

# DAP protests against land eviction drive by Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 28: Democratic Azad Party today held a protest in Udhampur against the ongoing Government drive for land eviction and stressed that the government

Maharaja Hari Singh and the incumbent Government has no right to evict the same. "Maharaja allotted the land and asked people to cultivate it. Now the Government is trying to undo this historic scheme benefiting thousands of farmers,

of this executive order. "Majority of the people possessing land have legal authority. But calling them land grabbers amounts to hurting the dignity of respectable citizens," they said, adding two people have already lost lives ever since the diktat was issued.

The DAP protesters said that no poor should be touched by the Government otherwise, they will be forced to extend their protests across the Union Territory and force authorities to revoke the order. "It is ironic that the Government is framing policies here to trouble people when it is legally bound to draft the schemes for the welfare of people," they said.

Among others, who participated in the protest, included G M Saroori, Vice Chairman; Jugal Kishore Sharma, Provincial President; Vinod Mishra, General Secretary; Aslam Goni, Working Committee Member; Salman Nizami, Chief Spokesperson; Ghara Ram, Zonal President; District President Ashwani Khajuria; Brij Mohan Sharma, General Secretary Provincial; Hira Lal Abrol, Secretary; Mehboob Mustafa, Priti Khajuria, Santosh Magotra, Aradhna Andotra, Savita Arora, Feroq Choudhary, Shakeel Singh, Dr Amar Chand Bhagat, Pritam Kotwal, Kuldeep Manhas, Anoop Khajuria, Pawan Kumar, Sheikh Shabir and others.



DAP leaders and workers protesting at Udhampur on Saturday.

shall spare the common people from land eviction.

A number of DAP protesters took part in the peaceful march and raised slogans against the eviction drive. They said that the land under the possession of people was allotted by the then

which DAP will not allow," R S Chib, General Secretary DAP.

The protesters reached the District Development Commissioner office and submitted a memorandum urging the chair not to trouble the poor and needy people under the garb



Additional Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

## Dulloo calls for adequate supply of petroleum derived spray oils

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 28: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting here at Civil Secretariat to discuss the availability and supply of petroleum-derived spray oils for use in agriculture and allied sectors in the Union Territory.

The meeting delved into various issues related to freight and supply capacity of the empanelled oil and petroleum companies.

During the meeting, Dulloo asked about the spray schedule and instructed the respective officers to notify the public about the same. The officers informed him that the first week of February and onwards has been assigned for the activity.

The ACS emphasised on ensuring adequate availability of quality horticulture mineral oil and other petroleum-derived spray oils for the use of the farmers at the most affordable prices.



Harsh Dev Singh addressing a public meeting in Chenani constituency on Saturday.

## BJP thriving on empty rhetoric, falsehood: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent

CHENANI, Jan 28: Accusing the BJP of having failed and floundered in honouring its commitments with the people of J&K ever since its ascendance to power, Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and senior AAP leader, said that the saffron party was thriving merely on empty rhetoric and false propaganda.

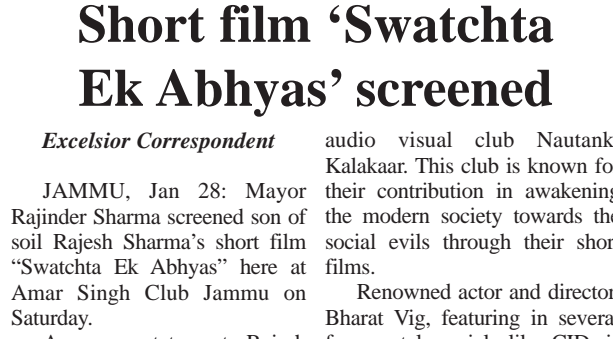
"While it promised a Job bonanza for educated youth post Article 370 abrogation, it did exactly the opposite of what it had assured. It not only terminated several hundreds and thousands of youth working in various Govt depts but also put the existing vacant Govt jobs to auction with the middlemen extorting huge money from prospective Job seekers in the name of employment," he said, while addressing public meetings in Mayana and Sanada villages of Chenani constituency today.

Further, he added, the lands of poor farmers are being forcibly retrieved and indigent rural masses being forced to starve while the Health and educational institutions in rural areas are facing chronic deficiency of staff with a highly insensitive remote controlled regime averse to the woes of the common masses.

Going all gun blazing against the BJP, Singh said that it had cheated the people in the past four elections of Assembly, Parliament BDC and DDC through its false narrative. Accusing the saffron party of exploiting the religious sentiments of the people to gain power Singh said that such kind of divisive politics was not in tune with our pluralistic ethos.

