

Sunil Sharma calls on Amit Shah

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Former Minister and general secretary BJP J&K, Sunil Sharma called on Home Minister, Amit Shah at his



BJP JK UT general secretary and former Minister, Sunil Sharma presenting a bouquet to Union Home Minister, Amit Shah at New Delhi.

Government is residence in New Delhi and discussed wide ranging issues of Jammu and Union Territory of J&K with him.

During this meeting various security, political and development issues of the UT were discussed in detail. Home Minister informed the BJP leader that he is keeping vigil on Jammu & Kashmir. The new Jammu and Kashmir is on its way to all round development and prosperity. He also assured his favorable support to J&K in addressing all the concerned issues at the earliest possible. The Home Minister also assured that the PM Narendra Modi led Government is committed towards the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir and resolving all the security issues of the Union Territory.

Billawaria kick starts blacktopping of road in Upper Gadigarh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Deputy Mayor, Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria visited the Upper Gadigarh Ward No 73 and kick started the work of blacktopping of road and inspected the other development works in the area. These development works were executed by the Public Works Department (PWD).

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor said that JMC is committed to develop all the areas of Jammu. He said that Jammu Municipal Corporation

Gadigarh by the JMC is a positive step towards the betterment of the city's infrastructure. It is expected to improve the living conditions of the residents of the area and contribute to the overall development of the city.

He also asked the concerned officers to take all the necessary steps for the development of the area and ensure that development works were executed properly. He asked the concerned officers to expedite the development works.

Billawaria said that blacktopping in the area will be completed very soon. He said that streetlights and other basic amenities should be provided to the public as soon as possible. The Deputy Mayor later also inspected the development works in the area, interacted with the



Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria kick starting blacktopping of road in Upper Gadigarh on Friday.

(JMC) following the footsteps of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is carrying the policy of Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Vishwas, Aur Sab Ka Prayas.

He also said that the JMC is committed to provide the best possible services to the people of Jammu and added its priority is to provide the basic amenities to the people. He said that JMC is moving ahead with the vision of providing a better life to the people and with this objective it is working hard for the development of every area.

He said that the construction of the road works at Upper

locals and assured them that their demands, grievances will be looked into proper steps.

Billawaria said that JMC is committed to the development of this area and it is working on various projects to ensure that the Ward 73, Gadigarh is developed.

The Deputy Mayor was accompanied by concerned department official, Mandal president Vijay Sharma, Vicky Bali, Dalbir Singh, Suraj Prakash, Ichapal Singh, Dinesh Sharma, Gyani Tara Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Sukh Chain Singh, Davinder Singh, Parmeet Singh and others.

Commissioner STD distributes certificates among participants of training prog

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: A week-long capacity building-cum-training program for the Self Help Group (SHG) members of Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), concluded today at State Taxes Department (STD), Solina here.

During the training program the SHG members were imparted training on preparation of food and snacks, cuisines of different States of the country, hygiene, presentation of delicacies.

Speaking during the valedictory session of the training programme, Commissioner State Taxes, Dr Rashmi Singh congratulated the SHG members for completing their training and urged them to utilize the skills learnt during the training for enhancing their livelihood. She underscored the importance of this empowering initiative in the wake of forthcoming women's day on 8th March.

The Commissioner appreciated the women SHGs of UMEED for taking keen interest in the training programme and impressed upon trainees to take the benefit of training programmes and use newly learnt skills for improving quality of services in the state taxes canteen and their other economic ventures.

She expressed hope to see the SHG members being trained to take up various innovative enterprises and explore diverse livelihood opportunities using the newly imparted skills in collaboration with women SHGs who came from Delhi.

Dr Rashmi also highlighted that the women imparting training have long years of ground experience in food sector.

Founder of Anmol Sahara, NGO, Ekta Gupta while speaking on the occasion emphasized the scope and importance of skill training that would enhance the socio-economic status of rural masses, especially women entrepreneurs from far flung areas.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Abid Hussain; Additional Commissioner Administration & enforcement Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool; Deputy Commissioner enforcement Central Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina; other Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, State Tax Officers, State Project Managers of JKRLM, District Programme Managers of the JKRLM, Master Trainer and Trainees from Anmol NGO, members of Self help groups, and other officials of the STD and JKRLM also participated in the valedictory session of the training programme.

