

PMGSY roads proposed for all 292 unconnected habitations of Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Oct 4: District Development Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan today chaired a meeting of key officials of PMGSY department at DC office complex and took appraisal of the performance and achievements of the department in the current financial year.

During the meeting, the DDC was informed that the department has set the target of blacktopping 94 KM till November 15 this year with 100% financial achievement. It was further informed that 2 under construction bridges would also be completed before December 31 this year.

The functionaries further informed that the department has submitted proposals of PMGSY road projects for all

292 unconnected norm wise entitled habitations of the district.

The DDC took the appraisal of the 4 held up projects and directed that the issues be taken up with concerned SDMs for intervention and resolution. He further directed the PMGSY authorities that if the issue of a particular project was not resolved even after using all the legitimate sources, the same may be sent to the appropriate authority recommending its foreclosure.

Further, the DDC directed the department to ensure that no work is held up or delayed by any contractor.

The meeting was attended by CPO Doda, SE PMGSY, Ex En PMGSY Doda, Ex En PMGSY Thathri, and AEEs of the department.



BJP leaders inaugurating Dosa Planet on Jammu-Katra road near IIT on Tuesday.

Sat Sharma inaugurates Dosa Planet on Jammu-Katra road

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Praising the Jammu youth for their commitment to entrepreneurship and becoming self-reliant, Sat Sharma said that the day is not far away when Jammu will be a top tourist destination.

Former president J&K BJP, Sat Sharma (CA) accompanied by J&K BJP media secretary, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, district president, BJP Munish Khajuria, district general secretary organization, Ashok Kumar, district general secretary, Karan Sharma, Mandal president, Keshav Chopra, JMC councillor Neelam Nargotra, district SC Morcha president, Yashpal Shivgotra, Mandal secretary, Rahul Nargotra and others inaugurated a restaurant "Dosa Planet" on Jammu-Katra road near IIT.

Restaurant owners Rakesh Badyal and Abhishek Sharma along with family members were present on the occasion.

Praising the Jammu youth for their commitment towards entrepreneurship and becoming self-reliant, Sat Sharma said that the day is not far away when Jammu will be a top tourist destination. Sat Sharma appreciated the efforts of the owner for taking such an initiative and further providing employment to six people as well which will benefit and

provide livelihood to the same number of families.

Sharma said that PM Narendra Modi has focussed on the Aatmanirbhar Bharat to make our nation stronger and the youth of Jammu and Kashmir is showing its potential. He said that more of the youth must come forward to set up their ventures and wished all good luck to the owners.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra congratulated the owners for taking up the initiative. He said that there are plenty of opportunities in entrepreneurship for the youth especially in still unexplored areas of Jammu & Kashmir and the youth must come forward to grab the opportunity. He also praised the chefs for the excellent quality and taste of their servings.

Munish Khajuria congratulated the owner and said that the decision of opening a South Indian restaurant will cater to the needs of locals and commuters as there was such a restaurant in the area.

Restaurant owners thanked the former BJP president for inaugurating the restaurant and stated that specialized chefs are working to provide the best and most hygienic South Indian food to people. They also stated that all varieties of Dosa and South Indian food are available at the restaurant.

CIC Operators seek intervention of HM in settling their issue

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: The CIC Operators working in Rural Development Department (RDD) have made an appeal to visiting Union Home Minister, Amit Shah seeking his personal intervention in issuance of regularization orders in their favour.

In a letter to Amit Shah the CIC operators of RDD said that they have been working in the department on contractual basis since 2004 on a meager amount of Rs 10,000 per month. "We are facing lot of hardships to feed our families and also could not provide proper education to the children."

The CIC operators in their letter said that they have been appointed on merit basis through proper recruitment procedure by District Level Committee constituted by the Government of J&K headed by Deputy Commissioners of concerned districts in the year 2004.

They said being highly qualified having MCA, M Tech, MSc, IT, BE B.Tech degrees they are technically sound and they are holding efficiently online technical work of the department.

