

## Constitute officers' team to monitor central schemes: Taj

Excelsior Correspondent

KUPWARA, June 29: Minister for Medical Education, Youth Services & Sports, Taj Mohi-ud-Din, who is also the chairman of District Development Board, today directed to constitute a team of officers to monitor the execution of centrally sponsored schemes in Kupwara district.

Chairing a meeting of the Board here today, the Minister asked the team to submit monthly progress reports about the efficient implementation of these schemes in the district to him.

The Minister said every sector of development in the State has Centrally Sponsored schemes like MGNREGA, NBA and IAY in Rural Development, NRHM in Health, AIBP in Irrigation, SSA, RMSA and MDM in Education, RGGVY in Power, RKVY in Agriculture, JNNURM in Urban Development etc. and if these schemes are executed effectively and within the timeline, nothing else is needed to achieve exemplary growth and development for the State. He said there is no paucity of funds in these schemes and many schemes like MGNREGA are demand driven. What is needed is dedication and resolve to implement these schemes on the ground and maximize benefits to people, he observed.

Mr. Taj impressed upon the officers to utilize funds judiciously and complete all the ongoing projects within the stipulated time frame. He also asked the concerned officers to study in depth the core objectives of these schemes and go as per the guidelines so that they don't have any problems while executing these schemes.

Earlier, the District Development Commissioner, Kupwara Itrat Hussain Rafiqi gave a resume of the developmental activities in the district. He informed that last year's Annual District Plan was of a size of Rs. 106.12 crore of which 94.90 per cent was expended.

The Annual Plan for 2013-14 for the District was approved for an amount of Rs. 113.23 crore by the District Development Board.

Earlier, members projected their demands and sought their redressal.

Minister for Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution, Ch. Mohammad Ramzan, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Saifulah, Chairman, Pahari Advisory Board, Kafil ur Rehman, MLA, Langate, Er. Abdul Rashid, several HoDs, district & sectoral officers were present in the meeting.

## GOC reviews security in Poonch-Rajouri

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 29: The Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo) organised a meeting at Sector headquarters, Potha to take stock of the prevailing security situation in the area and chalk out a joint strategy to keep the twin districts free of terrorist incidents, today.

The meeting chaired by General Officer Commanding, Romeo Force, was attended by Anwar Hussain, ADDC Poonch, Shamsheer Hussain SSP Poonch, Mubassir Latifi, SSP Rajouri, representatives of Police and Civil Administration of Rajouri & Poonch Districts and representatives of various security and intelligence agencies.

In his address, the General Officer Commanding said that he was satisfied with the efforts of the civil administrations, police and security agencies and appreciated their efforts to keep the area peaceful and conducive for the development of the twin districts. He further said that everybody needs to be focused and synergised efforts at all level are required to keep the internal security situation to the expectations of the people.

SSP Poonch and Rajouri gave the latest update on the prevailing security situation in the twin districts. They appraised the gathering about the steps initiated to maintain the confidence of the people. In view of the forthcoming important events like Budha Amarnath yatra and role of different agencies were also discussed.

The participants expressed their views on improving the prevailing security situation and the measures to be adopted to keep the area free of terrorist incidents in Rajouri and Poonch. The entire administration, police and security forces are geared up to ensure that no untoward incident takes place. The General Officer Commanding thanked everyone for their valuable contribution and assured the participants of the commitment of the Security Forces towards maintaining peace.

## Appeal for rectifying BSNL services

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, YV Sharma today expressed strong resentment and anguish over the deteriorating services of BSNL Mobile facility and appealed the BSNL Management to make the services efficient and subscriber friendly.

"It is very unfortunate that even after the continuous efforts it is difficult to get the desired number due to technical snags, weak signal and congestion. Often the running call gets disconnected and the number becomes out of reach", he said.

Despite the fact that the BSNL has largest number of consumers due to old confidence and being first service provider, the premier Mobile service provider has become complacent about its working, he lamented and added that other operators are providing better services than the services being provided by the BSNL.

"We strongly register our protest with the service providers, as it became well high impossible for BSNL users to carry on the day today activities with deteriorating service. Defective service with this regard can cause medical problems to the users of this service", he said, adding the immediate rectification of this service is highly desirable.

## Khursheed acclaims Kashmir beauty

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Salman Khursheed today acclaimed the beauty of Kashmir, saying that its lush green meadows surrounded by majestic mountains with fresh lakes captivates every one and motivates us to visit this paradise on earth again and again. He underscored the need for concerted efforts by the Government and civil society to preserve the rich environs of the serene spots and water bodies.

Expressing his ideas during his motor boat ride in world famous Dal and Nigeen lakes here last evening, Khursheed appreciated the efforts of the State Government for exploring virgin spots besides preserving the rich environs of water bodies especially Dal and Nigeen lakes which receive first attention of the tourists during their visit to the Valley.

