



CEC LAHDC Feroz, Ahmed Khan during district level Kala Utsav at Kargil on Wednesday.

District-level Kala Utsav concludes in Kargil

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Nov 23: The district-level Kala Utsav, an event to promote arts in education, organized by Samagra Shiksha Education Department Kargil, concluded today at Auditorium Hall, here.

During the concluding ceremony, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan was the chief guest, Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve was the guest of honour, Director School Education, Ladakh, Safdar Ali was the special guest. Besides this, CEO Kargil, Mushtaq Ahmed, jury members, teachers, participating students, parents and concerned officials were present during the occasion.

On the occasion, the CEC expressed satisfaction over the functioning of Govt. schools and said it is overwhelming that the schools are progressing academically and in co-curricular activities.

While congratulating the participants and organizers of the event, Khan hoped that students from both Leh and Kargil will bring laurels at the National level of Kala Mahotsav as well.

He said that best infrastructure is provided to schools and quality education is improving day by day across the district. The CEC requested parents from far-off places to own their schools at the

community level to improve the standards of education.

In his address, DC Santosh Sukhadeve said that academics and co-curricular activities are equally important to shape the personalities of students.

He suggested students to equip themselves with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the future world as technology is rapidly changing globally with time.

DC Santosh also advised the students to prepare themselves to compete globally and to serve outside Ladakh as well. He said the District Administration is exploring possibilities of organizing a workshop for students on overseas education.

Director School Education, Safdar Ali said after the formation of UT, participation of students at national level competitions has increased manifold. He expressed hope that students will present their best performances at the national level of this event as well.

Earlier, the CEO Mushtaq Ahmad presented welcome address while Coordinator Samagra Shiksha Agha Sajjad Hussain presented agenda of the event.

Winners of district-level events under different categories including painting, folk dance, solo skit, instrumental music and singing were felicitated by the dignitaries. Later, the dignitaries and jury members were also felicitated by the Education Department.

DAP leaders demand restoration of statehood, early election

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Nov 23: R S Chib, former Minister and general secretary of Democratic Azad Party, while addressing a public meeting at Panthal Block of Katra, said that the elections for J&K Legislative Assembly should be held at the earliest after restoration of the Statehood.

He described it the most

further said that the Democratic Azad Party is fully committed for the restoration of Statehood and to fight for the jobs and land for the local population only.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, while addressing the meeting, which was organized by him, said the construction of Bus stand at Tarakat and Ropeway will be dangerous for the people of Katra, in future. He said: "It was me who stopped the

construction of more than 350 shops, but after 2008, when the people voted for BJP MLA, the road to Tarakat was completed and a parking space for 200 vehicles was created, which is against the interest of the people of Katra."

He further said that all these anti-people decisions will be undone, after DAP is voted to power. He said that DAP is the party in which all have equal rights, irrespective of their religious affiliations. He reminded the people of all round development carried out by the Govt when Azad was the CM of J&K.

The others, who spoke included, Sardari Lal Dubey, Brijmohan Sharma, Sher Singh, Ravinag, Kaushal Kumar, Krishan Singh, Ramesh Chander, Chain Singh, Adv Zahid Manhas, Sahil Singh, Parkash Singh and Sachin Sharma.



R S Chib & Jugal Kishore in a public meeting by DAP at Panthal on Wednesday.

unfortunate that such an historical and geographically important State has been reduced to a Union Territory. He further added that the efforts are being made by the BJP Govt at Centre to snatch away the rights of local population over our land and the Govt jobs.

While speaking about the failure of the BJP Govt over the employment front, steep price rise of the essential commodities, development in rural areas and corruption in all sectors of the Govt, he compared the present state of affairs with the period of Chief Ministership of Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Chib said that period was a golden era of development. He

SKIMS performs rare Airway Stenting Procedure

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 23: For the first time in J&K, the Airway Stenting Procedure, also known as Y-SEMS Tracheobronchial Stent, was done with the flexible video bronchoscope system at SKIMS, Soura here.

