

Work on Kishtwar JU Campus to be completed by June next year: Kichloo

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Minister of State for I&C and Home, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, today visited Kishtwar Campus of Jammu University (JU) and took stock of various ongoing works at the site. Rs. 20 crore have already been released to fast-track the construction work of the Campus, which will go a long way in providing succour to the youth of the far-flung district in their pursuit for higher studies.

Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Saleem and Director, JU Kishtwar Campus, Dr. Shohab Inayat Malik, besides several other Sectoral Officers, accompanied the Minister on the occasion.

Exhorting the executing agency to complete the project by June next year, the Minister said that once the Campus becomes fully functional, the higher education network will get a major fillip and improve educational competitiveness in the district. "The Campus will have state-of-the-art infrastructure. We will also ensure that competent teaching staff is post-

ed so that the Campus emerges as a seat of great learning," he said.

The Minister went around various under-construction blocks of the Campus and issued directions for expediting work so that it is completed well within the stipulated timeframe. The on-site engineers briefed the Minister about the details of the project and assured that timelines for completion of the project would be adhered to.

While work on Phase I is currently on, additional land has also been acquired to commence work on Phase II of the project for which funds for land acquisition have to be made available, the Minister was informed.

On this occasion, the Minister announced Rs. 50,000 out of his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for purchase of books for the Campus Library.

Later, while making a detailed presentation, Director JU Kishtwar Campus, Dr. Malik highlighted the issue of shortage of teaching and support staff at the Campus.

Govt committed to address demands for new admn units: DyCM

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Reiterating resolve of the present Coalition Government to suitably examine and address demands for creating new administrative units in the State, Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand today said Cabinet Sub-Committee has already started working on the subject and demands/suggestions have been called from the public for consideration.

"In last meeting of the sub-committee we have decided to invite objections/suggestions from general public, which should reach the General Administrative Department within 15 days," he added.

He said earlier also during the last Government headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad major strides were taken on the subject by Dr. Baloria committee but due to abrupt dissolution of the Government no logical conclusion was reached. The matter has now been taken up by the

Cabinet and a sub-committee to examine the modalities has been constituted for implementation of the Mushtaq Ganaie Committee report as well as consider fresh demands on the account, he added.

He was addressing a deputation of Sarpanchs and Panchs from Block Pancheri, who had called upon him at his residence, today.

The deputation led by Narinder Sharma submitted a memorandum and projected its demand for upgrading status of Niabat Pancheri to Tehsil level.

Giving patient hearing to the deputation, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the demand would be given due consideration and all aspects would be deliberated upon before taking decision for establishing new administrative unit.

He said the Revenue Secretary would be asked to examine the demand in detail and submit opinion on the subject.

Manohar takes stock of damages caused by floods

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Minister of State for Finance & Planning, Cooperatives, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, today convened an officers meeting to take stock of damage caused in Jammu region due to recent rains and floods besides reviewing restoration works being done by different departments.

During the meeting, the Minister also reviewed the arrangements put in place for Eid-ul-Fitr.

Manohar Lal directed PHE and PDD to ensure adequate supply of water and electricity on the occasion so that the people have not to suffer on this account.

The Minister also reviewed the necessary arrangements made by CAPD, Security, Health and allied departments.

Among others, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Shantmanu, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Director Education Jammu P.K. Pole, DIG Jammu Shakeel Ahmad Beig, Chief Engineer M & RE Jammu Shehnaaz Goni, SE R&B S. P. Manhas, SE PHE Sunil Gupta, SE JDA P. L. Bhushan, Joint Director Agriculture S. S. Jamwal, RTO, Arvind Kotwal, SSP Traffic Manmohan Singh, Administrator Auqaf Raj Mohammad, XEn PHE Ashok Gandotra and other senior officers of concerned departments.

Madan meets PM, Sonia; demands package for border victims

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Aug 8: Member Parliament -Jammu-Poonch Constituency, Madan Lal Sharma today met with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and demanded a special package for the people residing on international borders and LoC in J&K.

Sharma said that people living in the radius between 8 to 10 kms should be declared as backward and given benefit under RBA category. He also pitched for insurance cover to life, property, crop and cattle of the Border people and enhancement of compensation to victims of Border shelling/firing from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh as is given to the victims of militancy in the State.

The discrimination between Border and militancy victims is very unfortunate, added Sharma. He also demanded that funds under Border Area Development Programme should be enhanced 3 times as compared to the existing so that BAPD can actually benefit the Border people. He also demanded the enhancement in rent of the land acquired by Army on Borders.

