

Secretary Health visits Paddar, reviews development projects

Excelsior Correspondent
 KISHTWAR, Mar 8: Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, who is also Prabhari Officer for Panchayat Atholi, today visited block Paddar of Kishtwar under B2V4 and reviewed development projects being executed in the panchayat. He also took stock of functioning of Sub-Divisional Hospital, Atholi Paddar and enquired about the services being extended to the ailing there. Secretary was accompanied by Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman, Director Ayush, Dr. Mohan Singh and others. During the visit, Secretary convened a meeting of officers of line departments, PRI members and locals and assessed follow up of "Back to Village" fourth phase at Panchayat Atholi. He also interacted with the officers and enquired about the steps being taken up for early redressal of grievances projected in the Gram Sabha during Back to Village phase fourth. He apprised the public that "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur" is a campaign launched by the UT government for redressal of public issues and to provide

services at their door steps. Secretary stressed upon the officers of line departments to saturate various schemes being implemented in the panchayat. While reviewing Area Developmental Plan 2023-24, he asked them to coordinate with local PRIs to make new year's plan based on development needs and area specifications. During his inspection of SDH Atholi, Secretary inspected various sections of the hospital and reviewed healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He interacted with the doctors and staff members of the hospital and directed them to work with dedication ensuring best patient care facilities round the clock. Secretary directed the BMO Paddar to ensure punctuality and availability of staff in the Hospital which is catering to healthcare needs of far off area of district Kishtwar. Meanwhile, local PRIs demanded availability of more technical manpower in the hospital besides raising other issues. Responding to their demands and issues, Secretary assured them that all these will be redressed in a time bound manner.



JKPCC leader, Raman Bhalla interacting with protesting JKSSB job aspirants at Jammu.

Bhalla condemns detaining, lathi-charge on job aspirants

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: JKPCC working president Raman Bhalla strongly condemned detaining and resorting to lathi-charge on several job aspirants, protesting against hiring of a previously black-listed company by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for conducting written examinations. Bhalla accompanied by Ajaz Choudhary, National secretary IYC, Vikas Badharia NSUI State vice president Ajay Lakhotra State general secretary, Bhavanyu Bhagat also visited protesting site to listen the grievances of protesting job aspirants who were raising slogans against the JKSSB for hiring APTECH Limited, the company which had been blacklisted in 2019, for conduct of computer-based tests. Cong leader said there was no justification for hiring APTECH company which was earlier blacklisted. "When we are selecting a company for conducting a written examination, there should be checks and balances to ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in the selection. There was a need to follow procedure to match the standards of major national level recruitment agencies which was not done in case of hiring APTECH company," Bhalla said. Seeking justice for job aspirants Bhalla said Congress was concerned about their future as they are crossing the age limit

Cong leader, NC block president join BJP with supporters

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Congress leader, Ajay Jamwal along with supporters joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a programme held at the party's Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here today. He joined the party in presence of its president, Ravinder Raina, ex-Deputy CM, J&K, Kavinder Gupta, district president, Rekha Mahajan, former MLCs, Vikram Randhawa and Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, Seh Rekha Mahajan, while welcoming the Congress leader said that the public-friendly policies of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's Government have created a niche in the hearts of people. Ajay Jamwal hit out at the Congress and said, the party is totally directionless in the UT of J&K. Meanwhile, Ghulam Mohammad Kaloo, block president, National Conference (NC) Batmaloo zone, along with his scores of supporters joined BJP at Srinagar in presence of party district president, Ashok Bhat and other senior leaders. Taking him into party fold Bhat said it is due to strong fundamentals and trusted basic principles of BJP coupled with strong leadership of the party that people are joining it for nation building day in and day out.

Opposition must unite to depose corrupt, fascist BJP: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Emphasizing the need for unity amongst the various political parties to seek revival of statehood and restoration of democratic Govt in J&K, Harsh Dev Singh, former Minister and senior NPP leader said that collective efforts were required to be made to ensure justice to the people of the erstwhile State. "The BJP Govt would continue to deprive the people of J&K of their basic democratic and constitutional rights until and unless the opposition leaders join hands against its authoritarian and despotic rule," he said while addressing a press conference in Jammu today. Harsh Dev Singh said that not only has J&K been robbed of its statehood status and deprived of legitimate elected Govt but people are being subjected to the most unpopular rule of outside bureaucrats who hardly have any knowledge of J&K and its peculiar problems. "The Govt is resorting to strong arm methods to evict the poor, indigent masses from their small, marginal land holdings and uprooting their houses, shops and other permanent structures without any qualms of conscience. Unemployment is at its peak and Govt jobs are being openly auctioned. The contractuals, daily wagers and other temporary workers are agitating for their rights with none to listen to their shrill cries for justice. Property tax is being imposed without the nod of J&K legislature. The all-round disenchantment is leading to alienation and calls for united fight by opposition parties against the mis-rule and atrocities of the present regime," he said. Harsh Dev reiterated that it's high time therefore that all political parties except BJP having faith in the Indian Constitution and its Flag joined hands to restore justice with dignity to the people of the incarcerated land of J&K. Masood Andrabi, S Paramjit Marshall and Naresh Chib were also present in the press conference.

