



DyCM Dr Nirmal Singh during his visit to Billawar on Saturday.

## Bringing development to most backward pockets Govt's priority: DyCM

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 24: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh, today reiterated the resolve of the present dispensation to ensure better infrastructural facilities in the most backward pockets of the State with special focus on improving road connectivity in the rural and far flung areas.

Deputy Chief Minister said this during tour of Billawar constituency where he interacted with several deputations who had come there to meet him to project their respective grievances and demands.

Dr. Singh gave patient hearing to the delegations and

assured early redressal of their grievances and also gave on-spot directions to the officers of the concerned departments to ensure redressal of some of the grievances. He passed necessary directions to the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of various flagship initiatives being taken in different sectors.

To improve intra-village connectivity, Dr Singh directed ADC Billawar and Executive Engineer PMGSY to prepare a comprehensive plan so that areas which are deprived of roads get focused attention besides augmenting road connectivity in rural and far off places.

He said the officers should

work in a coordinated manner to ensure that people do not suffer and the benefits of various welfare schemes reach the targeted populace in full. He asked officers to take people on board while implementing various welfare schemes to make the system more transparent and accountable.

Issue of forest clearance of various PMGSY roads were also flagged during the public meeting. Dr Singh immediately directed the concerned officials to resolve the issue on priority so that these important road projects can be completed within the set time frame.

Dr Singh also announced to replace 1.6MV transformer at receiving station Nangla with 2.15MV transformer and new panels. He asked the public representatives for creating awareness among general masses for making judicious use of power and regularization of power connections.

"Infrastructure of High School, Nangla will get strengthened for providing better educational facilities to the students," added Dr Singh and further emphasized that Billawar-Duggan Tourism Development Authority was created to bring unexplored and scenic far off places into tourism map, thus, benefiting areas like Lohai-Malhar, Machedi, Nangla etc.

Earlier in the day, DyCM paid obeisance at Shree Mata Sukrala Devi temple and interacted with the devotees. He assured them that all the arrangements will be put in place to celebrate the pious occasion of Ramanavami.

## Governor, CM greet people on Ramanavami

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Governor N. N. Vohra has felicitated people on Ramanavami and prayed that this auspicious occasion would be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in the State.

In his message of felicitations, Governor has observed that the celebration of festivals, which are an important part of our glorious heritage, strengthens communal harmony and brotherhood and reinvigorates the secular ethos.

Governor has prayed for peace and the well-being of the people of the State.

Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has also greeted people of the State on the occasion of Ramanavami. She hoped the occasion would be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in the State.

## Jugal, Rajeev call on Union MoS Water Resources

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament BJP Lok Sabha Jammu-Poonch along with MLA Akhnoor constituency Rajeev Sharma met with Union Minister



MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA, Arjun Ram Meghwal at Delhi on Saturday.

of State for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Arjun Ram Meghwal at New Delhi and discussed various projects for the development of Water Resources and supply chain in Jammu-Poonch Parliamentary constituency.

Rajeev Sharma, MLA Akhnoor discussed the project of Kandi Canal from Maira Mandrian to Kaleeth and urged that the project should be taken into consideration and approved for early execution.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal assured the MP that he would treat these demands as urgent need and consider them on priority.

Bar Association Udhampur goes on indefinite strike

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: Demanding that hall space available in the Court premises be provided to them for the professional use, members of Bar Association Udhampur today staged a protest dharna against the Administrative Judiciary and announced to go for indefinite strike.

The protesters locked main gate of new complex of District Court and raised slogans against the Administration wing of Judiciary. No one was allowed to enter or attend the court. Bar Association also submitted a memorandum of their demand to the Administrative Judiciary through District Judge.

The Bar Association president Advocate Surinder said that there were two hall rooms in the new complex of District Court for advocates and their clients. However, the Advocates are not being allowed to use the same while one hall is lying locked by the authorities and other one has been allotted to clerical staff of the courts, he added.

The Bar Association president announced that they have decided to go on indefinite strike till their demand is conceded by the Administrative Judiciary. He also appealed the authorities of Administrative Judiciary to consider their demands on sympathetic grounds for the smooth functioning of judiciary.

Arif Khan as Jaggu, and Rohan Singh as Lori got standing ovation from the audience, for enacting out realistic portrayal of respective characters. Other actors who also impressed were Abhijit Sharma as Khemu, Aijaz Khan as Bobby, VijayGurjar/ Sachin Sukhadia as Suleman, Sikander Khan as Kailash, Lavina Sadhwani as Bobby's Wife, Taalib Hussain as Hira, Krishn Bhargava as Babu, Vijay Prapajati as Maalik.

The artistic set depicting rural ambience, costumes, props, along with effective light and music design-all emerged as vital elements to the success of the performance which will be remembered for simple but effective production design as well the acting prowess of young actors from Jaipur.

