



LG Ladakh, Brig (Retd) BD Mishra interacting with several high-ranking officials at Raj Niwas in Leh on Friday.

## GOC 14 Corps, Air Cdre 21 Wg among others call on LG Mishra

**Excelsior Correspondent**

LEH, Feb 24: Several high-ranking officials visited Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), here at Raj Niwas on Friday.

As per a statement, GOC 14 Corps, Lt General Anindya Sengupta, briefed the Lt Governor on the top preparedness of the Indian Army to defend the border areas of Ladakh.

It said that the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of 21 Wing LeH, Air Commodore Pankaj Kumar Srivastava, discussed the need to evacuate stranded Ladakhi citizens from Chandigarh, Jammu, and Delhi. The Lt Governor requested the

## PIL highlighting damage caused by flash floods DB directs AAG to file latest status report regarding Morphology Study

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: A Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi has granted four weeks time to Additional Advocate General Amit Gupta appearing for Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) and JTFRP (Jehlum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project) to file latest status report regarding the current status of the Study of River Morphology of River Tawi Basin being carried out by M/s Aqualogus Oiltech (Joint Venture).

When the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) titled 'Inhabitants of Villages Barjala and Khandwal (Nikki Tawi Area) V/S State of J&K & Ors' came up for hearing, Advocate Sheikh Shaheel Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan and Mohd Zulkarnain Choudhary appearing for the petitioners submitted that a foreign consultancy was engaged to study the River Tawi and to suggest mechanism for controlling the flash floods during monsoon as havoc is created with the maximum discharge of River Tawi water in Nikki Tawi Area where more than 48 villages sub-merge during rainy season thereby resulting in irreparable loss to the inhabitants of the area.

At this stage, Senior AAG S S Nanda assisted by AAG Amit Gupta submitted that the foreign consultancy has already submitted its report regarding River Morphology to the ERA/JTFRP and the officers concerned are taking guidance from the study undertaken.

The Division Bench, accordingly, directed AAG Amit Gupta to file the latest status report in this regard within a period of four weeks. Advocate Mayank Gupta appearing for Jammu Smart City Project submitted that he has filed a detailed status report dated September 9th, 2022 giving details regarding the development of Tawi River Front on the pattern of Sabarmati River in Gujarat (Phase-I) and the work on the project is going on and the first phase of the project is going to be completed within a period of 18 months--July 31st, 2023.

Looking into the importance of the matter and the public interest involved, the Division Bench headed by First Puisne Judge Tashi Rabstan directed the Registry to re-notify the instant PIL on March 31st, 2023.

## DB directives in PIL seeking upgradation of Jammu airport

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: In a Public Interest Litigation filed by Advocate Ravi Abrol seeking directions to respondents to upgrade the Civil Airport, Jammu at par with the international airports, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi issued certain directions to the concerned authorities.

Advocate Ravi Abrol appearing for the PIL stated that revenue authorities have not handed over the possession of land in terms of award dated 30.01.2008. On this, DB said, "though the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu is not a party in the instant PIL, but being the Collector, the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu is the authority to implement the award dated 30.01.2008".

Accordingly, DB directed Senior AAG Monika Kohli appearing for the Deputy

## Left, farmer groups protest in Delhi against eviction drive in J&K

**Excelsior Correspondent**

NEW DELHI, Feb 24: Farmer groups and Left leaders from Jammu and Kashmir protested at the Jantar Mantar here on Friday, demanding the withdrawal of the land eviction order 2020 under which the Union Territory administration has launched a drive to retrieve state land from encroachers.

At a protest organised by the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and Jammu and Kashmir Kisan Tehreek (JKKT), the groups also demanded withdrawal of changes in land laws, and said the evictions should be stopped.

Speaking at the protest, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said while a petition on abrogation of Article 370 and 35A is still pending with the Supreme Court, laws are being changed in the Union Territory.

