

*Sinha attends opening ceremony of Bharat Rang Mahotsav at JU*  
**Asia's largest theatre festival depicts glorious Indian culture: LG**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the opening ceremony of 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, (BRM) the largest theatre festival of Asia at General Zorawar Singh



*Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at opening ceremony of 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav at Jammu University on Monday.*

Auditorium, University of Jammu. The theatre festival is being organized by National School of Drama in collaboration with the University of Jammu. entertained and inspired many generations. In our ancient tradition, theatre was considered as the medium which combined two other performing art forms - music and dance," Lt Governor

**Com/Secy RDD reviews works approved after B2V4**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj (Mentor Secretary), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired a Parabhari Officer follow up virtual meet of "Back to Village phase IV" for Panchayat Seri Khawaja, Lassana block. During the meeting, Mandeep Kaur took a detailed review of development indicators including status of deliverables in the Panchayat and had a holistic follow up meet with the line departments. She also undertook review of works approved after B2V4 in response to demands raised by the general public during the ambitious programme.

Mandeep asked for conducting this meeting on first Monday of every month as mandatory in presence of all concerned officers. Commissioner Secretary directed the Agriculture and Forest departments to submit a comprehensive report regarding availability of natural resources in Panchayat Seri Khawaja in particular and district in general. She also directed the concerned for ensuring uploading of all activities of the panchayat on JK Panchayat Portal by the



*JMCSTOU members during a press conference at Jammu on Monday.*

**Traffic personnel disrespecting HC judgment, harassing Union members: JMCSTOU**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Jammu Maxi Club and Special Taxi Operator Union (JMCSTOU) today alleged that traffic police personnel are disrespecting High Court judgment and harassing its members on parking their vehicles on the right side of PHE Office, BC Road, Jammu. Addressing a press conference here today, JMCSTOU members said that Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) vide its order dated 02-03-2021 declared the area from Jewel Chowk (BC Road) upto KC Crossing as no parking area which ultimately compelled the

**Habib assigned charge of CE P&P JPDCCL**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: For smooth functioning of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCCL), Government today assigned additional charge of Chief Engineer (P&P) of the Corporation to Habib Choudhary (Incharge Superintending Engineer of Procurement Circle, JPDCCL, Jammu). "Habib Choudhary shall look after the charge of Chief Engineer (CE), P&P, JPDCCL Jammu, on temporary basis till the post is filled by the competent authority," reads an order issued by Managing Director, JPDCCL Jammu, Shiv Anant Tayal.



*Dr Farooq Abdullah chairing meeting of NC functionaries at Srinagar on Monday.*

**J&K cannot do without NC: Farooq**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SRINAGAR, Feb 20: National Conference President and Member of the Parliament from Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah today said that J&K cannot do without NC, which represents aspirations of people of the erstwhile State. Interacting with the party functionaries of district Srinagar at the NC headquarters Naw-e-Subha, Srinagar, he said NC is the byname of the aspirations of people of J&K and the party has been at the forefront of J&K politics for nearly a century now, playing a pivotal role in the socio-political emancipation of its people. "It is important to underscore one vital truth: Jammu and Kashmir cannot do without NC. What it stands for, and the space it occupies, are essential for the JK to survive and thrive. The party should not merely be seen as an instrument for fighting elections every few years. There is a great deal that it can and must do between elections. We have to return to the ethos of politics as social work for those who cannot help themselves. There is no other way to protect our identity and unique culture," he added.

**JKEDI Director attends 2-day workshop at Chennai**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat attended an incubator capacity development program jointly organized by Startup India, IIT Madras Research Park, and IIT Madras incubation cell in Chennai. The theme of the workshop was "what makes an incubator successful". The officers were deputed by Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. In order to make J&K a startup-friendly place, the department is revising the operational guidelines of the J&K Startup Policy to make it more inclusive and to incorporate best practices from across the country. The workshop started with an inaugural session by Prof Ashok Jhunjhunwala, President, IITM Research Park & IITM Incubation Cell. He shared his rich experience with the participants and gave an in-depth insight into how a university should run an incubator and the importance of creating discipline among startups. Aastha Grover, Head of Startup India gave a presentation on their role and how they are helping startups around the country. The workshop also included sessions with successful entrepreneurs. Ravi Sarangi, co-founder, of Uniphore, Ranjith Mukundan from Stellapps Technologies, and Arun Prakash, Guvi Apps, shared their knowledge and first-hand experiences on their journey. The workshop also included panel discussions on creating a successful startup. The panel included Prof. Prabhu Rajgopal and R Narayan Swami among others. The participants also visited various research facilities of IIT Madras and interacted with faculty members and researchers. They were also given a tour of their Tech Incubators and appraised about deep tech solutions and innovations that are solving societal problems. For the last several years, IIT Madras has been focusing on India's societal problems, which they can solve. Some quick examples are the robot that cleans septic tanks, 3D printed houses, and foldable housing through which 3,000 oxygen beds were made ready in just about a month during the Covid-19 pandemic. These were unanticipated by an academic institution a decade ago. Vishal Raj, Incubation Manager, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modelling, JKEDI also attended the workshop along with the Director, JKEDI. He also discussed possible collaborations and how to make the incubator at the Institute vibrant and result-oriented. Sharing knowledge and best practices will help JKEDI reach new heights and benefit the youth of J&K.