The letter said that in 2014 J&K Government passed a Cabinet order to formulate a proposal for regularization of 172 CIC operators vice Government Order No 320-Rd & Pr of 2016 dated 14-12-2016.

They said in the year 2017, the Empowered Committee of the J&K Government vide its 58th and 60th meeting headed by Principal Secretary, Finance Department cleared the cases of regularization under Special Provision Act 2010.

The recommendations were also communicated to Department of RD & PR by Finance Department J&K for issuing regularization orders as data entry operators in June 1, 2014. The file was also cleared by Law Department and also got clearance from Advocate General of J&K for regularization. The GAD later accorded sanction for incorporating the issue of community Information Centre (CIC) operators of the RDD and Panchayati Raj.

Later the Sub Committee

under the chairmanship of Financial Commissioner has conducted its meeting regarding the issuance of orders to CIC operators on April 19 in 2022 and submitted the report and recommendations to GAD for enhancement of monthly salary for CIC operators which are to be approved by the Committee headed by Chief Secretary. However, the main Committee meeting was postponed which has to clear the recommendations of Sub Committee and since then the meeting is not being held regarding the enhancement of monthly salary of CIC operators.

The CIC operators have appealed the Union Home Minister and sought his intervention in the matter.

Reliance Digital brings exciting offers for Dussehra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: This Dussehra, bring home your kind of latest tech with Reliance Digital's Festival of Electronics sale.

Take a pick from your nearest



Reliance Digital stores, My Jio Stores or shop online at reliancedigital.in

In addition to exciting offers, to make this celebration even more joyous, you can avail a 10 percent instant discount on leading bank cards along with easy EMI options. Choose from the widest range of your favourite electronics, right from TVs and domestic appliances, to audio devices, mobile phones, laptops and more. Be it for gifting or your own use, Reliance Digital has best offers lined up this festive season.

Grab your kind of wearables with the Apple Watch starting at

J&K witnessing unprecedented development under Modi: Kavinder

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Dy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today asserted that J&K has been witnessing unprecedented development in every sector since PM Narendra Modi took over the reins at Centre. He said that earlier people of Jammu region

at par with each other. He said that the Prime Minister is specially inclined towards Jammu and Kashmir and its people and that there is no dearth of funds when it comes to the development of this Union Territory. He said that the completion of the work of blacktopping of the roads started today is undoubtedly going to provide a great relief to the people living and



Former DyCM, Kavinder Gupta releasing Hindi poetry book at Jammu on Tuesday.

were subjected to discrimination due to which Jammu remained neglected in terms of development. He said that people are now witnessing equitable development that stands proved by the development works in every nook and corner of the Union Territory.

The former Deputy Chief Minister expressed this while addressing a gathering during a programme at Qasim Nagar, Bahu Fort, Ward No: 47 where he kick-started the developmental work of black topping of the road.

Corporator Sharda Kumari, Vinay Gupta district president, BJP; Narinder Gupta Koki; Neeraj Puri Mandal president; Neeraj Kumar, Krishan Lal and Suraj Rana were also present.

Kavinder Gupta stated that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Government stands committed to the overall development of all the areas so that all the areas move ahead in consonance

traversing this Ward and its surrounding areas.

Kavinder Gupta said that under the incumbent BJP Government at the Centre and the Union Territory Administration led by Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha great strides are being taken in development thus transforming the entire landscape and scenario of this Union Territory. He said that there are more projects in pipeline for the area and the same shall be taken up in a phased manner.

The former Dy CM also interacted with the locals of the area to take stock of their problems and issues. After giving them a patient hearing he assured to get their issues resolved at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta also released a Hindi poetry book titled 'Meri Kalam Se' written by Kiran Sharma during a programme organized by Nami Dogri Sanstha at Press Club Jammu.



Social activists and PRIs joining AAP in Kashmir on Tuesday.

Several PRIs, social activists join AAP in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: Several prominent social activist and PRIs today joined Aam Aadmi Party during a function organised by the party in Kashmir.