"Laws are being changed in Jammu and Kashmir, and common, working class people, specially farmers, are getting affected. The change in law which allows outsiders to buy land in

## Cluster University Jammu to start PhD program from July 2023

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: Academic Council of the Cluster University of Jammu met today under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof Bechan Lal and took several decisions. Among the major decisions



VC Cluster University Jammu chairing Academic Council meeting of the University on Friday.

innovative ideas, nurturing them to become think tanks. He also encouraged the members to create a platform for students to share their new thoughts/ideas and collaborate with fellow students of multi-disciplinary areas. He concluded his remarks by stressing the grant of credit points to such students for their innovative endeavour and work.

Dr Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu presented the agenda of the meeting which included 14 items. The Academic Council after threadbare discussions endorsed a number of agenda items for further consideration/approval of the competent bodies like Finance Committee, Syndicate and University Council.

Prof Qayyum Husain, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar was special invitee in the meeting, which was also attended by Registrar, Dr Jatinder Khajuria; Deans of various Faculties, Principals of Constituent Colleges, Heads of the Departments of Cluster University of Jammu, Registrar and Deans of the Faculties of the Cluster University Srinagar.

## VHP pays tribute to late leader Khem Chand

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) paid tribute to its late leader Khem Chand Sharma in a meeting organized today under the chairmanship of its national secretary Ras Bihari, who was on a 2-week tour in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh.

The office bearers and workers of VHP state and metropolis paid heartfelt tribute to late Khem Chand Sharma and also gave information about the biography of the late leader and the works done by him for the country, religion and Hindutva in front of everyone.

On the occasion, VHP state president Sarva Leela Karan Sharma, vice president Shakti



Senior BJP leader, Sukhmandan Choudhary inaugurating E-junction at Patoli Gurha Brahmana.

## E-junction launched

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: E-junction, a flagship project of Kawa Group was here today launched at Patoli Gurha Brahmana on Akhnoor Road.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Sukhmandan Choudhary, senior BJP leader.

Giving details about E-junction, Abhimanyu Katoch, key resource person informed that E-junction is going to facilitate not only to the youth but will also be beneficial for the persons of all age groups.

He said that to provide employment opportunities, the E-junction would be a platform to eradicate the unemployment issue to a great extent.

"Similarly the E-junction will also be catering the needs of students' community, employees and others masses who are in need of Assessment, Training, IT and Professional services (accountancy, medical, legal, architecture) and services for the farmers," he maintained.

M.S Katoch, Chairman, Kawa Group said that E-junction is going to be the turning point in

## Daughter of Soil selected as Supermodel Worldwide New Zealand 2023

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: A daughter of the soil has been selected as Supermodel Worldwide New Zealand 2023.

Jasmeet Kour, daughter of S. Prem Singh and Inderjit Kour, currently living in New Zealand is selected as Supermodel Worldwide New Zealand-2023 and she will represent New Zealand in the coming competition in September in India.

Basically from Jammu Jasmeet completed her MBA from Pune University and left India six years ago for further studies.

She is also the winner of Mrs. India New Zealand as the first runner-up in 2022 and is coming as a celebrity jury member in Jammu Press Club for a function organized by 999 Productions regarding Miss and Mrs. Jammu North to crown the winners on March 26.

## Annual event 'Askini Bhaderkashi Utsav' starts

**Excelsior Correspondent**

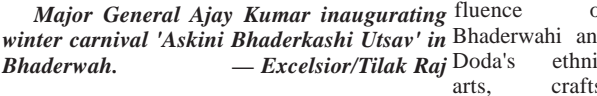
BHADERWAH, Feb 24: Much famed winter carnival 'Askini Bhaderkashi Utsav' has started here today in the scenic Jai Valley.

The winter festival is one of the biggest annual events of the district tourism calendar.

The two day Utsav is being organized by District Administration in collaboration with Tourism Department, BDA and Indian Army's 4RR to expose the tourists to a confluence of Bhaderwahi and Doda's ethnic arts, crafts, cuisines etc to engage them in fun activities besides entertaining them with performances by various celebrity artists.