Pointing towards the local issues of the area, Singh called for opening of adequate number of ration depots in the remote areas so as to facilitate the delivery of civil supplies to the people in their native villages. He regretted that several Panchayats of Chenani including Kithar, Chirdi, Ladha, Chapper etc did not have any ration depot as a result of which the eligible BPL families had to travel 8-10 kms on foot to collect their subsidized ration thereby defeating the very purpose of the scheme.

He also called for timely release of installments under PM's Awas Yojana which had been delayed for years in several cases. He called for early payment of compensation for lands and structures acquired from farmers for construction of PMGSY roads namely Gantwal road, Chirdi Ladha road, Naugalta-Rajar road; Tandhar-Charat road, Satyalta and Pakhlai roads.



Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma during the launching of short film 'Swatchta Ek Abhyas' on Saturday

## Short film 'Swatchta Ek Abhyas' screened

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 28: Mayor Rajinder Sharma screened son of soil Rajesh Sharma's short film "Swatchta Ek Abhyas" here at Amar Singh Club Jammu on Saturday.

As per a statement, Rajesh Sharma, who is the lead actor in the film, is working with Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. as Deputy General Manager in the Western UP.

His 2021 sung Dogri song "Jammu De Loko" depicting the culture of Jammu became a huge hit on the internet earlier.

In the short film "Swatchta Ek Abhyas", he debuted as an actor in Delhi NCR's known social

audio visual club Nautanki Kalakaar. This club is known for their contribution in awakening the modern society towards the social evils through their short films.

Renowned actor and director, Bharat Vig, featuring in several famous tele serials like CID, is the creator of this short film (Swatchta Ek Abhyas).

The JMC Mayor Rajinder Sharma termed the contribution of Rajesh Sharma to the Dogri cinema as "Giving Back to the Society".

Meanwhile, he asked Rajesh Sharma in helping JMC by creating similar short films for all the good initiatives being undertaken by the corporation.

# DSEJ organises 'Fit India Week' MP reiterates Govt's resolve to provide quality education

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 28: Directorate of School Education Jammu in Collaboration with SAI organized a bouquet of events including yoga session, nakkad natak, song dance events etc to celebrate the Fit India Week, here today at Government High School Deeli, Jammu.

Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma, the chief guest, while addressing the students said that sports not only help in the all round development of mind, body and soul but have become a viable career option as well. "Recognising the importance of Sports and allied activities, the New Education Policy has included sports as part of the curriculum" he added.

He said the Government was committed towards providing quality education to the students as youth is the future of the Nation.

Jugal Kishore Sharma announced a grant of Rs 5 Lakh for infrastructure development in the host school.

Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, the Special Guest, thanked Member Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma and other dignitaries for sparing their valuable time to celebrate the occasion. He divulged that Fit India Activities are conducted in schools throughout the year and it was a matter of pride that Union Territory of J&K is ranked No.1 in the Country when it comes to registration and conducting Fit India Activities in schools.

As the philosophy of Fit India Movement enunciates that a Fit Mind requires a Fit Body to reside in, physical fitness becomes a pre-requisite for academic excellence, he added. Such events and activities help in providing the students with a platform to harness and display their skills, he said.

Earlier, the Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma inspected the school and while interacting with the staff members advised them to work hard with utmost dedication so as to create a safe and comfortable zone for students where they can evolve and grow to their best possible self.

The events on the occasion were coordinated by Govind Sharma, Divisional Nodal Officer, Fit India Movement, Directorate of School Education Jammu. He also presented the formal welcome address and highlighted various Fitness activities being organised in schools.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Parveen Kumar, Headmaster G.H.S Deeli.

Dignitaries present on the occasion included Nuzhat Gull (Secretary Sports Council J&K Jammu); Nadeem Dar (Deputy Director Sports (SAI) and Suraj Singh Rathore (CEO Jammu)

## HC rejects bail in rape, murder of minor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 28: High Court refused to grant bail to an accused involved in rape and murder of a minor girl by recording that at the pre-charge stage the apprehensions that tampering with the witnesses and threat to complainant have to be considered before the grant of bail.

"The petitioner is not entitled to bail at this stage. The instant bail application thus merits dismissal and is, accordingly, dismissed," Court said.

The accused Ranjit Singh was seeking bail in an FIR registered against him for commission of offences punishable under Sections 305 and 376 The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

According to the prosecution version, on 27.07.2018 that a lady consumed poison and passed away during treatment at hospital, in suspicious conditions requiring ascertainment of her death whereupon the Inquiry Officer during the course of enquiry is stated to have completed all formalities and handed over the body of the deceased to her legal heirs for performance of her last rites.

