

# Lack of funds hampers work on bridges

**Excelsior Correspondent**

PULWAMA, Aug 19: The Government has failed to construct two vital bridges in Awantipora area over river Jehlum, forcing about scores of villages to travel miles on foot and cross risky Jehlum by boat to reach highway in Anantnag.

With no bridges, the people of the area are going through a lot of trouble as they have to walk miles to reach the highway and travel towards Anantnag or Srinagar districts. Even some villagers cross the river by boat to reach Sangam town at Pujieng, but during inclement weather or rising water level in the river, they prefer to stay away.

People, especially those who need immediate attention and pregnant mothers, are finding it difficult to access the health centre and students have to consume a lot of time in traveling between school and home.

Work on the Dogripora and

Reshipora bridges was launched in March 2008, but five years after the executing agency, Jammu and Kashmir Project Construction Corporation, has built only a portion of these bridges.

JKPCC officials say they cannot commit themselves to working on the bridge before the funds are available.

"The estimated cost of the bridge is Rs 14.38 crore, but the Government has released a paltry amount of Rs 2.14 crore. Total amount of funds with the project authority is 12.24 crore," the DGM of J&K PCC, Khurshheed Ahmed Wani, said.

The Deputy General Manager pointed out that the work has been delayed on bridge because it has not a defined funding agency, and the funds had not been budgeted.

Similarly, Reshipora Bridge has not been built yet due to the Government not releasing funds for its completion.

# Pathania seeks central assistance for rain-affected families

**Excelsior Correspondent**

RAM NAGAR, Aug 19: The incessant rains have caused whopping losses to person and property in Sunal, Sundla, Raiper, Bilpasur, Sundla, Muara, Kamtala, Neeli, Bharnara villages.

This was stated by R S Pathania, general secretary, Pradesh Youth Congress, after conducting the tour of the affected areas and has charged that the response of Government as well as local administration has been not up to the mark as neither they have adequate paraphernalia nor the requisite trained manpower to cope up with the crisis.

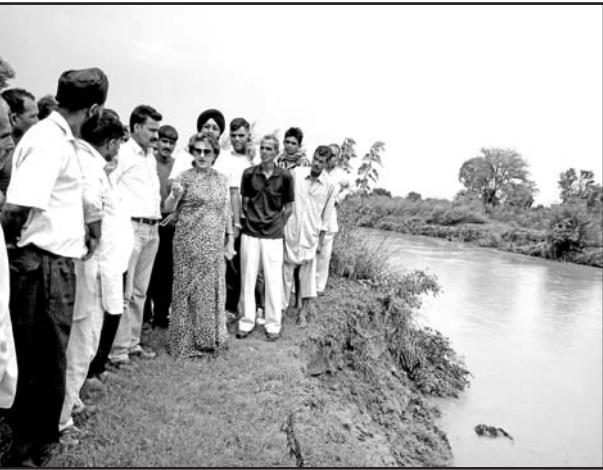
He said that hundreds of houses have been dashed to the ground due to incessant rainfall whereas landslides have also caused severe loss to the properties, lands and houses. He also questioned the veracity and truthfulness of Government claims about losses in Ramnagar and Majalta areas as the actual damage which has been incurred

on ground is much more and above the Government-projected facts and figures.

The affected people have been forced to take refuge in houses of neighbours, relatives or in public places like schools, Panchayat Ghars, Government buildings. Almost all link roads have been closed and road-traffic suspended.

The power, mobile signals, telephone lines and fresh drinking water supply have been suspended. Given the situation in view of unprecedented rainfall in areas of Ramnagar, Majalta and other parts of Udhampur, Chenani, Ghordi and Panchari, and the absence of Government touch over here, threats of a starvation and epidemic break-out are also looming large.

Also there is shortage of essential commodities he made a fervent appeal to the Union Government to dole out Central assistance so that relief and compensation measures could be taken for the affected at the earliest.



Congress MLC Rani Gargi Blowria visiting flood hit areas of Vijaypur in Samba on Monday.

# Rani Blowria visits flood affected areas

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Congress legislator, Rani Gargi Blowria today visited the flood affected areas of Vijaypur and Ramgarh and took on the spot assessment of the destruction and damage caused to the land and property of the people of this area.

The MLC accompanied by some party works and officials of the area visited Barota, Kamore and Rangroor Camp where rain and flood has caused extensive damage in last few days. She listened to the problems of the people. She also announced construction of cremation shed at Barota village out of her constituency develop-

ment fund.

