



Dr. Shehnaaz Ganai addressing a public meeting at Poonch on Tuesday.

Govt committed to empower common people: Dr Shehnaaz

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 20: Dr Shehnaaz Ganai, today started Awami Rabta at village level to redress the problems of the villagers at the village level, and started her first Awami Rabta from the border village Sawjian, in Mandi area of Poonch, where large number of people especially women had gathered.

She said that Poonch is the land of Sufis and Saints and the people from all religions since ages are living in the mutual brotherhood. She appreciated the people of Poonch for maintaining the age old peace and mutual brotherhood. She however cautioned the people not to fall prey to elements hell bent upon weakening the social fabric, and exploiting the sentiments of the people on religious/ political/regional level.

By introducing the Public Service Guarantee Act the departments are supposed to provide the services to general

public in a time bound manner and thereby an initiative to corruption free governance at grass root level, she maintained.

Good quality services provided by a local authority that is transparent, accountable and responsive are legitimate expectations of a common man. Local democracy is not a passing phase, but an essential component of the democratic fabric of our society, she said.

She said, there is discrimination prevailing against women in the field of employment. Certain sectors are still considered forte of man. Though gradual entry of women in such sectors like defence has broken the myth that women are not fit for such sectors.

She said that there is a need to establish destitute homes in districts/block/tehsil level for women, who lose their near and dear ones and have nowhere to go or no one to look after them.

90 aspiring entrepreneurs trained at JKEDI

Excelsior Correspondent

PAMPORE, Aug 20: At least 90 aspiring entrepreneurs completed entrepreneurial skills training at the Kashmir campus of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

Director JKEDI Dr. M.I Parray felicitated the potential entrepreneurs and urged them to widen their horizons and work for the overall prosperity of the State.

The director distributed certificates among the trainees to mark the end of the 15-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) of the Government flagship Seed Capital Fund Scheme (SCFS).

He urged the trainees to remain committed and focussed towards the business activities they want to venture in and stressed on good communication skills.

"You are the ambassadors

of JKEDI and spread the message of entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the State," the director said, stressing on the need to promote entrepreneurship for the overall economic prosperity of the State.

Zamir Ahmed Qadri, the chief operating officer, reiterated the institute's commitment of business support and services for the entrepreneurs in the State.

"An entrepreneur's role is important for the economic prosperity of the state and JKEDI is always ready to help and support all the outgoing trainees in their business ventures," said Qadri.

During the interaction, the participants hailing from different districts of the Kashmir valley shared their experiences and appreciated the entrepreneurship development training programme.

PHE employees discuss long pending demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: A meeting of Jammu provincial and Divisional office bearers of Water Works (PHE) Employees Association was held here under the chairmanship of Shiv Kumar Sharma, State president INTUC and provincial president, wherein all long pending genuine demands were discussed and a deputation of the association also met the Chief Engineer and submitted a charter of demands.

The demands projected in the meeting pertained to: Conversion of CP workers as daily wagers who have been engaged upto March 2013, because the Government has only cleared the cases upto November 2005 and the rest were pending clearance.

The meeting strongly demanded payment of wages to daily wagers, CP workers etc which have not been paid for the past 6 to 24 months. The speakers also said that move of the Government

Bung cultivation destroyed

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: A joint team of Anantnag Police, Excise and Revenue Department destroyed Bung cultivation spread over 20 kanals of land at Dopathar, Bijbehara. Bijbehara Police has registered a case and investigation has been started.

PDP demands compensation for victims of cross LoC firing

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: The former Minister and MLA Mendhar, Sardar Rafiq Hussain Khan and former MLC, Mohd Rashid Qureshi, today demanded the Government to take immediate steps for providing the compensation/ex-gratia relief to the three persons who were seriously injured in the firing between the Indian and Pakistan Army at LoC Mendhar.

Addressing a joint press conference here today, they said that one of the injured in the cross LoC firing namely Mohd Hafeez is under treatment in Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, as the splinter of the gun shot still exists in his body as on date and no operation has been conducted upon him. He is living in a very painful condition, they added.

The MLA said, "The life of the people living along the LoC is becoming day by day miserable as they are living in a constant threat of forced migration. The population residing much behind the fencing at the LoC from forward Balakote upto Balnoi Sector is facing a forced threat of migration, he added.

Qureshi said that due to unprecedented heavy rainfall and flash floods in the tehsil Mendhar, district Poonch, three persons lost their lives at village Sangot.

He further stated that huge loss has been caused to the standing maize crop and huge paddy land washed away for which a special Giradawari is required to be undertaken and the farmers to be compensated at an earliest.

He demanded to pay Rs 3 lakh per head compensation to the dependents of deceased people. He further said that the Government is adopting a step motherly attitude towards the people of Mendhar in particular and Poonch and Rajouri in General as no Government Officer or Minister has been deputed to assess the loss caused in the recent continuous heavy rain and flash floods.