Tomorrow, Mumbai's Ekjute Theatre Group will present Hindi play Salaam 1950's Ke Naam, under the direction of Nadira Babbar.

## Dr Jitendra honours Kud girl for launching ODF movement

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 24: Union Minister in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh today presented an award along with a certificate of merit and a memento to a 10th class girl Nisha Rani of a remote village Lower Kud and a student of Government Higher Secondary School Kud in Udhampur district who had gone on hunger strike to persuade her parents to construct individual household toilet at their residence.

The girl started the struggle for IHHL after an awareness programme was organized by the district administration in their school regarding Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated the zeal of the girl to take such a step to bring about a positive change in her home and society which will inspire others to work for success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

While presenting the award to the girl, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the girl resorted to fast to persuade her family members and the administration to construct the toilet in her house and this way she became the ambassador of the mission.

He said understanding the feelings of the girl the district administration not only constructed toilet for their family but also sanctioned construction of more 500 toilets so that other children will not resort to hunger strike.

He said the Government



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh presenting a memento to Kud girl at Udhampur on Saturday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh schemes require active partaking of the people in bringing about a positive perceptible change in the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that this girl deserves all appreciation for her gesture and bold initiative to inspire us all. "We have not come here to honour her but in real sense we want to compliment her for the good work done by her which otherwise should have been done by us", he added.

The Union Minister while also complimenting the District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Ravinder Kumar for his prompt quick response in settling the public issues, said as DC Reasi he deserves all credit for getting Reasi block declared

as first ODF block in the State. He said Prime Minister had made an announcement from Red Fort during the Independence Day function of Swachh Bharat and make India ODF and by and by it took a shape of movement which reached to these children who inspired us all to join this movement.

MLA Ramnagar, R S Pathania, district Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Ravinder Kumar, SSP Udhampur, Rayees Bhat, Additional DC, Krishan Lal, Additional SP Udhampur, the members of district administration, including officers of Rural Development Department, PRO Dr Jitendra Singh, Sanjeev Sharma and BJYM Prabhar Bharat Sharma were also present on the occasion.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

## IG CRPF Jammu felicitated

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Abhay Vir Chauhan, IG CRPF, Jammu sector was felicitated today with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service during the 79th anniversary parade of the Force at CRPF Academy Gurugram, Haryana.



The award was given to him by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

Abhay Vir Chauhan joined CRPF in 1986. A much decorated officer of CRPF, Chauhan has rendered his services in the elite

Special Protection Group. He has served in different parts of the nation during his long glorious career of 32 years.

Being a fore-sighted, disciplined and responsible officer, the Units/Institutions under Jammu sector have been performing exceedingly well under his command.

In the preceding year, under the guidance of Chauhan, CRPF played a great role in ensuring the smooth conduct of Amarnath Ji Yatra. Entire CRPF family is proud of the achievement of Chauhan and is extending best wishes to him.



Watergam residents protesting against PDD.

-Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

## Watergam residents protest against PDD

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 24: The residents of Watergam Rafiabad in North Kashmir's Baramulla district today blocked Baramulla-Kupwara highway for hours protesting against the Power Development Department (PDD) for failing to provide electricity in the area from last many weeks.

Thousands of people from Watergam area staged a massive demonstration against

PDD, blocked the highway and also locked the receiving station of the area.

The protesters blamed PDD of indifferent attitude towards the locals of Watergam and accused Government of neglecting the people despite many promises time and again.

"There are unscheduled and frequent power cuts in the area. We raised this issue with the concerned authorities but no action has been taken yet," the protesters said.

## Raj Bhawan observes "Earth Hour"

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Raj Bhawan Jammu observed the "Earth Hour" today evening by switching off all non-essential lights at 8:30 P.M, for one hour.

"Earth Hour" is a global initiative of World Wide Fund for Nature and the world's largest grass root movement for protection of the environment. Citizens around the world are uniting to observe "Earth Hour" to enlarge awareness about the arising serious consequences of climate change and persuade people all over the globe to save energy by switching off non-essential lights even though, symbolically, only for one hour.

## Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: According to Chief Engineer, Elect. Maintt. & R.E. Wing, Jammu, the power supply to Warehouse and its adjoining areas will remain affected on March 25 from 10 am to 04 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bari Brahmana industrial area will remain affected on March 25 from 10 am to 05 pm.

## IPTA Jaipur impresses with Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' in Rajasthani

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Mar 24: In a classic example as to how a celebrated contemporary literary text transcends geography to find different avatars, Nobel laureate Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' was impressively presented in the Dhuhand dialect of Jaipur district, at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Staged by Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), Jaipur, as the third performance of ongoing Jammu Chapter of 8th Theatre Olympiad, the play based on Hindi translation of Devendra Anurag, Veerendra Saxena, written and directed by Rakesh Khatri, came out a treat for the sheer virtuosity and prowess of the actors.

