



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma dedicates Motorized Tricycles Scooters to Physically Challenged persons in Gandhi Nagar.

## Jugal dedicates Motorized Scooters to Physically Challenged persons

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: MP Jugal Kishore Sharma here today dedicated Motorized Tricycles Scooters to Physically Challenged persons at Gandhi Nagar.

Member DDC, Sharda Bhau; District president BJP, Rekha Mahajan; senior leaders of BJP-Sanjeev Manmotra, Sanjeev Padha, Abhishek Anand, Rohin Chandan, Ankush Jamwal, Rakesh Sharma, Lal Chand, Mangal Dass and others were also present on the occasion along with Mamta Rajput, District Social Welfare Officer Jammu and Krishan Sharma.

MP Jugal Kishore also interacted with the Physically Challenged persons present on the occasion and said that Motorized Tricycle Scooters dedicated to them will help them to do their work more efficiently and well in time.

He said that demand for Motorized Tricycle Scooters

was raised by the Physically Challenged persons earlier and now these Scooters have been dedicated to them under MP Local Area Development Funds costing to Rs. 5 lakh approximately.

The MP thanked Lieutenant Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha for taking a great step in favour of people who migrated from Kashmir.

He said that Manoj Sinha has enchanted Kashmir Displaced Persons by ensuring them that soon their colonies would get regularized.

The MP also thanked Lieutenant Governor for sanctioning a Community cum Multipurpose Hall for Kashmir Displaced Persons and for which 50 Kanal land has been identified.

He further said that BJP led Government at Center under the leadership of PM Modi is taking very bold steps and have made many achievements to help poor and weaker class.

## 168 universities on-board for CUET-UG so far

NEW DELHI, Mar 9:

At least 168 universities have opted for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to undergraduate programmes so far, up from 90 universities last year, according to officials.

The deadline for application, which is March 12, is also likely to be extended as more universities are expected to select the test for admissions.

The 168 universities include 44 central universities and 31 state universities such as Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, Karnataka, Cotton University, Guwahati, and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi.

"There are 27 deemed universities which will admit students based on CUET scores for their undergraduate programmes. Sixty-six private universities too are participating in the common entrance test this year which include Bennett University, Uttar Pradesh, NIIT University, Rajasthan, and UPES, Dehradun," a senior official said.

The exam is scheduled to be conducted from May 21-31.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in March last year announced that undergraduate admissions will be conducted in all central universities through a common entrance test and not on the basis of Class 12 marks.

The undergraduate (UG) admission process in universi-

ties will be completed by July 2023 and the new academic session can begin on August 1.

The debut edition of the CUET-UG was conducted in July last year and was marred by glitches, prompting the National Testing Agency (NTA) to cancel the exam at multiple centres. While several students were informed about cancellation a night before the exam, many of them were turned away from centres.

UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar had then said the exam at certain centres have been cancelled following reports of "sabotage".

With 14.9 lakh registrations, the CUET, the common gateway for undergraduate admissions in all central universities, is now the second biggest entrance exam in the country, surpassing the JEE-Mains its average registration of one lakh.

The NEET-UG is the biggest entrance test in India with an average of 18 lakh registrations. While JEE-Mains is a Computer Based Test (CBT) conducted twice a year, the NEET is conducted in pen and paper mode.

There were 21,159 candidates who scored 100 percentile in CUET-UG 2022 of which 12,799 were women. There were 12 candidates who scored 100 percentile in five subjects. English has the highest number of 100 percentile scorers with 8,236 candidates, followed by political science with 2,065 candidates, and business studies with 1,669 candidates. (PTI)

## Alienation of people increased in BJP rule: Manohar

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Mar 9: Former Minister, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma today claimed that BJP led Government is going to be disastrous for the people of J&K as during the last nine years alienation of people has been increasing with every passing day and credibility of the Government has reached to its lowest ebb.

Addressing a public meeting at Panchayat Dan Jasdhar (Mallad) Manohar Lal said: "Government has been exposed due to its misdeeds, mis-governance and mal-administration due to which people are looking towards opposition to get them rid of the present dispensation."

He pointed out that prevailing situation in Billawar Assembly Constituency is a reflection of total failure of the Government.

"Common people are struggling to get ration as authorities have failed to ensure supply of ration in Government depots," Dr. Manohar maintained adding: "Except promises this regime has failed to do anything constructive for the people."

Responding to the demands raised by the locals, he said that he would work hard to resolve the problems on priority.

"Instead of solving peoples' problems, leaders of BJP are over-burdened with solving their own internal conflicts," he continued.

Former Minister also said that those who are running affairs in the present Government are unaware of the aspirations of people.

Ex-Sarpanch Budhi Singh, Karandeve Singh, Nirantar Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

## India may witness increased tension with China, Pak: US intelligence

WASHINGTON, Mar 9:

The American intelligence community has told lawmakers that it apprehends increased tension between India and Pakistan and China with the possibility of a conflict between them.

