



People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti addressing a public rally at Shopian on Sunday. -Excelsior/ Photo

## PDP to restart new era of development in 2014: Mehbooba

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SHOPIAN, Aug 4: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti today said the party's visionary political and economic agenda has made it to emerge as a genuine, strong and credible regional voice of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

She said if voted to power in 2014, PDP would work towards accomplishing its unfinished agenda of securing peace, stability and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a party workers convention here today, Mehbooba said when it took over in 2002, PDP-led Coalition Government, not only rekindled a new hope among the State's distressed, and traumatized masses, but it had also devised and started implementing focused developmental strategies for every area of the State. "After suffering decades of deprivation and neglect, for the first time all the regions and sub-regions of the State had started tasting development after 2002," she said and added that the signposts of the landmark developmental initiatives set off between 2002 and 2005 are visible in every nook and corner of the State.

She said immediately after taking over in 2002, while PDP-led Coalition Government's foremost priority was to provide a sense of security to the people, the relaxation in the security environment was effectively supplemented with relief through develop-

ment and economic rejuvenation. She said if voted to power in 2014, PDP would work towards implementing its unaccomplished agenda of securing peace, stability and prosperity for Jammu & Kashmir.

The PDP president said there are no limits to the State's economic potential and in addition to its rich water and mineral resources, the brand name Kashmir has many dimensions - be it tourism, art, handicrafts, forests or agricultural and horticultural products. She said the PDP's vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir outlined in its self-rule document is essentially about neutralizing the historical political and economic excesses with the State that were compounded by its natural and political geography.

Mehbooba said State needs a total change now and with people's support PDP will bring it as the party is spearheading the movement for change. "People's will could never be ignored or over ruled in a democratic system and the movement started by PDP for resolution, democracy, empowerment and governance would be taken to its logical conclusion," She said.

Stressing the need for quality intra and inter-state connectivity, Mehbooba said lack of good road communication network is one of the reasons for the State's sluggish economic progress. She said construction of the Mughal Road is going to boost the economy of not

only Poonch and Rajouri districts but Pulwama and Shopian as well. She said once fully operational Mughal Road will be the most popular and sought after route for tourists and it would trigger new economic activity not only in Shopian but Rajouri and Poonch districts as well.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Pulwama and Shopian for having given a clear mandate to the PDP in the 2008 Assembly elections, Mehbooba said she is expecting a similar gesture from the emancipated voters of the area during the upcoming political battles in 2014.

Addressing the gathering senior PDP leader Tariq Hameed Karra said that having pushed Jammu and Kashmir into a state of political and governance morass, NC-led Coalition Government has exposed the State to the worst failures both on institutional and governance fronts and people now desperately want to get rid of this anarchic regime, sooner the better. He said NC has all along exploited the slogans of Rai Shumari and Autonomy for remaining clinged to power.

He said plagued by ineptitude, disorder and corruption, the political structure of the present Coalition Government has completely collapsed resulting in the paralysis of the State's administrative structure as well.

Several other leaders also spoke on the occasion.

## Vikar orders inquiry into revenue mismanagement

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 4: Taking cognizance of a report regarding the alleged involvement of field staff of PDD Pargwal Akhnoor for non-depositing of consumer bills in the treasury and subsequent protest by the locals, Minister of State for Power, Vikar Rasool Wani has directed the Power Development Commissioner to inquire into the matter and submit the findings to the Government within a fortnight.

A yatra official said the pilgrimage was going on smoothly as the weather on both tracks was pleasant. He said 418 pilgrims including women and Sadhus, left Baltal base camp this morning for the holy cave. Similarly those who had night halt at cave also started their return journey to Baltal.

He said 356 pilgrims also left Nunwan, Pahalgam base camp for the cave shrine this morning. However, they will have night halt at Chandanwari, the last motorable halting station on the traditional route.

A fresh batch of 217 pilgrims today left for the holy cave shrine in from Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar base camp. "A batch comprising 135 males, 31 females, a child and 50 Sadhus this morning left for the Amarnath cave shrine from here in a convoy of eight vehicles including private and SRTC buses," reports said.

## PAC discusses issues pertaining to Indian Science Congress in JU

**Excelsior Correspondent**

NEW DELHI, Aug 4: To discuss the details of the Technical Programme the 101st Indian Science Congress, scheduled to be held in the University of Jammu from February 3-7, 2014, a high level meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee of the Science Congress was held under the chairmanship of Prof R C Sobti, National president, ISCA at the Defence Research & Development Laboratory, New Delhi.

Among others, Prof Mohan

the water"; "Cardio- Vascular preventions" as well as discussions on the interdisciplinary areas of Core Sciences, Behaviour and Social Sciences.

The members were of consensus view that Science & Technology relevant to the State of Jammu & Kashmir as well as other mountainous regions should be given more and more representation across the sections of the Science Congress.

In the end, it was resolved that National president will approve the Technical



PAC members discussing Technical Programme details of Indian Science Congress at New Delhi.

Pal Singh Ishar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu was also present in the meeting wherein brain storming session was held to chalk out the details of the technical programmes of the Congress.