**Candle light protest against discrimination**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: On the instructions of All India Congress Committee, J&K Pradesh Congress OBC Department headed by Suresh Kumar Dogra, chairman OBC Department held a candle light protest against alleged discrimination and harassment of SC, ST, OBC and minority students in IITs across the country. Dogra claimed that throughout the country since 2014 to 2023, about 124 students belong to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities committed suicide.

**Samba police arrests notorious thief**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 SAMBA, Feb 20: Under the guidance of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, police have achieved another success in intensive drive against thieves in the district Samba by arresting notorious thief and solved another theft case by effecting recovery. Notorious thief has been identified as Bashir Ahmed, son of Mirza Khan of Dhama tehsil, Majalta district Udhampur presently at Gole Gujral, Gujjar Basti Jammu who had been committing thefts in Samba & Jammu districts, was caught in CCTV cameras as well, but used to escape from the clutches of police every time. With the arrest of the notorious thief made by SDPO, Bari Brahmana, Rahul Nagar, SHO,

**Union Minister interacts with JCCI members, heads of trade bodies**



*JCCI members during interaction with Union Minister for Food Processing, P K Paras in Jammu.*

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Pashupati Kumar Paras, Union Minister for Food Processing today visited Chamber House and interacted with office bearers and senior members of CCI besides heads/ representatives of the different trade bodies. While speaking on the occasion, Arun Gupta president CCI apprised the Union Minister that nature has showered his blessings on UT of Jammu & Kashmir in nature of agricultural produce, organic produce, mineral and mining produce, but unfortunately people of Jammu are not getting due share of all these produces. The items which are produced in Kashmir Valley are apple, plump, walnuts, almonds and Kesar etc. while as in Jammu rice, Rajmah, grapes, guava etc are produced in rich quantity. Previously the food park were announced in Jammu and Kashmir and one food park was developed in Kashmir Valley but unfortunately Jammu was deprived of getting the benefit of developing the food park. It is requested that food park as well as food laboratories should be developed in all the districts of J&K. Though the Union Government has imposed 100% import duty on walnuts to help the small growers but still small growers are not getting the sufficient price of their produce. It is requested to consider the quantity based tax on walnuts as is being done in case of almonds. Gupta said when there was a parks instead of the food parks developed previously and anybody can avail the benefit of the schemes. Those who were present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, senior vice president CCI, Rajeev Gupta, junior vice president CCI, Rajesh Gupta secretary CCI, Rajesh Gupta treasurer CCI, Shiv Partap Gupta, Rajendra Motial, Ravinder Sawhney, Sham Lal Langer, Krishan Lal Gupta, Vishwamitter Gupta, Jatinder Pinky Jain, Rajinder Parshad, Pooja Kapoor, Bimal Manchanda and presidents/representatives of different Bazar Associations.

**Jammu in the State of emergency under present regime: Lal Singh**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 HIRANAGAR, Feb 20: Founder Chairman of DSSP and former Member Parliament, Ch Lal Singh today alleged that Jammu is in the state of emergency under present regime. While addressing a large gathering at village Gial Wand of Tehsil Hiranagar, former MP castigated the present regime of its mindless decisions which has caused a state of emergency all across in Jammu province. Every law passed under the present regime is anti-people and unethical and against the very spirit of democracy, he alleged. "It's very unfortunate that even old age women are running from pillar to post for the meagre amount of their pension. They are put in such a crisis that majority of them have gone in depression because of non-payment of pension due to illogical formalities imposed upon them. This Government is behaving in a very different manner which can be observed in every decision whether land laws or

