



National Business Head Retail & Business Banking, ICICI Bank during meeting with LG

### National Business Head, Retail & Business Banking, ICICI Bank calls on LG

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Rajesh Rai, National Business Head, Retail and Business Banking, ICICI Bank called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today. Rai apprised the Lt Governor regarding progress of the bank, work done under CSR and extension of the services by the bank in Jammu Kashmir. The Lt Governor asked the National Business Head ICICI

### NHPC Director (P&T) inaugurates Road Tunnel

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: Director (Projects & Technical), NHPC Ltd, Biswajit Basu today visited Sawalkote HE Project (1856 MW), the largest hydropower project in J&K allotted to NHPC for implementation. Basu inaugurated the all



Director (P&T), NHPC, Biswajit Basu inaugurating a Road Tunnel during his visit to Sawalkote HE Project.

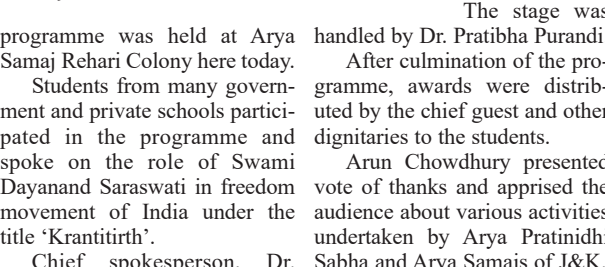
important 'Road Tunnel', constructed by M/s HCC, which will enable access during construction to the dam site, Power House and other important components. He also inspected sites of key components of the Project.

### Modi has changed entire scenario in J&K: Kavinder

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister has asserted that with the unprecedented development witnessed across Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Government has changed the entire scenario of this Union Territory. He said that the credit of the peaceful environment existing here today goes to the incumbent BJP Government as a result of which Rahul Gandhi along with his family is spending the time and enjoying in Kashmir Valley without any fret or fear. He expressed this in his address during a function at Trikuta Nagar wherein he kick-

### Role of Dayanand Saraswati in freedom movement highlighted

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: With initiative of Union Ministry of Culture, under the aegis of president Arya Pratinidhi Sabha J&K, Arun Chowdhary along with Centre for Advanced Research on Development & Change, New Delhi, a colorful cultural programme was held at Arya Samaj Rehari Colony here today. Students from many government and private schools participated in the programme and spoke on the role of Swami Dayanand Saraswati in freedom movement of India under the title 'Krantirth'. Chief spokesperson, Dr.



Dean Academic Affairs Dr Balbir Singh addressing freshers during Student Induction Programme at SMVDU.

### SMVDU organizes Student Induction Program

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
KATRA, Aug 27: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organizes a Student Induction Program to welcome newly admitted students across various B Tech and B Arch courses. The program commenced today with a formal function in which around 200 students from diverse parts of the country participated. The newly admitted students took an oath comprising ten principles, formulated by former President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, emphasizing values such as integrity, humanity, nationalism, and good citizenship. Addressing the students, Vive-chancellor, SMVDU, Prof Pragati Kumar extended his congratulations to the new batch and emphasized the advantages of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Registrar, SMVDU, N S Janwal provided an overview of the university's history and its various bodies since its inception. Dr Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, motivated students to embark on their higher education journey with enthusiasm. The event's proceedings were guided by Dr Pooja Sharma, Faculty, School of Computer Science and Engineering. Dr Ankush Anand, Faculty of the School of Mechanical Engineering and Coordinator of the Program, delivered the vote of thanks.

### Amit leads Ladakh delegation in 26th National e-Governance Conference

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
INDORE, Aug 27: Secretary, Information Technology Department of Ladakh, Amit Sharma led a small contingent of the UT including two IT Managers Stanzin Dawa and Sajjad Hussain, at Annual 26th National e-Governance Conference held in Indore.



Secretary IT Ladakh Amit Sharma at National e-Governance Conference in Indore.

The Secretary IT Ladakh happened to meet top IT giants during this two-day event wherein he shared several IT initiatives taken in the UT like Online Centralized Grievance Portal for all departments, Implementation of e-Office, Online RTI filing while sharing the vision of Administration led by LG Brig (Retired) Dr BD Mishra and Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal towards creating Public WiFi Zines, IT Park, doorstep delivery of public services, last mile connectivity through SWAN and several other initiatives being taken here. Amit Sharma, who co-incidentally happens to be an alumni of IIM Indore, having specialised in e-Governance domain from this premier institute of the nation, has recently contributed towards several successful e-Governance initiatives in UT of J&K while being IT Secretary and CEO, J&K e-Governance Agency there. During his brief and meaningful interactions with Union IT Secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma and CEO, National e-Governance Division Abhishek Singh, Amit Sharma requested for provisioning of specialist staff in Ladakh to develop customized software solutions for the UT and creating critical IT infrastructure there which got an affirmative response from them.