The MP also strongly voiced for shifting of Border fence to zero point for developing a strong security grid for villagers and the Army. He lauded the role of Army and BSF on the Borders and complimented them for helping people under operation 'Sadbhavana'.

Sharma also demanded one time settlement of all issues related to refugees of 1947, 1965, 1971 and West Pak. He demanded that ownership rights on land be given to the refugees of 1965 and 1971. He also pressed for the early conduct of Urban local bodies and Block development council elections.



Dr Jitendra Singh examining patient at a diabetes camp held at Kathua on Thursday.

Diabetes rapidly spreading to smaller towns, villages: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent
KATHUA, Aug 8: Renowned Diabetologist, National Professor of Diabetes & Chairman National Scientific Committee (RSSDI), Dr Jitendra Singh said, earlier it was believed that Diabetes was confined primarily to metros and urban areas but current statistics reveal that it is now rapidly spreading to smaller towns, villages as well as rural, semi-urban and hilly areas where it was hitherto a lesser known disease.

Speaking at a Diabetes Awareness programme cum detection camp held here today, organized by Diabetes Care Foundation (DCF), Dr Jitendra Singh said that during the first half of current year, the DCF has already successfully organized a series of similar camps in the peripheral areas of Kishtwar, Doda, Udhampur, Kathua and Hiranagar. This is a part of the DCF campaign to reach out to people in remote areas who are usually deprived of easy access

NC-Cong trying to malign VDCs image: Bhagat

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: The BJP State general secretary and Ex MLA Bali Bhagat today accused the coalition partners National Conference (NC) and Congress of trying to malign the image of Village Defense Committee (VDC) members.

"The NC and Congress agents are spreading canards about the VDC members in erstwhile Doda district to create a communal divide in the society there", he said, adding this all is being done to polarize the situation in the hilly belt after the failure of State Government to seek Rs 660 crore package for the 80,000 families of the erstwhile Doda district who were affected by earthquake.

"To turn the attention of quake hit people from its failure in seeking the Central package for them, the two parties are now spreading canards against the VDC members to polarize the situation despite the fact that VDCs have done a yeoman's job in weeding out terrorism", he said.

Mr Bhagat, while taking a dig at the Hurriyat hardliner leader Sayeed Ali Shah Geelani said that the two parties are working on his footsteps who too had accused the VDC members of trying forced migration of Muslims from erstwhile Doda district by resorting to atrocities on them.

The BJP leader asked Mr Geelani to not vitiate the atmosphere in peaceful hilly belt of Doda and remain confined to Kashmir only. Others present in the press conference included Doda district president Dilip Singh Parihar, district Prabhari Shakti Singh Parihar, district general secretary Mela Ram and senior leader Basant Raj.

Declare Pak a rouge State: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: NPP chairman and MLA Harshdev Singh has urged the Union Government to initiate appropriate steps to declare Pakistan a rouge and a terrorist State for its highly felonious, wicked and criminal acts in persistently violating our territorial integrity and assaulting our national pride and honour.

In a statement issued here, today the NPP leader said the gruesome murder of five Indian soldiers in Poonch Sector and persistent firing on LoC thereafter should be an eye opener for the Indian Government which has been through and through pursuing a submissive and meek approach despite the highly pernicious onslaughts of Pakistan.

Condemning the Pakistani aggression, as an act of war, he called for appropriate and adequate response to these most reprehensible acts.

Mr Singh further said that the Indian leadership has projected itself in very poor and helpless State in the past also by its failure to prevail upon Pakistan to bring to book the culprits responsible for murderous attack on Sarbjit Singh, Chamel Singh and others.

Foundation stone laid in 2008 SAIL, Govt meet to decide fate of steel plant next week

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 8: Five years after the Central Government had announced to set up the Steel Processing Unit (SPU) at Lassipora Industrial Estate in Pulwama district, the State Government and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are meeting this month to find a headway to begin work on the much-hyped project.

The foundation stone for the 1 lakh tonne of TMT bars and galvanised corrugated sheets per annum unit at Lassipora Industrial Estate was laid in September 2008 by then Steel Minister Ram Vilas Paswan who had also announced Rs 150 crore investment for the SAIL unit.

Executive Director Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), S. K. Dey told Excelsior that SAIL authorities have written a letter to the J & K Commissioner Secretary Industries to hold a meeting with the Director (Technical) SAIL to iron out the differences for setting up the plant.

"The establishment of the plant will depend on the outcome of the meeting," Dey said.

The Government had also boasted that thousands of youth would get job in the plant which was to be made operational in 18 months. The State Government had also allotted 200 kanals of industrial land to SAIL at Lassipora.