It also noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is more likely than in the past to respond with military force to "perceived or real" provocations from Pakistan.

This evaluation on Wednesday forms part of the annual threat assessment of the US intelligence community that was submitted to the US Congress by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence during a Congressional hearing.

While India and China have engaged in bilateral border talks and resolved border points, relations will remain strained in the wake of the countries' lethal clash in 2020, the most serious in decades, said the report.

The expanded military postures by both India and China along the disputed border elevate the risk of armed confrontation between two nuclear powers that might involve direct threats to US persons and interests and calls for US intervention. Previous standoffs have demonstrated that persistent low-level friction on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has the potential to escalate swiftly, it said.

Relations between China and India have virtually frozen ever since the Eastern Ladakh military standoff between the two countries in May 2020.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

According to the report, the

crises between India and Pakistan are of particular concern because of the risk of an escalatory cycle between two nuclear-armed states. New Delhi and Islamabad probably are inclined to reinforce the current calm in their relationship following both sides' renewal of a ceasefire along the Line of Control in early 2021.

"However, Pakistan has a long history of supporting anti-India militant groups, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is more likely than in the past to respond with military force to perceived or real Pakistani provocations. Each side's perception of heightened tensions raises the risk of conflict, with violent unrest in Kashmir or a militant attack in India being potential flash-points," it said.

Relations between India and Pakistan have been strained over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. India has maintained that terrorism and talks cannot go together and Islamabad should provide a conducive atmosphere for the resump-

tion of dialogue. Meanwhile, Pakistan and the US have held a round of counterterrorism dialogue.

The two-day discussions covered a range of topics including counter-terrorism cooperation at multilateral forums, assessment of the regional counterterrorism landscape, cyber security and countering violent extremism.

During the dialogue, the two sides shared their experiences in countering the financing of terrorism. They reaffirmed their commitment to address the common threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said US-Pakistan counter-terrorism dialogue provides an "opportunity for the United States to convey our willingness to work with Pakistan" to address terrorist threats and counter violent extremism, the threats that are in the region, the threats that have the potential to transcend the region as well.

"We have a shared interest in combating threats to regional security," Price said. (PTI)

## DAP leader joins Cong with supporters

## BJP anti-poor, anti-people: Wani

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: A senior DAP leader Riaz Ahmed Sheikh along with several DDC members, Panchs, Sarpanchs and supporters today joined Congress Party PCC Headquarters Shaheed Chowk here.

They were welcomed in the party fold by JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani and working president Raman Bhalla, president DCC Doda Sheikh Mujeeb and others.

Other prominent who joined with other senior leaders during joining program Congress at party office in Jammu.

include DDC Ghati Gulshan Ara, DDC Thathri Sheikh Muzaffer, Block president (DAP) Mohd Altaf, Sarpanches Farooq Sheikh, Mohd Muzam, Gulam Mohd Malik, Mohd Irfan, Zaheer Abbas and Habibullah, Naib Sarpanches Sunil Kumar, Mohd Younas, Abdul Qayoom, Nor Mohd and Sajad Harga, Shaheen Yasin, Nafees Keen, Umar Wani, Asgar Wani, Mohd Asif Mohd, Irfan and others.

They expressed full faith on the policies and programmes of Congress party and its leadership - Malikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Wani while welcoming them said that Congress Party is an instrument of service to the peo-

ple, which has remained dedicated to the cause of serving the people. He said Congress party believes in strengthening the people and is committed to equitable development of the UT. He said Congress is duty bound to address the urges and aspirations of the people.

He described BJP dispensation as anti-poor and anti-development, saying due to



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anti-people policies of BJP, the sufferings of the common man increased manifold. The insensitive government pushed people to the wall, as unemployment has increased, prices have risen and developmental activities have suffered a lot.

Bhalla said that the people of Jammu region feel utterly cheated and betrayed for the failure of BJP leaders to represent and agitate their concerns. He said that people who want to contribute to the political discourse and development of the JK UT must become part of the Congress's growth story. "The doors are open for the people who want to contribute in the party's efforts to see the state out of the present mess," he said.



Newly elected office bearers of DPAP and the party workers during a convention in Doda district.

## DPAP holds office bearers' convention

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 9: In continuation of its programmes, the DPAP held a day-long convention here today and held an interactive programme with its newly elected office bearers.

During the programme, the Party's leadership stressed for strengthening the grassroots contact and reaching out to people with the message of the Party chairman Gulam Nabi Azad. The Party leaders told the office bearers to strengthen the hands of the Party chairman since they are his messengers on the ground. "You are the hands and eyes for the Party chairman on ground. You have a responsibility to strengthen his position on ground while reaching out with his message to the common people," said GM Saroori, vice chairman of DPAP.

