



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti addressing party workers in Jammu office on Sunday.

BJP using J&K as Lab: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19 Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti today appealed to the people of Jammu to unite and fight for their rights without being misled by any slogan.

She said the BJP has promised to install a Dogra Chief Minister if voted to power in Jammu and Kashmir, but where are the Dogras. "We, Kashmiris, have apprehensions about demographic change, but the demography of Jammu has already changed," she told her party workers at the PDP office here.

"They (BJP) are directly ruling Jammu and Kashmir for many years and when they had an opportunity to install a Dogra LG (Lieutenant Governor), they did not. They are bringing people from outside," she said.

She alleged that the BJP is using Jammu and Kashmir "as a laboratory" for its policies that will subsequently be implemented in the rest of the country.

Dogri-Punjabi folk musical programme organized

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Alka Musical Group, Channi Himmat organised a Dogri-Punjabi Folk Musical programme on at KL Sehgal Hall.



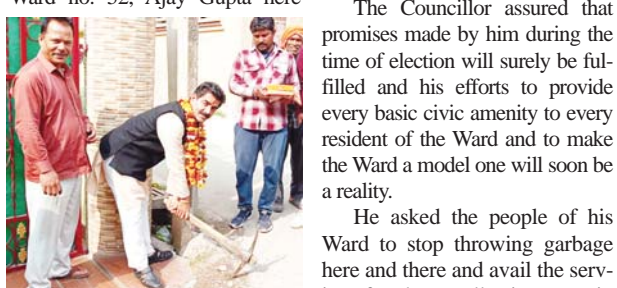
Artists during folk musical performance in Jammu on Sunday.

Abhinav Theatre, Jammu here today. The programme included the live performance by Alka Anil Mahajan. She presented the famous Dogri and Punjabi folk songs and mesmerised the audience with her impressive voice. Suman Gupta, renowned painter was the chief guest during the function.

The eminent personalities who graced the occasion included - Dr Arvinder Singh Amn, Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, TR Sharm, former Special Secretary Culture, Ashok Singh president JK Delphic Council, Seema Sehgal renowned singer, Neena Gupta (Corporator),

Ajay Gupta starts lane-drain work

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Senior BJP leader and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Councillor of Ward no. 52, Ajay Gupta here



Senior BJP leader, Ajay Gupta starting lane-drain work in Preet Nagar.

today started lane-drain work at lane no. 15, Preet Nagar which will incur an expenditure of Rs. 39.6 lakh. Speaking on the occasion Gupta said that the work of lane and drain in the area was a long

GDCT organizes free medical camp

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), a Non-Governmental Organization working for the tribal of J&K for the last three decades, organized a free medical camp at Gujjar Colony, here today.

The Camp organized in collaboration with SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital Katra, was inaugurated by Ramesh Kumar (Divisional Commissioner, Jammu) as chief guest. The doctors from various spe-

Congress says no opposition unity possible without it, plenary to give direction to such plans

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Ahead of its plenary next week, the Congress on Sunday said the party top brass will deliberate and give direction on ways to forge opposition unity during the three-day conclave, asserting that any such effort without it would be unsuccessful.

The plenary session in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur will start from February 24 and is expected to be attended by around 15,000 delegates.

Congress general secretary organisation K C Venugopal said the party's steering committee would meet on the first day of the session and decide whether elections would be held for the party's top decision-making body -- the Congress Working Committee (CWC), a demand made by some from within the organisation.

"The Congress knows its role in bringing together various opposition parties for forging an alliance ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to take on the BJP and oust it from power, he said.

"The Congress has already taken the initiative and has been in touch with various political parties. There is a clear-cut initiative taken by the Congress in bringing opposition parties together and we will certainly bring them together against the BJP in the 2024 elections," Venugopal told a press conference here.

"The direction on opposition unity will come from the party's plenary session, where this issue will be deliberated upon," he said and added that the main job is to defeat the BJP in 2024.

Venugopal said that this plenary is a reflection of the sentiments of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and an extension of the Udaipur Chintan Shivir. The plenary has been given the tagline "Haath se Haath Jodo" as it is happening in the midst of the party's countrywide "Haath se Haath Jodo" campaign, he said.

Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said the party recognises that opposition unity is important and added that this issue will be deliberated upon at the plenary session. "Nobody needs to give us a certificate that we have to lead because any opposition unity without the Congress will be unsuccessful. So we welcome the statement of Nitish Kumar, and as Venugopal ji has said this will be



Representatives of various political and other organisations paying tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Jammu on Sunday

Jammu pays tribute to Shivaji Maharaj on his Jayanti

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Members of the Maratha community residing and working in Jammu today celebrated the 393rd birth anniversary of the great Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with much fanfare at Jain Bazar here.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive member, Raman Suri, who is also the president of Sarafa Association Jammu presided over the programme along with Kulbhushan Anand Chairman Swarnkar Sangh Ad-hoc Committee Jammu City, Amit Luthra general secretary, Ashutosh Kapoor former president, Swarnkar Sangh Jammu City besides, prominent attendees Mayank Kapoor, Surinder Sharma and Ajay Verma.

The programme, which was organized by the Maratha community members Vikram Babar, Raju Bosla, Ajay Kirdar, Ravi Jadhav, Sunny Shinda and others hailing from Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur and other areas of Maharashtra, started with gar-

landing the statue of Shivaji Maharaj at Cee Ess Market, followed by the recitation of Bhajans and later on, langar was distributed amongst common people. Speaking on the occasion, Raman Suri said, "popularly known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, this Indian ruler founded the Maratha Empire and was crowned in 1674 at the Raigad Fort in Pune. Born on February 19, 1630, this great warrior breathed his last at the age of just 50 but during his rise, he scared the Mughals like no one else".