DC Doda said that UT administration and District administration are taking care of establishing world class infrastructure to attract tourists and give them never before experience for hospitality and natural beauty.

Major General Ajay Kumar said that regional peace along with better infrastructure, connectivity and quality hotels are prerequisite for tourists attraction and the Administration is working on all the parameters to make Bhaderwah one of the world class tourist places in near future.



Major General Ajay Kumar inaugurating winter carnival 'Askini Bhaderkashi Utsav' in Bhaderwahi and Bhaderwah.

The Utsav was thrown open by Major General Ajay Kumar GOC, Cif(D) along with Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Joint Director, Sunaina Sharma and BMO Bhaderwah, Dr. Varsha Kotwal and other dignitaries.

Enthralling cultural and musical performances by popular artists and singers from within and outside J&K mesmerized the tourists.

Famous singer Kabul Bukhari performed live and enthralled the audience with his sweet voice. Local artists also performed and left the audience spellbound. Diku Dance, Kan Chouth, local fashion show, Lath Show, local wrestling and other

## BJP holds workshop on 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan'

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South today held a "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" workshop at the party office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

As per a statement, the meeting



Kavinder Gupta among BJP leaders during a workshop organized at Party Office, Trikuta Nagar Jammu on Friday.

zational network at the ground level. To achieve this purpose, he asked the party activists to ensure "Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan" well before the coming elections.

In his address, Vibodh Gupta laid special emphasis on the booth sashaktikaran. "Senior party leaders in conjunction with local leaders should contact every prominent person in the booth to increase the party's base and endorsement of its policies and works," he said.

Rekha Mahajan in her presidential address asked the party cadre to strengthen the party at the booth level with the Assembly election in J&K slated to be announced any time shortly.

The meeting also saw four main speakers read the speech of the President of India, which was given to them as a responsibility to be implemented by the cadre. The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Akash Chopra, and the vote of thanks was presented by Pushpinder Charak.

## 5 hurt in Rajouri accident

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: Five persons were injured in a road accident in Sunderbani area of district Rajouri today.

Official sources said that a Tempo collided with car near Bakhar village in Sunderbani in which five persons were injured and removed to Sub District Hospital Sunderbani. Later, they were referred to GMC Jammu. Dharamsal police has taken cognizance of the matter.

The victims were identified as Deepak Sharma, son of Bachan Lal from Dharamsal; Sidharth Sharma, son Vinod Kumar from Siot; Raula, daughter of Mohd Altaf from Mendhar at present Bathandi in Jammu; Laila, daughter of Mohd Altaf from Mendhar at present Bathandi and Amar Naseem, son of Mohd Naseem from Chhajla in Mankote tehsil of Poonch.

## Namrta opposes move to impose property tax

**Excelsior Correspondent**

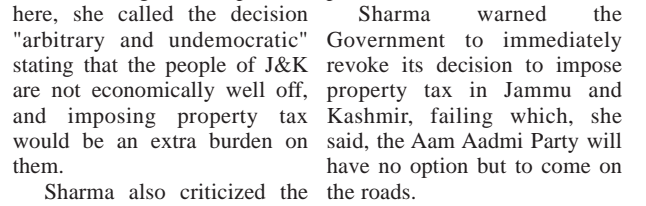
JAMMU, Feb 24: Namrta Sharma, President of the Women Wing of Aam Aadmi Party in Jammu and Kashmir, has criticized the decision of the LG Manoj Sinha-led Government to impose property tax on the people of the Union Territory.

Government for imposing GST on essential commodities, installing toll plazas, and boosting the liquor and mining mafia, which, according to her, has adversely impacted the people of J&K.

Sharma asserted that the process of collecting taxes and deciding the values of taxes is the sole prerogative of the elected institutions such as the legislature and municipal councils/corporations.

