

# Mandeep reviews development scenario of Poonch

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**POONCH, Feb 28:** Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) and Panchayati Raj (Mentor Secretary), Mandeep Kaur, today chaired an online review meeting regarding progress on development works and related issues pertaining to Poonch district.

She had threadbare discussion on several important government interventions like MGNREGA, Amrit Sarovars, PMAY, AWAAS+, 14FC besides other development related issues concerning different departments of the district were also discussed.

Apart from RDD, Commission Secretary took a

detailed department wise review of all development works being executed in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that 109 Amrit Sarovars have been completed against the target of 75. Besides, 9841 houses stand completed under PMAY (G) in the current Financial Year and 143 works have been completed under PMAY(U). About 46 ponds (NGT Water Bodies) have been completed in the FY 2021-22 while 25 ponds have been completed in the current FY. Besides, 3 Panchayat Ghars have been established in the FY 2021-22 and 229 Panchayat offices have been established in the district. Also, 4052 works have been

completed under 14th FC and 714 works completed under B2V3 program.

It was further told that 84392 individual Household Toilets and 210 Community Sanitary Complexes have been constructed with an aim to create a neat and clean environment and to make the Halqa Panchayats open defecation free under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). And, 183 villages have been declared open defecation free plus under SBM (G) Phase 2nd and rest of the villages are in the process of being declared as ODF Plus before March 2023.

The meeting was further informed that 22 roads and 8 bridges have been completed under Languishing scheme while 112 vehicles have been distributed among the unemployed youth generating employment for 180 persons under Mumkin Scheme. Under Ayushman Bharat AB-PMJAY and AB-PMJAY-SEHAT schemes, 82.19% beneficiaries have been registered in the district.



**Locals staging protest dharna during Katra shutdown on Tuesday.**  
*Excelsior/Romesh Mengi*

## Katra observes complete shutdown against proposed ropeway project

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**KATRA, Feb 28:** Hundreds of traders, Pithus and Ponywalas along with locals today observed a complete shutdown in Katra town to lodge protest against proposed Tarakote-Sanji Chhat ropeway project.

Amidst slogans, the local traders took out a protest rally and staged sit-in outside office of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. They were demanding cancellation of the proposed passenger ropeway project between Tarakote Marg and Sanji

announces back to back decisions which have huge impact on employment. We request LG to look into the matter for redressal at the earliest as their positive decision will save employment,' he added.

It may be recalled that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on February 20, during his visit to Katra, said that the tender process for a ropeway for the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is in the final phase and the project will be undertaken with "utmost sensitivity" to safeguard the interests of local businesses.

The protesting traders opposed the decision alleging that the local business will get adversely affected if the ropeway project takes off from Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat.

As per officials, the 2.4-km-long 250 crore ropeway project will be completed in three years and with this facility, pilgrims can reach the temple complex in just six minutes compared to the five to six hour trek.

Earlier in May 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated Tarakote Marg, an alternate seven kilometre track to the shrine which is less steep and with easier gradient.

**\* Watch video on**  
[www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

Chhat along the 12-km track to the revered shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district. The protestors also submitted a memorandum to the CEO Shrine Board.

Earlier in the morning, the protestors assembled at Fawwara Chowk and took out a protest march which passed through main bazar. Later on, they staged protest dhama outside the Shrine Board office.

One of the protestors, Sohan Chand said that the COVID lockdown has already broke back bone of economy in Katra and the business establishment suffered huge loss here. "The Government

## CUJ Building Committee meeting discusses upcoming projects

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** The 25th University Works Building Committee of Central University Jammu (CUJ) was held here today for detailed discussion on the coming up projects.

The meeting was presided over by Prof Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ, who appraised the members about various infrastructure projects under progress for enhancing the Academic & Hostel facilities for students.

At present 200 bedded hostels, one Academic Block and Library cum Administration block are being constructed by the University. At present only one 100 bedded Boys Hostel is functional on the campus. A new 100 bedded Girls Hostel is likely to be completed by June, 2023 which will add to residential capacity of the University. Besides these, one 33/11 KVA Receiving Station is completed and ready for operationalization pending some approvals from Ministry of Environment for providing ROW for conductors for 33 KV Line from Bari Brahmamana-II Feeder.

