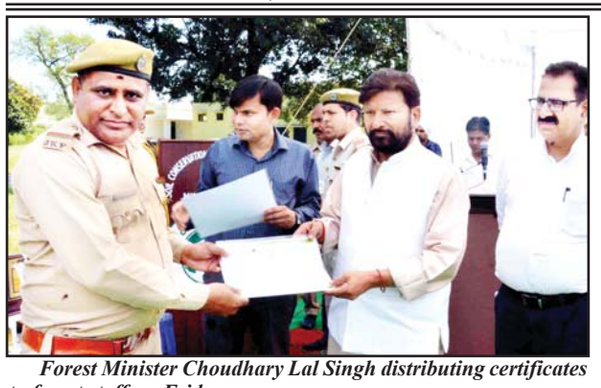

Forest Minister Choudhary Lal Singh distributing certificates to forest staff on Friday.

Complete demarcation of forests by May: Lal Singh to officers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Minister for Forests, Environment and Ecology, Choudhary Lal Singh asked the Divisional Forest Officers of Jammu province to gear up front line forest staff who is taking week-long training from experts for demarcation of un-demarcated open spaces of forests across the Jammu region so that encroachments on forest land can be curbed.

This was stated by the Minister while addressing frontline forest staff at a concluding day function of 5-day long training programme on settlement of demarcation of forest land at Soil Conservation Training Institute at Miran Sahib.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ravi Kesar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Settlement and Demarcation N P Singh, Conservator East Circle Kh Qamar-ud-Din besides Divisional Forest Officers of Jammu city were present on the occasion.

The Minister directed the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Settlement and Demarcation N P Singh to immediately release funds and keep at the disposal of Divisional Forest Officers of Jammu region so that demarcation job under Forests Demarcation Map can be completed by May this year.

He asked them to demarcate the open spaces strictly as per the forest land office record.

Choudhary Lal Singh said that Government has prioritized the protection, preservation plan of forests and wildlife by taking up systematic demarcation of forest and wildlife land across the State. He said that Government has initiated a process of demarcating the forests and wildlife land across the State and assured that strict action would be taken against the encroachers.

The Minister said that directions have already been issued to the officials of the department that there shouldn't be no compromise on the protection of wildlife, environment and ecology of the State.

Later, the Minister also distributed certificates and mementos to the frontline staff who got training for demarcation of open spaces of forests across the Jammu region.

Tassaduq for zero waste tourist spots

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Minister for Tourism Tassaduq Hussain Mufti stressed for taking innovative measures for zero waste tourist spots, besides sensitizing masses towards waste management and waste segregation.

The Minister was chairing a meeting of experts regarding various waste management issues in the State and methods needed to be adopted for tourism sustainability.

Scientist, In-charge E-waste & MSW, Pollution Control Board, Jammu Anuradha made a comprehensive presentation in this regard.

She apprised the Minister that solid waste management is a serious issue and with the notification of revised Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for the first time responsibility has been laid upon bulk waste generators, which include Government buildings, public sector, hotels, and hospitals, educational institutes, commercial establishments, markets, places of worship, stadia and sport complexes.

It was given out that the waste generators shall store the waste generated at source in three different streams, viz., biodegradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous wastes in suitable bins and ensure its channelization to authorized waste pickers, registered recyclers or waste collection agencies and bulk waste generators.

Tassaduq Mufti stressed for taking adequate measures to aware people not to litter or burn the waste on streets, open public places, drains or nallahs, besides collection of horticulture, parks and garden waste separately within parks and gardens.

Seeking suggestion and possibilities of composting waste, the Minister was appraised that manual waste composting may be carried out in a pit or bin and composting bags which is suitable for small parks and gardens with upto 20 kg of bio-degradable waste generation per day.

It was given out that there is possibility of establishing parallel trenches alongside edges of parks to combat transportation problem and open composting may also be carried out without any infrastructure and the composting media may be preferably, cow dung or bacterial cultures in absence of cow dung.

The Minister was informed that composting tanks known as NADEP tanks and composting bags for medium to large scale parks and gardens with the biodegradable fraction of waste up to 50 kg per can be increased as per requirement.

The Minister urged for taking concrete measures to minimize waste production at the source, besides stressing for checking the use of polythene carry bags and other disposables at all tourist places as these are non-recyclable besides being major source of waste generation.

He also urged for proper liquid waste management at tourist places, besides taking measures to sensitize the people visiting tourist places about the sanitation and the flora and fauna of the place.

Animal, Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries Minister Abdul Ghani Kohli chairing a meeting on Friday.

