

Dr Jitendra briefed about proposed Film City in Sikkim

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh was briefed here today



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh being briefed about the proposed Film City in Sikkim, on Wednesday.

about the proposed Film City in Sikkim by a team of senior officers of the State Government of Sikkim including Chairperson, Sikkim Film Promotion Board, Department of Information, Pooja Sharma and Resident Commissioner, Ashwani Kumar Chand.

As per the proposal, the Government of Sikkim has

decided to set up a Film City Complex in the vicinity of the capital city of Gangtok in an area measuring over 10 acres. The Film City Complex envisages an Acting School, different kinds of Film Sets as well as Artificial Sets, Ramps for fashion events, Miniplex Cinema, Amphi Theatre, Mobile Theatre,

Concert Halls, Recreation Park, Editing Studios, Sound Studios, etc. Appreciating the initiative taken by the State Government, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Sikkim, like Kashmir, has picturesque locations to offer for film shooting. He said, the versatility of Sikkim's scenic beauty has attracted Film makers right

from the beginning and leading film personalities like Dev Anand preferred Sikkim as one of the favourite locations and had gone to the extent of shooting the maximum portion of the blockbuster all-time hit "Jewel Thief" in Sikkim.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, several desirable locations in Northeast, particularly in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, have remained under-utilised because of lack of infrastructure and lack of provision to place the required equipment. He said, the Modi government has sanctioned a Film and Television Institute for Arunachal Pradesh and with the coming up of a Film City in Sikkim, it will be possible to overcome the shortcomings which discouraged Filmmakers to use these locations even when they were willing to do so.

Not only this, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, movies shot at domestic locations instead of foreign locations, can help introduce the audience across the country to the diversity and unique features of different locations in India. This does not only help boost the domestic tourism within the country by showcasing attractive destinations which are in no way less than the European destinations, but it also helps to serve the cause of "Vocal for Local", he said.



DDC Rajesh K Shavan inspecting developmental work in Rajouri.

DDC Rajouri conducts whirlwind tour to inspect development works

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 20: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Rajesh K. Shavan, today conducted a day long tour of the district and inspected physical and financial progress on a number of developmental works.

The DDC inspected the progress on Government Medical College coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 139 crore including Rs 69 crore for the Academic Block, Rs 40 crore for the Administrative block and Rs 30 crores for other allied works.

The DDC was informed that the work on both the blocks and the approach road to GMC would be completed by February end this year and that on Hostel and residential building the following month.

He asked the executing agencies to expedite the work to meet the set deadlines.

While inspecting the double-laning of Abdullah Bridge with a total length of 120 meters, the DDC was informed that the project has been approved under languishing scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 4.78 crore. The DDC asked the concerned authorities to speed up the work on the project to ensure its time bound completion so that the

issue of traffic jam in the town can be addressed.

Officers from the Border Roads Organisation, at the Rajouri-Thanamandi road, apprised the DDC about the status of works. They assured that all the works would be completed by January 2023. The DDC also took notice of some land acquisition issues and directed that concerned authorities to make the road motorable at the earliest for the convenience of the public.

During his visit to One Stop Centre, he reviewed its functioning and spoke to its Administrator OSC, Nitu Sharma. She apprised the former about a number of issues being faced by the centre to which the DDC assured early action.

Officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Sher Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; District Statistical & Evaluation Officer, Bilal Rashid Mir; Deputy Director GMC Planning, Tilak Raj; District Social Welfare Officer, Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt; District Information Officer, Narinder Kumar; Executive Engineer PWD Rajouri, Mohd Zubair and other concerned engineers from PWD accompanied the DDC during the tour.

DC Kishtwar orders arrest of contractor for non-performance

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Jan 20: District Development Commissioner, Ashok Sharma, today ordered arrest of a private contractor working on Machail road for dismal performance on the road despite repeated warnings.

Responding to the complaint of the locals, during weekly Block Diwas proceedings at Gulab Garh Paddar, he said strict action will be taken against all the erring contractors and executing agencies who are not performing well or who are hampering the pace of developmental works in the district.

The DDC chaired the weekly Block Diwas to redress the grievances of the people at their door steps.

He was accompanied by BDC Chairman Arpan Singh Rana; SDM Paddar, Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACD Kishtwar, Kishore Singh Katoch; DDC member, Hari Krishna; BDO Paddar, Din Mohd Affaqi; ALC Kishtwar Anoop Kumar; DSWO Kishtwar, Tariq Parveez Qazi; CEO Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar; CMO Dr R.S Manhas; Tehsildar Atholi, Major Singh; XENs other district and sectoral officers.