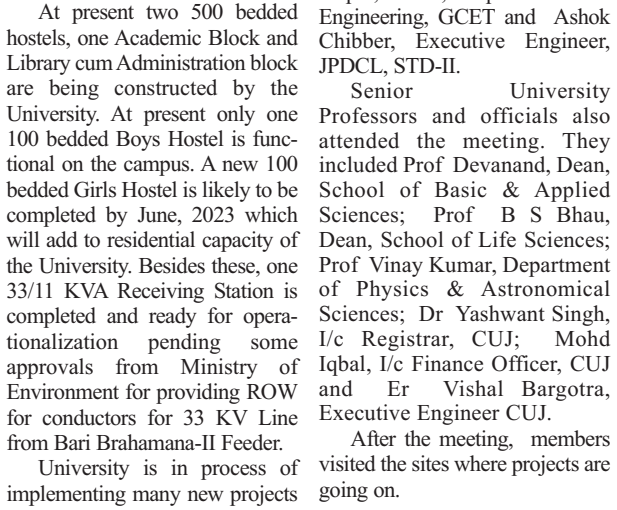
University is in process of implementing many new projects

in next four months and these include University Gate Complex, Vice Chancellor Residence, Prefabricated Academic Block and five High Mast Lights.

External experts from various fields, who attended the meeting, included Dr C M Seth, former Chairman Pollution Control Board, J&K; Kafeel Ahmad Ferozi, Chief Architect, Architect Organization J&K; Er Ravinder Mansotra, Chief Engineer (Retd), JKERA; Dr Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, HOD, Deptt. Of Civil Engineering, GCET and Ashok Chibber, Executive Engineer, JPDCL, STD-II.

Senior University Professors and officials also attended the meeting. They included Prof Devanand, Dean, School of Basic & Applied Sciences; Prof B S Bhau, Dean, School of Life Sciences; Prof Vinay Kumar, Department of Physics & Astronomical Sciences; Dr Yashwant Singh, I/c Registrar, CUJ; Mohd Iqbal, I/c Finance Officer, CUJ and Er Vishal Bargotra, Executive Engineer CUJ.

After the meeting, members visited the sites where projects are going on.



**RTO Office team inspecting vehicles on Tuesday.**

## RTO staff challans 14 vehicles, realises Rs 2 lakh fine

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** The RTO Jammu office today conducted an enforcement drive and checked 200 vehicles.

Of them, 14 vehicles were challaned and 42 others were compounded on spot.

While Rs two lakh worth fine

was realised on spot on account of various traffic offences, an amount of Rs 2.48 lakh is expected from the challans.

The enforcement drive was led by Isha Chib, ARTO, Pawan Sharma, ARTO, Ranjeev Kundal and Ranjeev Bhasin, both Inspectors.

The drive will continue.

# Jammu Mayor directs officials to utilise funds properly

**\*MP Jugal for completion of projects in time frame**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** The Mayor Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Rajinder Sharma on Tuesday chaired a City Level Advisory Forum (CLAF) meeting and reviewed the status of projects being executed by the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL).

The meeting was attended by Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore; Deputy Mayor, JMC, Baldev Singh Billawaria; CEO, JSCL, Rahul Yadav; Additional CEO, JSCL Rakesh Gupta; Technical Sham Lal Kapoor; General Manager Finance, JSCL, Ashish Anand and officials of other concerned departments.

At the outset, CEO, JSCL, Rahul Yadav gave a detailed presentation on the works taken up and completed so far by Jammu Smart City under Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The chair was informed the 75 projects of worth Rs 1280.84 crore have been completed while the 53 projects are being executed.

It was told in the meeting that the main components of the JSCL are City Beautification, Smart Urban Mobility, Disaster Management, Efficient Green Initiatives and IT Enabled Infrastructure.

"Efforts are being made to complete ambitious projects like Development of Tawi River Front, Integrated Command & Control Center (ICCC) and Street Development Apsara Road in time frame," CEO JSCL said.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor emphasised for proper utilisation of funds. He added that the developmental projects under Smart City will usher new era for Jammu City in terms of tourism footfall as well as for employment opportunities.

He added that synergy between all departments crucial for execution of projects in time bound manner.

