



Speaker Legislative Assembly Mubarak Gul during his visit to flood affected areas on Sunday.

## Speaker visits flood affected areas

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: Speaker Legislative Assembly Mubarak Gul today visited various flood affected areas including Safakadal and Khankisukta in Eidgah Constituency and took stock of situation arisen due to increase in water level in river Jehlum.

A team of senior officers of district administration including District Development Commissioner (DDC), Srinagar Farooq Ahmad Shah accompanied the Speaker during the tour.



SDP leaders addressing a press conference at Jammu on Sunday.

## Bahu Fort should be taken over by SMVDSB: SDP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: In the backdrop of collapse of a wall of historic Bahu Fort, Socialistic Democratic Party (SDP) today reiterated its demand of taking over of Bahu Fort-Kali Mata Temple by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

The party alleged that wall of the Fort collapsed due to poor management.

Addressing a press conference here today, provincial president, Deepu Singh Manhas raised questions on poor management of the Historic Fort and demanded that the Fort be immediately taken over by SMVDSB.

He maintained that according to his sources the concerned department had sanctioned an amount of Rs 71

## Post Office makes special arrangements for Rakhi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: Post Office has made elaborate arrangements for booking and delivery of Rakhis and Rakhi gifts through network of Post Offices in Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by John Samuel, Chief Postmaster General Jammu and Kashmir. Post Offices sell a range of Rakhi envelopes, which are made up of water-resistant and tear resistant materials. Each envelope is sold for Rs 7 and this has become very popular among the customers, he said.

He said further, for the first time in J&K, Rakhis are also sold at the Post Office under Retail Post at Gandhi Nagar Post Office in Jammu. This provides convenience to the people whereby they can buy the Rakhis at the Post Office and send them through post. This is a new initiative taken by Jammu and Kashmir circle, said John Samuel.

## More reports about celebration of Independence Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: The reports regarding the celebration of 67th Independence Day continue to pour in from different parts of Jammu region.

A grand function was organized at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Sounder Dachhan in Kishtwar district to celebrate the Day on August 15.

As per the late reports incharge Principal of the School, Vidya Dhar unfurled the National Tricolour on the occasion. A large number of people including school children, Sarpanchs and staff members despite heavy down pour attend-

## Manohar distributes relief among rain affected families

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Aug 18: Minister of State for Fisheries, Cooperatives, Finance and Planning, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma distributed tents and ration among the rain affected families at Mandli of tehsil Billawar today.

SDM Billawar Dr Vikas Gupta, SDPO Basohli Rafiq Manhas, Tehsildar Billawar, Naib Tehsildar and staff of the Revenue Department were present on the occasion.

Dr Sharma distributed 110 tents, 100 bags (of 50 kg) of rice among the families whose dwellings have been damaged partially or completely in recent incessant rains.

Dr Manohar, while speaking on the occasion, informed that over 500 cases of house collapse (partial and fully) have been

## EPTWS demands ownership rights

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Evacuees Property Tenants Welfare Society (EPTWS) held a meeting here today under the chairmanship of its patron Prof Bhim Singh and urged the Government to give ownership rights for the houses and land maintained by the tenants.

Addressing the meeting, Prof Bhim Singh said that we wish to achieve ownership rights for the houses and land which is being maintained by the tenants and this is our prime objective.

He said that EP Tenants Welfare Society under the elected president Inder Mohinder Tar Singh has done tremendous job and put in sincere efforts to fight for the rights and the "redressal of grievances" of the tenants.

Later after thorough deliberations with the elected and other office bearers of the society, Prof Bhim Singh expelled Suraj

## Educational-cum-motivational tour flagged off

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 18: In an endeavour to provide exposure to the students in Ramban district and generate friendly atmosphere, an educational-cum-motivational tour named 'Sair-e-Watan' was organized by Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, which was flagged off by Commander 11 Sector RR from Chanderkot in Ramban, today.