Statements of the witnesses are stated to have been recorded and viscera of the deceased sent to FSL for chemical analysis.

During the course of enquiry, the deceased has been found to be a minor.

After conducting the enquiry and taking into account the statement of mother of the deceased as also other witnesses inquest proceedings are stated to have been converted into registration of an FIR No. 27/2020 under Sections 376/306 IPC at concerned Police Station and during investigation in the said FIR, statement of mother of the deceased under Section 164 Cr.PC is stated to have been got recorded and on the basis of statements, the petitioner-accused was found to have committed offence under Sections 305/376 IPC read with 3/4 of the POSCO Act.

The court considered the grounds urged by the accused-petitioner for bail was based on the contentions that there is no direct evidence connecting him with the commission of alleged offence or that the case of prosecution is based on circumstantial evidence cannot alone be taken into account at this stage", Court recorded.

The court after hearing rival contentions of petitioner as also

of prosecution side said a minor girl of the age of 16 years has died otherwise than under normal circumstances who allegedly has attributed reasons thereof to the petitioner-Singh while divulging the same to her mother during the last hours of her life on way to the hospital as also allegedly having written the same in her diary.

"The general contentions and grounds urged by the accused/petitioner that he did not commit the alleged offence and that there is no direct evidence connecting him with the commission of alleged offence or that the case of prosecution is based on circumstantial evidence cannot alone be taken into account at this stage", Court recorded.

The Court concluded that Singh is not held entitled to bail at this stage and dismissed the bail application in view of the plea of applicability of Section 29 of the POCSO Act, urged by the counsel for the prosecution even at pre-charge stage while considering the instant petition. Court, however, has made it clear that any observation made in the judgment shall not be construed to be an expression of any opinion about the guilt or innocence of the accused/petitioner.

## DC inaugurates Rs 12 lakh PMEGP unit

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Jan 28: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr Devansh Yadav today inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) unit (Readymade Garments Shop) belonged to Zaffar Abbas of village Palmar) sponsored by Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) here at Sangrambhatta.

He was accompanied by DDC member Palmar, Tahir Masood and other senior officials of the district.

Pertinent to mention that the PMEGP beneficiary Zaffar Abbas, son of Mohammad Abbas Sheikh of Daggi Palmar has established the readymade garments shop near petrol pump Sangrambhatta with a project cost of Rs 12.00 Lakh and a loan of Rs 11.40 lakh has been sanctioned with a credit linked subsidy of Rs 4.20 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Scheme being sponsored by KVIB.

Interacting with the beneficiary, Deputy Commissioner highlighted the success of the scheme and urged him to avail the benefit of this centrally sponsored scheme to earn his livelihood and live with dignity.

He wished him the best of luck for future endeavour and

stressed to imbibe the punctuality, sincerity and discipline for greater success in business.

Meanwhile, the DC Kishtwar also appreciated the efforts of KVIB in the Employment Generation sector and said the first step towards Youth empowerment is the economic empowerment of Youth and schemes like these act as handholding for the Youth to become economically self-sufficient.

He said that due to the tremendous response from unemployed youth, MoMSME Gol extended PMEGP Schemes up to 2026 and the upper project limit cost has been enhanced from Rs 25.00 Lakh to Rs.50.00 Lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs 10.00 lakh to Rs 20.00 lakh in service sectors. He further stated that besides rural areas KVIB will sponsor cases in the urban areas also keeping in view the persistent demands of people of the urban areas.

In his message to the youth of Kishtwar, the DC highlighted that KVIB Schemes are paperless, hassle free and urged upon the unemployed educated youth of District Kishtwar to come forward and get benefits of these schemes, so that they can establish their own income generating units, which will provide employment opportunities for others also.

## Admin retrieves over 20 kanal prime state-land

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 28: In continuation to the anti-encroachment drive, the district administration Jammu today retrieved prime Government Land measuring 20 Kanal 05 Marla here at village Machhalian Nagbani of Domana area.

In a joint anti-encroachment drive, teams of revenue officers, police and other concerned officials retrieved over 20 kanals of State land worth crores from the encroachers in Domana area.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of revenue officers and asked them to leave no stone unturned to retrieve the state land from the encroachers.

## 2 arrested for duping people

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 28 : Police arrested two persons, projecting themselves as political activists, for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing government jobs in Pattan area of Baramulla district.

"On January 11, Police received information that two self-styled political activists from Pattan area are demanding money on the assurances that they will arrange government jobs and are providing fake appointment orders and are also threatening the general public," police said in a statement.

"Police swung into action and promptly registered a case under

relevant sections in police station Pattan," the statement said.