### Hunger strike at Kathua called off, continues at Samba

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: After their week-long detention for breach of peace, the 26 members of Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) were released early this morning from Kathua jail, officials said. They were arrested on August 21 at Sarore Toll Plaza where they had staged a dharna demanding suspension of Toll Plaza and were detained for violating restrictions around the TP. The authorities had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which forbids the gathering of four or more people in and around the TP. The YRS president, Vikram Singh after his release from Kathua Jail said "We are thankful to people for their support and for coming on the roads for our release. Our Committee will meet shortly to decide the future course of action, he added". Former YRS president, Rajan Singh Happy urged people to stand united and said they will continue their fight for the rights of the people. Soon after the release of YRS activists its members celebrated the occasion at various places including Kathua and Hiranagar and distributed sweets among the people. At Kathua the activists of YRS and other organisations who were sitting on hunger strike called off the same on the insistence of civil society members who offered them juice. However, the hunger strike launched by eight activists of YRS at Samba continued. The released leaders of the organization also visited the venue of hunger strike and addressed a gathering there. They said the hunger strike will continue till Toll Plaza is removed from Sarore. Meanwhile, the protests continued at different places in Jammu on seventh day today by various political parties and social organizations demanding suspension of Sarore Toll Plaza and halt on installations of smart meters and Property Tax in Jammu region. Congress party held a protest against the installation of smart meters and for removal of Sarore Toll Plaza at Paloura Chowk, Mohalla Sandh which was led by Rajni Bala, corporator Ward 60. The party also held a meeting at Ward No 3 which was addressed by former Minister, Yogesh Sawhney. Various issues including installation of pre paid smart meters were discussed and they demanded that their installation be put on hold as people are already under the pressure of price hike and rising unemployment. Another protest was held by Apni Party at Paloura against toll collection at Sarore TP and installation of Smart meters. The protest was led by OBC State president, Apni Party, Bhagat Ram. Youth Congress led by led by vice president, Jammu East held a protest at Ward No 17 for removal of Sarore toll Plaza and imposition of Property Tax and installation of Smart meters. The protest was led by YNC president Jammu East, Ricky Dalotra.

### Oppn agenda to incite unrest amid development wave: Vibodh

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: While highlighting the history of bloodshed and turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC, Vibodh Gupta in a party meeting strongly asserted "youth of Kashmir, once engulfed in a blood bath due to the conspiracies hatched by Kashmir-centric political parties, have now been successfully connected to the mainstream by Prime Minister, Modi's efforts". The meeting was organised by JMC Councillor Ward No. 41, Sanjay Kumar Baru at Booth No. 1, Jammu West. Vibodh further added that today, having been unequivocally rejected by the youth of Kashmir, parties like the National Conference (NC), PDP, and Congress are attempting to conspire against the youth of Jammu and unleash the same wave of unrest here. Raising alarm over this nefarious plot by the opposition, Vibodh said BJP is determined not to allow these divisive agendas to succeed against the youth of J&K. BJP under the leadership of PM, Narendra Modi is on a mission to ensure that a Chief Minister from Jammu takes the helm in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.



Advisor Bhatnagar receiving Lifetime Achievement Award.

### Advisor Bhatnagar receives Lifetime Achievement Award from President of Mauritius

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar addressed the third Excellence in Education Awards ceremony held at World Hindi Secretariat here. The event was presided over by President of Mauritius, Prithvirajsing Roopun. Vice Prime Minister of Mauritius, Leela Devi Dookun and Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance of Mauritius, Mahen Kumar Seeruttun also graced the occasion. Addressing the ceremony, Advisor Bhatnagar gave a detailed talk and presentation on the National Education policy and the initiatives launched by School Education of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to distinguished audience and educationists from around the globe. During the ceremony, Advisor Bhatnagar was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the President of Republic of Mauritius for his unwavering commitment to the nation and public service and also notable contribution in the field of education. The ceremony was held with an aim to understand the importance of collaboration and innovation in education, uniting educationists and policymakers.

### Balvinder Singh along with members of DGPC Jammu and Sikh organizations addressing a press conference on Sunday



Balvinder Singh along with members of DGPC Jammu and Sikh organizations addressing a press conference on Sunday.

### DGPC Jammu expresses concern over disappearance of Valley Sikh

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu along with other members of Sikh organizations of Jammu have expressed deep anguish and anxiety over the prolonged disappearance of Er Gurmeet Singh of Kanth Bagh Baramulla Kashmir, who is missing mysteriously since evening of 25th of August and has not been traced yet. Addressing a hurriedly called press conference, DGPC Vice President Balvinder Singh and General Secretary Surjit Singh appealed the LG Administration JK UT & DGP JK UT to gear up their machinery and expedite the efforts of tracing the missing Engineer, whose prolonged disappearance has resulted in pain and agony not only among the family but also in the whole minority community of JKUT. "Govt has not been able to trace an upright and honest officer even after three days even as latest technology including artificial intelligence, is available at their disposal," said Balvinder Singh. He also appealed the civil society of Kashmir to come forward and provide valuable leads that may help in tracing the missing Engineer and set an example of brotherhood. DGPC Jammu assured the Sikh brothers of Kashmir in general and family members of Er Gurmeet Singh in particular that the whole Sikh society of Jammu Province stands with them in this hour of crises and is ready to extend every possible help to mitigate the sufferings of the family. Others who were present in the press conference, included Avtar Singh, Member DGPC Jammu; T P Singh, Harmohinder Singh (President Displaced Kashmiri Sikh Conference), Surinder Singh Wazir, Deedar Singh, Janak Singh, Attamjit Singh and Tejinder Singh (Naib Sarpanch Chatha Farm).