23 youth and two teachers of various schools from Nachlana, Khari, Trenna, Kumla, Buzla, Mohu and Mangat of Ramban district are part of the tour, where in the students will interact with students of Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai (Sonipat), St Stephen's College, Kirorimal College and Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi.

The participating students will also undergo coaching in

## PDP demands relief for rain, flood victims

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Aug 18: Senior PDP leader Shahzad Khan has flayed the State Government for step-motherly treatment being meted out to the people twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri and demanded compensation to the rain and flood affected people.

Shahzad Khan said this while talking to media persons after conducting an extensive tour of Thannamandi, Behrote, Fatehpur, Rajouri, Bela, Aitti, Muradpur and Chingus areas. He said despite rain and floods, having wrought havoc, the Government has done nothing except making false promises and assurances, while the people of both Rajouri and Poonch continue to be neglected on all fronts.

Shahzad Khan said further that no representative of the Government or elected member has paid a visit to the affected areas despite large scale destruction and loss of precious lives during the recent natural calamity.

A large number of houses have collapsed, a large chunk of agriculture land having been eroded due to floods and crops damaged besides several

Others who were present on the occasion included Pervaiz Wani, Capt Ishaq, Qassim Shah, Maqsood Khan etc.

## Advani praises Modi at BJP conclave

NEW DELHI, Aug 18:

BJP Parliamentary Party Chief L K Advani today surprised many at a party conclave when he praised Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, against whom he had taken jibes on Independence Day for criticising the Prime Minister.

Delivering the valedictory address at a meeting of the BJP Election Campaign Committee, state unit presidents and general secretaries here today, the party patriarch praised the Gujarat Chief Minister for underscoring the need to strengthen the party at the booth level.

Advani also praised Modi for an earlier campaign he had launched asking young and first time voters, among others, to register themselves as voters with the Election Commission.

The senior leader said these aspects are very important as the main aim is to bring the voters to the booth and ensure that they cast vote.

## MLA Chenani tours rain affected areas

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 18: For on spot assessment of the damages caused due to heavy rains, MLA Chenani Krishan Chander Bhagat conducted an extensive tour of affected areas like Ser, Dudu Kirchi, Lati etc.

The MLA was informed that two houses were completely damaged and many others were hit due to heavy landslide which also damaged whole length of road, constructed recently under PMGSY.

Mr Bhagat visited all the families whose houses were damaged. From his Constituency Development Fund, he announced Rs 1 lakh to the each affected family and Rs 20,000 to a single per-

## PRM warns against disbanding of VDCs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: Warning State Government against disbanding of Village Defense Committees (VDCs) on the

behest of separatist like Hurriyat hardliner Sayeed Ali Shah Geelani and others, People's Revolutionary Movement (PRM) today alleged that coalition led by Omar Abdullah is creating rhetoric about VDCs.

Talking to media persons here today, PRM leader Rajinder Jamwal along with S Harbajan Singh, and Atresh Dutta said Chief Minister is following the foot steps of his grand father, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah in furthering Dixon plan of dividing J&K. He said Mr Abdullah is not only obsessed with Jammu element but he was following the foot steps of late Sheikh Abdullah with his policies which are inimical to national interests.

He, while referring to recent Kishtwar incident said it has exposed the Kashmiri designs of dividing Jammu on communal lines as the venomous statements by the Kashmiri leaders is reflection to this.

He demanded constitution of a fact finding mission by High Powered Committee of all Central party delegation to ascertain the role of former MoS Home, Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo in the Kishtwar violence of August 9.

Jamwal said Kishtwar has been an embodiment of communal amity, brotherhood and co-existence since centuries and even fought and sacrificed unitedly above religious lines for district status. He cautioned the security agencies of Gol and all national forces of threat looming large by intrusion of anti national forces with communal and divide mindset of torching and puncturing the security grid of nationalist forces across Pirpanchal and demanded strengthening of security cover as well as VDCs.

He reiterated the demand of Jammu state as the only way to get rid of continuous discrimination.