MP Jugal Kishore lauds JSCL for executing projects in time bound manner. He asked officials to involve all stakeholders for better execution of projects.

Thereafter, valuable sugges-

tions, views and inputs were shared by all the participants. Meanwhile, the participants extended their unending support to JSCL for successful and timely completion of the projects.

UEED Engineer Sewerage & Drainage; Sunil Singh, DFO Urban Jammu; Vikrant Sharma, Floriculture Officer Jammu; Rajpal Singh, Additional SP Traffic; Mamta Sharma Deputy



**Jammu Mayor chairing a meeting.**

Other officials who were present in the meeting Pankaj Magotra Vice Chairman JDA; Dr Shabir Husain, MD, J&K Housing Board, Tilak Raj, DGM J&K Housing Board, Anil K Atri, Wildlife Warden Jammu; Ashwani Kumar Superintended, Director, Directorate of School Education, Jammu; Dr P R Dhar, JKEDA, S&T CEO; Sunaina Sharma Joint Director Tourism Department; Rajesh Sumbria JC (W), JMC; Rajinder Gupta SE, JPDCL and Rajinder Koul Executive Engineer JDA.



**BJP J&K Co-convenor Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell, Sahil Mahajan and others releasing a devotional song album on Tuesday.**

## Devotional song album released

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** J&K youth have a lot of skill which requires to be nurtured and explored by encouraging them in various significant activities.

This was stated by BJP J&K Co-convenor Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell, Sahil Mahajan while releasing Dogri song album 'Kaliveer Teri Joyat Nuran' in the presence of Ratto Bawa, Darshan, Mohit, Ritesh Ricky and Rocky at Bantalab.

The devotional song has been sung by Deepak Prajapati,

lyrics were written by Nirbhay Salathia while the music has been composed by Naresh, Neeraj remained the video director of the song and Sahil Mahajan extended full support and contributions for making the album.

Speaking on the occasion Sahil Mahajan complimented the team behind the devotional song album.

He asked them to keep on glancing at such kind of brilliant artists so that they can be empowered by appropriate platform.

## ANTF arrests interstate drug peddler with over 8 kg Charas

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Jammu today arrested one interstate drug peddler and recovered a huge quantity of Hashish (Charas) from his possession.

"On a specific information that one person namely Ramesh son of Pappa Ram, resident of Gangawra Cora (Rajasthan), who is a habitual Narco smuggler is transporting a consignment of narcotics and is on the way from Kashmir to outside UT via NH44 in some unknown vehicle, a team of ANTF laid random check points at different places along the NH44 across three districts," a spokesman of ANTF said.

He said after hectic efforts one car was traced at RTO Try Ground, Narwal (Jammu) and on checking, a large quantity of Hashish was recovered from the

car which was later found to be 8.18 kg in weight. The spokesman said that a case under FIR Number 01/2023 u/s 8/20 NDPS Act was registered in this connection at Police Station ANTF Jammu and further investigation started.

"The accused person was arrested on the spot and the car used in the commission of crime was seized," he said, adding, preliminary investigation reveals that the arrested drug peddler was continuously in touch with other kingpins of the nexus and they were going to sell the same contraband among the youth and other drug peddlers at Rajasthan.

The whole operation was conducted under the guidance of Deputy SP ANTF Jammu Shamsheer Singh and supervision of SSP ANTF Vinay Sharma.

## NMC demands release of pending DA

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) has appealed the Prime Minister to release pending installment of 4 percent DA due from January this year in favour of the both Central and State Governments employees.

"We demand release of 4 per cent DA in favour of Central and State's employees and pensioners. DA is the part of salary and routine financial matter and as such there should be no hitch in releasing it in the next Cabinet meeting," said NMC president Subash Shastri while addressing the workers here today.

He also demanded exemp-

tion of DA from ambit of Income Tax as it is linked with price index. Shastri further demanded separate wage head for regularly disbursement of monthly salary of daily rated workers till their regularization, enhancement of their wages to Rs 600 per day, regularizing their services under SRO 64, setting up Labour Welfare Board, implementation of all Central laws in the UT besides granting medical allowance of pensioners to Rs 1000 per month at par with Central Government beside releasing 18 percent DA arrears to employees working in both Central/ UT Governments.

