

## Ajaz stresses on resolving issues of Pandit migrants

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Minister of State for Revenue, Relief & Rehabilitation, Ajaz Ahmad Khan today directed settling of all issues pertaining to Kashmiri Pandit migrants. Chairing a review meeting of Relief Organisation today, the Minister urged the officers to take up the issues of delay in payment of salaries, seniority disputes, inter district transfers etc on priority and get them resolved immediately. The Minister also directed pacing up of allotments in Jagti Township in favour of such genuine migrants who are living on rented accommodation. He also directed undertaking immediate repair works in the township so that the inhabitants don't face any difficulty.



Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah welcoming Sheikh Ishfaq into party fold at Srinagar on Wednesday.

## Sheikh Ishfaq joins NC, reposes faith in party's leadership, policies

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Prominent political activist and young leader from Ganderbal Sheikh Ishfaq Ahmed Jabbar on Wednesday joined the National Conference in the presence of working president of National Conference Omar Abdullah. Son of late Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, a known political activist and associate of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Ishfaq joined the party along with hundreds of his supporters. Describing his joining National Conference as returning home, Sheikh Ishfaq reposed faith in the policy, programme of National Conference and the vision and ability of its leadership. He said National Conference stands for unity, brotherhood and amity of the three regions of the State and various sections of the society. He said the visionary leadership of young and dynamic leader Omar Abdullah has given new dimension to the policy of National Conference to achieve the goal of Naya Kashmir and political stability and prosperity in the State. He said National Conference has always remained heart-beat of people of the State and enjoys overwhelming support in every area, region of the State. He said the goal of peaceful and prosperous J&K could be achieved if all likeminded and people friendly leaders strengthen National Conference and its leaders. He praised the contribution of National Conference in the socio-economic transformation of the State, saying the party has been pioneer in implementing revolutionary programmes aimed at improving the conditions of the people, especially those living in remote and backward areas. Welcoming Sheikh Ishfaq in National Conference fold, the Working President of National Conference expressed the hope that young Ishfaq would work with enthusiasm and energy to give fillip to the policy programme of the National Conference. Omar further said that his joining will give impetus to the over all development of Ganderbal Constituency. He said that NC will always encourage and support well meaning and young politicians who have the will and determination to work for the people. The Provincial President National Conference Nasir Aslam Wani and various National Conference activists were present on the occasion.

## Div Com takes stock of development activities in Doda

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 DODA, Aug 21: To take onspot assessment of the developmental activities in the district and to review the physical and financial achievements made by various departments under



Div Com Shantmanu chairing District and Sectoral Officers meeting at Doda on Wednesday.

strengthen the functioning of Mid Day meal and ICDS programme in the district. District Development Commissioner Doda, Mubarak Singh presented a detailed account of the physical and financial achievements made by the departments in the District under Annual District Plan 2013-14 and other Centrally sponsored flagship programmes, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Shantmanu today visited Doda and convened a meeting of District and Sectoral Officers. DDC Doda Mubarak Singh, ADDC Doda G.N Balwan, SP Doda Arif Rishu, ADC Doda Anil Koul, besides Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Doda, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Doda, Chief Planning Officer Doda, and other District / Sectoral officers attended the meeting. While reviewing the various developmental activities, Shantmanu directed the executing agencies to redouble their efforts for the time bound completion of the projects. He also took stock of the availability of Doctors and other para-medical staff in the District Hospital Doda and other Sub-District Hospitals of the District. Regarding procurement of CT-Scan machine for the District Hospital Doda, he directed CMO to take up the matter with Director Health so that the machine get procured and installed at the DH Doda which will provide a relief to the poor people of the region who either go to Jammu or Srinagar for the CT-Scan examination. While reviewing the Mid Day meal and ICDS in the district, Shantmanu directed the officers to ensure that good quality food as per rules is being provided to the children for their better and healthy growth and said that those officers who are visiting the field should make surprise inspection of Anganwadi Centres and Schools to check the quality of meal being provided to the children there, which will help to

## KU VC asks Nodal Officers to submit online information on regular basis

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Keeping in tune with the various e-governance initiatives being taken at Kashmir University to bring synergy amongst the various departments, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) today organized a meeting of Nodal Officers to apprise them about the benefits of the submission of all relevant information online on regular basis. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof Talat Ahmad who said that in order to make university really a hub of information and a sound academic institution – all the Nodal Officers have to play their vital role. "Times are changing, so we too have to respond to the positive change to make our institution a real source of knowledge. If you want to see this institution grow leaps and bounds, you have to play your part positively and with commitment," the VC said while addressing the nodal officers of various departments/directorates/centres and institutes of KU. During the meeting the participants/nodal officers were updated about the online submission of AQAR format which has been prepared and designed by the officials of KU's IT Department.