The Congress leader also assured the people whose houses have been damaged in rains to take up their cases at the appropriate level. At Kamore the people demanded that the bridge has suffered damage and it should be got repaired. She further assured to take up the issue with the concerned R&B authorities. The re-construction of breached bund was the major demand of the people of the area. She gave assurance that the issue will be forcefully taken up with the State Flood Control authorities. She also asked the people to remain vigilant from mischief mongers and not to fall prey to false propaganda.

# Hundreds of KPs leave for Chota Amarnath pilgrimage

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits from Jammu left for pilgrimage to the ancient holy cave-temple of Lord Shiva at Thajiwarra Bijbehara in South Kashmir this morning.

Thajiwarra annual yatra and festival, at "Pracheen Cave of Amarnath at Thajiwarra, Bijbehara will be held on August 21st under the auspices of Devasthan Prabandhak Committee teshil Bijbehara.

Prof M L Malla, President, Devasthan Prabandhak Committee teshil Bijbehara said that annual Puja Archana will start on August 20 evening at the shrine complex and will continue till evening August 21 on the

eve of Shraavan Purnamashi. He added that thousands of people are expected to be there on the eve of Shraavan Purnamashi day.

Prof Malla said that Pracheen cave of lord Amarnath at Thajiwarra is one of the most prominent religious shrines of Hindus. This Asthaphana is believed as an inseparable part of Holy cave of Sawami Amarnath Ji pilgrimage and has similar religious importance. It is the reason that Pracheen (Ancient) Cave of Thajiwarra, Bijbehara has been attracting devotees since times immemorial for spiritual solace.

The Managing Committee has been also striving for inclusion of Thajiwarra shrine in the category of pilgrim tourism spots of Jammu and Kashmir.

# PDP seeks white paper on shady dealings of JK Bank

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Expressing grave concern over the shady dealings in J&K Bank, senior PDP leader and former Finance Minister, Tariq Hameed Karra has demanded a white paper on the operations of the State's premier financial institution.

"The worrying reports appearing in a section of the press over the past few days regarding the messy state of financial affairs in the J&K Bank have set the alarm bells ringing and the people have the right to know what is going on inside the Bank," Karra said in a statement issued here today.

"The most disturbing fact that has come to fore in latest newspaper reports is how blatantly J&K Bank is gifting the hard-earned money of the people of the State to the influential

business houses outside at throw-away interest rates while the hapless borrowers here are being charged cumbrous interest rates on advances," Karra said.

He said it is to be seen that despite having more advances outside the State, how the Bank is earning less profits from there and more from within the State.

"The people have the right to know what is the status of various huge advances made by J&K Bank outside the State including around Rs 100 crore loan given by the Bank to Vijay Malliya's bankrupt Kingfisher Group, JP Industries, Alok Industries and scores of other such groups from outside the State," he said.

"It is the responsibility of the Government and the Bank authorities to come clean with a White Paper on the issue, sooner the better," he said.



Bhajan videos being released at KL Sehgal Hall, Abhinav Theatre at Jammu.

# Maa Chandi bhajans released

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Two Video Compact Disks and an MP3 Disk conceptualized by Maa Chandi Parivar were released by Savita Bakshi, Additional Secretary, JKAACL at K L Sehgal Hall, Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Surinder Sharma, attended the function as special guest.

The VCDs including 'Chandi Maiya Naal Nachdi' by Sushma Rajput, and 'Jyotaan Jaagdiyaan' by Suresh Chowhan and Arvind, and MP3, 'Jyotaan Jaagdiyaan' by

Suresh Chowhan, Manmohan Sharma and Suman Rana featuring melodious devotional songs in praise of Mata Chandi are expected to be instant hit among devotees of Mata Chandi.

The CDs have been recorded at SSS Recording Studio, Jammu. The music of all the three CDs has been composed by Arvind Kumar.

On the occasion, Sushma Rajput, Suresh Chowhan and Arvind Kumar enthralled the audience by their live performance.

# Shiv Sena, Dogra Front protests against violation of ceasefire by Pak

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: The workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena led by its president Ashok Gupta took out a procession from Rani Park to City Chowk against the 19 attacks in past 10 days by Pakistani Army which amounted to violation of cease fire.

The irate workers torched the Pakistani flag to express their anger against the neighboring country. They said on the one hand the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharief is taking initiative on peace talks and on the other they are indulging in cease fire violations on borders.

Addressing the protestors, president of SS and Dogra Front, Ashok Gupta said the cease fire violations are a part of gameplan of Pakistan to encourage cross border terrorism and infiltration.

The Pakistan under the garb of firing on the border sends the cross border terrorists inside the Indian territory, he added.