## Those trying to create unrest will not be tolerated: Suri

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** Lauding Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) for avenging the killing of Kashmiri Pandit in Awantipora, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member, Raman Suri said that this is the self-life of terrorists who are already on the run and are trying to scare people with their cowardice acts of selective killings.

In a statement issued here, today he said the alert cops of JKP, had cordoned off the area and were able to eliminate ter-

rorists responsible for killing of Sanjay Sharma.

Suri said that the proactive policy of Government and the free hand given to security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have enabled them to trace and kill terrorists in no time. Fools are those who are still falling a prey to secessionists, especially when there are no mentors and those nations aiding and abetting terrorism are also in deep financial crisis, he said, adding that those still trying to create unrest will be eliminated without any mercy.



**DGP chairing a meeting.**

## DGP reviews functioning of SIUs, sanctions retirement gift of Rs 1.53 crore

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, Dilbag Singh today chaired a meeting of State Investigation Unit (SIU) officers at Kashmir to review the progress of under investigation UAPA cases and also took stock of cases under trial.

Special DG CID J&K, R.R Swain; ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; DIG SIU, Abdul Qayoom; SSP Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal; DD Prosecution besides all CIOs of SIUs of Kashmir Zone attended the meeting while ADGP (Coordination) PHQ, Danesh Rana; IGP (CIV), B.S Tuti; AIG Training, J.S Johar and AIG (CIV), Dr. G.V Sandeep Chakravathy attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The DGP said that effective investigation is no less than a weapon in the hands of investigators to demolish the terror ecosystem and is as important as carrying out CI operations to eradicate this menace.

He directed that stringent action is to be taken against the OGWs and the organizations providing any kind of support to terrorists besides properties used for terror activities to be seized under law.

He impressed upon recently appointed DIG SIU to supervise each and every case in detail and

said that a line of action has to be earmarked immediately with registration of FIR after analyzing all the circumstances and evidences thereof.

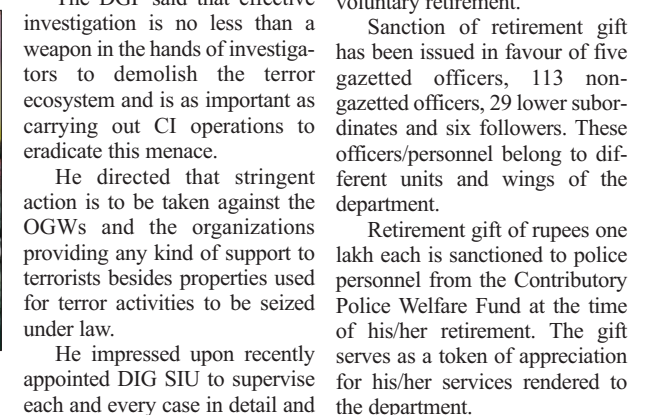
The DGP also sought feedback and suggestions from officers to further improve investigation process besides directed for identifying the best investigation officers/officials, who shall be deputed in the Special Investigation Units to further enhance its efficiency.

DIG SIU and CIOs of all SIUs appraised the DGP regarding the progress of each UAPA case under investigation.

Meanwhile, DGP Dilbag Singh sanctioned retirement gift of Rs. 1.53 crore in favour of 153 cops of J&K Police who are retiring from their services today after attaining superannuation or voluntary retirement.

Sanction of retirement gift has been issued in favour of five gazetted officers, 113 non-gazetted officers, 29 lower subordinates and six followers. These officers/personnel belong to different units and wings of the department.

Retirement gift of rupees one lakh each is sanctioned to police personnel from the Contributory Police Welfare Fund at the time of his/her retirement. The gift serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services rendered to the department.



**BJP district president Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan addressing a party meeting on Tuesday.**

## Reach out to every section of society: Rekha to BJP cadres

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**JAMMU, Feb 28:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district president, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan today asked BJP cadres to reach out to the marginalised in every community and check whether the Centre's policies to provide benefits have helped them.

Rekha Mahajan, who presided over the party meeting of the district, here in the presence of district general secretaries, Pushpinder Charak and Akash Chopra including district office bearers, Mandal presidents, Jammu South, Yuva Morcha said the 'Amrit Kaal' should be transformed into 'Kartavya Kaal' as only then the country can progress rapidly.