Rattan Lal bats for restoration of statehood, polls in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
 REASI, Mar 8: Provincial president of National Conference for Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta has reiterated the demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and also sought early Assembly polls to ensure justice to the people of the region. The senior NC leader was speaking at the day-long workers' convention at Reasi, under the chairmanship of its District president Jagjeevan Lal. While condemning forcibly implementation of Property Tax without consulting the elected public representatives Gupta termed it as the so-called 'Achhe Din' of BJP. He asserted that the imposition of property tax was not in the mandate of last local bodies elections held in Jammu and Kashmir. The Provincial president lamented that the development has come to a complete halt in Reasi district under the present dispensation and the bureaucratic administration is least bothered to address the issues of the common people in absence of a duly elected representative government in place in this Union Territory. He said the government is interested in only imposing taxes instead of pro-

DC Baramulla reviews implementation of CSS

Excelsior Correspondent
 BARAMULLA, Mar 8: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Shehris Asgar convened a joint meeting of the Municipal Council/Committee Presidents and officers to review the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes including Housing for All, District Plan, UDS, IDMT, FC Grants and other allied schemes. President Municipal Council Baramulla Touseef Raina, MC Presidents of Sopore, Watergam, Uri, Kunzer and Pattan, Additional District Development Commissioner, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Tariq Ahmad Reshi; Chief Education officer Baramulla, Balbir Singh Raina; Chief Medical officer, Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik; Executive officers of MC, Baramulla, Sopore, Tangmar, Pattan, Watergam, Kunzer and Uri besides Engineers from executing agencies were present in the meeting. At the outset, the DC took Tehsil wise and Ward wise review of all the schemes and progress made so far and enjoined upon the concerned officers to compile the data about the beneficiaries by checking all parameters as per the scheme guidelines including verification as per revenue records, proper Aadhaar seeding and geo-tagging of all the cases. She asked all the concerned officers to ensure not a single genuine beneficiary is left out of the coverage of the scheme. She said the District should be 100 percent saturated within the timeframe set by the Government. On the occasion, the chair was also informed that work is in progress on construction of houses under PMAY-Urban during which the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that the scheme guidelines are followed in letter and spirit so that all genuine eligible beneficiaries are covered under the said scheme in the district. Dr Shehris also reviewed District Plan, UDS, IDMT, FC Grants and other allied schemes comprehensively and emphasised officers for maintaining close coordination with the public representatives so that public issues are addressed timely. She asked them to ensure synergized efforts for cent percent saturation of all government schemes and effective delivery of varied online services of the government on ground. Moreover, with regard to the car parking issues, the DC directed Executive Officer and CMO Baramulla to identify the suitable Car parking location for the ease of the public and submit the report within a week's period.



BJP leaders listening public grievances at Jammu on Wednesday.

Sat, Ashwani, Baru listen public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Sat Sharma (CA), former J&K BJP president and former Minister accompanied by Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and Sanjay Baru, convenor, Urban Local Body Cell, J&K BJP listened the public grievances at BJP Headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here, today. Senior BJP leaders listened to the numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir who visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns. BJP leaders, on the spot addressed various issues presented in the camp related to the water, electricity, lanes, drains, roads, health, Revenue Departments, ration issue etc. Sat Sharma, Ashwani Sharma and Sanjay Baru immediately discussed their issues with the concerned officers after which they assured them that their issues would be addressed soon. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that by empowering common people through various policies and reformative issue redressal systems, BJP has focused on prosperous India through all these years under the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Union Government. These public grievance camps are just doing the same purpose-providing platform to the people regarding their issues, he asserted. Ashwani Sharma noted that many issues represented in the grievance camps were addressed on the spot providing relief to the visiting persons. Sanjay Baru diarized all the issues presented in the camp and said that BJP is committed to address the issues faced by the masses.

No one can snatch land, property of Jammu people: Ch Lal Singh

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Jan Samparak Abhiyan of DSSP reached Panchayat Karroh of Kathua North constituency on second day of Samparak. The people from all walks of life profusely participated in the program. The rally passed through Jandore, Maha, Bhatti, Jagatpur, Tarda, Kharote and finally reached at Janglote in Kathua. Former MP and party chairman Ch Lal Singh gave a clarion call to the people to unite one and all to counter the onslaught of the government and assured if you stand with the movement of DSSP, they will never be successful to snatch your land and property. Former MP reminded the people of his early warning about the deletion of their



Former Minister Priya Sethi and others during the inaugural ceremony of Alborz Couture Showroom at Wave Mall at Jammu on Wednesday.

