "we feel it was an insult to farmers and that is why they are protesting in the cold weather against them".

The three bills were passed without any discussion or conversation with the opposition parties or with farmers, he said.

"The kisan (farmer) has lost faith in the Government. The kisan does not believe that the Government is acting in their interest and that is why lakhs of them are on the streets, non-violently, compassionately on the streets," Gandhi said, adding, "The farmers will not relent and will continue their protests till the laws and taken back."

Later, Gandhi tweeted, "The farmers of the country have realised that they have been cheated by the Modi Government and they are not going to relent because they know that if they compromise today they will have no future. The farmers are India. We are all with farmers. Stay put."

The Opposition leaders submitted a memorandum to the President that said, "We urge upon you, as the custodian of the Indian Constitution, to persuade your Government not to be obdurate and accept the



A delegation of Opposition leaders comprising Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, D. Raja, Sitaram Yechury and T.K.S. Elangovan presenting memorandum to the President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday. (UNI)

demands raised by India's anna-datas."

"The new agri-laws, passed in Parliament in an anti-democratic manner preventing a structured discussion and voting, threaten India's food security, destroy Indian agriculture and our farmers, lay the basis for the abolishment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and mortgage Indian agriculture and our markets to the caprices of multinational agri-business corporates and domestic corporates," it said.

The memorandum to the President further said that more than 20 different political parties, including many parties governing States, have extended their solidarity with the ongoing struggle of the Indian peasantry and extended wholehearted support to their call for a Bharat Bandh on December 8, demanding the repeal of the "retrograde" agri laws and the Electricity Amendment Bill.

Gandhi said the new laws appeared to be aimed at handing over the farming sector to the "friends of the Prime Minister", but the farmers are fearless and would not back off and will continue with their peaceful agitation.

He said the Government should have no "misconception" and the "farmers will not compromise" on the issue because if they do that they will have no future.

"I want to tell the farmers that if they don't stand up now, they won't be able to stand up anytime in future," he added.

NCP leader Pawar said various political parties have requested the President that these farm laws should be repealed as they were not discussed with either stakeholders or in the Select Committee of Parliament.

The former agriculture minister said not a single suggestion of opposition leaders raised in Parliament were accepted by the Government and all these bills were passed in haste.

He said the MSP has not been

Women's welfare never a priority for previous regimes: Priya Sethi

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Dec 9: Slamming the opposition parties, former Minister and senior BJP leader Priya Sethi said that women's welfare was never a priority for previous Governments.

Addressing an election campaign meeting in support of Party's candidate for DDC polls here today, Priya Sethi, who is also the Prabhari of Rajouri District, said that previous Governments did not do anything to provide even basic facilities to women and just made hollow promises.

"Those who ruled India for 60 to 70 years has been miserably failed to provide basic amenities for women's welfare, she said, adding the previous Governments just kept waiting for the right time to usher social reforms and change in attitude. In the last four years, society's view towards girl children and women empowerment has undergone a positive change, she said.

mentioned in the new farm laws and that is why the farmers are disturbed.

CPI(M) leader Yechury said, "We told the President that the three farm laws were passed undemocratically in Parliament and have sought the repeal of these laws."

He said the government should repeal the acts in view of the widespread protests by farmers.

Raja said these three laws will place the farmers and agricultural workers at the "mercy of corporates" and big agri-businesses.

"This is not in the interest of the country as a whole. It is not affecting only the farmers, who have been protesting for last two weeks, it will subject the agriculture workers to horrific living conditions," Raja said, adding as political parties, "they cannot remain mute spectators."

Elangovan said the government promised Parliament that they will implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission on Minimum Support Price. "But this bill has negated that promise," he added.

The Opposition leaders said the Prime Ministers have been saying that these laws are in the interest of farmers, but the question is if these laws are in their favour then why the farmers are protesting out in the cold.

The Opposition delegation was limited to five because of the COVID-19 situation.

The three farm laws enacted in September have been projected by the Government as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the middlemen and allow farmers to sell anywhere in the country.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of Minimum Support Price and do away with the mandis, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates. (PTI)

"For the first time, the Modi Government's flagship schemes are focusing on women," the former Minister said, giving examples of Triple Talaq, Swachh Bharat programme, Ujjwala scheme, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), where 75 per cent house owners are women.

"Eighteen crores of the total Jan Dhan bank accounts belong to women", she said, adding that the male-female sex ratio has also improved, especially in Haryana which has had a dubious record in the past. Modi Government has passed Anti-Trafficking Bill and capital punishment will be given to rape convicts of minors," she asserted.

She said that the BJP enjoys confidence of the people of the country from Panchayat-level to Parliament after exploring various options in the last six to seven decades. Women in the country has repoused faith in the BJP Government, she emphasized.

BJP answerable over involvement of its ex-MLA in Roshni scam: NPP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 9: Lambasting the BJP for its double standards over land encroachments, the NPP today questioned the BJP as to what action did it propose against its Ex-MLA whose name had surfaced in the Roshni scam.

While the BJP was targeting the opposition over the issue of

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com



Provincial president JKNPP Rajesh Padgotra addressing a press conference at Jammu.

becoming MLA, the BJP leader lived in a 'Kachha' dilapidated house in a remote village. He however became an affluent man within a period of 2-3 years after becoming MLA. His sudden rise from rags to riches needed to be probed through an independent investigating agency preferably the CBI so that such corrupt politicians were unmasked and their real face and character brought before the public.

Gagan Pratap Singh, State secretary JKNPP, Mohinderpal Singh Pandu and Rashpal Singh, senior office secretary JKNPP were also present in the press conference.

First devotional song of Lord Bhairav released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Dec 9: Priest of ancient Bhairav Temple Rumil Sharma today organized a function at Brahmin Sabha during which first devotional song of Lord Bhairav Dev was released.

The devotional song was released by distinguished guest, SSP Ranjit Singh Sambyal, SSP Traffic Jammu Shiv Kumar Sharma and chairman Kotli Colony Welfare Trust, Chandan Datta.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Rumil Sharma apprised all devotees that Lord Bhairav is 5th 'Rudra Avatar' of Lord Shiva and the temple situated at Chowk Chabutra (Panjirthi) is the only temple of Mahakaal Bhairav Dev in the UT. He said that one who worships Bhairav Dev becomes free from all fears and loss.

Mahant Rumil Sharma appealed the people to see Bhairav Dev documentary and Bhajan which, he said, is available on YouTube channel and

their social media page. He said this year following COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, bhandara at Temple premises was cancelled but packed 'prasadam' for all devotees who came to seek blessings in temple was arranged.

SSP Ranjit Singh said that he is blessed to be the part of this bhajan release function. He said that Mahant Rumil Sharma is doing great efforts to revive our Dogra culture by organizing such cultural festival on the eve of Bhairav Dev Ashtami which is the brilliant step to make and bind our young generation with our fading Dogra culture.

Singer Sonali Dogra expressed her happiness and thanked Mahant Rumil Sharma to give her an opportunity to serve and sung for Lord Bhairav Dev.

The function concluded with vote of thanks presented by social activist and 'Sewadar' of Bhairav Temple Trust Chandan Datta.

Ali posted SP Kargil, Kumar sent to J&K UT

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Dec 9: Aniyat Ali Choudhary, a 2017 batch IPS officer has been posted as SP Kargil vice Dr Vinod Kumar.

Official sources said that Dr Kumar, a 2011 batch IPS officer, has been repatriated to the Union Territory of J&K. However, he will be relieved after the joining of Aniyat Ali.