Amateur actors lit-up stage with captivating show of 'Ashadh Ka Ek Din'

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Mar 3: Mohan Rakesh's 'Ashadh Ka Ek Din', considered to be the first modern Hindi play, was staged on the concluding day of Festival of Plays, organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, at the Abhinav Theatre, here today.

Presented by 'The Performers' under the direction of Vijay Goswami, the Hindi drama revolves around Kalidas and the muse Malika whom he abandons in his quest to find fame and recognition which leads to his disillusionment.

The play is divided into three acts. The first act dwells upon the pleasant union of Malika and Kalidasa. Out of sheer joy, she is totally merging her identity with him and craves to settle down with her family. In the second act of the play, Kalidasa leaves his Himalayan village and is going to Ujjaini to attain the status of a good poet and to be completely involved in stately affairs. In the concluding act, he comes back to Malika and realizes his mistakes. At the end of the drama, he wanted to marry Malika but could not fulfill his desire.

Considered an actor's paradise as well as his/her litmus test, today's performance was competent performances by amateur actors, who despite any pedagogical support, only driven by a passion for theatre have been the backbone of the drama movement in Jammu.

Nisha as Malika impressed with her portrayal of a love-smitten damsel who encourages her lover to leave in search of greater things only to put herself in hardship for the rest of her life. Neha Lahotra exhibited her acting skills in enacting the role of Ambika, Malika's aging mother as the one on a journey from maturity to a state of withering.

Manoj Bhat as Kalidas with steady dialogue delivery and measured movements was striking in the role of a genius who ultimately comes to realize his folly of being self-centered. Vijay Goswami as Vilom, who later sires a daughter with Malika, did bring out the feud between the two poets. In the concluding scene, he seemed to steal the show upon the off-keyed Kalidas.

Other members of the cast who also gave good performances were Tapeshwar Dutta as Mantul, Ravinder Manhas as Dantul, Ashish Sharma as Nikshap, Karishma as Rangini, Saugandhi as Sangini, Ridhim ac Priyangumanjari, Pradeep Sharma as Anuswar and Gaurav Sharma as Anusnik.

The special effect of the cry of the infant was perfectly timed. But the background score, especially the rendition of the raga could have been more effective in the 'jor' rather than in 'drut'.

Pampore idle place for promoting Agri tourism start-Ups: Speakers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Thirty students were imparted training on Agri Tourism start-ups in a week-long training workshop organised by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir in collaboration with Government Degree College Pampore in the college premises on creating Agri tourism Start-Ups.

The training workshop was sponsored by Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Government of India. The speakers' including professors from SKUAST and GDC Pampore said that Pampore known for world famous Saffron has a lot of scope and potential for Agri tourism also. Besides, the area has many wet lands which are idle for promoting eco

tourism. The speakers said that SKUAST Kashmir will provide all support to young entrepreneurs interested in promoting eco tourism through start-ups including handholding and investors support.

Dr Sajjad-ul-Akbar Wani ex researcher, SKUAST Kashmir was the coordinator who was later honoured on the occasion for his coordination and support.

Dr Huda Galzai, HoD, Dr S H Baba from Agri Economics, SKUAST, Dr Abid Nabi, Assistant Professor, Agri Economics, Dr M H Lone Assistant Professor Planning and Monitoring, Dr Irfan Khurshed Shah, HoD Environmental Science GDC Pampore participated in the training workshop. The valedictory function was addressed by Principal GDC, Pampore.

Dir SED orders detachment of teaching staff

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Mar 3: Director School Education Department (SED) Kargil, Dr Safdar Ali has ordered the detachment of the teaching staff attached in different departments "to improve the overall functioning of the department". The move was taken after higher authorities in Ladakh noticed that many of the teaching staff members of School Education Department were attached to different departments, organizations, and even outside the Union Territory.