## Lok Adalat settles compensation dispute in Anantnag

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Aug 21: A Lok Adalat in district Anantnag settled disputes of land acquisition between villagers and National Highway Authority of India today and awards worth Rs. 35 crore have been passed in favour of land owners. The disputes were a major stumbling block in the widening of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. Principal District and Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Abdul Rashid Malik, along with other district officials today settled the disputes of land acquisition by National Highway Authority of India with villagers of Shole Wanpora, Sursuna, Kanjigund, Vessu, Baghi Wanpoh, Cheki, Wangund, Sangran Devsar and Shamsipora in a mega Lok Adalat held at Dak Bunglow. The dispute was pending between the two sides for a long time on land measuring 410 kanals of the villagers and a compensation of Rs 35 crore was awarded to them. The Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Collector Land Acquisition, Anantnag and Project Director, National Highway Authority of India also participated in the Lok Adalat. The settlement of the references under the Land Acquisition Act has paved the way for compensation of the projects taken up by the National Highway Authority of India as there will not be any resistance on the part of land owners in view of the settlement of disputes with regard to quantum of compensation. In view of the dispute, the State Government on request of Malik had constituted a high level committee of these officials to settle the dispute. The people had a sigh of relief as otherwise it would have taken more than decade to settle these disputes in the regular courts. The ADR system in the district Anantnag has gained momentum after its inauguration by Supreme Court Justice R.M. Lodha.

## Raksha Bandhan celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety

# BJP women MPs tie Rakhis to jawans at Suchetgarh border

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Aug 21: The security men deployed on India-Pakistan borders celebrated Raksha Bandhan in a very unique and special way



A view of Raksha Bandhan celebrations at Bal Ashram Ved Mandir & BJP MPs tying Rakhis to BSF jawans at Suchetgarh border on Wednesday.

continue to perform their duties on the borders to safeguard their country men and enable them to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with their families while they themselves are thousands of miles away from their own families. She said this is most memorable Raksha Bandhan festival she has celebrated and enjoyed till date. Saroj Pandey said that the prevailing situation in the border State of Jammu & Kashmir is a matter of grave concern as there is escalation in cross border intrusions from Pakistan and China due to the weak politics amid religious fervour and traditional rituals, sisters tied rakhis to their brothers across Jammu region. Temples witnessed heavy rush of people who thronged in huge numbers, seeking blessings of Lord Shiva on the auspicious occasion of Shraavan Purnima. All markets and bazaars in the city witnessed a flurry of activity with colourful display on the foreheads and then tied the Rakhi on the hand of their brothers. New Rakhis, especially designed as Chota Bhim, Doreamon, Pokemon and other cartoon characters, remained first choice for the kids celebrating the festival. Meanwhile, kite flying-one of the oldest rituals in the Winter Capital on the occasion, also remained the highlight of the day. On borders, school children celebrated the festival with jawans guarding the border, who were away from their families. Raksha Bandhan festival was celebrated at District. Jail Udhampur as the Director General of Prisons, J&K had desired to celebrate this festival in the State jails among the jail inmates so that the jail inmates may realize that no doubt they are staying within the four walls but are not isolated from the society. All the Jail inmates & Jail staff participated in the said function. Sweets were distributed among, the Jail inmates, Jail staff, CRPF staff and guests. Bushan Lal Bali, Superintendent District Jail Udhampur presented vote of thanks. Committee constituted to explore possibility of more Old Age Homes

## NPP protests against Govt's negligence towards rains, floods affected people

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Aug 21: National Panthers Party (NPP) today held demonstration against the negligence shown by the Government in dealing with the crises like situation created in the wake of recent incessant rains and floods. The activists and leaders of NPP led by Harshdev Singh, Chairman, NPP and MLA assembled outside Raj Bhawan and raised slogans against the Government. While speaking, Harshdev Singh lambasted the Government for excluding rainfall from the purview of natural calamities. He expressed grave concern over the incessant rains that have wrought havoc in the State and claimed several lives besides causing colossal damage to property, houses, water and power infrastructure as also the standing crops. Singh called upon the Government to immediately press into service the helicopter facility so that the severely injured could be evacuated and timely medical aid be provided to them. He called upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners and tehsil administration to open the Panchayat ghars, community halls, Dak Bungalows, Forest and other guest houses in the concerned vil-

## Diploma Engineers highlight demands

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Aug 21: All J&K Diploma Engineers Association held a meeting under the chairmanship of its ex-general secretary SC Goswami, which was attended by hundreds of Diploma Engineers from various departments. While speaking, Upinder Singh demanded release of pending 85 numbers of posts of Junior Engineer Grade-I of Mechanical wing which already stand sanctioned. Narinder Singh demanded implementation of promotion list of Diploma Engineers from JE to AE of Mechanical Department issued in 2010. Arunesh Sharma urged the Government to promote Diploma Engineers at par with degree holder as the recruitment of these engineers has been made on merit basis. Among others present were Ayudhia Kumar, ex-president, AJKDEA, Dheeraj Khajuria, Vijay Sharma, Mushtaq Ahmed, Rajesh Sharma, VRD Bali, Tanvir Wani, etc.

## Committee constituted to explore possibility of more Old Age Homes

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Aug 21: In compliance to the directions of High Court, the Government has constituted a committee to explore the possibility of establishing Old Age Homes in the districts other than Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur. Chief Secretary is the Chairman of the Committee while as Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department and Secretary, Social Welfare Department are its members. The committee will submit its report within 15 days. The High Court in a PIL titled Viklang Chhatra Trust Versus State and Others had asked the Government to explore the possibility of Old Age Homes in the districts of the State other than Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur.

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