



Minister for PHE, Sham Lal Sharma chairing meeting of DDB at Kathua on Thursday.

Annual plan approved for Kathua

Providing better civic amenities in hilly, Kandi areas Govt's priority: Sham

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 4: The District Development Board Kathua which met here today under the chairmanship of Minister for PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Sham Lal Sharma approved Rs.107.70.15 lakhs District Plan for the current financial year. The plan includes Rs.6401.03 lakhs as capital component Rs.4369.12 lakhs as the revenue component.

Minister of State (Independent charge) Cooperative, Stationery and Printing & Election MoS Planning, Finance, Information technology, Science and Technology, Industries and Commerce and Higher Education Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Member Parliament Doda-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency Ch. Lal Singh, Vice Chairman Schedule Caste Advisory Board Swam Lata, Vice Chairman Gujjar Bakewell Advisory Board Choudhary Bashir Ahmed Naaz, Vice Chairman OBC Kuldeep Raj Verma, MLA Kathua Charanjit Singh, MLA Basohli Jagdish Raj Sapolia, MLA Hiranagar Durga Dass, MLA Bani Lal Chand, MLC Sham Lal, MLC Subash Gupta, and heads of various departments and District officers were present in the meeting.

Chairman while reviewing the performance of various departments directed the officers to ensure that the funds earmarked for different schemes are fully utilized. He said that it should be our

endeavour to ensure that the benefit of these scheme reach the target populace. He said that they should also work in close coordination and synergy so that the bottlenecks if any can be removed and the schemes are implemented within the shortest possible time.

Chairman stressed on the conservation and preservation of water bodies so as to contain the falling water table and said that our main focus in this regard should be the preservation of ponds as water conservation holds the key for the development of any area.

In this regard, he stressed for improvement of PHE and Irrigation facility in the Kathua District, particularly in Kandi, hilly and water stressed areas. He directed concerned Engineers to conceive WSS and irrigation projects in the district in consultation with public representatives. He further directed the officers to fix targets as per the proposed outlay in the Annual Plan, so that the targets are achieved in full adding that area specific planning and implementation of schemes is vital for development.

He also took serious view in relation to the shortfalls in the achievement of the targets of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and said that these schemes should be executed efficiently to provide immediate benefit to the people.

District Development Commissioner, Kathua Jitendra K Singh gave a detailed resume of the achievements of last year's plan through power point presentation.

Take up Jammu-Poonch railway line work: Ex-MP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 4: Former Member Parliament and senior vice president of Pradesh Congress Committee, Dharam Paul Sharma met the Union Railway Minister, Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on Wednesday and demanded early start of construction of railway line from Jammu to Poonch via Akhnoor.

During a meeting with the Union Railway Minister, the former MP from Congress disclosed that railway line from Jammu and Poonch via Akhnoor has already been sanctioned by the Union Government. He said with this project, the people from twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri besides armed forces will be benefitted in big way.

Mr Sharma also asked the Railway Minister to start train from Udhampur to Katra Mata

Vaishnodevi as the construction of track has already been completed. He further requested Mr Mallikarjun to take up work on rail link between Katra and Banihal on priority basis so that Kashmir is connected with the rest of the country through Railways.

The Congress leader congratulated the Union Railway Minister for connecting Banihal with Kashmir valley through railway line, which was inaugurated on June 26, 2013 by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh himself in presence of UPA chairperson and Congress president Sonia Gandhi. The Railway Minister assured Mr Sharma that his suggestions are already on the top priority of the Central Government and Railway Minister will try their best to complete the remaining rail line work to Kashmir in time.

J&K bags 3 awards for best health indicators

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 4: The Jammu and Kashmir has bagged 3 awards for best indicators in categories of population stabilization, outpatient services and indoor and surgical services in the country.

The announcement in this regard was made today by Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NRHM, MoH & FW, GoI, Anuradha Gupta at the concluding day of National Summit

Governor, CM greet people on Gurupurav

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 4: Governor N. N. Vohra and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today greeted the people on the birth anniversary of Guru Hargobindji and expressed sincere hope that the celebration of this auspicious day would strengthen the bonds of amity, harmony and brotherhood and be a harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in the State.

In the message of felicitations, the Governor and the CM observed that Guru Hargobindji's noble example of selfless service, based on high values of righteousness, truth and love, is more relevant today than at any time in the past.

They prayed for the well-being of the people of the State.

on 'Best Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare' held at SKICC.

The National Summit was organized by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), in which senior officers from MoH & FW, Government of India, World Health Organization, UNFPA, Principal/Commissioner Secretaries Health and Mission Directors from various States participated.

During the summit States across India presented their best practices and innovations in public healthcare and thereby provided an opportunity for sharing and learning from each other and broaden the horizon to take the National Rural Health Mission forward with enhanced enthusiasm.

In the concluding session today the Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NRHM, MoH&FW, GoI declared State awards for best health indicators in categories of child survival, infant survival, newborn survival, population stabilization, safe delivery, indoor & surgical services, out-patient services, malaria control & TB control.