"It is imperative that we maintain the integrity of our educational system and ensure that all teachers are appropriately placed," read an order issued by Director

School Education Ladakh, Dr Safdar Ali.

The order said that the irrational attachments disrupt the departmental workflow and cause inconvenience to other employees, and has a negative impact on the overall functioning of the department.

"Therefore, Chief Education Officer Kargil is hereby ordered to detach all the teaching staff of School Education Department, attached to other departments and organizations and direct them to report back to their original place of posting for assigned role, before the reopening of schools. Failure to comply with this order will result in immediate disciplinary action against the defaulter," the order further said.



DC Kishwar chairing a meeting.

Shree Machail Mata Ji Yatra DC calls for developing quality facilities

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Mar 3: To develop the quality facilities in Machail area for the pilgrims visiting Shree Machail Mata ji Yatra, Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav today chaired a meeting with all indenting departments and the prominent persons, PRIs of Paddar block and discussed action plan.

The meeting was attended by DDC Paddar, Hari Krishan Chouhan; ADC/CEO Machail Mata Yatra, Kishori Lal Sharma; CEO KDA, Inderjeet Singh Parihar; ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak; SDM Paddar, Dr. Rishi Sharma; Sarpanch Machail, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, ExEn PWD, BDO Paddar, AEE JPDC, incharge Machail Yatra Cell Lovemeet Kotwal besides others concerned.

At the outset the chair was apprised about the funds and function of the Shree Machail Mata Yatra Cell established for the smooth conduct of the said Yatra.

During the meeting, the DC Kishwar took review of various ongoing developmental works under execution in the sub division for the convenience of Yatries.

Detailed discussions were held on the completion of Yatra Bhawan at Gulab Garh, renovation of various Yatra

facilities like sanitary Complex, Development of area around the Bhawan, provision of Power and Water supply during Yatra time, boarding and lodging for Yatries, development of Road and bridges ahead of Gulab Garh to Machail, telecom connectivity in the Machail area etc. and a slew of directions were given to the concerned officers in the meeting.

DC Kishwar also exhorted upon the concerned to explore the possibility for installing the premium quality tents along the river side of Machail to boost the tourism experience during yatra time.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed BDO Paddar to furnish detailed estimates regarding the repair and new construction of bathrooms wherever required in timely manner so that same can be completed ahead of Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner Kishwar also informed that this year the digital services will be thrown open for the registration of Yatries and booking of helicopter services during the Yatra.

During the meeting, DDC member Paddar also projected the demand of the mobile tower at Machail on which DC Kishwar assured him that he will take the matter with telecom authorities for immediate redressal.

FIR against Pulwama MC chairperson for misbehaving with docs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 3: Police have registered an FIR against the chairperson of Pulwama Municipal Council (MC) for allegedly misbehaving with doctors at the Pulwama District Hospital.

The incident took place on February 27 and videos of it went viral on social media. The FIR has been registered against Bilal Ahmad Rather based on a complaint from doctors and paramedical staff of the Pulwama District Hospital, the officials said.

The doctors have accused Rather of misbehaving with on-duty staff of the hospital,

hurling abuses on them and obstructing them from discharging their duties, leading to disturbance in patient care, the officials said. The matter is being probed, they added.

Meanwhile, Doctors Association Jammu, in a statement issued today appealed the J&K LG Administration to ensure that doctors get safe and secure environment at their workplaces so that they can provide hassle free services to the common masses. They sought stringent action against those who threatens, abuses or manhandles the on-duty doctors in public health institutions.

Samba police seizes 6 vehicles for illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 3: On the directions of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, police today seized six more vehicles which were being used for illegal mining in district Samba.

Police teams comprising of SHO Police Station (PS) Ghagwal, Bharat Bhushan, SHO PS, Samba Rajeshwar Singh, SHO PS, Bari-Brahmana, Sunil Sharma, in charge Police Post (PP) Rajpura, PSI Sudhir Singh Charak and Incharge Police Post (PP), SIDCO PSI Deepika Jalotra under the supervision of SDPO, Bari-Brahmana, Rahul Nagar, Dy. SP Headquarters, Samba, Mohd Usman and Additional SP, Samba, Surinder Choudhary have seized six more vehicles being used for

illegal mining at different locations in Samba district.