Priya Sethi inaugurates Alborz Couture Showroom at Wave Mall

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: BJP National Executive Member and former Minister Priya Sethi inaugurated Alborz Couture Showroom-a new fashion destination for women offering a comprehensive range in women garments at Wave Mall, here today. The newly opened women garment store offers an enjoyable and reliable shopping experience to maintain good standards of service to the customers. The former Minister said that quality products always attract potential customers and such garment stores will make good business. She said that quality is very important in the clothing business and the owner of the store should surely provide quality products to its customers. Priya Sethi asked youth to explore entrepreneurial avenues as both the J&K and Central Government have launched a number of schemes for the welfare of people as well as youth of the nation. Proprietor Narendra Gupta Ashu, in his address, informed that this women garment store has opened to fill a gap in the multi-branded Wave Mall as earlier there was no women exclusive store in the Mall. He announced a 10 per cent discount as an inaugural offer for our esteemed and valuable customers. Ashu further informed that on the opening day we have provided an assured gift to all our women customers on the occasion of International Women's Day. Rekha Mahajan, District President Jammu South and other prominent persons of Jammu were present on the occasion.

JPDCL cautions consumers against fraudulent messages

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU Mar 8: Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited today warned against fraudulent messages asking consumers to clear "pending bills". In the fake messages, sent on Messages/WhatsApp in the name of the power department, the sender tells consumers that their connection will be disconnected "because you have not been cleared". A few consumers are also getting calls from different phone numbers informing consumers that their power shall be disconnected. The consumers are advised to contact the "electricity officer" over the matter. However, calling out the fraudulent nature of the messages, the JKPDD asked consumers to be aware of the texts that scammers are floating to the masses. "Unless a communication contains your Consumer Name and ID, please do not respond," the MD JPDCL said in a statement. In the absence of awareness, cyber criminals hack into their bank accounts by collecting information after getting OTP from the consumer who uses this link. Many gullible consumers, who by opening the link share their personal banking details

Sadhotra assails 'double-engine Govt' for betraying PoJK refugees

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Former minister and senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today lashed out at the so-called double engine government for creating hype over one and every issue but showing backs when it comes to implementation, especially in places like sensitive Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting to commitments made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for welfare of the Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) refugees during an event here the other day, Sadhotra said they have got just the peanuts of what the National Conference led government under Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister had recommended to the Centre as one-time settlement package. He recalled the cabinet decision of October 2014 in which the NC government had recommended a package involving Rs 9025 crore for the refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971 from the PoJK. As per the package Rs 25 lakh each had been envisaged as a one-time settlement while provision had also been made for such families living outside Jammu and Kashmir, he claimed. Sadhotra said this was the time when the BJP top brass from across the country was promising Rs 40 lakhs to each family during the campaign for the Legislative Assembly elections. Now that the double engine government is in place at the Centre since 2014, where have those promises vanished, he asked, saying instead of approving the NC government's package, the BJP led NDA earmarked little over Rs 2000 crore for the purpose. "By acknowledging that one time Central assistance has been provided to only 33,600 PoJK refugee families, the administration has admitted its failure in providing respite to them," Sadhotra said and urged the Government to take cognizance of the recommendations made by the NC led government and sanction Rs 25 lakhs each to the refugee family. Sadhotra also pleaded for bringing over 5,300 DP families from the PoJK settled outside Jammu and Kashmir, saying this will be the least the government can do for these hapless people. He said the people are now seeing through the nefarious divisive and exploitative politics of the BJP and the day is not far when they will punish all those working against the legitimate interests of the common man through their power of ballot.

Rahul betrays nation: Abhinav

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Mar 8: Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir, Abhinav Sharma, has slammed the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for defaming India in foreign countries. He said that by resorting to such unwarranted acts Rahul stands totally exposed before the people of this largest democracy as he has betrayed his own nation and its people by doing so. In a statement issued to media here today, Abhinav Sharma in a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi said that it is an irony of this nation that the Congress leader continues his tirade of criticism of the duly elected Government of his motherland. He said that what could be more unfortunate than the fact that crossing all limits while criticizing the Prime Minister, Modi led Government during his speeches in the UK by seeking intervention of foreign countries to counter the BJP Government. BJP spokesperson said Rahul should feel ashamed of the blatant insult caused to the nation by him as seeking foreign intervention amounts to meddling in India's internal affairs which no nation can tolerate. He said that before speaking at international fora the Congress party needs to educate Rahul on the basic principles of Governance and International Law especially on matters of foreign interference in affairs of other nations.

HCMCT Manipal Hospitals start Neuro Care OPD at Florence

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Mar 8: To encourage regular health check-ups among the people of Srinagar, Delhi-based HCMCT Manipal Hospitals today launched its new OPD in Florence Hospital Chanapora for patients suffering from various neurological disorders. Renowned neurosurgeon Dr Anurag Saxena will be regularly visiting the hospital, to offer consultation and treatment to people of Srinagar city and other areas. On the launch of the OPD, the experts present on the occasion said that there has been a sharp increase in the number of neuro-based illnesses over the past few years, some of which have even had fatal implications. "Even among the younger population, the case of neurological issues is on the rise due to lack of awareness of early symptoms leading to postponed treatment. Frequently overlooking the initial symptoms, can lead to complications like stroke, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, and even fatality," the experts said. Dr Imran Muzafar, Managing Director, Florence Hospital, Chanapora said that their hospital has been committed to offering high-quality healthcare services to people since 2010. "Florence Hospital is among one of the most recognized multispecialty hospitals in the Kashmir valley. Throughout its journey, this hospital has established a firm foothold in the medical sector."