During the programme delegations led by PRI members apprised the DC about their demands/issues. They demanded speedy completion of Machail road, electrification of left out hamlets of Kabbani Panchayat, establishment of PHC at Machail, construction of bridge at Dangail and Hamouri, shifting of transformer at laiyeh, Construction of Hanswar water reservoir, functioning of Bank branch at Affani, revision of com-

pensation rate of land acquired for Karthai HEP, augmentation of water supply at Atholi, repair of Kund Pohali bridge, establishment of health centre at Kabbani, timely completion of Garh Kukardran road, disparity in electricity billing, shortage of staff at PHC Massu, holding of awareness camps by departments, among others.

Besides the sarpanchs of Chitto, Ishtiyari and Gandhari Panchayats raised the issue of providing tele-communication facility, shortage of staff at HS Sohal, timely completion of the Panchayat Ghar Sohal, restoration of irrigation canal at Sohal, Electrification of left out villages of Panchayat Sohal besides providing of solar lights to snow bound areas, providing of water facility to Tun and provision of girls Hostel for students of far flung areas at Atholi among others.

The BDC chairperson highlighted the general issues like the nonfunctioning of various departments due to the shortage of staff and field line functionaries, establishment of Red Cross unit at Paddar and sluggish progress on Chitto road.

After listening to the grievances of the people, the DC redressed many grievances on the spot by passing slew of directions to the concerned.

Regarding the construction of Bridge at Hamouri and Dangail, he directed the DFO Kishtwar to do the need full. He further informed the masses that notices have been issued to the executing agencies and contractors who have shown poor performance in execution of works allotted to them.

from the beginning and leading film personalities like Dev Anand preferred Sikkim as one of the favourite locations and had gone to the extent of shooting the maximum portion of the blockbuster all-time hit "Jewel Thief" in Sikkim.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, several desirable locations in Northeast, particularly in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, have remained under-utilised because of lack of infrastructure and lack of provision to place the required equipment. He said, the Modi government has sanctioned a Film and Television Institute for Arunachal Pradesh and with the coming up of a Film City in Sikkim, it will be possible to overcome the shortcomings which discouraged Filmmakers to use these locations even when they were willing to do so.

Not only this, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, movies shot at domestic locations instead of foreign locations, can help introduce the audience across the country to the diversity and unique features of different locations in India. This does not only help boost the domestic tourism within the country by showcasing attractive destinations which are in no way less than the European destinations, but it also helps to serve the cause of "Vocal for Local", he said.

PAGD deceived Kashmiris, BJP only binding force in J&K: Bali Bhagat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 20: The already deflated balloon of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has now been punctured with People's Conference chief Sajjad Lone deciding to quit the alliance, former Minister and senior BJP leader, Bali Bhagat said here,



Former Minister, Bali Bhagat at a training camp at Marh Mandal on Wednesday.

today.

Asserting that the regional parties of Valley comprising National Conference, (NC) People's Democratic Party (PDP) and CPI(M) among others had joined hands to fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party Government, he said the PAGD has yet again deceived the people of Kashmir.

"The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration was set up in Jammu and Kashmir only to stop Bharatiya Janata Party. They selfishly lied to the public of Kashmir. They bagged their votes and have now started getting separated," the senior BJP leader said while addressing the party workers at a training camp at Marh Mandal.

"The PAGD always had so many mutual differences and that in their ideologies that the Alliance was never to last. The DDC election results proved that the alliance was much weaker despite the coming together of six major parties. With Sajjad Lone leaving, the Alliance is

PM releases Rs 2,691 cr for PMAY-G beneficiaries

LUCKNOW, Jan 20:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lashed out at previous Governments, saying the poor had to bear the brunt of their "wrong" policies and intentions. He also said the poor people



never believed in the past that the Government will help them get a roof above their heads.

"Their (previous Governments) policies were wrong and the poor had to bear the brunt of their wrong intentions," he said while releasing financial assistance of Rs 2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

The prime minister specifically criticised the state's previous Samajwadi Party Government for its alleged failure to take advantage of the Prime Minister Awas Yojna (Gramin) after its launch in 2016.

"When we brought the PMAY-G in 2016, the Government here,

which you all removed, despite our repeated requests did not provide the names of beneficiaries," said Prime Minister Modi.

"We were ready to provide funds but all requests, letters in this regard were ignored. This behaviour of the Government of that



time has not been forgotten by the poor," he added, in his 30-minute speech through video conferencing.