This event was presided over by Aam Aadmi Party's Kashmir province incharge, Salahuddin Khan with other senior political leaders of party also present on the occasion.

Those social activists, who joined Aam Aadmi Party today, included Devender Pal Singh, Raj Kumar Singh, Gurmeet Singh and Surjeet Singh.

On the occasion, several other personalities also joined AAP and they included Sarpanch and former Kashmir Province President of Bahujan Samaj Party, Mohammad Shafi Bhat, Deputy Sarpanch Pattan Abdul Majeed Bhat, Deputy Sarpanch Abdur Rasheed Dar.

Welcoming the new entrants, Salahuddin Khan said that hundreds of prominent social activists, civil society members, PRIs and political leaders have joined Aam Aadmi Party in recent days in Jammu and Kashmir which clearly shows that party is gaining more and more strength on grass root level and day is not far when people will vote Aam Aadmi Party to power.

He said that constructive governance model, development model and especially healthcare, education model implemented

by Aam Aadmi Party is now the core of politics in entire country and everyone is looking at Aam Aadmi Party headed by Arvind Kejriwal as the only option available to end public issues.

He further said that many new faces are set to join Aam Aadmi Party in Jammu and Kashmir in days to come.

Addressing the event, the new entrants said that motive behind joining the party is to become a part of revolution which is ensuing in Jammu and Kashmir in the form of Aam Aadmi Party.

They said that people in Jammu and Kashmir are in a state of uncertainty with BJP damaging everything from democracy to employment and people want to come out of this uncertainty through Aam Aadmi Party.

Sajan, Verman selected for Ramesh Mehta Memorial Award

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Famous Ghazalkar-poet-singer-composer, Sham Sajan and writer-painter-cultural critic-journalist, Jang S.

Verman have been selected for Ramesh Mehta Memorial Award-2022 which is the second edition of the award established and implemented jointly by his family and Hindi Sahitya Mandal in the memory of late Ramesh Mehta, writer-editor-former Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

After the permanent jury nominated by the family took its decision unanimously on Monday and gave formal information to the Mehta family and Hindi Sahitya Mandal, this decision was informed by his daughter Pavitra Mehta on behalf of Ramesh Mehta's family and Dr. Chanchal Dogra, President Hindi Sahitya Mandal.

This award will be given to both the selected winning culture workers in a ceremony to be held on November 12, 2022 on the eve of Ramesh Mehta's upcoming birthday (13th November).

The Puraskar will consist of prize money of Rs. 11,000, a citation and a Doshala. The award ceremony will be organized in collaboration with Hindi Sahitya Mandal.

2 drug peddlers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Oct 4: Continuing its drive against drug menace, Police today foiled an attempt of narcotics smuggling at the holy town Katra and arrested two peddlers, who were carrying heroin.

The accused were travelling in a car (JK20B-7551), which was intercepted by the Police party at Ballini Check Post. During checking and frisking, 12 grams heroin was recovered from the accused, were arrested on the spot.

They were identified as Mandeep Kumar Bhullar, son of Joginder Singh of village Mahmood Ka Mahal Ferozpur, Punjab and Rakesh Kumar son of Lajan of Sherbad, Tehsil Katra.

During the preliminary questioning, the accused persons



Chairman, AJKSCC and AJKTWA, Ajit Singh during meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah in Jammu on Tuesday.

AJKSCC Chairman takes up Sikhs' issues with HM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Chairman, All Jammu & Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee and All J&K Transport Welfare Association, Ajit Singh today met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Jammu today and projected the issues of Sikh community in J&K and the transporters.

While projecting the issues Ajit Singh said that the minority Sikh community in J&K has always contributed positively for overall development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir, but unfortunately the successive regimes in J&K have ignored the microscopic minority at all levels.