He said that India should teach Pakistan a lesson in the same way as America taught it. He also urged the Congress to come clear on cross border terrorism and cease fire violation issue by Pakistan.

He said since January there have been continuous attacks on Indian Army from across the border and the Indian Government is watching as a mute spectator. The GoI should retaliate and pay Pakistan in the same coin, he added.

He wanted to know what GoI is doing to thwart such attacks by Pakistan and added that Pakistan and China are in a secret understanding and that is the reason that China is repeatedly intruding into Indian territory.

# TNWS seeks conversion of 'lease-hold' plots into 'free-hold'

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) held a meeting under the chairmanship of Vikram Gour, president, TNWS wherein the members after a detailed discussion on various difficulties being faced by the residents adopted resolutions.

The resolution include to convert 'lease-hold' status of the plot owners into 'free-hold' as in no other Government Colony whether under JDA or Housing Dept the residential plots have been on allotted 'on lease'.

Other resolution is to approached Health Minister for up-grading the Urban Health Centre at Trikuta Nagar to a proper mini-hospital to cater for the emergent medical needs of the residents.

The RTO be approached to restart direct transport facility from city to Trikuta Nagar and back as the earlier such service has been stopped and the Metadors now ply from city to Gangyal and back and Trikuta Nagar residents going from Trikuta Nagar to city find no place in metadors and are left high and dry to wait indefinitely.

That the Chief Post Master General be approached tour-grade and modernize the existing Post Office in Trikuta Nagar to meet increased demand of entire area adjoining Trikuta Nagar including Trikuta Nagar itself.

After adopting the resolutions

the TNWS decided to approach the concerned authorities for redressal of the problems being faced by residents of Trikuta Nagar.

The meeting was attended by Working Committee members and large number of resident of Trikuta Nagar.

# NSF protests for degree college at Majalta

**Excelsior Correspondent**

UDHAMPUR, Aug 19: National Secular Forum has demanded opening of a Government Degree College at Majalta teshil to facilitate needs of the student community.

In support of the demand, the NSF activists held a protest at Manwal and raised slogans against the State Government.

The protest demonstration was addressed by Neeraj Dabgotra, general secretary Udhampur district, who alleged that the State Government had ignored Majalta teshil while opening new degree colleges. "Located about 48 kilometers away from Udhampur; students of Majalta teshil have to either go to Udhampur or Samba for higher studies, he explained and also threatened to launch a vigorous agitation if the demand is not conceded by the Government.

# Stop spreading canards, half truths about VDCs: Harsh

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Harshdev Singh NPP chairman and its MLA has lambasted the separatists and other groups raising hue and cry over the role and relevance of VDCs and seeking their disbanding.

NPP chairman has hailed the VDCs for the highly commendable role played by them in countering the insurgency operations since their constitution, and said they have contributed significantly in ensuring an environment of safety and security particularly in hilly and remote areas of the State.

He said that return of near normalcy and peace in the State particularly the far flung and remote areas is primarily due to highly accredited role played by the VDCs and SPOs who are still discharging their duties at the risk of their own lives.

The leader charged the separatists and other political groups

with spreading canards and half truths about the VDCs and their functioning, he said and added that any attempt to disband the VDCs was fraught with dangerous consequences.

He said that the State was already experiencing cross border terrorism and there were reports of infiltration also at the time of border tensions. He said under such situations it was not practically possible for the security forces to cope with the situation and to guard each and every household particularly in the remote areas. The VDCs are not only providing protection in such areas but also creating an atmosphere of trust and security.

Harshdev Singh further lambasted the Government for secretively reducing the VDCs which has already started in the State. Seeking the re-deployment of VDCs in such areas, he said that the failure of the Government to do so could result in aggravated tensions.

# Arise India Ltd enters television market with world-class LED Televisions

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Arise India Ltd, with market standing of more than 25 years and an annual turnover of more than Rs. 855 crores, has opened up a new vista in television viewing with the launch of its Spectra LED Television range here today. Launched in the presence of cast & crew of the upcoming Bollywood blockbuster - 'Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara', the world-class LED Television range by Arise India Ltd is guaranteed to bring in amazing television viewing pleasure to the consumers.

Targeted to the emerging consumers in Tier II & III markets of the country, Arise India's latest Spectra LED television range is specially engineered to enable longer duration of television viewing.

It's revolutionary Eye Protection Technology (EPT) safeguards eyes from growing irritation due to longer television viewing, and keeps eyes safe from harmful electrical emissions.