The seized vehicles are Dumper bearing Registration No, JK02CN-2469, Dumper bearing Registration No, GJ124-5624, Dumper bearing Registration No, JK08K-9373, Dumper bearing Registration No, JK21H-9070, Tractor Trolley bearing Registration No, JK21A-5250 and Tractor Trolley bearing Registration No, JK21G-5575.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said that total 22 vehicles have been seized in less than two months for illegal mining by Samba police after launching special drive against illegal mining and police would continue checking the wrongdoings of mining mafia till illegal extraction is completely stopped in the district.

Committee recommends 59 WPRs relief claims under PMDP

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 3: Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rahul Pandey on Friday chaired the District Level Screening and Approval Committee (DLSAC) meeting to review the processing of West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) claims, under PMDP relief package here at DC office Complex.

The meeting examined 60 fresh Relief Claims submitted by the applicants, of which 59 cases were found fit for the recommendation by the Committee for Financial Assistance and 1 claim was sent back for reverification.

It was given out in the meeting that the list of approved applications shall be put in public domain to invite objections from public at large so that the committee can move ahead with the process i.e further recommendations to the higher authorities for disbursement of Financial Assistance.

The DC called upon the concerned Tehsildars to organize camps and mobilize field func-

tionaries to cover all left out families of WPRs.

Pertinently, under the Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP), the West Pakistani Refugees are being given Financial Assistance for which a district level Committee headed



by Deputy Commissioner concerned shall work with the mandate to identify genuine claims of the applicants and submit the list to the higher authorities for award of Financial Assistance.

The Officers present in the meeting included ADC Kathua, Atul Gupta, ACR, Vishav Pratap Singh, Tehsildar Kathua, Hiranagar, Marheen and Nagri Parole.



Participants and dignitaries during closing ceremony of the capacity building program at IIM Jammu on Friday.

Capacity building program on 'Small Business Development Units' concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: A capacity building program, organized by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu in association with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICCI) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Govt. of India, concluded, here today.

The event was graced by Prof. BS Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu in presence of Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics and Programme Director, Dr. Prateek Jain, Programme Director, Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson, Srinagar Off-Campus and Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Executive MBA, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Prateek Jain presented the highlights of the five-day program followed by an address from Prof. Jabir Ali, Programme Director.

Prof. Jabir Ali spoke about increasing the appetite for learning. He also emphasized being innovative and standing out in the competition by offering uniqueness in your business by constantly evolving with the times. "The mandate of this program was to enable the transformation of informal businesses into formal businesses through capacity development and handholding and providing business incubation services for growing

small businesses in the country," he mentioned.

Prof. BS Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu spoke about the role of teachers as friend and philosopher in the entire journey. "We should have the curiosity to learn and be ahead in our business by always offering a competitive edge," he mentioned.

He also stressed to all the participants to network amongst themselves and make their internal group vibrant and buzzing and assured the participants that IIM Jammu is always available for all of them in case they need any assistance in the near future.

He also expressed his gratitude to Padmashri Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu for coining the concept of developing SBDUs across the country.

The address was followed by individual feedback and a presentation session by all the participants about their own businesses.

Through this project 75 Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) will be established across the country to extend support and handholding mechanisms for local small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs in the vicinity of the SBDUs. Out of the 75 SBDUs, 20 SBDUs will be established in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and two in Ladakh.



School of Architecture and Civil Engineering students during a Heritage Walk to Babore temples, Manwal in Jammu.

SMVDU, Excise Deptt organize Heritage Walk to Babore temples

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: Excise Department Jammu in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) today organized a Heritage Walk to Babore temples at Manwal, the ancient capital of Dogra region.

The Heritage Walk was flagged off by Prof RK Sinha, Vice Chancellor SMVDU and Rajiv Magotra, Principal Excise and Taxation Training Institute, that covered five temple sites spread over one kilometer. The Walk at historic Babore temples at Manwal witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of historians, academicians, artists and students.