Singh briefed the Home Minister about the concerning issues of Sikh community in J&K, particularly the demand of according official language status to Punjabi language which is widely used in J&K, implementation of Anand Marriage Act in the UT, appointment of at least one Sikh member in PSC & other recruitment agencies of Jammu & Kashmir, implementation of recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee on refugees of J&K in letter & spirit, particularly the one time amount of Rs 30 lakhs and reservation of 8 seats for 1947 & 1971 refugees from PoK

besides, installation of the statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur at Kunjwani Chowk in Jammu.

Ajit Singh also requested for a special employment package for the youths of community and sought justice for microscopic minority Sikh community in Kashmir at par with Kashmiri Pandits, particularly providing benefit of SRO 425 to minority Sikh community besides grant of minority status to Sikhs in Jammu & Kashmir.

Singh, who also heads the All J&K Transport Welfare Association, also briefed Home Minister about the problems and key issues of transport community of J&K which included demand of relief package announced by PM of India in their favour, roll back orders for steep hike in fitness fee and restoration of previous amount charged in UT, recognizing transport sector as an industry in J&K UT, waive off loans up to Rs 7 lakhs in favour of transporters as well as relief in taxes & penalties and financial support for public transport operators of Jammu and Srinagar for purchase of new eco-friendly vehicles by providing 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 10 lakhs to Jammu and Srinagar permit holders. He also submitted a memorandum to visiting Home Minister.

IGNOU signs MoU with Central Sanskrit University

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: The Indra Gandhi National Open University has signed an MoU with the Central Sanskrit University (CSU) with one of the major activities envisaged being opening of IGNOU Learner Support Centres in different campuses of CSU.

The CSU has the main campus in New Delhi and twelve Regional Campuses across the country in different States and Union Territories including the J&K UT.

IGNOU has planned to establish Learner Support Centres for its recently launched Master of Arts in Jyotish (MAJY), Master of Arts in Sanskrit (MSK) and Masters in Vedic Studies (MAVESO) programmes across all the campuses of the Central Sanskrit University. For the upcoming December 2022 Term-

End Examinations of IGNOU, Regional Centre Jammu has established an Exam Centre in Shri Ranbir campus Kot Bhalwal of the Central Sanskrit University.

The objective of MAJY programme is to educate the students under Indian oriental science, time knowledge, planetary motion, solar eclipse, lunar eclipse as to how the practical life of human beings is conducted along with the happenings in space on the basis of the beliefs of Indian sages. The ultimate goal of this program is to provide authentic and detailed knowledge of these facts.

Students studying in this program will also have knowledge of how astrology is studied in the form of astrology called Vedanga. In addition to providing special knowledge of the concept of astrological mathematics, theory and results in ancient India, students will be provided complete knowledge of astrology through the well researched study material of this program. The Masters in Vedic Studies (MAVESO) programme is being offered in collaboration with the International Centre for Integral Studies (ICIS). The Master of Arts in Sanskrit (MSK) Programme subjects the students to learning a wide range of Sanskrit Language & literature.

"I call upon every individual across the region, who is interested in Astrology, Vedic Studies or Sanskrit irrespective of any age bar, to enroll for these fascinating programmes before the last date which is 10th of October, 2022," said Dr Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In charge.

RS Chib, Taj felicitated by DAP leaders, workers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 4: Former ministers and senior leaders of Democratic Azad Party, R S Chib and Taj Mohiuddin were today felicitated by the party leaders and workers on being appointed as general secretary and treasurer of the DAP.

A function in this connection was organized by senior party leader and former MLA, Th Balwan Singh. The DAP leaders and activists garlanded both the newly appointed office bearers of the party by the DAP Chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday. The leaders expressed full faith in the leadership of former J&K Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad.

While speaking on the occasion, the senior DAP leaders lauded the role of Ghulam Nabi Azad as J&K Chief Minister and Union Minister in the past. They said that only Azad has

Navratra Festival concludes at Katra with impressive Shobha Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Oct 4: Navratra Festival 2022 concluded today with an impressive Shobha Yatra which was organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra.