J&K State bagged first prize in Population Stabilization, Second Prize in Out-Patient Services & Third Prize in the category of Indoor & Surgical Services.

The Maximum awards were bagged by Bihar (5) followed by Maharashtra, Odhisa & Assam (4 each), J&K, Chandigarh, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Rajasthan (3 each).



American-Mexican cuisine put on display at Hotel Asia on Thursday.

Hotel Asia promoting Tex Mex American-Mexican cuisine

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 4: Hotel Asia Jammu is all set to add some unique and new flavour for Jammuites as it is promoting

'Tex Mex' American Mexican cuisine at its prestigious restaurant "Yangtze" and its chefs are ready for the job.

The general manager of Hotel Asia, D N Chauthan said, "We have always been trying to introduce international cuisines for the elite of Jammu and have already done such type of food festivals previously also".

"Tex Mex" cuisine is one of the most popular cuisine of the world as per executive chef Naresh Dabral of Hotel Asia. The term Tex Mex describes the culinary creations of Mexican Americans influenced by Mexican cuisine.

Tex Mex cuisine is characterized by its heavy use of flour tortilla, corn tortilla, Mexican rice, shredded cheese, sour cream, meat, chicken, beans, Jalapeno chili, cayenne pepper, paprika powder, cumin powder and cajun spices and lot of garden fresh vegetables which are ready to tickle your taste buds with cheesy, creamy, crunchy, spice tangy and spice sweet and sour taste.

Tex Mex specialty chef Arvind Saklani told, "we are serving here selective dishes of Texas style chicken tenderloin, chicken wings, lamb streak to Mexican bean nachos, Chimichangas, tacos, burritos, enchiladas and quesadillas to chicken Veracruz, chili con carne and many more of Tex-Mex inventions.

Hotel Asia has also come up with newly renovated rooms with new décor and new looks.



Advisor to Chief Minister, Qamar Ali Akhoun and others visiting the KU Campus in Kargil.

Akhoun chairs high level meeting to discuss KU Campus in Kargil

Excelsior Correspondent

SHOTOPA (KARGIL), July 4: To discuss the design and drawing of the upcoming Kashmir University Campus at Kargil, a high-level meeting of the University officials and Ladakh Hill Development Council Kargil was held under the chairmanship of the Advisor to CM Qamar Ali Akhoun.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC Kargil Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University Prof Talat Ahmad, Executive Councilors, MLC Kargil, Councilors and other district officers and officials of the KU.

With the help of a power point presentation the meeting was informed and explained about the design and new technology used for constructing the Campus. The meeting was also informed that from the next session classes will begin in the already provided accommoda-

tions. Prof Talat Ahmad directed the university authorities to repair the existing building for making them useable for the new session. The Advisor to CM and the CEC appraised the design for keeping in view the climatic conditions of the area and asked the designer to use latest solar passive technique to make the building warm.

Later Qamar Ali Akhoun along with Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan and Prof Talat Ahmad visited the Campus site and inspected the ongoing constructions.

On this occasion it was informed that in the first phase five blocks will be constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 25 crore and the total job is divided into three phases and the campus will be equipped with all latest technology and gadgets.

Meanwhile Advisor to CM and CEC also visited Jawahar Novodaya Vidyalaya and Gramthang Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Shifting of stands by CM on AFSPA a mockery: PDP

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 4: Expressing abject dismay at the Chief Minister's disowning the case related to the killing of two youth in Markandal near Sonawari, People's Democratic Party (PDP) today said Omar Abdullah couldn't claim to be the Chief Minister and yet wash his hands off innocent blood spilled in the State.

In a statement issued here, PDP chief spokesperson, Naem Akhtar said the Chief Minister has taken the unusual mix of his arrogance and incompetence to the next level after having expressed his helplessness, in April this year, on the floor of the House over a similar incident in Baramulla.

"By asking the newsmen to inquire from Army about the status of investigation into the killing of Sonawari youth, Omar has not just conveyed his abdication of responsibility, but has insulted the chair he is occupying," Akhtar said.

He said the Chief Minister should instead of pleading helplessness have set example of probity by taking action against those involved in killings over last 5 years and cannot claim impunity

under AFSPA. PDP spokesperson said the shifting stands on the revocation of AFSPA have reduced the Chief Minister's position to a mockery of the system.

He said the latest observation of Chief Minister, "I won't talk about AFSPA right now" indicates that he (CM) has finally given up on it."

"It is now obvious from his (CM)'s Wednesday's remarks that he has related the issue of fundamental rights to events that can generally be attributed to the disastrous governance that Omar has presided over during last five years," Akhtar said adding "he continued to raise AFSPA as slogan to cover his failure on every front and has apparently dumped it for good now."

Reiterating PDP's stance on the draconian laws like AFSPA, Akhtar said their revocation was a prerequisite to any progress on the political resolution of J&K problem.

He said the PDP would continue its struggle with the support of people for the restoration of civil liberties and fundamental rights in the State as were available to people in rest of the country.

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