The procedure was conducted by the Department of Pulmonary Medicine team including Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. Parvaiz A Koul, Prof. Souallah Shah, Dr Nazia Mehfooz, and Dr Zubair Ahmad Thoker supported by the Anesthesia team headed by Dr Altaf Hussain Mir and Dr Irfan Hussain Dar of Anaesthesiology along with the team of technicians.

HoD General Medicine informed that the procedure was done on a 35-year-old male who

is a case of operated CA oesophagus with nodal recurrence compressing his left main bronchus causing a collapse of his left lung with hypoxemic Respiratory failure.

Because of the non-affordability and difficulty in transporting this patient outside of UT of J&K due to severe respiratory failure for this procedure, SKIMS said, the Pulmonary Medicine team decided to conduct the procedure at SKIMS.

"After arranging all the logistic support, the procedure was successfully performed. The patient is now planned for radiotherapy," HoD General Medicine said.

Director SKIMS, Dr Parvaiz A Koul congratulated the Department for conducting the procedure and assured support on behalf of the administration for such endeavours in future.

Sat Sharma, Ashwani, Baru listen public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Government has ensured that Jammu & Kashmir regains its lost pride and glory and every one can live with dignity and pride, stated Sat Sharma, while listening to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters Trikuta Nagar, here today along with Ashwani Sharma, former MLA, and Sanjay Baru, Urban Local Bodies Cell Incharge, J&K BJP.

Sat Sharma (CA), former BJP president and former Minister said "Modi Government has strived hard to make J&K as the progressive region of the country. Many steps are taken to ensure that the administration is made easier and available to the people at their doorsteps. To ensure this goal

the party is organizing these grievances camps so as to further augment the effort," said Sat Sharma.

During the camp, people from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir visited the party office in the form of deputations to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns before the senior party leadership.

Main issues presented were related to the installation of electric poles, street lights, repair of lanes/ roads, job issues etc.

Listening to the various issues represented by the deputations, BJP leaders telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others after which he assured them that their issues would be addressed soon.

JAC of SKUAST-TAJ, JUTA meets Rana, seeks withdrawal of JK Universities Bill

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: The office bearers of Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology - Teaching Association (SKUAST-TAJ), Non-Teaching Associations of Jammu University and SKUAST-Jammu met Devender Singh Rana (Ex - MLA) at his residence today in the form of Joint Action Committee (JAC) and submitted a memorandum demanding withdrawal of JK Public Universities Bill - 2022.

Prof Pankaj Srivastava, president JUTA briefed Rana that erstwhile State Universities have been established through Bills duly passed by the erstwhile State Assembly and this anti-university new Bill will finish the autonomy and individual identity of the existing State Universities of Jammu & Kashmir.

President SKUAST-TAJ, Dr Vikas Sharma informed the BJP leader that provision 71 of the Bill proposes to make all employees and teachers of the universities transferable from one university to another and expressed that universities are research institutions and it takes years for a teacher to set up a laboratory, library or fetch projects and if such a rule is ever made, it will be used to harass

anyone who refuses to obey the dictates of the government and bureaucracy.

President JUNTEU, Dr Rakesh Chib pointed out that such Bill will be a blow to University governing bodies and a great interference into the academic / research domains of the varsities. KD Singh, president NTEA-J, expressed that the proposed Bill will affect the overall growth, progress/functioning of apex academic institutions and it is against the academic freedom of the University.

JACUP expressed strong resentment over the proposed Bill and demanded immediate withdrawal of the Bill.

After giving a patient hearing to the delegation, Devender Rana said that Universities are the sanctuaries of innovative ideas and new knowledge which need special space to grow and nurture and the leader ensured the JAC members that he will take up the matter with LG, Manoj Sinha regarding the withdrawal of this anti-varsity bill.

The deputation comprised of Dr Ravinder Singh, general secretary JUTA whereas, other office bearers of non-teaching associations namely Varun Dubey, Dheeraj Rajwal, Rajesh Sharma, Zameer-ul-Haq, Arjun Jasrotia, Pankaj Gupta, Ram Singh, Vikram Thakyal also accompanied.



Students and dignitaries during photo exhibition at Shri Raghunath temple in Jammu on Wednesday.