Minister of State Industries and Commerce, Sajad Ahmad Kichloo said the company has asked for 25 per cent of the total share of the plant which will be discussed in the meeting to be held next week. Kichloo said state will fully invest in the project, and will use the trademark of SAIL.

Managing Director SIDCO, Mohammad Muazzam, said earlier SAIL had to set up the plant at the industrial sector, but after change in the Steel Ministry at the Centre they decided SAIL will not set up the plant on its own, but will go in equity partnership with share holders.

DSS Youth Wing expresses concern over killing of soldiers

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) Youth Wing expressed anguish over killing of five Indian soldiers in district Poonch.

Addressing a press conference, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, president, Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) Youth Wing cautioned the Indian Government about the response of the neighboring countries of the Indian's diplomacy.

Charak said that no infiltration can take place without the tacit support of the Pakistani Army and expressed his anger over the soft treatment meted by the Indian Government with Pakistan and China.



Chief Postmaster General John Samuel presenting school bag to a girl at Srinagar on Thursday.

DoP launches 'Sahataya Initiative'

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 8: To help the under privileged sections of the society, Department of Post (DoP) today launched "Sahataya Initiative".

John Samuel, Chief Post Master General, launched the initiative by distributing school bags among inmates of Makazri Fallahi Imdad at Ishber Nishat.

The officers and staff members of the Department of Posts were encouraged to contribute for the social cause and as a first step the children in Nari Niketan run by the Social Welfare Department are helped.

Chief PMG said that this initiative will encourage the people to share their resources to help the needy and underprivileged.

He encouraged the staff members and others to share their resources among the people who are in need.

During the visit to Nari Niketan, Samuel along with the staff members interacted with the inmates and encouraged the children to have high vision and ambition to develop J&K. The children were quite excited and enjoyed the interaction time with cultural programs.

Chief PMG said that they are expanding this initiative across the State to help more children, who are in need.

Remove encroachments from Tawi, surroundings: Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Tawi Bachao Andolan activists today organized "Arti" as a protest against the large scale encroachments in the basin of Tawi, adjoining its banks and Mahamaya Forests.

Addressing the protesting activists, Chander Mohan Sharma asked the administration to keep stringent check on all such encroachment attempts and remove the existing ones forthwith to ease out the polluting pressure on the river.

"If the administration failed to do so, Tawi Bachao Andolan will intensify its protest", he warned.

The protesters also paid tributes to the Indian Army soldiers and condemn Pakistan for its inimical mindset against India

Electrical engineers demand re-organization of PDD

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association has demanded re-organization of Power Development Department and promotion policy for the engineers.

A meeting of the Association was held today for discussing the issue in view of Government's delaying tactics over PDD re-organization despite Cabinet decision on unbundling.

The meet alleged that despite vacant posts the rank of Assistant Engineer to Chief Engineer, the Government was adopting an adhoc approach. Giving the example of recent promotion of 6 SEs as CEs and subsequent 6 XE to SE, who have not yet been adjusted, the Association held that pulls and pressures on PDD authorities from different quarters have virtually overshadowed the credibility of Engineers.

The promotion without adjustment is meaningless and future supernannuation of someone should not be the criteria for posting, the Association said and appealed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene into the matter.

JU students represent India in seminar at Bulgaria

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 8: Jammu University students Rimple Kumari from Department of Commerce and Apoorva Jamwal from the Department of Economics, who represented



JU students who represented India at Bulgaria, posing with JU VC Prof MPS Ishar & others on their return from the seminar.

During their interaction, the students appraised the Vice-Chancellor about the experiences shared with delegates from 26 countries in the seminar under cultural exchange programme.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the devotion and dedication of the two students towards their academic pursuit and hoped that their participation in the event will boost their confidence and keep them well poised to participate in similar events with much more confidence and vigor.

Among others Prof Manoj K Dhar, Registrar, Jai Kumar Sharma, Special Secretary to Vice-Chancellor, Prof Neeru Sharma, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, Prof N K Tripathi, Dean Students Welfare, Prof Yash Pal Sharma, Co-Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee and Kulbushan Thakur were also present on the occasion.



EID MUBARAK

WISH YOU ALL
A HAPPY, JOYFUL AND PROSPEROUS
EID



Sh. Nawang Rigzin Jora
Hon'ble Minister of Urban
Development Department, J&K
Government Srinagar



Sh. Sajjad Kichloo
Hon'ble Minister of State for
Home & Urban Development
Department, J&K Government
Srinagar



Sh. Jeet Lal Gupta
Commissioner / Secretary to
Government,
Housing & Urban Development
Department, J&K Government
Srinagar



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