Both realistic and philosophical, the play utilizes character

archetypes to communicate allegoric lessons of humanity, love, hope, and despair, and unending human dreams and desires. Titled 'Oondra' in Rajasthani, it is a story of two landless laborers, Jaggu and Lori, who move



A scene from Oondra play in Rajasthani staged by IPTA, Jaipur at Abhinav Theatre on Saturday.

from one place to another in search of work.

Jaggu is illiterate but intelligent, whereas Lori, although being hefty and well-built is somewhat retarded. The dream of owning a piece of land someday binds them together. Lori has a fetish for soft things and under the spell of uncontrollable emotional intensity, he ends up killing rabbits, cats etc. Jaggu acting as his protector saves him from harm. Carrying their unfulfilled dream in their hearts, they finally find work at a rich man's house. In a series of events, on one fateful day, Lori while caressing hair of rich man's flirtatious daughter-in-law ends up strangulating her. Jaggu, foreseeing the impending events, shoots Lori.

Arif Khan as Jaggu, and Rohan Singh as Lori got standing ovation from the audience, for enacting out realistic portrayal of respective characters. Other actors who also impressed were Abhijit Sharma as Khemu, Aijaz Khan as Bobby, VijayGurjar/ Sachin Sukhadia as Suleman, Sikander Khan as Kailash, Lavina Sadhwani as Bobby's Wife, Taalib Hussain as Hira, Krishn Bhargava as Babu, Vijay Prapajati as Maalik.

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## CS reviews progress of NABARD funded projects

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Chief Secretary, B B Vyas today chaired the 5th High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting to review the status of projects funded under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.

Principal Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Commissioner/Secretary Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Commissioner/Secretary, PW(R&B), Secretary, PHE and I&FC, Secretary Horticulture, Chief General Manager, NABARD and other senior officers participated in the meeting.

Complimenting the Administrative Secretaries and CGM NABARD for their concerted efforts in sanctioning and disbursement of Rs 420 crore for the year 2017-18 in projects funded under RIDF of NABARD in R&B, PHE, I&FC, Health, Animal & Sheep Husbandry and Agriculture sectors, Chief Secretary observed that RIDF has emerged as a preferred source of funding for the State Government in supporting rural infrastructure development, especially in the road, drinking water and irrigation units.

They said the power supply depends on the mercy of the Power Development Department who have always resorted to 'switch off the power supply' without any intimation to the industrial units from the 50x2MV Grid Station, BB-I & BB-II Receiving Station on the pretext of lame excuses. The worst sufferers units are those who are engaged in the manufacturing of Steel, Plastics, Chemicals and other products as it takes long time to restart the production after removing the waste materials from the equipments which is a total loss to the industrial units.

Power supply infrastructure

season, there is a likelihood of water shortage arising in some areas, for which necessary provisions and action plan should be kept ready by the department. Underscoring the need for regular monitoring and cooperation between NABARD and concerned departments for the successful implementation of

projects funded under RIDF during 2018-19, Chief Secretary urged the Administrative Secretaries to review the progress on regular basis and submit Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) to NABARD on timely besides giving closure to the non-starter projects.

## Power infrastructure collapses in Bari Brahmana complex: BBIA

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 24: Bari Brahmana Industries Association has alleged that power supply infrastructure has virtually collapsed in Bari Brahmana industrial complex.

An emergency meeting of the members of the Bari Brahmana Industries Association was held today under the chairmanship of Lalit Mahajan, president BBIA in presence of senior members Suresh Mahajan, Varun Singla, Ajay Langer, Vivek Singhal, Viraj Malhotra and others in which the members raised serious concern in respect of worst ever power supply scenario since last few months resulting huge production as well as financial losses to the working industrial units.

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Power supply infrastructure

within the Bari Brahmana industrial complex is being maintained by M&RE Division to look after the eleven feeders of 11 KVA & three 33 KVA lines with very limited provision of gang switches on the 11KV/33KV feeders in the industrial complex resulting considerable delay in the restoration of power in case of any earth fault or CT/PT due to lengthy feeders and it is the need of hour to install the gang switch of heavy duty to be installed at the suitable locations to minimize the delay in the restoration of power.

In spite of repeated requests and reminders to the chief engineers, M&RE since last one year, no action has been taken by the department for the fixing of gang switches at the requisite locations resulting considerable delay in the restoration of power due to which the industrial units are suffering production losses as well as Power Development Department is also losing revenue due to non supply of power.

They said PDD is collecting nearly Rs150 crore per annum from the Bari Brahmana industrial complex for the supply of power and if they spent 1% for the repair and maintenance of Infrastructure, the same can be easily recovered supplying the power on regular basis. They sought intervention of PDD Minister (DyCM) Dr Nirmal Singh.

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