Kohli reviews functioning of Animal Husbandry Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Government has released an amount of Rs 3.53 crore as subsidy among 562 beneficiaries of the State under Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) during the current fiscal till February, 2018.

This information was given by Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Ghani Kohli here today.

He was chairing a meeting convened to review the functioning of Animal Husbandry Department.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to prepare Action Plan for new projects for the year 2018-2019 and also asked them to prepare Detailed Project Reports under National Dairy Project and submit the same to the concerned quarter for accord of necessary sanction.

During the meeting, the Minister also asked the concerned to conduct survey in district Rajouri for setting up of more Dairy Farms and Poultry Units and prepare DPRs in this pursuit so that the work on these projects can be started during the coming financial year.

He also asked them to consult the experts and prepare these DPRs on modern scientific lines.

The Minister asked the concerned officers to work with utmost dedication and achieve the fixed targets in full and also asked them to utilize the funds earmarked for different centrally and state sponsored schemes in full and judiciously.

Kohli directed to focus on development of hatcheries and poultry farms on latest scientific techniques so that more revenue can be generated which he said will help to provide ample opportunities for the educated unemployed youth of the State.

The Minister also called for redoubling of efforts in Animal Husbandry sector in order to make the state self-reliant and the sector as an important pillar of economy. He instructed to introduce hybrid Bull in the State so as to avoid its importing from outside the State and also stressed for cultivation of alpha seed for use of fodder purposes.

Detailed discussions was also held on various issues including progress on developmental works undertaken in different schemes, National Livestock Mission (NLM), filling up of vacant posts both in Gazetted and Non-Gazetted cadres.

The Minister said several initiatives would be taken to make functioning of livestock more vibrant and efficient and no stone would be left unturned in this regard.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, R K Bhagat, Directors of Animal Husbandry Jammu, Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

Veeri reviews arrangements for Hajj

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: Minister for Revenue, Haj & Auqaf and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Rehman Veeri, today visited the Haj house to review the arrangements in the run-up to Haj 2018.

The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Syed Abid Rashid Shah, SMC Commissioner Riyaz Ahmed, EO JKSHC Syed Qamar Sajjad, officials of Floriculture, R&B, JKPCC and others.

He took stock of facilities for Haj pilgrims of 2018 and directed the officers to ensure all the necessary facilities are provided to them.

The Minister stressed on the beautification of Haj House and directed the Floriculture Department to ensure landscaping work is completed within one month.

He also asked the concerned officers to keep dedicated staff for the maintenance of parks in the premises of Haj house.

He also directed the SMC Commissioner to employ men and machinery for site clearance at an earliest.

The officials also informed the Minister that macadamization process within the Haj house will be started soon.

The Executive Officer JKSHC briefed the Minister about the features of new Haj Policy and preparations for the Haj Pilgrimage for 2018.

Veeri sought details of quota issued to the State by Haj Committee of India for this year's Hajj pilgrimage, and other related arrangements to be put in place by for smooth pilgrimage.

The Minister stressed upon the officers of SHC to ensure sensitization of pilgrims and to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place during their pilgrimage.

Dental College students protesting in Srinagar.
-Excelsior/Shakeel

Dental care takes a hit as GDC students' strike enters 7th day

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: As the students of Government Dental College (GDC) continue to abstain from academic activities and duties against alleged harassment by an HOD, the dental care has taken a hit, forcing patients to return home without any treatment.

Friday marked the seventh day of the protests against the College authorities for not taking action against Prof Muhammad Mushtaq, Head of the Orthodontics Department of the GDC and a guide of postgraduate students. He has been accused of harassing the students and forcing them to do his personal work.

More than 250 undergraduate and postgraduate began indefinite strike last Friday against the College administration. "We will continue the strike until the professor is removed," a protesting doctor said.

The patient care has been badly affected as the available doctors are unable to cater to the patient rush forcing them to leave without treatment. "I had temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction from my childhood and went for surgery last week. I had to remove the pins and see if the surgery was successful. I had to return disappointed every time I visit the hospital these days as the doctors are on strike," Muzaffar Ahmad, a resident of North Kashmir's Pattan area said, adding lack of treatment has put him vulnerable to the secondary infections as the pins have to be removed within two weeks.

Another patient, Sameer Ahmad, lamented that he also visited the hospital for treatment several times but was not satisfied with the services. "The doctors' don't listen to the patients. They simply send you away. I prefer a toothache than this callous attitude of the doctors there these days. They should listen to the doctors on strike," he said.