Known for his administrative and war skills, Shivaji Maharaj was such a legend that today stories of his victories are read and narrated across the length and breadth of India. He was instrumental in the freedom struggle against foreign invaders and was also known for his love and passion for preservation of the Indian culture, Raman Suri said, adding that the forts built and captured by him also stand as witnesses to the way he trained his army into war tactics. He also promoted Marathi and Sanskrit languages and even replaced Persian that was widely used in courts and administrative works. The BJP leader urged the Government to name one big road/dubout after the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and install his statue there. Several other community members also spoke on the occasion and paid tributes to the great warrior who defeated the Mughal General, Afzal Khan and captured forts in Maharashtra, thereby expanding his empire.

Kavinder slams Mehbooba for linking BJP leaders with Mughals

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, has slammed People's Democratic Party chief and former CM Mehbooba Mufti for making 'obnoxious' and 'irrelevant' statements time and again.

Kavinder said by linking BJP leaders with Mughals, Mehbooba Mufti was giving vent to her utter frustration due to staying away from power. He suggested to use Google before giving any statement.

"Hinduism is not founded by a person or a prophet. About 6000 years ago, there was only one religion in the whole world, whose name was Sanatana Dharma," said the BJP leader, adding that the Sanatana Dharma was practised under different name across the world before Islam was founded.

Clarifying over the role of Congress in Independence, Kavinder reminded the PDP leader that before Independence Congress was just a movement not any political Party and Gandhi ji was also in favour of dissolving the Congress after attaining the freedom from Britishers.

Dy Mayor meets patients, staff at Guru Nanak Mission Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria here today visited Guru Nanak Mission Hospital, Nanak Nagar and interacted with patients and staff of the Hospital. He took a detailed assess-



Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria during visit to Guru Nanak Mission Hospital, Nanak Nagar.

ment of services being provided to the patients and inspected various sections and Wards of the Hospital.

Billawaria said that Guru Nanak Mission Hospital is providing lab, physiotherapy, CT scan, X-ray, ultrasound, ambulance and other facilities to the patients.

He said that the Hospital will soon provide specialized health care services to the people of Jammu at an affordable price.

The Deputy Mayor also said that the Hospital is equipped

Rahul installs water cooler in Gandhi Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Councillor of Ward number 20, Rahul Kumar here today



JMC Councillor, Rahul Kumar along with others posing for a group photograph after installing a water cooler in Gandhi Nagar.

installed a water cooler at Park No. 3 in Gandhi Nagar.

Speaking on the occasion he said that BJP led Government at the Centre remains committed

Teachers Forum discusses arrangements for NJCA convention

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: An emergency meeting of Central Executive Body of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum was held today at Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the chairmanship of Ganesh Khajuria, chairman JKTF, to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming convention of National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), being organised by JKTF.

The meeting chalked out strategy for successful conduct of the convention which is going to be held on 26th Feb 2023 at Teachers Bhawan Gandhi Nagar. Ganesh Khajuria, who is also one of the members in the National



Former Minister calling on LG

Former Minister calls on LG

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Raman Bhalla, Former Minister and Working President, Indian National Congress J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan today. Bhalla submitted a memorandum of demands of general

Natrang stages Hindi play 'Girgit'

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: Theatre group 'Natrang' here today staged Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant. Based on a Russian short story by Anton Chekhov the play proved hard



A still from play 'Girgit' staged in Jammu on Sunday.

hit satire on present socio-political system and was deeply rooted in the soil of Jammu. The play 'Girgit' revolves around a dog and corrupt police officer.

The stage action starts when a dog bites a pickpocket who approaches a police officer for help to roundup owner of the dog but all went in vain.

A passerby hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving

Grand 'Gurmat Samagam' organized at Domana

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: A grand 'Gurmat Samagam' in the memory of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Danna was held today at Gurudwara Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji, Akhnoor Road Domana, under the patronage of Sant



Head Granthi from Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar speaking during religious function at Domana near Jammu on Sunday.

Tejwant Singh Ji, 'Dera Mukhi' Sant Pura Danna.

The programme was organized with the active cooperation of Joginder Singh Bali and Updesh Kour Bali (Hongkong Waley), Baldev Singh, and Adv Surinder Kour, Bhagri family from USA and Jeet Singh of Holland and others followers of Dera Sant Pura Danna.

Giani Jagtar Singh, Head Granthi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar was present on the occasion and spoke on the life and teachings of Sikh Gurus, Gurbani enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib and paid homage to Sant Gurbaksh Singh Danna.

Renowned Ragi Jathas S. Gurpreet Singh from Jalandhar, Bhai Jagtar Singh of Jammu, Bhai Jagir Singh Hazuri Ragi Sant Pura Danna, S Parminder Singh, S Kulbir Singh, S Davinder Singh, S Dharmvir Singh and other prominent local Ragis recited Gurbani Kirtan and conveyed the message of great Sikh Gurus and Sri Guru Granth

AIPSO holds conference at Dhanvantri Bhawan

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 19: All India Peace and Solidarity Organization (AIPSO), J&K Chapter held its conference at Dhanvantri Bhawan, here wherein a large number of senior citizens, political and social activists from both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir participated, today.

During the conference, the participants expressed their anguish over the large scale of death and destruction in the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia which has badly affected the economic condition of the whole world.

The conference urged both India and Pakistan to strengthen their mutual trust and friendship and resolve all the contentious