Minister for Tourism, Ghulam Ahmad Mir appraised the Union Minister about the measures taken by State Government for promotion of tourism in the State. He said State Government has identified and developed new virgin spots like Yusmarg, Doodpathri, Gurez, Lolab Bungus where concerted effort is being made to create tourist related infrastructure.

The Tourism Minister apprised him that State Government has also launched a vigorous promotional campaign in and outside the country to attract the tourists to these spots apart from world famous Gulmarg, Pahalgam like tourist destinations.

Mr. Mir said that State's rich adventure tourism potential is being explored through various activities like water sports, heli-skiing, skiing, para-gilding, Gondola riding, mountain trekking and many more, adding that golf tourism is also being promoted in the State by developing new golf courses like Sidhra Golf Course Jammu, Leh Golf Course, Gulmarg and Pahalgam golf Courses.

## J&K Bank donates van for special children

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: J&K Bank under its Platinum Jubilee initiative donated a school van to J&K Voluntary Medicare Society, a medico-socio non-governmental organization pursuing the cause of special children, which runs Shafiqat School in Bemina area.

Mushtaq Ahmed, Chairman and CEO, J&K Bank handed over the keys of the Omni van to Dr Mir Mohammad Iqbal, president of the society in presence of Abdul Hamid Bandy, Bank's Executive President and Abdul Rauf Bhat, president in a function held at Bank's corporate headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman described the initiative as a part of Bank's endeavor to contribute towards education and rehabilitation of the special children.

To ensure that such children do not become a burden on their parents and society, they are laying special emphasis on their education and rehabilitation by employing innovative and interventionist approach to ensure maximization of returns, he added.

Bank has partnered with the society for sponsoring education and rehabilitation of twenty five specially-abled children coming from poor economic background, Ahmed informed.

The Bank's financial assistance covers tuition fee, uniform, physiotherapy, speech therapy, transportation and all other related expenditure on their education and rehabilitation.



Usha Vohra and Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo felicitating children at GMC Hall at Srinagar on Saturday.

## Raahat Ghar celebrates Annual Day of Guild for Service

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: The Raahat Ghar, Zakura, Srinagar, run by the Guild for Service, New Delhi, celebrated its Annual Day at the Government Medical College Hall, Karan Nagar, here this evening.

Usha Vohra, First Lady, was the chief guest and Sakina Itoo, Minister for Social Welfare, was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the First Lady lauded the efforts of the Guild for Service and for running the Raahat Ghar for the rehabilitation of orphans and destitute women. She observed that the confidence displayed by the children who put up the variety programme indicates that they are balanced young girls who are happy with whatever they are doing. She added that this also demonstrates that Raahat Ghar, besides meeting their food, shelter, educational and other requirements, has also contributed to their psychological rehabilitation. In this context, she lauded the excellent initiatives of Dr. Mohini Giri and Dr. Girija Dhar and their missionary devotion to the welfare of destitute children and women.

The First Lady said that the Governor has desired to visit Raahat Ghar and discuss its requirements with Dr. Dhar.

The First Lady felicitated the children for achieving academic excellence and the staff for working with dedication.

Dr. Mohini Giri honoured the First Lady and Ms. Itoo by presenting them mementos on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sakina Itoo appreciated the valuable work done by Raahat Ghar for the rehabilitation of orphans and making all out efforts to enable them to stand on their own feet. She assured all possible support to Raahat Ghar in its initiatives.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Dr. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, Guild for Service, dwelt on the activities of her organization.

Dr. Girija Dhar, Chairperson, Raahat Ghar, Srinagar, presented a brief history of the evolution and activities of the Raahat Ghar.

## Academy announces Annual Drama Festival awards

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today announced the awards for the Annual Drama Festival held at Government College for Women, MA Road, Srinagar from 3rd to 11 June, 2013.

As recommended by the adjudicating jury, the Best Production Award has gone to "Rath Vandai Malinyo" of Kalidas Theatre Group, while as Ayash Arif has bagged the Best Director Award for the same production. Reshi Bano, Sana-Ullah Khan, Rashid and Shafia have bagged the Best Actor awards in male and female categories, respectively for their roles in "Phir Thur" and "Rath Vandai Malinyo".

"Phir Thur" of Roshan Art Centre has also bagged the Best Music and Best Lighting awards while as Best Costumes Award has gone to "Rath Vandai Malinyo" of Kalidas Theatre Group. Irfan Shah and Hihal Shah have jointly bagged the Best Child Artist Award for their role in "Nyay" of Wahab Dramatic Club.

"Phir Thur" has also bagged the Second Best Production and Direction Awards and Tariq Ahmad Wani has received the Second Best Actor award in male category for his role in the same presentation. Second Best Costume and Second Best Music Awards have gone to Dilshad Cultural Forum for "Pagah Sholi Dunyah" and Wahab Dramatic Club for "Nyay", respectively.