Rekha, while addressing the meeting interacted with the BJP cadres, district team unit and sought first-hand information about various organizational activities. She asked all BJP breadwinners to work hard and stressed taking the public-friendly policies and programmes of the BJP and Narendra Modi-led Union Government to every nook and corner of the district.

Rekha during the meeting gave some tips to the party work-

ers about how to empower the booth and its organization.

She asked BJP Karyakartas to reach every voter before the Assembly elections in J&K. She said the prominent role of workers was to make the common man aware of the party's policies and principles. "BJP cadres must dedicate their maximum time in the ground-level working amongst their respective communities and also see to it that the needy community members can avail various facilities granted to them under the public welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi-led Union Government," Rekha said.

She stated that the party would have its own Chief Minister (CM) after the upcoming elections as the party was robustly moving towards its mission of "50-plus" seats amid a strong wave in its favor. She said that the BJP is a party of doctrines, helping for the upliftment of all the columns of the society, irrespective of their religion, caste, and creed. BJP workers are the spine and strength of the party and she emphasized that party provides its workers with full opportunity to move ahead and BJP should act as a bridge between society and the party.

## BJP ignoring border people: NC

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**SAMBA, Feb 28:** J&K National Conference today criticized the Government at the Centre for allegedly ignoring farmers and people residing in border area.

Addressing a meeting in Block Ramgarh, Provincial secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmed said that BJP has compromised on all issues and slogans for the sake of power and it stand badly exposed in front of the people of Jammu region. He criticized BJP for befooling and exploiting the sentiments of people in Jammu region for political gains.

He said that there has been no development on ground about which the Government is making tall claims. In fact, the people are decrying for basic amenities. He expressed great disappointment against the J&K administration for its negative attitude towards the weaker section of society alleging that the administration is not showing the least concern to addressing the pressing issues of this section of the society.

Provincial president SC Cell, Vijay Lochan said that BJP's hollow slogans and promises made to SC and other weaker sections of the society have not been fulfilled

as the Saffron Party continues to remain busy in other issues. He asserted that the National Conference has always remained committed to protect the rights of SC communities in the past and shall continue to do the same in future too.

Lochan asked the party cadre to gear up for the upcoming elections as these could be announced any time now. He asked them to make people aware about how BJP has cheated them on the promises made by it in 2014 before going to elections. He asked them to make aware the community of the commitment of National Conference to protect the rights of the SCs. He asked party cadre to work relentlessly as party's foot soldiers in their respective areas to strengthen National Conference at all levels.

Among others who were present include Mohinder Singh vice president Central Zone, Sudagar Chand Gupta District president Samba, Ashok Kumar Attri vice president Central Zone, Yashpal District president OBC Cell, Satpal Block president Ramgarh, Prem Kumar, Balbir Singh, Hassan Mohd, Sukwinder Singh, Neeraj Kumar, Rajeshwar and Roshan Lal.

## Water bottle leads to alert

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**RAJOURI, Feb 28:** A water bottle created panic in Panja Chowk area of this district in the morning.

Suspecting it to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), police and CRPF personnel rushed to the spot and called the Bomb Disposal Squad.

On detailed examination, the object turned out to be the water bottle left by some person.



**A water bottle which led to panic in Rajouri on Tuesday.**

## Thieves decamp with gold worth Rs 10 lakh from residential house

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
**SAMBA, Feb 28:** Thieves decamped with gold ornaments worth about 10 lakh in Jasath village of Ghagwal area of Samba during broad day light today.

According to the information, the owner of house, Darbari Lal, son of Bihari Lal, had gone to take part in a religious discourse, when he returned he was stunned to see the crowd which had gathered outside his residence.

As the information was received, Ghagwal Police Station in-charge, Bharat

Bhushan reached the spot and started the investigation. The police also checked the CCTV cameras installed in the area. Darbari Lal said that on returning home the lock of the lobby and the room was broken.

The house was ransacked and house hold items were lying scattered. The thieves have entered the house through the rooftop and then they broke the lock of the lobby and room and ran away with all the gold ornaments lying inside the house!

In this connection, the police have registered a case and started further action.