

## Ensure double shift on restoration of Dastigeer Shrine: Sagar

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Ali Mohammad Sagar has directed the officers to speed up the work on the lower craft centre being constructed on the site of Maqdoom Sahib Ropeway Project so that it can be developed as a heritage centre depicting history and culture of the old Srinagar city.

The Minister was addressing officers during a meeting convened to discuss the status of implementation of various beautification and developmental projects being undertaken by the Government.

Vice Chairman Waqaf Board M. Y. Qadri, District Development Commissioner Srinagar Farooq Shah, Managing Director, JKPC, T. R. Bhagat, Chief Engineer, R&B Mushtaq Lone and other senior officers were present.

Referring to the Maqdoom Sahib Ropeway Project, the Minister said that it would come up as a major tourist spot in the old city in near future and we have to ensure that it gets completed in all respects within the shortest possible time. He also directed the officers to acquire

the structures coming in and around the project as early as possible.

Mr. Sagar asked the officers to speed up the restoration work on Dastigeer Sahib Shrine and ensure that the same is done on double shift pattern so that it can be completed within the shortest possible time and it gets completed before the Annual Urs. He said that the people of the State are emotionally as well as spiritually associated with the shrine and Government is committed to ensure its early completion.

The Minister also directed the officers to fast pace the work on the beautification projects of the historic Jamia Masjid and its catchment areas in the old city Srinagar. He said that the area has pivotal importance in the history of the state and the Tourism Department should also ensure its sustained development on heritage pattern.

Mr. Sagar also asked the officers to speed up the work on the renovation of Khankah-i-Moulla project and involve technical experts from agencies like INTACH to ensure its heritage value gets preserved. He also directed the officers to ensure acquisition of various structures around it so that proper beautification and landscaping of its catchment areas can be done.



MLC B R Kundal assessing loss caused by rains at R. S Pura on Tuesday.

## Make process of compensation easy: Kundal

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
RS PURA, Aug 20: Senior Congress leader and MLC BR Kundal today conducted a tour of Panchayat Darsapur of Block RS Pura and took stock of the loss caused by the recent incessant rains. He stressed on making the process of compensation easy.

Along with the Sarpanch of the area, Rajpal Kalotra, the senior Congress leader visited the villages Chak Lavel, Ganda, Tutde and Gande of the Panchayat, assessed the loss caused by the rains and assured the affected persons that every possible effort would be done to provide adequate compensation to them.

Speaking on the occasion, Kundal said that he had already directed DC Jammu to make a report in this regard so that the affected people can be compensated without any botheration. He also directed the administration to take steps to make the process of providing compensation easy and soon I will talk to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in this regard.

Earlier, Sarpanch Rajpal Kalotra informed the MLC that about 150 houses were damaged totally while about 200 were affected due to recent torrential rains.

Member of SC Board, Garib Das, Naib Sarpanch Mulkh Raj, Panch Asha Sharma and Panch Rajendra Singh were also present.

## One arrested with 175 gm of charas

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 20: Police today arrested a drug peddler and recovered 175 gm of charas from his possession.

According to a police spokesperson, the drug peddler identified as Raju Kumar, son of Ram Tirath and resident of Lucknow (UP), presently residing in Gangyal area, was intercepted on suspicion at Preet Nagar (Digiana) from whose possession police recovered 175 gm of charas.

The accused has been registered and charas seized, said Sub Inspector Sunil Sharma, Incharge Police Post, Digiana.

## Vikar for speedy implementation of BRGF

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Minister of State for Technical Education, Power and Rural Development Vikar Rasool has urged upon the officers to speed up the implementation of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme to ensure sustained development of the backward areas of the State.

The Minister was speaking at a review meeting convened to discuss the implementation of BRGF in the State.

The Commissioner Secretary Rural Development, Farooq Ahmad Peer, Director Rural Development Kashmir, Mir Altaf Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Itrat Hussain Rafiqul, ACDs of Kishtwar, Doda, Kupwara, Poonch and Ramban were also present in the meeting.

Mr. Vikar asked the officers to ensure that the funds earmarked under the scheme are utilized to the maximum so that the development of the backward areas is ensured. He said, the scheme has been envisaged by the Centre to bridge the critical gaps in the infrastructural development of the far-flung areas of the State.

The Minister also directed the officers to conduct regular field visits to the areas in which the scheme is being implemented to get first-hand information about the implementation on ground so

that lacuna if any can be filled. It was also given out in the meeting that an amount of Rs 84 crore has been fixed as entitlement of funds for the year 2013-14 under backward regions BRGF as against an amount of Rs 30.40 crore which were released under the scheme during 2011-12.