The protest is backed by various associations of doctors, including Doctors' Association Kashmir and the Society of Dental Surgeons.

Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Asiya Naqash, when contacted said that they have initiated a process wherein everyone would be taken on board for a solution. "We are already dealing with the issue and talking to all the stakeholders", she said, adding the issue would be resolved soon.

Bandh continues in Nowshera, Kalakote; protest in Budhal

JAC to lead protest march to Jammu today

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Mar 16: While bandh in Nowshera and Kalakote towns continued in support of public demand of district status and posting of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joint Action Committee (JAC) Nowshera would lead protest march of thousands of people to Jammu tomorrow as a part of its `Jammu Chalo' call.

Continuous bandh/ agitation in Nowshera town entered 29th day today. The agitating JAC members of Nowshera have given `Jammu Chalo call on March 17'. The people of Nowshera town and adjoining areas assembled at main bazaar today and held strong protest demonstration.

After passing through various markets during protest march, they reached dharna site in the Tehsil Complex. The people held strong protest. Several locals leaders addressed gathering and criticized local MLA/ MLC besides BJP Ministers and the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti for their role of ignoring Nowshera.

On Thursday senior Government officers including Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Hemant Sharma, IGP Jammu S D Singh, Secretary GAD Khursheed Shah, Commissioner/ Secretary Revenue Shahid Inayatullah and Commissioner/ Secretary Finance Lokesh Kumar Jha had held talks at Nowshera with JAC members but no outcome could be reached. The people refused to call off agitation and said that they would continue their agitation till Government decides their fate as it was do or die situation for them. They even refused to suspend their Jammu Chalo programme.

Meanwhile, the JAC members today raised contributory funds for the ongoing journey to Jammu. They will move on foot from Nowshera at 10 am tomorrow. They will also carry food items, tent house material, water etc with them as some tractor trolley/ load carriers will also move with them. They submitted to memorandum to SDM today seeking necessary security and other facilities like water tanker during their on foot yatra in first phase up to Sunderbani.

Kalakote town also continued indefinite bandh today, seeking separate ADC's posting. Entire market remained closed in the town and the vehicles also remained off the road. The Kalakote JAC led by Rashpal Singh (Ex-MLA), Randhir Singh and others took out strong protest march in the town and then moved to the Tehsil Complex. They have rejected the Govt formula of rotational ADCs for Kotranka and Kalakote.

Meanwhile, people from Budhal also held protest demonstration demanding tehsil status. The people gathered in the main market and shouted slogans against Govt. They alleged that during 1980 Budhal was full fledged tehsil but NC leadership from Rajouri through conspiracy shifted it to Kotranka. They also warned to launch indefinite agitation.

KVIC team posing with Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at New Delhi.

PM brought revolution in Khadi Sector: Hina Bhat

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Mar 16: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) North Zone, Chairperson, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat today said that it was the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi that this untapped sector witnessed a rocketing growth.

Dr. Hina said that Chairman KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena and Members of KVIC including her met Prime Minister and appraised him about the progress made by KVIC in Khadi and in the Honey Mission. "It was an inspiring meeting for all us", she added.

Dr. Hina said that PM has specially emphasized to provide special focus on the growth of village Industries and welfare of the Khadi artisans.

"The results speak the impact of his appeal. We have set a bigger sales target of achieving Rs 5,000 crore in Khadi alone by 2018-19, with annual turnover of Rs 65,000 crore for Khadi and village industries products," said Hina.

She said KVIC hit a big growth trajectory after Modi became Prime Minister and started promoting Khadi at various platforms including his radio broadcast Mann Ki Baat. PM Modi's promotion of Khadi has translated into solid numbers, she added.

Dr. Hina said that Prime Minister emphasized on "Sweet Kranti", Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and providing employment to the downtrodden people around the country. PM emphasized on the ideology of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi who once had said "Khadi is the Sun of village Solar system. The planets are the various industries which can support Khadi in return for the heat and the sustenance they derive from it", she added.

She said without Khadi other industries cannot grow. "But during my last tour I discovered that, without the revival of other industries, Khadi could not make further progress", she added.

Woman's death triggers protest, family alleges doctors' negligence

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: The death of a woman today triggered protest against a private clinic in Sainik Colony, as the family alleged that the lady died due to negligence of the doctors.

According to the reports, a woman identified as Chanchala Devi wife of late Puran Chand, resident of ward No 8, Bishnah, was yesterday taken for a surgery at a private clinic near Heritage School, in Sainik Colony by her family members.