INTACH holds heritage walk, photo exhibition

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Jammu Chapter in collaboration with Dharmarth Trust and JMC's Urban Forestry Division conducted maiden heritage walk, photo exhibition of heritage temple, cleanliness drive and other activities at here in historical Shri Raghunathji Temple to celebrate "World Heritage Week", today.

The students of School of Hospitality & Tourism Management-University of Jammu and NSS students of GGM Science College participated in the event.

Advocate Ajay Gandotra, President J&K Dharmarth Trust was the chief guest, who flagged off the heritage walk along with SM Sahni (KAS Retd), convener and Dr CM Seth co convener of INTACH J&K, Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Retd) Secretary Dharmarth Trust, Kirpal Singh Life Member INTACH, Dr Suvidha Khanna and Prof Deepali Mahajan senior faculty members.

The priests conducted a heritage walk and showed each and every part of Raghunath ji Temple which is the heritage temple of North India and is the pride of

Jammu. SM Sahni briefed about the importance of Shri Raghunathji Temple as a heritage site and for being the biggest temple of undivided North Indian States, while Dr CM Seth threw light on the vision of Maharajas to make Jammu as North India's Kashi.

Ajay Gandotra said that the Trust is managing about 114 temples in Jammu, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haridwar. He threw light on the role of Trust in preserving the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also asked students to consider this temple as a marvel of the rich heritage of the region and also feel the essences of its religious significance and the popularity which this site enjoys among the visitors coming from within the country and even abroad. He asked the students to visit other temples of the Trust and explore marvelous architecture.

Later, an art workshop was conducted in which more than 100 heritage temples of J&K were showcased. Administrative Officer Dharmarth Trust, Manmohan Singh and Assistant Manager Raghunath ji Temple, Sandeep Kumar were also present.



DDC Chairman Rajouri Chowdhary Naseem Liyaqat along with DDC Vikas Kundal inaugurating Abdullah Bridge.

DDC Chairman Rajouri inaugurates much awaited Abdullah Bridge

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 23: Chairman Development Council Rajouri, Chowdhary Naseem Liyaqat, in presence of DDC, Vikas Kundal today inaugurated the much awaited Abdullah bridge completed under languishing scheme.

The 120-meter-span bridge completed at a cost of Rs 720 lakh provides an important link connecting Gujjar Mandi with Old Bus stand.

The completion of the bridge has met a long standing demand of the public as it will ease the traffic congestion in the Rajouri town.

The DDC Chairman, while

speaking on the occasion, congratulated the public and said that the Government is committed towards providing the best possible relief to the general public in terms of connectivity to benefit the commuters.

The DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal also congratulated the public and said that the bridge will help to reduce traffic jams in Rajouri town.

Officers present on the occasion were ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria and ExEn PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Maqbool Hussain; Ward councillors including Rajinder Gupta; Rajesh Gupta; Sanjay Sharma and Pushpinder Gupta.



BJP vice president, Yudhvir Sethi during a joining programme at Majalta on Wednesday.

Disenchanted by dynastic parties, people showing faith in BJP: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: After getting disappointed over the deceit and deception by the dynastic political parties in J&K including NC, PDP and Congress, the people in large numbers are showing faith in BJP for it being the only nationalist party with strong democratic values.

This was said by Yudhvir Sethi, vice president, BJP J&K Unit during a joining programme held here at Majalta. The programme was organized by Vinod, booth president in which a large number of senior citizens including retired personnel and local youth came under party fold under the leadership of Yudhvir Sethi.

Those joined the BJP included Chuni Lal Bhagat (retired from JK BOSE), Isher Dass (retired from BSNL), Mast Ram (retired from PHE Department), Hukam Chand, Surinder Singh, Sunil Dutta, Manoj Kumar, student, Subash Chander, Tek Chand, Mukesh Kumar, Tarun Bhagat, Pawan Kumar, Vikram Bhagat and Hardeep Bhagat.

While welcoming scores of people into BJP, Sethi said that

the days are not far when all the nationalists will join this party because the dynastic parties' devious agendas have been exposed badly with people shunning their political leadership which never bothered to think beyond their own petty interests.

Sethi said that eight years of Modi rule in the country has shown the people that it is only BJP which can fulfill aspirations of the nationalist people because the parties which used to rule J&K in last 70 years have compromised the interests of the country and the common masses a number of times.