## National Environment Awareness programme organized

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Aug 18: To create awareness among the people living in far flung and hilly areas, particularly student community about the importance of Biodiversity Conservation, National Environmental Awareness Programme 2013 'Paryavaranmitra' at Government Higher Secondary School, Kastigarh, here today.

School Principal, Chander Parkash Thakur, Coordinator of the programme was the chief guest on the occasion.

Mr Thakur delivered a lecture on the theme "Biodiversity Conservation" and informed that WWF and AYC Doda is the knowledge partner with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Similar programme was held at GHS Chill Bhagwah, which created awareness among the people living in far flung and hilly area particularly student community about the importance of Biodiversity.

Later-on, Headmaster, Mohan Lal Gouria presented vote of thanks.

## Natrang stages Hindi play 'Zameen Ka Sawal'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: 'Zameen Ka Sawal' a play in Hindi, was staged here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its Weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre.

Written by Partap Sehgal and directed by Neeraj Kant, the play is a hard hitting satire on the pitiable scenario of the whole country where corruption and nepotism have

someone else who was close to the minister. This renders a harsh frustration in his mind, he asserts that only hard work and ability will take you nowhere in this system, where corruption and favoritism are deep-rooted. The play very brilliantly says that those who do not have approach and recommendation may not be given higher positions but it does not mean that they are not

talented enough. Natrang's artists who performed in the play included Uplaksh Singh Kotwal, Ashwani Bali, Sushil Raina, Sachin Saini, Shekhar Sharma and Pankaj Verma. Lights were designed and operated by Sumeet Sharma who also coordinated the show.



A scene from Natrang's Hindi play 'Zameen Ka Sawal'.

choked the real talent.

The play opens in a trial room where a high level committee is enquiring about a very grim incident where five people at different locations were killed by sending letter-bombs. 'Ranganathan' a very senior scientist is accused of the crime as all the evidence were against



A poet presenting his views during Rali Mili Kavi Goshti organized by Nami Dogri Sanstha on Sunday.

Police starts drive to eradicate crime

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Aug 18: In order to eradicate the menace of alcoholism and various other crimes such as theft and road accidents directly related to this menace, district police, Kargil under the supervision of Superintendent of Police Kargil, Sujit Kumar has launched a drive.

During the raids, at various places, 144 bottles of IMFL (rum) were confiscated having market value of Rs. 50,400 from the possession of one Ramesh Kumar R/o Nepal and Ms Shaloo presently residing in Kargil Town in case FIR No. 43/2013 under Section 48 Excise Act against the above mentioned accused persons.

In another initiative by the District Police against the theft incidents, Kargil Police has recovered 800 mtrs of copper cable wire weighing 30 kg having value of Rs 42,000 which were recovered from the possession of two accused persons.

Kargil police is working on war footing basis to make crime free society.

## Jan kicks off flood relief operation in Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 18 Following recommendations by Member Legislative Assembly Poonch Ajaz Ahmed Jan, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has issued immediate directions to Deputy Commissioner Poonch to launch massive relief operation for the flood affected people of Poonch which has been kicked off today by MLA Poonch from Kalani village.

It is pertinent to mention here that MLA Ajaz Ahmed Jan approached Chief Minister and demanded immediate relief for the flood affected people of Poonch after which Chief Minister has given directions to Deputy Commissioner to immediately act and launch massive relief operation where 13 houses have been washed away and acute damage has been caused to 78 houses besides land in thousands of kanal has been washed away.

Mr Jan along with Deputy Commissioner Poonch Sajjad Khan and other district officers and engineers of PWD and PHE visited Kalani village and took the stock of the situation.

During the visit the team identified 13 families whose houses have been washed away and give away 13 tents to them besides one month

## MLC tours flood hit areas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: Master Noor Hussain MLC today conducted extensive tour of flood affected villages namely Chak Manga Rakhwal, Chak Gujran, Mananu, Palath, Dagore and Khara Madana areas of Samba district and assured people of all possible help.

He further asked District Administration to take immediate assessment of losses suffered due to heavy rain and floods so that relief may be provided to the sufferers at an earliest. This was stated in a handout issued here today.