The State youth general secretary PDP, Nadeem Ahmed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

2 die, 5 injured in accidents

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: Two died while five others were injured in different accidents across the Valley.

A police spokesperson said that a School Bus JK03A 1831 hit and injured Gulzar Ahmad Wani at Kadipora, Anantnag. The injured was shifted to SMHS, Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries. Anantnag Police has registered a case in this regard.

Meanwhile, a Maruti car JK04B 7051 hit and injured a pedestrian, Abdul Rehman resident of Lalpora, Tangmarg at Chechloora, Budgam. The injured was shifted to SMHS, Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries. Magam Police has registered a case in this regard.

In another accident, an Alto car JK09 5088 hit and injured 15 years old Tawseef Lateef of Jaggerpora near B.Ed college Drugmulla, Kupwara. The injured was shifted to hospital for treatment. Kupwara Police has registered a case in this regard.

In another accident, a 407 HR 4008 of 73 Bn CRPF hit and injured a pedestrian Irfan Ahmad Beigh of Safakadal, Hospital, Srinagar. The injured has been shifted to Hospital for treatment. Parimpora Police has registered a case in this regard.

Week-long training course in book publishing begins at KU

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: In order to bring in synergy between academia and the publishing houses to give impetus to book publishing and book reading a week-long training course in book publishing, organized jointly by National Book Trust (NBT) and Allama Iqbal Library KU, started here at University of Kashmir.

While inaugurating the course, Vice Chancellor KU, Prof Talat Ahmad said the training course would provide an opportunity to the library professionals and authors to come in contact with the key players in the publishing world across India which will help them in understanding the dynamics involved in the overall process of printing and publishing of books.

Sridhar Balan, Senior Consultant Ratnasagar Private Limited, while speaking on the occasion said that whole idea behind the course was to provide a glimpse to the participants about the opportunities available in the publishing world and the changes it has witnessed with the passage of time in terms of publishing, editing, designing, publicity and printing.

Sumit Bhatnerjee gave an overview of NBT

world of book publishing. Speaking on the occasion, Registrar KU, Prof Zaffar A Reshi said that there has to be a huge quality control in publishing of books and those published in scientific disciplines need factual accuracy so as to avoid any confusion.

Chief Librarian Allama Iqbal Library Dr AM Baba while welcoming the participants and the experts said that during the week-long course, fate of book-reading culture in the electronic age would also be discussed.

A large number of attendants visit the Labour Room daily along with patients to attend them. While no attendants are allowed inside the Labour Room, the people had to wait outside to respond to the call of doctors or para-medical staff for

arranging medicines or other goods required for the patients.

However, the SMGS Hospital administration has not even installed normal benches or chairs outside the Labour Room where the attendants could sit till their patient is discharged or shifted to the Ward.

The attendants have to sit on the floor for hours together. Despite being aware of the problems, the hospital administration has turned a deaf ear towards them.

A large number of workers led by Divisional president of the Daily Wagers Association, Surinder Singh assembled at the Division office Akhnoor

This morning and started protest demonstration. While the Executive Engineer Ashok Kumar Sharma and SE, PHE Jammu had gone with the Minister for PHE, I&FC Sham Lal on the tour, the agitating workers locked four JEs in the office for about 2 hours.

They continued their protest dharna at the Division office and raised slogans against the Minister and Chief Engineer besides SE and Executive Engineer concerned. They alleged that on the eve of Rakshas Bandhan festival they were not paid wages by the department. The workers were facing starvation and had nothing to pay to their sisters on this festive occasion. The senior officers never bother to release their wages in time.

They locked the JEs, Raman Gandotra, Vinay Khajuria, Suresh Sharma and Mahesh Sharma. Executive Engineer Ashok Sharma managed to slip away from office and was told by staff that he had gone with the Minister on tour. Later, SHO Akhnoor rescued the locked Junior Engineers after the condition of one of them (Mr Gandotra) deteriorated as he was already sick. They were locked for nearly two hours inside the office.

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Div Com takes stock of losses due to floods

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Aug 20: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shantmanu today convened a meeting of district officers to take stock of flood losses besides reviewing development works in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner, Ramban briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the damages caused to life and property of the people due to heavy rains and flashfloods. He urged for early release of funds under SDRF for disbursement among the affected families in the district. He also apprised the Divisional Commissioner of dilapidated condition of National Highway from Batote

to Jawahar tunnel requesting him to take up the matter with BRO authorities for necessary repair.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, M.H.Malik, presented the achievements of various departments under various programmes. He also highlighted the problems being faced by various departments like Education, Health, PHE, PWD, BRO, PMGSY, Revenue and RDD in the district.

He also informed him about shortage of staff in different line departments in the district.

The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, appreciated the efforts of the district administration for effectively tackling with the flood situation.