"During course of investigation, Police after utilizing all technical and human intelligence and strenuous efforts arrested two accused namely Ubaid Nazir Sofi and Mohammad Iqbal," police added.

Police said that it was learnt during interrogation that these "scammers were cheating common people on the pretext of giving jobs in police department and taking huge amount of money from them."

"Once the victim started asking money back, they used to issue threats to them. Further investigation into the matter is on," it added.

## GCC cautions against UK like disasters in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 28: Expressing serious concern over the rising risks of sinking and subsidence in different parts of J&K due to massive spurt of cuttings and excavations in mountainous terrains, in particular for Railways, Highways, Expressways and the PMGSY projects, the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), J&K have drawn the attention of the Chief Secretary J&K UT towards this urgent issue.

"Group of Concerned Citizens", through its chairman and former Chief Secretary, Mohd Shafi Pandit in an urgent letter flashed to the J&K UT Chief Secretary, Dr AK Mehta, has expressed apprehensions about the possible disasters like Joshimath and Kedarnath (UK), in the Jammu and Kashmir too, if some preventive measures are not taken in this regard by the authorities at the helm of affairs.

GCC, J&K, a non-political civil society initiative, said that the reports of soil erosion, subsidence, denudation, land slides and avalanches periodically coming from different districts like Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Ganderbal, Bandipur, Baramulla, Kupwara and Budgam would point to potential fault lines and the underlying factors that need to be tackled in right earnest. Frequency of land falls, sliding and subsidence along the National Highway in Doda,

Kishtwar and Ramban districts has increased, taking a heavy toll of life and property. On the other hand Krevra and Kandi belts continue to be festering flash points, like Khudpur, Kawhar in Baramulla, besides Nagam, Nowhar and Charar-e- Sharief in Budgam.

The urgency of dealing with all these issues is too obvious to be over emphasized, if only to rule out the likes of disasters in Joshimath and Kedarnath in Uterakhand. There are danger signals emanating from neighbouring states, besides eco-fragile zones of other regions, which bring up the necessity of working comprehensive preventive, mitigation and management strategies, the GCC cautioned.

It suggested for creating a strong data base of scientific investigation and analysis, availing the experience and expertise of ISRO, GSL, DST (GOI), Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology besides Universities, IITs/NITs and other research centres. Moreover, all the projects should have a rigorous and reliable 'Environmental Impact Assessment', as a pre-qualification for clearance; there should be increased focus on protection of ecologically sensitive / fragile tourist destinations, trekking routes, pilgrimage sites and there should be strict enforcement of the ban on construction of roads through forests and on conversion of demarcated forest areas to non-forest use.

## Chairman DLSA chairs 'Mentoring & Monitoring Committee' meeting

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Jan 28: Under the aegis of NALSA and as per the action plan issued by the J&K Legal Services Authority for the month of January, 2023 and also under the able guidance of Sonia Gupta, Worthy Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Samba (also Pr. Distt & Sessions Judge), Mentoring & Monitoring Committee today met in the District Court Complex Samba for close Monitoring of the Court based Legal Services rendered and the progress of the cases in Legal aided matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman DLSA Samba whereas Secretary DLSA Samba and senior advocate Vijay Gupta joined the meeting as members of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee. The meeting was also attended by almost all the Panel Lawyers of DLSA Samba.

The progress report of the Legal aid cases allotted to the panel lawyers was discussed in the meeting along with other issues connected thereto. All the panel lawyers were also sensitized by the Committee to serve selflessly for the poor, needy and marginalized sections of the society; to ensure punctuality in attending the Legal Aid Cases pending in the Courts of District Samba; to report the proceedings of the Legal aid cases at the Front office and to seek necessary guidance, if required, from the Committee.

## MVD conducts checking of Speed Limit Devices

\*Charges Rs 77000 fine from violators

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Jan 28: Motor Vehicle Department Team Reasi led by ARTO today booked 90 vehicles for different violations, which included 30 vehicles for non installation/ functioning of Speed Limiting Devices.

Besides Rs.77000 fine was realized on the spot from various violators during special naka laid on Katra-Jammu road

During the Naka around 121 vehicles were checked, special emphasis was laid on checking of Speed Limiting Devices (SLD) in Public service vehicles.

Moreover, 4 vehicles were out of route and 22 were fined for overloading and booked accordingly as per MV Act.

Besides this, awareness was also imparted among drivers and the public regarding road safety.

The drivers were advised to adopt all safety measures in order to avoid accidents.

Vehicle drivers were directed to install Speed Limit Devices and not to resort to overload/overcharging and to follow the traffic rules in its true spirit.