The main highlights of the 9th day of Navratra Festival-2022 was Shobha Yatra which was flagged off by Indu Kanwal Chib, Mission Director NRLM J&K, in presence of President

ful organization of grand celebration of Navratra Festival at Katra.

Speaking on the occasion, Indu Kanwal Chib congratulated all the local stakeholders, Municipal Committee Katra, all participating troupes and local schools, Tourism Department, Police Department, district administration in the successful organization of Navratra Festival with grandeur and gaiety.

Decorated tableau of 'Ram Darbar', 'Ravan Vadh by Shri Ram' and the 'Radha Krishan'



Dignitaries during Shobha Yatra on last day of Navratra Festival at Katra.

Municipal Committee Katra Vimal Indu, DDC member Panthall Rajinder Mengi, Ambika Bali, Assistant Director Tourism Katra among others.

The Shobha Yatra started from Asia Chowk Katra to Bus Stand Katra with colourful tableaux and cultural processions showcasing the cultural diversity and multifold aspects of Hindu mythology. The joyous mood amidst the enchanting crowds filled the atmosphere with celebratory and devotional mood. The main highlight of the Shobha Yatra was 'Kud Dance performance by Khem Raj and party from Pancheri Udhampur which was appreciated by the tourists and the chief guest even participated in the Kud Dance.

Dancers from Haryana, Manipur, Bhaderwah mesmerized the tourists who thronged the venue in large numbers and appreciated the efforts of the Tourism Department in success-

ful the festive ambience with devotional mood whereas the tableau of 'Tiger Hill victory by Indian Army' and 'Chhatrapati Shiva Ji Maharaj' and 'Maharani Padmavati' were applauded by the audience with loud patriotic cheers. The artists from J&K and other parts of India enthralled the audiences with their folk song and dance performances.

Later, the guests visited the Yog Ashram Complex where the finale of All India Devotional Song Competition was organized with grandeur and scintillating performance by the participants. The singers mesmerized the audience with the presentation of devotional songs and bhaints. The other highlights of the day were Parbat Pheri which was organized in the early morning and Bhagwat Katha which also concluded on October 4, 2022 with hawan and grand bhandara at Raghunath Temple Katra.

CUK inks MoU with CPWD for construction of varsity's model township

Excelsior Correspondent

GANDERBAL, Oct 4: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on Tuesday for the construction of varsity's model township at

the Vice Chancellor described the MoU as a significant step towards establishment of the residential campus of the university. "The university is constructing accommodation for the Vice Chancellor, officers, faculty members, administrative staff, hostels block for girls and boys and research scholars, coming from remote



CUK Vice Chancellor, CPWD Engineers and others during signing of MoU on Tuesday.

Watlar here. Vice Chancellor, Prof Farooq Ahmad Shah; Registrar, Prof M Afzal Zargar; Controller of Examinations, Prof Farooq Ahmad Mir; Finance Officer, Dr Mehraj ud Din Shah, Deans of Schools, senior administrative officers and other functionaries of the university, besides Superintendent Engineer, CPWD, Er Mohan Lal, Executive Engineer, Er Ashok Kumar, and other office bearers of the Department were present during signing of the MoU.

Speaking on the occasion, Superintendent Engineer, CPWD, Mohan Lal who was accompanied by Executive Engineer, Ashok Kumar, assured the university authorities of using the best manpower and modern techniques during the construction of various structures in the residential campus. He said the CPWD staff would continuously monitor the project work in order to complete it within the stipulated time frame.

Controller of Examinations, Prof Farooq Ahmad Mir, Finance Officer, Dr Mehraj ud Din Shah, Deans of Schools, also spoke on the occasion and asked the CPWD functionaries to strictly adhere to quality norms while undertaking construction of buildings.

Executive Engineer, CUK, Er Tariq Hussain, who conducted the programme proceedings, remarked that the CPWD shall appoint consultants for preparation of preliminary architectural drawing, and preliminary estimate and DPR. He assured full support to the CPWD for completing the project within the timeframe.