"The poor did not believe that the Government could help them in constructing houses. What kind of houses were made by earlier Governments is known to all. It was because of the wrong policies. But, it was the poor who had to bear the brunt in the name of destiny," the prime minister rued.

Modi also praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the "all-round development" in the state and "speedy implementation of Central schemes", saying it has given it a "new identity".

"In the past four years, the manner in which the Central Government schemes have been implemented and provided momentum has given a new identity to the state," the prime minister said.

"On one hand it is strictness

Crisis like situation in Kashmir due to unavailability of basic amenities: NC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 20: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today expressed dismay over the paucity of essentials in Kashmir division saying the administration seems to have turned blind eye to the woes of people.

In a joint statement party senior leader Abdul Rahim Rather and State women's wing president Shameema Firdous said that there was a crisis like situation in Kashmir province due to unavailability of the basic essentials and the administration has failed to live up to its obligation of ensuring people all basic civic amenities and essentials.

The leaders said the curtailment of the monthly ration to APL and BPL families has compounded the woes of people across Jammu and Kashmir in general but the people of Kashmir in particular due to the ongoing harsh winter season. "Administration has also failed to have an anticipatory price control mechanism in its strategy to deal with the exorbitant price rise during the winter months. The absence of administration on ground has emboldened the willfulness of traders and black marketers, they added.

"Unfortunately, the flying

Airtel Payments Bank launches 'Airtel Safe Pay'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 20: In an attempt to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds, Airtel Payments Bank today launched 'Airtel Safe Pay' – a safe mode for making digital payments.

With 'Airtel Safe Pay', Airtel customers making UPI or Netbanking based payments through Airtel Payments Bank, no longer have to worry about money leaving their accounts without their explicit consent.

An India-First innovation, 'Airtel Safe Pay' leverages Airtel's 'telco exclusive' strength of network intelligence to provide an additional layer of payment validation compared to the industry norm of two-factor authentication. This offers the highest level of protection from potential frauds such as phishing, stolen credentials or passwords and even phone cloning that catches customers unaware.

On this occasion Anubrata Biswas, MD & CEO, Airtel Payments Bank said: "As digital payments become the norm, especially in the post-pandemic world, we also have to solve the challenge of frauds that are growing rapidly. We are happy to leverage Airtel's core telco strengths to bring to the market this unique capability that ensures that our customers have full control over their transactions. This sets a new benchmark in the Indian digital payments space by making security paramount."

Using 'Airtel Safe Pay', Airtel Payments Bank customers can make secure digital payments across millions of merchants, online retailers and utilities and even send

with criminals and rioters and control on law and order situation and, on the other, work on expressways and institutes like the AAIMS is on, expediting the speed of development," he said, adding big companies are coming to the state even while the doors are open for small industry.

Hailing the One-District-One-Product scheme of the UP Government for making local workers self-reliant, the PM said it would pave the way for achieving the target of 'atmanirbhar Bharat'.

He also praised the efforts of the UP Government during the difficult corona times as well as its works for the migrants returning home.

The prime minister earlier pressed the remote button to release the assistance and interacted with some beneficiaries.

Union Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Adityanath were present on the occasion.

The assistance includes the release of the first instalment to 5.30 lakh beneficiaries and the second instalment to 80,000 beneficiaries who have already availed of the first instalment of assistance under the PMAY-G.

Modi had given a call of Housing for All by 2022, for which a flagship programme of PMAY-G was launched on November 20, 2016.

So far 1.26 crore houses have already been built across the country under the scheme, an official release said.

Under PMAY-G, each beneficiary is given 100 per cent grant of Rs 1.20 lakh (in plains) and Rs 1.30 lakh (in hill states/NE region/difficult areas/JK & Ladakh besides Naxal-hit districts besides areas falling under the Integrated Action Plan IAP).

squads of the CAPD are also not visible on ground. The undergirding inflation of food, vegetables, and other items has inadvertently hit the pockets of the lower middle class and middle class eventually. We expect the administration to wake from the slumber and ensure that people don't have to suffer any further. It is the primary duty of the administration to check price rise. In addition to that the divisional and the district administration should ensure sufficient stocks of all essentials including LPG, Kerosene at all district head quarters. Special teams should be deputed to snowbound far-flung areas across Kashmir division to review the stock situation there," they said.

Drawing the attention of the administration towards the plight of people due to the prolonged and unscheduled power cuts, the leaders said that the power infrastructure which was disturbed due to weather vagary continues to be in shambles at various places particularly in far-flung areas of north, central and south Kashmir."