She argued that levying property tax in the absence of an elected Government is unconstitutional and that even the elected municipal bodies were not consulted.

Sharma warned the Government to immediately revoke its decision to impose property tax in Jammu and Kashmir, failing which, she said, the Aam Aadmi Party will have no option but to come on the roads.



AAP leader Namrta Sharma addressing media persons in Jammu on Friday.



NHPC officers and poets during a Kavi Sammelan in Faridabad on Friday.

## NHPC organizes Hindi Kavi Sammelan

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: NHPC organized a grand Hindi Kavi Sammelan today at its Corporate Office, Faridabad for the purpose of promotion of Rajbhasha throughout the company.

R.K Vishnoi, CMD, NHPC inaugurated the Kavi Sammelan by lighting the traditional lamp.

Y.K Chaubey, Director (Technical), Director (Personnel), R.P Goyal, Director (Finance), Biswajit Basu, Director (Projects), Santosh Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer and other senior officers and employees were also present on the occasion.

Chanchal Vishnoi, Pushpa Chaubey, Gayatri Goyal and other members of Ladies Welfare Association were also present during the Kavi Sammelan.

On this occasion, R.K Vishnoi, CMD NHPC applauded the dedication, efforts and hard work of all NHPCIans that resulted not only in construction of 22 power projects in remote and difficult locations but also efficient operation of these power stations.

He further said that this year NHPC is going to commission its two most prestigious projects and assured full support for completion of these projects. He also added that NHPC Board is committed to provide all possible facilities to its employees so that their morale remains high and they contribute their best to NHPC.

During the Kavi Sammelan, renowned poets including Padma Shri Sunil Jogi, Shambhu Shikar, Yogendra Sharma, Vineet Chauhan, Rajesh Chetan, Rajesh Agarwal and Gauri Mishra enthralled the audience with various poetic recitals based on different poetic 'rasas' and also dealing with patriotic and social issues.

## Man dies after being hit by train

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: An elderly man died after being hit by a train at Railway Station Jammu, police said.

They said Lalman Sharma, 68, son of Chatru Ram of Trikuta Nagar Jammu, was hit by a train today, resulting in severe injuries to the elderly man.

He was taken to Government Medical College and Hospital Jammu, where doctors declared him as dead on arrival, police said.

Police Station GRP Jammu has registered a case under relevant sections of the law and taken up further investigations.

## FDP held at JU on 'Leadership Skills among Future Academic Leaders'

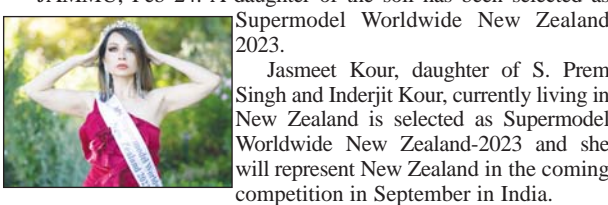
**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Feb 24: The valedictory function of the Faculty Development Program on Development of Leadership Skills among Future Academic Leaders was held in the Department of Home Science, University of Jammu.

S A Mujtaba, former Member JKPSC and former DG Prosecution, J&P, was the chief guest while Dr Yasmeen Ashai, Director Colleges, JKUT was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Mujtaba said that communication is an essential tool of leadership and academician knowledge of one's field plays a key role. He also mentioned that NEP 2020 focused on inculcating leadership skills and it's a policy that connects various disciplines. Understanding the culture and context is important for any leader, as is diverse knowledge, he added.

Dr Yasmeen Ashai, who also happens to be an Alumni of the Department of Home Science, said that an effective leader should rely more on consultative decisions and focus on teamwork, emphasizing the major qualities of leaders and the three key leadership styles i.e., Autocratic, Democratic and Consultative.



Jasmeet Kour, daughter of S. Prem Singh and Inderjit Kour, currently living in New Zealand is selected as Supermodel Worldwide New Zealand-2023 and she will represent New Zealand in the coming competition in September in India.