During the Walk, the participants were made aware about the prominent historical, architectural and cultural aspects of the Babore temples that are being maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). These temples reflect the zenith of Nagara temple building movement in North India.

Ashok Sharma, heritage expert in his address briefed everyone about the historic essence and architectural grandeur

of the temples, namely, Devi Bhagwati Temple, Dera Babore, Kala Dera One and Two, and Dera Temple. He emphasized the need for preserving and protecting the ancient heritage of Jammu region which has a unique place in the Indian Sub-Continent.

Rupali Vaid, ETO Udhampur Reasi Range stressed on the need for preserving the cultural heritage of Jammu region while Nagendra Singh Jamwal (Registrar SMVDU), emphasized the need for organizing more such events and giving more exposure to the students to the rich culture and heritage of Jammu region.

The students of School of Architecture and Civil Engineering, who were the main participants of the event hailing from different parts of the country, evinced keen interest in the ornate carvings and style of temple building. They captured the temples through photographs, videos, sketches, and said that these temples deserve to be included in the UNESCO heritage sites.

The event was marked by a scintillating folk song and dance performance by Ram Ditta and party.

UJAA, SHTM jointly organize round table panel discussion

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 3: University of Jammu Alumni Association (UJAA) and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) jointly organized a round table panel discussion on the theme "Women in Tourism: An Interaction with Alumni of SHTM" here on Friday.

During the event, the first generation women alumni entrepreneurs of SHTM were felicitated.

A press statement said that Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, Assistant Commissioner (Central) with Divisional Commissioner, Jammu was the chief guest while Prof Prakash C Antahal, Dean Students Welfare and President, UJAA was the guest of honour and Prof Alka Sharma, Director, Skill Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Development Centre, was the special guest.

Dr Pritam Lal Thapa, who is also an alumnus of SHTM, in his address, said that tourism and hospital

ity industry provides tremendous entrepreneurial opportunities. He was of the view that both the Central Government and Government of J&K are committed to promote tourism sector which can benefit the communities and youth at large.

Prof Prakash C Antahal complimented the alumni who are achievers in their professional domain.

Prof Alka Sharma in her address invited the young students to come forward with various innovative ideas and assured them that the University of Jammu is moving ahead with various new initiatives to build skills among the students.

Earlier during the round table panel discussion, the alumni entrepreneurs of the SHTM shared their success stories and the motivation behind choosing entrepreneurial career over other options. They also offered mentoring opportunities to the students and encouraged them to work on both hard and soft skills required for success.

Drug-peddler held with heroin

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 3: The police recovered six grams of contraband substance (Heroin/Chitta) from a drug-peddler at Udhampur town today. Official sources said that a police party from Udhampur, led by Inspector Raghuraj Singh under the supervision of Anwaar-ul-Haq, Addl SP Udhampur while performing routine patrolling at circular road noticed the movement of a suspicious person who was on its way towards matador stand on foot and was asked to stop for checking by the police party. During frisking the police recovered 6 grams of heroin from the possession of said person.

The accused has been identified as Lakhti Ali, son of Abdul Jageel, resident of Ser Manjla, Ramnagar. The accused was arrested on the spot. In this connection, a case FIR No. 115/2023 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station, Udhampur and further investigation was in progress.



MSJK activists during a protest demonstration at Jammu on Friday.

the struggle against Property Tax.

He alleged that Property Tax is being imposed with the directions of BJP-RSS and JMC Mayor, Deputy Mayor

and BJP Councillors. Dimple threatens to call Jammu Band if Property Tax is not rolled back and the land eviction drives restarted.

"Political parties like Congress, NC, PDP, Apni Party, Shiv Sena along with Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu Bar Association, Transporters, Muslims Front and others are in regular contact with us regarding Jammu Bandh," he continued.

The MSJK leader claimed that though the J&K government claims that Property Tax is meager but in coming days the authorities can hike it exorbitantly.

Swarn Lal, Lahori Shah, Arun Verma, Sham Sharma, Golu Virdi, S. Kala Singh, Deepak Kumar, Vikas, Sachin and others were also present in the protest.