DADAA members call on Director DD Kendra Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: A delegation of Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists Association (DADAA) Jammu called on Director Doordarshan Kendra Jammu Shabir Mujahid and discussed the problems being faced by the artists fraternity in general and Kendra in particular.

The delegation, led by J S Babli, presented a charter of demands to the director highlighting various problems being faced by the artists of Jammu.

The Association impressed upon the director to start In-House serials and telefilms at the earliest and also make series of dramas to be produced in the studio of the DDK Jammu. The director promised to start the same at an earliest.

Association also demanded to telecast the Indian classic telefilms in Dogri with sub titles from DD Kashmir channel and release the pending payments of the artists.

During the discussion the association inquired about the status of the Kendra and the Director apprised that Jammu Doordarshan Kendra is a full-fledged Kendra but the budget in grant is of PGF and not of a Kendra with result he is helpless to produce sufficient programmes to cater the need of the full fledged Kendra. The association assured the director to highlight this problem of budget to the higher authorities through Members of Parliament of Jammu province.

The director also agreed to constitute an advisory committee for DDK Jammu in which three members of DADAA have been included in the committee namely Sandeshvir, Janak Khajuria and Susham Sharma.

The Director gave a patient hearing to the demands of the Association and principally agreed to redress the genuine demands.

The other members of the Association in the deputation included Madan Rangila, Surinder Goel, Arun Bakshi and Uttam Singh.

Attendants of the patients sit on floor outside Labour Room of SMGS Hospital.

SMGS Hospital sans benches outside Labour Room

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: The prestigious SMGS Hospital of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu even didn't have benches outside the Labour Room, where the people had to sit on floor while waiting for attending their patients.

A large number of attendants visit the Labour Room daily along with patients to attend them. While no attendants are allowed inside the Labour Room, the people had to wait outside to respond to the call of doctors or para-medical staff for

Tata Motors launches 'Triple Benefit Insurance' for its range of trucks

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: Tata Motors has launched a new premium 'Triple Benefit Insurance' across its range of M&HCV, ICV & LCV Trucks and Tipper, yet another first from Tata Motors in the Indian commercial vehicle space.

Designed specifically to minimize the financial impact to Tata Motors CV customers, the new premium 'Triple Benefit Insurance' maximizes peace of mind, to the extent of full protection from loss of time and income, caused due to accidents.

In partnership with Iflico-Tokio General Insurance Company, the new premium 'Triple Benefit Insurance' is available under the 'Standard Motor Insurance' policy with 3 specifically designed add-on covers - Depreciation waiver / Zero Depreciation Coverage, New Vehicle Replacement Coverage and Loss of Income/ Vehicle Hire Cost.

Ravi Pisharody, Executive Director, Commercial Vehicles, Tata Motors, said, "We remain committed to listening to our

Court directs Govt to implement decisions on Achan dumping site

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 20: High Court today directed the Government to implement all the decisions taken by it in the Chief Secretary-led meeting on the solid waste management in Achan dumping site in old Srinagar city.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice DS Thakur also directed the Government to file status report about the implementation of the decisions to the court by last week of this month.

Following the High Court order, the Government had convened a meeting of its top officials of SMC, ERA, PCB and other departments and taken several decisions to improve the disposal of solid waste at the site after the residents had filed a petition in the court.

The Government through its Advocate General M I Qadri submitted its report on the decisions taken in the meeting.

The Government informed the court to have taken several

AIPNBEF Central Committee meet at Srinagar on Aug 25-26

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: Central Committee meeting of All India Punjab National Bank

addressing press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Employees Federation (AIPNBEF) will be held at Srinagar on August 25-26 for discussing the national agenda.

This was informed by Malkeet Singh, State general secretary of Punjab National Bank Staff Union while talking to media persons, here today.

"We have finalized all arrangements for holding the Central Committee meeting, which is being held in Srinagar after more than 40 years", he

SRS for immediate release of innocent people

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 20: State president, Shri Ram Sena, Rajiv Mahajan has demanded immediate release of arrested innocent persons during recent Jammu bandh without registering criminal case against them and time bound compensation for the victims of Kishtwar violence.

He demanded further strengthening of VDCs with sophisticated weapons and communication system to maintain peace and people's confidence in remote areas.

Protesting PHE workers lock 4 JEs in office

Excelsior Correspondent

AKHNOOR, Aug 20: The daily wage and consolidated workers of PHE in Akhnoor Division held strong protest demonstration against the higher authorities for not paying their pending wages for the last several months.

A large number of workers led by Divisional president of the Daily Wagers Association, Surinder Singh assembled at the Division office Akhnoor

Middle aged woman found hanging

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Aug 20: A middle aged woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree at village Kanjilie near Dera Baba Banda Bahadur in Reasi.

The deceased was identified as Raj Kour (50) wife of late Surjit Singh of Kanjilie.

She left home for fetching water from a nearby stream but later her body was found hanging with dupatta from a tree on the way. She had apparently committed suicide though Police have started investigation after registering a case in this connection.