Arise's Spectra LED Range includes a total of 8 models in various television sizes, namely

- 16", 20", 22", 24", 32" (i), 32" (ii), 42" and 50" priced at a bracket of Rs. 7490/- to Rs. 79,990/- (MRP). To be available in the market from 15th August, 2013 onwards, the LED Range will target all North Indian states in the first phase.

In the subsequent phases, Arise India Ltd. plans to extend the reach of the LED Range into Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Orissa by September'13 end; and across all Southern states and North-Eastern states by mid of October'13.

Avinash Jain, Managing Director of Arise India Ltd commented, "After servicing the electrical needs of the country over the past 25 years with a trustworthy range of products like Inverters, Batteries, Gas & Electrical Geysers, Pumps, Fans, Induction cookers, Mixer grinders & Air-Conditioners, we now look to redefine our consumer's television viewing experience with our new LED range. With this range, we again seek to alleviate the consumer trust & experience with the brand, on which they have reposed their faith over the past two decades."

# Prosecution failure leads to acquittal of narco smuggler

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Principal Sessions Judge Jammu, Kartar Singh today acquitted narco smuggler Mool Raj, son of Shiv Ram as the prosecution miserably failed to prove the case.

According to the police case, on January 27, 2006, Sarwal Police intercepted a scooter bearing registration No.2423-JK02D and subjected it to checking. From the scooter police recovered 500 intoxicant capsules. The scooter rider was immediately arrested and after completion of the investigation challan was presented in the court of law.

After hearing Public Prosecutor Shabir Choudhary for the State whereas Advocate Vishal Kapur for the accused person, Principal Sessions Judge observed, "the investigation in the case is tainted and not in accordance with rules", adding "this has caused prejudice to the accused and has vitiated the trial. The investigating officer has not complied with the provisions of NDPS Act, which has rendered his investigation defective and cannot be believed in order to connect the accused with the commission of alleged offence".

Accordingly, the court acquitted the accused.

# NC Migrant Cell asks CM to fulfill promises made with KPs

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: NC Migrants Cell has expressed concern over delaying tactics by Government in settling the demands of the displaced Pandits from Valley.

The Cell in its meeting here, today held under the chairmanship of its working president, M K Yogi said there is a brewing resentment among the community for delaying tactics adopted by Government on implementation of employment package for displaced Pandit youth.

It said though announced over six years back by Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh a job pack-

age of 6000 posts for displaced youth, only 1450 displaced youth have been provided employment under the package.

Highlighting the other demands it said that the migrant shopkeepers have not been allotted shops at Jagti as promised and their livelihood is stake. Besides, no attention has been paid to allot quarters to those migrants who are still living in rented accommodations.

Mr Yogi said despite the promises the community was not given even representation in the council of Ministers till date which is a grave cause of concern. He appealed the Chief Minister to fulfill the promises immediately.

# HC directs Govt to finalise promotion list

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: High Court directed the Government to finalise the confirmation of promotion of all the posts within two months.

A division bench of Jammu and Kashmir High Court comprising Chief Justice MM Kumar and Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir directed the Health Department authorities to finalise the promotion of all the post of Senior Consultants, and A-grade specialists of various streams like Surgery, Medicine, Ophthalmology, Pathology,

Radiology, Gynaecology and others within two months.

The Health Department had issued an order earlier this month to fill vacancies of senior consultants in various disciplines on regular basis after recommendation by recruiting agencies which have been sanctioned for six months.

The bench was hearing an application that was filed by Health and Medical Education Department seeking extension of time for implementing the court order issued earlier this year.

# Kundal, Mula Ram review flood situation

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Former Chief Secretary and Congress MLC, B R Kundal and former Minister and senior Congress leader Mula Ram visited several flood affected areas and took stock of the situation in parts of district Jammu today.

Accompanied by Sarpanchs of the area and some district officers, Mr Kundal paid extensive visit to several areas of R S Pura and reviewed the flood situation and damage caused to the houses of the people and their property. He directed the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Ajit Kumar Sahu and Tehsildar R S Pura to depute a team of officers of Revenue Department for assessing the losses so that relief could be provided to the sufferers.

Mr Kundal also asked the Municipal Committee officials of R S Pura to remove the debris from nallas and deep drains so that people do not face any inconvenience during rains. He

also advised people not to dump garbage in the nallahs or drains as it may cause problem to them due to blockade during rains and water will flow into their houses. He also expressed concern over the water logging problem in schools and college in the area and asked for necessary action in this regard.