After joining the party, the new entrants vowed to strengthen the Saffron Party at the grassroot level and also promised to act as the ambassador of the party convincing others to become part of this political class which in today's India is a matter of pride and prestige, for BJP being the only nationalist political outfit.

Ajay Sharma, Mandal president, Majalta, Sham Naib Sarpanch, Vipin Singh, Abdul Mehmood Choudhary, Vipin, Vinod, booth president, Gourav and others were also present.

GMC holds lecture series on Public Private Partnerships

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: A lecture series on "Public Private Partnership a move to ahead" has been organized by the Gandhi Memorial College, (GMC) Jammu, today.

In his welcome address, Satish Talashi, the Principal of the College gave an overview of the history of the Srinagar and Jammu units of Gandhi Memorial College.

Professor B.L. Zutshi, president Hindu Education Society Kashmir, (HESK) in his address said that our institution is a heritage institution of the J&K and this institution works within a Public Private Partnership model. He has mentioned that it is the growth of the public and private institutions that determines the future of the institution. He said that Public Private Partnership can bring innovation and investment into India's Government schools in order to improve the quality of education in the country.

Prof Ashok Aima former VC, Central University Jammu was the special guest on the occasion. In his remarks he said education is in the DNA of Kashmiri Pandits and it plays an important role in nation building.

Virender Raina, Member Executive Body, also spoke on the occasion. A presentation was delivered on the topic by Hema Koul and Seema Bhat, both lecturers.

Prof. Asha Dhar, Principal of Coventry Higher Secondary School, also addressed the event. Prof Kiran Raina, Principal of Abhay Higher Secondary School, said the fact that one of the challenges that private institutions face is the lack of funding.

Prof G L Koul, Member

Education, spoke about the importance of education as a means to build the national development. S.K. Raina, Member Finance, M K Jalali, M K Bangroo, Dr R L Dhar, and M K Koul Gulabi were also present at the event.

Ms. Naina Dogra hosted the event, and Ms. Hema Koul presented the vote of thanks.

Lakhanpur police seizes heroin, arrests drug peddler

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Nov 23: Kathua Police under the guidance of SSP, R C Kotwal- today seized 2.93 grams of heroin in the jurisdictional area of Police Station (PS) Lakhanpur at Sukhal Khad bridge, Basantpur and arrested one drug peddler.

A police team led by Sub Inspector, Vikram Singh in charge Police Post (PP) Basantpur under the supervision of DySP, DAR Kathua, Sukhdev Singh during Naka checking in its jurisdictional area at Sukhal Khad bridge near Basantpur apprehended one suspicious person namely Rakesh Singh, son of Lt. Munshi Ram of Basantpur tehsil and district Kathua who was wandering under suspicious circumstances.

On thorough checking approximately 2.93 grams of heroin (Chitta) like narcotics was recovered from his illegal possession. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics was seized and one person was arrested. An instant case vide FIR No. 95/2022 U/S 8/21/22/NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station (PS) Lakhanpur and further investigation is underway.

Prof G L Koul, Member

Kavinder calls on MoS Finance, discusses J&K scenario

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 23: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today called on Union MoS Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad and discussed various issues related to Jammu and Kashmir with him.

At the outset of the meeting, the senior BJP functionary apprised the Union Minister about the pace of development projects presently being executed in the UT. He said that the people in the region are more than satisfied with the way the things are rolling especially after the scrapping of Article 370 because they have understood now that this contentious Article of the Constitution was the biggest hurdle in the progress of J&K.

He said that the gap between the people of the UT and the Government has been bridged ideally after the changes which the region saw on August 5, 2019.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said that under the Modi regime there is no scarcity of funds in the UT and that is the reason behind development works getting executed with exemplary pace and the new ones getting sanctions without

any bottlenecks. He said that truly the dark era in J&K has passed and now is the time to progress by leaps and bounds.