**Dogri Sanstha Jammu organizes online 'Dogri Kavi Goshthi'**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Dogri Sanstha Jammu, a leading literary organization of Jammu and Kashmir always at forefront in projecting and working for regional language and cultural traditions, organized online Kavi Goshthi in which prominent poets and poetesses of Dogri presented their captivating poetry in their mother tongue Dogri. Prof Veena Gupta (vice-president of Dogri Sanstha) presided over the function. The poets who presented their poetry include Shashi Padha, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Vijay Sharma, Usha Kiran 'Kiran', Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', Dr Chanchal Bhasin, Heena Choudhary, Dr Deeksha Sharma and Pawan Verma. While presiding over the function, Prof Veena Gupta (Sahitya Akademi awardee of last year) said that all the poets and poetesses made this evening a memorable one with their creative writings. She said that each creator has his or her own way of presenting the inner most feel through verses that gave different shades to Kavi Goshthi. She further added that Sanstha is always in the process of introducing budding talent with the established litterateurs so that they may get to know what is being written in our mother tongue and it also boosts their morale to explore more subjects to pen down their feelings in a creative way. Pawan Verma, who conducted the proceedings of Kavi Goshthi and offered technical support for its smooth conduct, also presented vote of thanks. The program was watched and appreciated on Facebook page of Dogri Sanstha Jammu by many within country and by Dogri lovers living abroad also.

**NC leader concerned over subsidence of land in Duksar**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 BANIHAL, Feb 20: NC district Ramban president, Mir Sajjad Shaheen has expressed serious concern over subsidence of a major chunk of land in Duksar village in Dalwah in which about two dozen houses, including a stretch of road suffered damage rendering dozens of people homeless and blockade of Sangaldan-Gool road. The program was watched and appreciated on Facebook page of Dogri Sanstha Jammu by many within country and by Dogri lovers living abroad also. He demanded immediate restoration of Sangaldan-Gool road besides up-gradation of Lohar Mohala Dharam to Gool road as alternate road connectivity to Gool and other areas.



*Organizers with guests during inaugural occasion of week-long workshop at JU on Monday.*

**Week-long workshop on GIS begins at JU**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: The Post-Graduate Department of Geography, University of Jammu, is organizing "One week workshop on Geographic Information System (GIS) using Open Source Software" from today. The inaugural function of the workshop was held today in the Geology Department wherein Prof Rajni Kant, Dean Research Studies & Dean Faculty of Sciences, JU was the chief guest. He suggested the younger faculty and scholars to stay focused to their academic pursuits to attain bigger goals. He emphasized that better utilization of the technology with innovation is the key for the 21st century especially when the Government of India has opened up its resources in the form of start-ups. Prof SK Pandita, Director HRDC, highlighted the use of GIS in every domain. He was of the view that GIS changes our lifestyle in many ways. The keynote speaker Prof R

**Manjeet Singh demands tehsil status to Parmandal**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Apni Party provincial president, Jammu, Manjeet Singh today appealed to the UT Government to grant tehsil status to Parmandal block in Jammu and put the place on the religious tourism map. A handout issued by the party here, today said, the demand was made by Manjit Singh while addressing the party workers meeting at Mandal area in Jammu. Party's ST Wing president, Saleem Choudhary and district president, Samba, Raman Thappa were also present in the meeting which was organized by retired DFO, Manzoor Hussain. "On this occasion, Manjeet Singh said that Parmandal block despite having a great significance for holding important religious places, has always been overlooked by the successive Governments and the place is having drastic developmental deficit and eventually the residents are grappling with poverty and the lack of opportunities," the press note said. He appealed to the LG administration to grant the block a status of tehsil and place it on religious tourism map. He said, the demand for a tehsil status to this backward area and its placement on the religious tourism map is a long pending demand of the people here, thus the Government must take required measures to fulfill the public demand without any further delay.

**Poor traffic scenario in Jammu city: Namrta**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
 JAMMU, Feb 20: Commuters in City of Temples are worried as faulty traffic signals at several intersections pose a great threat of accidents. Absence of traffic cops at intersections where signals are not functional adds to the problem, especially in early hours due to fog. This was observed by Namrta Sharma, president AAP Women Wing J&K in a handout. She observed that at several intersections, traffic signals are often out of order and many of the lights are non-functional besides at some junctions timers are not working. The AAP leader claimed that at several crossings, the timers are not working which creates awkward situation and sometimes the confusion result in mishaps. Namrta said that the present dispensation has spent crore of rupees to streamline the growing traffic scenario but nothing fruitful has emerged. She appealed to the Lt. Governor to look into the matter and give necessary directions to the authorities concerned to resolve the issues of traffic lights.