The prominent among the

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issues which were suggested include "Issues of Himalayas with specific reference to Jammu & Kashmir"; "National Disasters & Climate change - the issues of

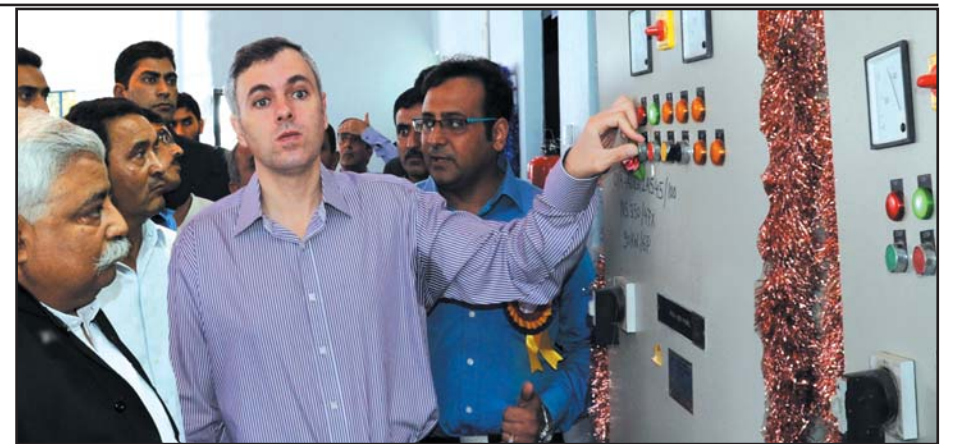
Programme soon after incorporation of the suggestions of all the members of the committee.

Earlier, Prof Mohan Pal Singh Ishar apprised that University of Jammu was putting in all best efforts to host the prestigious event in the best possible manner. He requested the National president to hold next Programme Committee Meeting in JU.

Others who participated in the meeting were; Dr Krishan Lal, President, INSA, V M Trehan, Prof Ashok Sexena, Dr Harsh Gupta, Dr Ramasami, Secretary, DST, Dr V Chauhan, Director ICGEB, New Delhi, Dr Vijay Laxmi Sexena, Dr N B Basu (ISCA), Prof Dhynendra Kumar (ISCA), Dr Vipin Sobti, Dr Amit Krishna, Dr G S Routela, Dr A K Singh, Dr Sudershan Kumar, Dr Dhiman, Dr S K Gupta, Prof Naresh Padma and Prof Meena Sharma both Local Secretaries ISC-2014.



Cable cranes installed across river Chenab to facilitate erection of arch of upcoming world's highest Railway bridge.



Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah inaugurating drainage scheme at Srinagar on Sunday.

## Development of cities a focused area: Omar

**\*Inaugurates Bemina, Chanapora drainage schemes**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Aug 4: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that development of cities has been underlined as focused area in the State's development policy, adding that upgradation of basic amenities, beautification and proper system of drainage and sewerage are being attended in a comprehensive manner in Srinagar and Jammu capitals of the State. He said various projects are under implementation in this regard and various have been completed.

Inaugurating the two modern drainage schemes of Pohru-Chanapora and Bemina-Fruit Mandi involving an amount of about Rs. 56 crore at Chanapora and Bemina today, the Chief Minister said that management of drainage and sewerage in the cities showing large growth of population and expansion has attained bigger dimension. He said recognising this fact; his Government has initiated befitting measures to address the need on this count.

Omar Abdullah said that by the inauguration of Rs. 20.18 crore Pohru Chowk to Chanapora drainage scheme 1st-phase would

provide relief to about 10,000 people living in Allama Iqbal Colony, Bagh-i-Mehtab, Beighpora, Lal Nagar, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Colony, Omar Colony and adjacent areas. He said that Bemina Chowk to Fruit Mandi drainage system will benefit about 20,000 souls of SDA Colony, Shamas Abad, Qamarabad, Owaisabad, Osmania Colony, Boatmen Colony, Fruit Mandi, Al Hamza Colony, Gulshan Abad, Sheikh Colony, Mansoor Colony and adjacent areas.

The Chief Minister said that road upgradation in the cities and construction of bridges have received considerable impetus during the last four years, adding that over a dozen of bridges in the Srinagar city have been completed while many more are in progress. He said the flyover has been launched in Jammu city while the fourth bridge on River Tawi has been completed. He said preliminary work for

Srinagar flyover is in full swing. He said macadamization and upgradation of city roads during the last four years also received considerable attention.

The Minister for Planning and Development, Ajay Sadhotra, Minister for Urban Development, Nawang Rigzin Jora, Legislators, Nasir Aslam Wani and Irfan Shah were present on the occasion besides Principal Secretary, Planning, B.R. Sharma and various senior officers of ERA and other concerned departments.

The Chief Minister also interacted with people who brought some issues of important public concern to his notice.

The Reconstruction Agency (ERA) has constructed the duo drainage schemes which include construction of pumping houses, main drain of about 2 kms length, trunk drain of about 3 kms long and sub main drains of about 9 kms length besides rising mains.

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