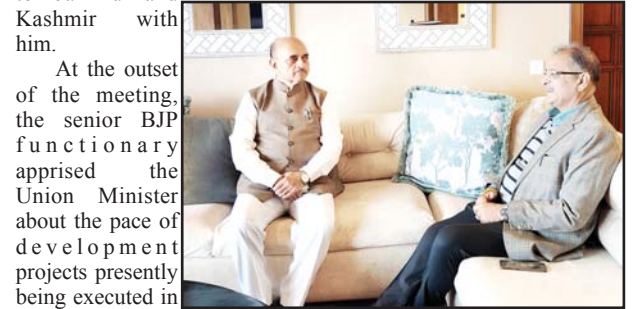
Consequently, the Union Minister appreciated the gesture shown by Kavinder Gupta and assured wholehearted support in

fast pacing J&K's journey towards peace and progress.

Later, Kavinder also met with delegations of Rehbar-e-Khel and Rehbar-e-Janglat and listened to their demands.

Dheeraj Salaria Rehbar-e-Khel Teachers' president briefed Kavinder Gupta about the issues including creation of posts in the schools, providing basic salary, reduction in time period for regularization from 7 to 5 years and merging the same as a pet after 5 years with immediate effect.

After going through the points raised by the members of the delegations, Kavinder appealed to the Government to provide perks to them under Minimum Wages Act.



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta during a meeting with Union MoS, Finance Dr Bhagwat Karad at Srinagar on Wednesday.

SBI holds self employment training programme

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: A Computerized Accounting training programme conducted by SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI-RSETI) Jammu concluded at Roop Nagar, Jammu, in which 19 candidates from different parts of Jammu district participated.

Assessment of the batch also carried out by the Assessor A.K. Razdan from National Academy of RUSETI (NAR). On this occasion, a small but impressive function was organized in which certificates of participation were distributed by Romesh Chander, Director and Faculty Members

of SBI RSETI, Jammu. Director RSETI interacted with all the candidates and guided them to take full advantages of the skill acquired at SBI RSETI Jammu. He also motivated the candidates to stand on their own by using the skill acquired at SBI RSETI.

He also guided the candidates about Social Security Schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY etc. He assured every possible help in opening their ventures and to get credit linked by the banks under different loan schemes.

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Deepu Bala, Faculty, SBI RSETI, Jammu.



Blood donation camp being inaugurated in GMC Jammu on Wednesday.

SOTTO organises voluntary blood donation camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) J&K in association with Blood Transfusion Medicine Department, Govt. Medical College Jammu organised a voluntary blood donation camp in GMC Jammu.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal GMC Jammu. She informed that a month long campaign was organised by SOTTO to raise awareness on organ donation among general public and urged people to take pledge for organ donation and reduce the supply and demand gap of organs in India.

The students and staff from various Nursing

Colleges of Jammu participated in the camp. In all, 33 units of blood were donated in the camp.

Dr. Elias Sharma, HoD Urology and Nodal officer, SOTTO, lauded the students on their enthusiastic participation in the event. He led them by donating blood himself. He said that this initiative will urge individuals to donate organs, tissues and blood to support the Government's vision for mankind

Dr. Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director SOTTO said that donating blood is one of the most precious gifts for humanity and also appreciated the blood donors for their support and participation in making the blood donation camp successful.

Tenure of Tali Sahib Gurudwara committee extended

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: The DGPC Jammu today declared that tenure of local management committee of Gurudwara Tali Sahib, Talab Tillo, Jammu has been extended by two years.

A meeting of DGPC Jammu was convened here today to discuss various issues pertaining to the management of local Gurudwaras of Jammu District and other issues of the community.

The meeting was chaired by Ranjit Singh Tohra, president DGPC Jammu in which it was unanimously decided to give extension to the existing local Gurudwara Management

Committee of Gurudwara Chati Patshahi Tahli Sahib, Talab Tillo Jammu for another term of two years from the date of the completion of their previous tenure i.e from 01.07.2022 and Harjit Singh Member and Incharge Dharam Prachar Committee DGPC was made the administrator of the Local Management Committee.

Other members who were present in the meeting were Balvinder Singh- vice president DGPC Jammu, Surjit Singh- secretary, Master Ranvir Singh- Jt Secretary, Jagpal Singh- cashier, Gurmit Singh- Incharge Dharam Prachar Committee DGPC Jammu.