Meanwhile, former Minister and senior Congress leader Mula Ram accompanied by Chairman Labour Cell of the party Th Hari Singh Chib and BCC president Tallantar Singh visited villages Bhagatpur, Lalyal, Nadwal, Khagwal and Mangu Chak in Raipur-Domana constituency and took stock of the situation and loss suffered by people due to rain and flood. He pointed out that several houses have been damaged and their crops also hit with the flood. He demanded adequate compensation for the sufferers. He also urged the State Revenue authorities to initiate process of assessment of damage at war footing.

# LoC families demand shelter at safer places

**Excelsior Correspondent**

MENDHAR, Aug 19: Nearly forty families residing at Deri Dabsi village, cross the fencing in Balakote area of Mendhar today assembled at the Tehsil complex Mendhar and demanded their rehabilitation at the safer places.

Deeply disturbed over the firing from the Pakistani side and damage caused to their

houses, these families moved to Mendhar today and met the SDM and Tehsildar. The families demanded that they should be rehabilitated at the safer places as the firing from the Pakistani Army has made their life miserable. They alleged that their houses have suffered damage and their many cattle have also killed and injured in the firing.

The SDM assured that he will take up the issue with the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch for the appropriate action in this regard. Moreover, there was no adequate ration in Balakote area and power supply was affected for the last many days. The people alleged that studies of their children has also been hit with the non-functioning of many schools near the LoC in view of situation prevailing in this belt after increasing firing.

# 3 arrested for stabbing university scholar

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Bus stand Police today arrested three persons for stabbing a university scholar in the month of June this year.

They were identified as Rajinder Sharma alias Kaka, son of Dwarka Das, Narinder Singh alias Viku son of Pritam Singh, both resident of Kathar Bishnah, and Abdul Aziz alias Kali, son of Noor Hussain and resident of Chinore (Bantalab).

According to the reports, in the month of June this year, trio boarding in an unregistered vehicle stabbed a motorcyclist, who was a university scholar, and fled from the spot. They could not be identified at that time as they used an unregistered vehicle to commit the crime.

A case in this regard was already registered at Bus Stand Police Station

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Babu Ram Gupta, father-in-law of Planning and Development Minister Ajay Sadhotra passed away today after a brief illness at his residence at Talab Khatikan.

He was about 85.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and a daughter.

He will be cremated at 1 pm tomorrow at Jogi Gate cremation ground.

Top political leadership of the State has expressed condolences to Mr Sadhotra on the demise of his father-in-law.

# Heritage Society seeks immediate restoration work at Bahu Fort

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: Expressing serious concern over the collapse of a portion of Bahu Fort wall, an emergency meeting of the Jammu Heritage Society was convened by its general secretary Bhuvneshwar Gandotra under the chairmanship of its president Baldev Khullar.

The members expressed serious concern over the callous attitude of the Archives Department and Jammu Development Authority towards repair and maintenance of Heritage sites of Jammu and Kashmir as a result of which serious damage has been caused to the wall of historic Bahu Fort one of the famous heritage sites of Jammu wherein Maha Kali temple also known as Bawe Wali Mata Jammu is located.

The members alleged that despite having surplus funds, the Jammu Development Authority and Archives Department did not take concrete steps to remove the unwanted grass that had grown up on the top of the walls and no proper cementing was done which resulted in the seepage of water and the main reasons for the collapse. Timely action and proper maintenance besides proper drainage system would have saved this irreparable loss, the meet observed.

Appreciating the initiatives taken by the Minister Raman Bhalla and District Development Commissioner Ajit Kumar Sahu, the Society asked JDA Vice-Chairman Satish Nehru to start immedi-

ate restoration of the collapsed portion, further development and preservation of the Bahu Fort besides release of adequate funds for the job.

The meeting was attended by Omprakash (Kaku Ji), K L Bhalla, Ashwani Arora, Ajesh Rohmetra, Bhuvneshwar Gandotra, Sanjeev Kalra, Narender Sharma, Ashwani Gupta, Sachin Khurana, Sanjay Gupta and others.

# Batwal Association's plea to Govt

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Welfare Association has appealed the Government that +2 candidates (belonging to Batwal Community) of medical stream who could not figure in the recently issued select list by BOPEE, be nominated to professional institutions for pursuing MBBS course.

Association in its meeting held here today stated that it has been demanding for the last one decade that all 13 Scheduled Castes declared by the State Government, be sub-categorised into sub-groups with each bloc assigned a fraction of 8% Reservation Quota, to enable the candidates of the ignored sections of the Scheduled Castes to also get benefit of the reservation in selection to professional institutions for pursuing MBBS course but the Government has never paid its attention towards the matter.