They impressed upon the Divisional Administration to ensure speedy disbursement of enhanced compensation to snowfall affected people on immediate basis.



Women presenting traditional dishes during Ladakh's ethnic Mamani festival.

LG for preservation of culture, heritage of Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Jan 20: Lieutenant Governor Radha Krishna Mathur said that traditional festivals like Mamani help in promoting the age old ethos of communal harmony and brotherhood and are an ideal occasion to showcase and preserve the culture, heritage, civilization, and traditions of Ladakh.

The LG stated this while addressing people during a grand function of traditional ethnic food

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

festival Mamani which was organized by the Department of Tourism UT Ladakh in collaboration with the LAHDC, Kargil and District Administration, Kargil at Government Higher Secondary School Shargole.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan, Executive Councillor (EC) for Works Mubarak Shah Nagvi, Executive Councillor for Health Muhammad Ali Chandan, Deputy Commissioner/ CEO, LAHDC Kargil Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Superintendent of Police Kargil Anayat Ali Choudhary, Commander 121 Infantry Division Brigadier Vivek Bakshi, Director Tourism Kunzes Angmo, Director Animal and Sheep Husbandry Dr Muhammad Raza Abbasi, officers of Civil and Police administration, local Panchayat representatives and a large number of people from the Shargole area were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, LG Mathur said that UT Administration Ladakh and LAHDC Kargil will work together

to ensure sufficient stocks of all essentials including LPG, Kerosene at all district head quarters. Special teams should be deputed to snowbound far-flung areas across Kashmir division to review the stock situation there," they said.

Drawing the attention of the administration towards the plight of people due to the prolonged and unscheduled power cuts, the leaders said that the power infrastructure which was disturbed due to weather vagary continues to be in shambles at various places particularly in far-flung areas of north, central and south Kashmir."

They impressed upon the Divisional Administration to ensure speedy disbursement of enhanced compensation to snowfall affected people on immediate basis.

menting the former MLA for his pro active approach and stated that Ward 38 has been equipped with all modern infrastructures and Jammu West has been developed to its fullest and pending works will also be taken within some time.

Keshav Chopra said that pace of development in Jammu West under leadership of former MLA shows that constituency progressed a lot in last six years and has reached to the mark of a Model Constituency.

The leaders also toured adjoining areas as well and interacted with a number of people also.

District president SC Morcha, Yash Pal Shivgotra, Social Media Incharge, Satyabhushan Dubey, Talab Tillo Mandal leaders and others were present.

Plus 2 Principals Forum meets Secy SED

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 20: A deputation of Plus 2 Principals Forum called on Administrative Secretary School Education Department and demanded regularization of the cadre.

The deputation, led by the forum president, Ram Parkash, briefed the Secretary that Plus 2 Principals were not regularized for the last 13 years. As all the required documents for regularization have already been submitted and the file for promotion of Principals is almost complete, DPC may be held at the earliest, Forum stressed.

The Secretary gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured that the DPC will be convened in first week of March.

The delegation comprised of Harbans Lal Choudhary, Subash Sharma, Uttam Kohli and N K Sharma.



Sat Sharma, former Minister, kick starting construction works at Ward No 40 on Wednesday.

Modi provided best infrastructure in J&K: Sat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 20: Fulfilling long pending demand of inhabitants of Lane Number 1, Shiv Nagar, Talab Tillo, the construction works of lane was started by former State president BJP and Ex Minister, Sat Sharma (CA) along with Corporator Ward 40, Neelam Nargotra today. The leader was accompanied by a large number of people including Mandal president, Talab Tillo, Keshav Chopra, local residents and political activists of the area.

The works will be executed under the supervision of JMC (Jammu Municipal Corporation). Pertinent to mention, under plan work a total of Rs 25 lakh have been sanctioned to Corporator for taking up various developmental works in Ward and the work is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 3.90 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that it was a pending demand of locals and the same has been taken up in order to avoid public distress. He said none other party did this much of development before in Jammu and Kashmir and it is the only BJP under the leadership of PM, Narendra Modi who is committed to provide best possible infra to the masses at their doorsteps.

He said "We are a party with a difference which means that whatever we commit we do it and we are not like other political parties in UT who ruled at the helms for decades but did nothing for the people of J&K especially youth". He also stated that youth is being empowered across UT and many opportunities in the shape of jobs and schemes of the Central Government are being utilized by youth which has improved the lifestyle of many.

Neelam Nargotra compli-