However, after administering an injection to the lady by the doctors, the woman's condition started deteriorating, following which family members shifted her to Government Super Specialty Hospital, Jammu, where she died during the intervening night of March 15 and 16.

Today morning, the family members staged a protest against the clinic by putting the body of the deceased woman in front of the clinic. Raising slogans against the Clinic and its doctors, they said that the woman died of negligence of the doctors. They demanded a probe into the matter.

SHO, Channi Himmat, Inspector Sajad Mir reached the spot and assured the family of conducting a fair probe into the matter, following which the family members suspended protest. Thereafter, the police took the body into its custody and got conducted the autopsy of the body by a board of doctors in Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu. Later, the body was handed over to its legal heirs for last rites.

In this connection, inquest proceedings under 174 CrPC have been initiated at police station Channi and investigations started.

NPP protests seeking dismissal of J&K Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: Alleging total collapse of administrative apparatus and breakdown of law and order machinery in the State and Jammu region in particular, the activists of J&K National Panthers Party led by party chairman Harsh Dev Singh staged protest at Jantar-Mantar in New Delhi today.

Raising anti-Government slogans the agitated protesters accused both BJP and PDP of fomenting trouble and flaring up tensions in both regions with a motive to polarize the electorate for petty political interests. While the protestors took out a protest march, they had a scuffle with the Delhi Police. A huge contingent of security personnel raised barricades and restrained the protestors from proceeding further.

Expressing serious concern over the fast deteriorating situation in Kashmir valley, Singh said that Kashmir had witnessed glorification of secessionists, pro-Pak slogans and unfurling of Pak/ISIS flags during congregations, frequent terror attacks on defence camps, assault on Amar Nath Ji pilgrims, civil unrest, clashes, lynching and killings of security personnel, torching of police stations and mob attacks on security forces.

He said that recovery of dozens of mobile phones, SIM cards, pen drives, I- pads, digital cards, Hizbul posters, Pak flags, Jehadi literature and hard disks from Central Jail Srinagar a couple of days ago by the NIA teams during their raid on the said premises had made a sensational expose of the involvement of administrative authorities in the Government, without whom the proliferation of 'pro-jehadi' material would have not been possible.

Singh further added that during the funeral of militant, Fazili recently, thousands of people thronged the grave yard and raised pro-Pak slogans and unfurled Pak flags. Accusing the State Government for disparaging the nationalists, he said that the stone pelters in the valley were doled premiums and jobs while the patriots were humiliated, insulted and ignored.

Harsh Dev said that BJP-PDP had not only failed to diffuse tensions in various parts of the State, but its fringe elements were fanning the communal flames for vested political interests in Jammu region as well. He said that the raging fires in Kathua and Nowshera had spread to other areas and engulfed most of the parts of Jammu region due to provocative utterances of coalition Ministers under a well devised strategy to polarize the people.

Asserting that the prevailing situation in J&K created due to constitutional failure had called for dismissal of the BJP-PDP Government, he urged upon the President of India and the Governor of J&K to invoke section 92 of the State's constitution to dissolve the Assembly and impose Governor Rule in the State to save it from further death and destruction.

Mian Altaf demands release of contractors' payments

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Senior National Conference leader and Member Legislative Assembly Kangan Mian Altaf Ahmed has sought immediate release of the contractors pending payments.

Expressing solidarity with protesting contractors, the NC leader has asked Government to release the pending payments of the contractors immediately.

In a statement, Mian Altaf said that the contractors are protesting now for a long time and nothing substatntial has been done to redress their genuine issue instead of they are arrested and locked up in police stations.

Mian Altaf criticized the Government for withholding payments in crores of rupees due to the contractors which has resulted in their huge losses besides hampering their normal works besides the contractors who have taken loan from banks are unable to repay it.

CUJ VC and others during valedictory function of Business Plan Competition at JU on Friday.

Intl Business Plan Competition concludes at ICccR & HRM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: The three-day 3rd International Business Plan Competition under the theme: Think Big-2018, organized by International Centre for Cross-Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICccR & HRM), University of Jammu, in association with Jammu Startup Community, concluded today.

Professor Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, was chief guest on the occasion. Vikrant Kuthiala, J&K State Committee, PHD CCI, New Delhi and Vaibhav Sharma, CEO Travelers Dost, were the guest speakers.

Professor Ashok Aima talked about the role of education in enhancing employability. He also threw light upon the institutional responsibility to give pathway to students' career progression. He motivated the students to build upon their competencies and skills and create their own success story.

Vikrant Kuthiala presented a broad picture of the entrepreneurial environment in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation at large. He said that it is important for young entrepreneurs to recognise opportunities with a view to create value and simultaneously contribute to the society.