Shamima Khushbu, Arshad Bano, Sana-Ullah Khan, Rajinder Tickoo and Khadim Wali have been given the certificates of merit for acting.

The jury comprised Mushtaq Kak, Showkat Shehri and Mushtaq Ali Ahmad.

Congratulating the winning artists, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Khalid Bashir Ahmad, hoped that the awards would encourage them to strive for further excellence.



Admission seekers searching their name in cut-off merit list displayed by city colleges on Saturday.

## City colleges release first cut-off merit lists for fresh admissions

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: The Government Degree Colleges in Jammu city today released first cut-off merit lists for fresh admissions in Part-I, three year degree courses in various combinations.

Heavy rush of admission seekers was witnessed in these colleges since morning for confirming their name in the merit lists, which were displayed on the notice board in the respective colleges.

Bio-Technology and Computer Applications were most sought after subjects as cut-off percentage in these subjects was higher.

At Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Computer Application registered highest cut off (85 percent). It

## Teenager jumps into Tawi river, survives

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: A teenaged girl hailing from Talab Tillo allegedly attempted suicide by jumping from the bridge into Tawi river.

As per reports, 19-year-old Gunjan Jamwal, daughter of Ramesh Jamwal, resident of Talab Tillo, allegedly attempted suicide by jumping from the bridge into Tawi river.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot and shifted her to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where her condition was stated to be out of danger, when last reports came in.

A case has been registered and investigation started to ascertain the reason behind such extreme step.

was followed by Bio-Technology (82.2 percent), Geography (82 percent), Functional English and BCA (78 percent) and Electronics (75.4 percent).

Botany had the lowest cut-off (56 percent) while the combination of Physics, Chemistry and Math (PCM) registered 63.2 percent cut off.

For admission in Government College for Women, Parade, the cut-off-merit in BCA was 72.80 while Medical and Non-Medical registered 72.4 percent and 66 percent cut-off merit, respectively. For B Com and BA, the cut-off merit was 62.8 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

In MAM College, the cut-off percentage for admission in Computer Applications, Non-Medical (PCM) and Arts was 59.4, 56.4 and 45, respectively. The combination of Geology, Geography and Chemistry registered 54.6 percent cut-off while Geology, Geography and Math combination registered 63.8 percent cut-off.

At GCW Gandhi Nagar, highest cut-off merit was registered by the Bio Technology (89.4 percent), which was followed by Geography (75 percent). Food Science (73 percent), PCB (72 percent), English Honors (70.8 percent), Commerce (69.6 percent), Statistics (67 percent), PCM (63 percent), Sociology (50 percent) and Arts (47 percent).

The cut-off percentage for admission in SPMR College for Commerce was 60.

The eligible candidates, who fall in the merit list, can apply for admission from Monday onwards while the second cut-off list by the colleges will be released on July 3.

## Dr Jitendra's rejoinder to Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Retorting in the same vein to Omar Abdullah's sarcastic Tweet asking LK Advani to devote some Blog space to explain his "silence" on Article 370 between 1998 and 2004 when he (Advani) was in the Government, BJP National Executive Member & J&K Chief Spokesperson Dr Jitendra Singh said the answer is very simple that Advani was a part of a multi-party coalition NDA Government of which Omar Abdullah was also a part and the BJP did not have sufficient numbers to do anything about Article 370.

In the same phraseology as used by Omar in his Tweet, Dr Jitendra Singh went on to say, now it is Omar's turn to devote some Twitter space to explain Sheikh Abdullah's "silence" on "Autonomy" between 1975 and 1983 when he was Chief Minister of J&K with absolute majority and full Congress support in the State Legislative Assembly.

Dr Jitendra Singh said abrogation of Article 370 is BJP's consistent stand unlike NC which ranks up "Autonomy" only when out of power or when fearing loss of power. That is why, he said this time in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections we are going to people to seek absolute majority for the BJP so that we can pursue our avowed objective for abrogation of Article 370. And if BJP manages to come to power on its own, our experience tells us that fringe regional parties like NC will automatically join us, he quipped.

About Omar Abdullah's Tweet seeking to learn from Advani's "wisdom" about the Constitutional mechanism to repeal Article 370, Dr Jitendra Singh said Omar will have to study the Constitution of India to learn that there is already a Constitutional mechanism in place which was formulated by the collective "wisdom" of the makers of Constitution none of whom belonged to BJP or Jan Sangh which was not even born at that time.

Dr Jitendra Singh went on to say that if Omar Abdullah sincerely wants to make himself further "wiser" on the issue of Article 370, he is welcome to engage himself in an open public debate with us and allow the people to judge who stands where. Twitter is too subjective and unilateral a medium for a fair bilateral debate, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said "We are ready for an open public debate with facts, figures and evidence to prove that Article 370 has done more harm than good to the people of State including those of Kashmir valley."

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