The Minister also chaired the meeting in which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and Technical Education Department. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary Technical Education PGCIL and other senior officers.

It is pertinent to mention here that PGCIL under Corporate Social Responsibility had offered the State Government to set up an ITI at Ganderbal and provide the requisite training besides creating job recruitment drive in the campus for the youth of the State, which has been accepted by the State Government.

It was also agreed in the meeting that PGCIL will construct Academic and Administrative blocks besides providing machinery, equipment and arranging guest facilities for imparting specialized training to the youth whereas the Government would provide land to them.

## DDC finalizes Janmashtmi arrangements

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 20: District Development Commissioner, Jammu, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, reviewed and finalized the arrangements for upcoming Janmashtmi festival to be celebrated on August 28 here today at a joint meeting of officers and representatives of Sanatan Dharam Sabha and other religious organizations.

Detailed discussion was held on necessary arrangements like power and water supply, security, sanitation, traffic, medicare and related services.

It was informed in the meeting that the Shobha Yatra will be taken out on August 27 from Parade Ground which after passing through the main bazars of Jammu city would culminate at Raghunathji temple.

The representatives of Sanatan Dharam Sabha apprised the meeting that this year the Shobha yatra would comprise of 18 jhankies.

The DDC directed the PDD and PHE authorities to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply while the Police Department was asked to deploy adequate number of police personals en-route Shoba Yatra. He asked the Jammu Municipal authorities to ensure cleanliness at Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk and at all vital points of the city. The traffic authorities were directed to ensure proper traffic management to avoid traffic jams during the yatra.

The DDC also asked the Health Department to deploy adequate number of ambulances en-route Yatra besides keeping available all necessary medicines and equipments.

## Sham visits border areas, reviews losses due to floods

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 20: Minister for PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of various border areas to take stock of damage caused to the people and their property due to incessant rains and flash flood.

The villages visited by the Minister included Dhar, Khor, South End, Platten, Chodhriwala and Manwar Tawi.

The Minister had a detailed review of the losses caused in these border belts due to recent rains and floods. He directed the concerned officers to ensure correct and accurate assessment of the damage caused in these

areas so that the affected could be compensated accordingly. He also exhorted upon the people to extend their complete cooperation to the Government agencies in this regard.

The Minister was informed that the paddy crops in these border villages have suffered huge loss due to rise in the water level of Manwar Tawi. He asked the officers to assess the total losses to the crops in these areas at the earliest for extending timely relief to people.

Regarding the damaged houses in these villages, the Minister asked the officers to



Minister for PHE, Sham Lal Sharma during visit to flood affected areas on Tuesday.

prepare the estimates for repair and renovation works on the affected houses so that these could be covered under IAY. Later, various deputations from these border villages called on the Minister and apprised him of their problems and demands seeking an immediate redressal to the same.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, Varinder Badyal, Chief Engineer, PHE K. K. Gupta, S C Hydraulic, Jammu Rajiv Malhotra, Executive Engineer, I & FC Akhnoor, SDM, Akhnoor and several other officers accompanied the Minister.

## Devika Cooperative Bank implements Core Banking Solution

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Aug 20: The Devika Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, P N Dogra Market Branch, Udhampur, has implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS).

The facility was inaugurated by Yasha Mudgal, District Development Commissioner Udhampur in a function organized by the Bank in its premises.

In her address, Yasha Mudgal appreciated the Board of Directors for their efforts to bring this Bank under CBS and equipped with all modern facilities. She asked the authorities concerned to encourage the Agriculture sector by advancing agriculturists in district. She assured that District Administration would provide all possible support through Agriculture Department.

Vikram Singh Salathia, Chairman of the Bank, listed achievements of the Bank right from beginning and disclosed that Devika Urban Cooperative Bank Udhampur is assessed number one Urban Bank in cooperative sector.

He also disclosed that the Bank has given about 80 lakh of rupees record profit in its credit and Board of Directors have decided to increase dividend from 10 percent to 12 percent.

On the occasion, Board of Directors presented mementos to Deputy Commissioner and Joint Director Planning Rakesh Jamwal.

The prominent citizens and share holders, including Pawan Gupta, Dr R C Nagar, Kehar Singh, Sunil Gupta, Gopal Khajuria, Arun Parkash Gupta, Hukem Chand, Rajinder Nath, Chander Shekhar, Manju Gupta, Bodh Raj, Dharmveer Gupta, Jugal Kishore Gupta and Arun Gupta were present in the function.



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