Vaibhav Sharma shared inspirational stories of first generation entrepreneurs to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit amongst the participants. He insisted upon the need to explore sustainable business opportunities and developing the 'never give up' attitude to ensure success.

Professor Deepak Raj Gupta, Director ICccR & HRM and Programme Convener, presented the overview of the three-day event held. He encouraged the students to chase their dreams and seek opportunities of success even in adverse situations. Dr Pallvi Arora, organizing secretary and Assistant Professor, ICccr & HRM, talked about the vision and thought behind organising this event.

During the prize distribution ceremony, at the post-graduate level, the team of MIET, Jammu bagged the 1st rank trophy alongwith cash prize of Rs 10,000 for their Business Plan titled 'The Green Light'. The 2nd rank trophy alongwith cash prize of Rs 5,000 was bagged by the students of MBA (International Business) Programme from ICccR & HRM, JU, for the Business Plan titled 'Docmart'. The team of students from Central University of Kashmir won the 3rd position trophy and a cash prize of Rs 3,000 for their Business Plan titled 'Iadventure'. At the under-graduate level, the 1st position was bagged by students of Daffodil International University, Dhaka (Bangladesh) for their Business Plan titled 'Pedicare'. The 2nd position went to the students of Daffodil International University, Dhaka (Bangladesh) for the Business Plan titled 'Deshi Collections'. The students from GCET, Jammu won the 3rd position for their Business Plan titled 'Didactic'.

Rajput Sabha holds protest against Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Demanding holiday on the birthday of erstwhile Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh, Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha today held a protest against Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti when she came here to inaugurate a park in his name.

Flanked by Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, Mehbooba today inaugurated a newly set up Maharaja Hari Singh Park, his sculpture, a library and restaurant on the banks of river Tawi today.

Over 150 activists of youth wing of Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha led by its chief Pawan Singh Chib sat on dharna in protest against the inauguration of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) park by Mehbooba. They raised anti Mehbooba and anti BJP-PDP slogans and demanded holiday on September 23, the birthday of Maharaja.

Speaking to reporters, Pawan Singh Chib said it was very unfortunate that BJP brought "anti-Jammu" Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, who refused to grant holiday on the birthday of Maharaja to inaugurate the park and statute of Maharaja.

"Everyone in Jammu from political parties to social or religious organization was one for grant of holiday on the birthday of Maharaja, but CM Mehbooba Mufti bluntly refused it. It is shameful and insult to Maharaja that the same CM is inaugurating the park," he said.

Chib demanded that State Government should honour the sentiments of the Jammuites and declare gazette holiday on birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh at the earliest, in view of the fact that a great resentment is brewing against the Government among the people of the State.

Govt disengages AAG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: Government today disengaged Hashim Hussain from his services as Additional Advocate General.

According to the order No. 1626-LD (A) of 2018, dated 16-03-2018, the Government said that the services of Hashim Hussain, Additional Advocate General Srinagar are dispensed forthwith.

The order reads that Advocate General shall look after the litigation work of departments earlier assigned to Hashim Hussain till further orders.

Court rejects bail plea in fake gun license scam

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 16: Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu Ashwani Sharma today rejected the bail applications of Taranjeet Singh and Satinder Singh, who were arrested in fake gun license scam by Gandhi Nagar Police on March 2, 2018.

After hearing Senior Prosecuting Officer Rohit Gupta and Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi, court observed, "the accused have engaged themselves in preparing the forged documents and large quantity of forged gun licenses allegedly issued by different District Magistrates have been recovered from their possession as such there are chances of the accused jumping over the bail and tampering with the evidence of the prosecution".

"The behavior and character of the accused persons preparing the forged gun licenses and documents by keeping the seals of different authorities in their possession seems to be doubtful. It is true that the embargo contained under Section 497/CrPC is not attracted in the present case, however, if the accused persons are enlarged on bail at this stage it will cause a bad impact upon the society and such persons would be encouraged in committing such activities", CJM said while rejecting the bail applications.

KCCI demands appointment of Director JKEDI

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 16: Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries (KCC&I) today asked the State Government to immediately fill the post of Director Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneur Development Institute (JKEDI) which has fallen vacant on the superannuation of Dr MI Parry.

A KCC&I spokesman said that it has come to the notice of the Chamber that hundreds of cases are pending in the institute. "We are hopeful that the post shall be filled by a young dynamic person having experience in the field of entrepreneur-ship development so as to give required fresh impetus to the institute," he said.