### Noorbagh's Badiwuder facing decade-long water crisis

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Despite the district Srinagar being celebrated as a standout achiever in the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM), the residents of Badiwuder area in Noorbagh face a contrasting reality: enduring an acute scarcity of proper drinking water facilities for over 15 years. Expressing their concerns over this stark disparity, the residents of Badiwuder took to the streets today, with both men and women protesting against the local authorities. Their demand was clear: immediate and effective measures to ensure piped drinking water for every home in the area. Tasleema, an active participant in the protest, voiced her frustration, saying, "I've been married and living here for nearly two decades, yet the simple privilege of clean drinking water remains elusive. The situation has remained unchanged throughout these years. We're compelled to travel nearly 3 kilometers to Kreshbal or Sangam to collect drinking water." Elders within the community recounted their continuous efforts spanning almost 14 years to draw attention to this crisis before the appropriate authorities. Regrettably, they noted that tangible improvements were yet to materialize on the ground. Ghulam Qadir, a resident, questioned the district's recognition for its performance, stating, "While the district revels in its accolade, what about us? We reside in the heart of the city, yet in the year 2023, we still lack access to piped drinking water. It's disheartening. We've even taken the initiative to lay pipes ourselves, but the absence of proper water supply renders these efforts futile." At the core of the residents' demands is the installation of a direct pipeline connecting Sangam to Badiwuder, a step they believe would significantly ease their ongoing hardships.

### Anil Paba conferred with Rashtriya Prerna Award 2023

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: Anil Paba, a social activist from Udhampur, has been conferred with Rashtriya Prerna Award 2023 in the category of Archaeologist. The event was held by Indian Book of Star Records in association with Rashtriya Vaikalpik Upchar Paddhati Parishad a few days back at Indore where Vishwaguru National Conference was also held. It is recalled that Anil Paba is the only freelance Archaeologist from Jammu and Kashmir who is working for the last three decades to preserve the Art, Culture and Heritage of J&K. Paba discovered a number of ancient temples from the Jammu region of archaeological importance. He also discovered microlithic tools for the first time in the history of Jammu region which fills various gaps of history and also established a private museum namely "Amar Santosh Museum and Art Gallery," in Udhampur.



Anil Paba conferred with Rashtriya Prerna Award 2023.



DC Abhishek Sharma interacting with blood donor at Samba.

### DC Samba inaugurates Blood Donation Camp

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SAMBA, Aug 27: Sant Nirankari Mission's Samba branch today organized a Blood Donation Camp. The event saw an overwhelming response, with devotees coming together to contribute towards the noble cause of saving lives through voluntary blood donation. Under the guiding principle of 'blood should flow in veins not in drains', inspired by the teachings of Baba Hardev Singh Ji, and with the blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudhiksha Ji Maharaj, the event aimed to spread awareness about the importance of blood donation and its life-saving impact. The event was conducted in collaboration with the blood and transfusion department of Govt. Medical College Jammu, District Hospital Samba, and JK SACS. A total of 140 units of blood were generously donated by individuals of all age groups, reflecting the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants.



Rafiq Malik with new entrants in LJP (R).

### Several join LJP (R); Malik lashes out at BJP Govt

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Aug 27: Several prominent persons from Udhampur today joined Lok Janshakti Party (R) under the leadership of its J&K President Rafiq Malik. Welcoming new entrants into the party fold, Malik said that public grievances are mounting every day but the BJP Government has remained unmoved. He said the people from various areas have put their grievances before him particularly hefty power tariff bills after installation of smart meters expressing inability to pay such bills and that too when there is unscheduled power cuts in various areas. Malik said LJP is fully capable to defeat forces which are hell bent upon to divide the people on religious and regional lines to serve their vested interests. He added that people of JK UT have realized the politics gimmicks of various groups and parties which were trying to make inroads in JK to create confusion among the voters. While reiterating the demand for immediate stoppage of Toll Plaza at Sarore, Malik said that BJP is totally indifferent to the genuine demand which will affect all section of people from various parts of the country.

### Ex-servicemen project issues

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
AKHNOOR, Aug 27: Ex-servicemen Association of Akhnoor discussed the burning issues of the retired Defence personnel in a meeting held here today. The meeting in this connection, was held under the chairmanship of Naval veteran, Lakhbir Singh which was attended by a large number of ex-servicemen of the area. It was organized by Raghuraj Singh and presided over by Capt (Retd) Santosh Kumar, its president.