General Secretary DPAP Abdul Majid Wani said that the Party is holding the con-

ventions across the nook and cranny of the Union Territory to percolate the message of the Party which believes in development, peace and harmony. He said his party will sweep the entire Chenab region whenever polls are held since his party chairman and former chief minister has worked here tirelessly and people are thankful for that.

Among others who attended the convention were provincial president Jugal Kishore Sharma, working committee member Aslam Goni, chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, zonal president PR Manhas, Mehboob Mustafa (state secretary), Sharik Saroori (spokesperson), district president Doda Asif Gattu, district president Shabir Lone, Farooq Shikari (secretary), Pritam Kotwal (provincial general secretary), Amar Chand (provincial general secretary), Javid Azad, Randeep Bandhary and other zonal and district office bearers.

## Sachdeva Netralaya organizes Eye Camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: To mark

the celebration of Women's Day, an eye camp was organized by Sachdeva Netralaya, Gandhi Nagar in association with CII. Besides routine eye check up, special emphasis was laid on dry eyes.

Hitech equipments for diagnosis and treatment of dry eyes were used.

Dr. Sanjay Sachdeva, Dr. Abhishek Sachdeva and a team examined the patients.

Sachdeva Netralaya, which is the first NABH Accredited Eye Hospital in Jammu, is regu-

lar in organizing such camps. Archit Puri, Chairman CII was also present on the occasion and he emphasized on the role of CII in health sector.

At the end Dr. Isha Gupta delivered vote of thanks.



Doctors from Sachdeva Netralaya and others posing for a photograph during an eye camp in Jammu.



NGPPWF led by Ajit Singh staging a protest in Jammu on Thursday.

## NGPPWF stages demonstration

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: The Non Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum (NGPPWF) today staged a demonstration here at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, alleging discrimination with the retired police pensioners and J&K Fire Services in the pay anomaly.

Leading the protest, Ajit Singh, Chairman, NGPPWF said that the 5th Pay Commission was implemented in the erstwhile State in the year 1996 but the police department gave the benefits to the non-gazetted pensioners prospectively through a Government order number 229-F of 2014 dated October 17, 2014.

"This should have been given from the year 1996 itself as it was done in other departments," he said.

He said that the follow up was also not done despite two separate orders issued in this context.

He further demanded that the Medical Allowance paid to the UT pensioners should also be raised at par with the Central Government employees, which is Rs 1000. Currently, the non-gazetted police pensioners are paid Rs 300.

He also demanded the provision of 10% reservation for admission in professional colleges and in recruitment for the children of police personnel.

## Dr Raina felicitated for sale of Jan Aushadi drugs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Dr Vijay Raina, Medical Superintendent, Government Hospital Sarwal

Government Hospital Sarwal is the only public health facility across the Union Territory which has a sale of approximately Rs 15 lakh per month as the high quality medicines are sold at lower price nearly 50 per cent to 90 per cent cheaper as compared to market rates.

This benefits not only the poor patients but also the middle class people.

ing the people to purchase Generic Medicines from Jan Aushadi Kendra.

Jan Aushadi Kendra at Government Hospital Sarwal is the only public health facility across the Union Territory which has a sale of approximately Rs 15 lakh per month as the high quality medicines are sold at lower price nearly 50 per cent to 90 per cent cheaper as compared to market rates.

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Govt Sarwal Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Vijay Raina being felicitated by Secretary Health and Medical Education Bhupinder Kumar.

## BJP committed to address day-to-day problems of public: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP vice president listened the public grievances at camp held at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni here, today.

Parveen Kermi, president, BJP East Mandal, Arun Sethi general secretary, Raj Kumar and Suresh Bharti secretaries accompanied the J&K BJP vice president.

Various deputations including individual persons and most of them were the problems of people at party office, Kacchi Chawni on Thursday.

While hearing to the deputations, Yudhvir Sethi resolved most of the issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the public, people in large number visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief on the party. He said that the party is fully committed to address the day to day problems being faced by the people in general and that of Jammu City in particular.

He said that it is a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people and ensure that genuine issues of people are redressed in an efficacious manner.



JMC Mayor, Rajinder Sharma along with others releasing audio-video albums of devotional songs in Jammu on Thursday.

## Devotional songs of Dr Chanchal Sharma released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) in collaboration with Savitri Music released two audio-video albums of devotional songs written, composed, sung and performed by Dr. Chanchal Sharma, a Dogri Poet and 'A' grade Singer.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor JMC was chief guest on the release function whereas Prof. Kailash Mehra Sadhu renowned singer of J&K presided over the function.

Bharat Singh, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages was the guest of honour.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, Singer; Capt. Lalit Sharma, Convener; Dogra Harish Kailla, president NDS and Dr.

Chanchal Sharma also shared the dais.

Yash Pal Yash, general secretary NDS compeered the proceedings and Harish Kailla organized and coordinated the programme.

Maa Diyan Chunnian and NDS mementoes were also presented to the guests.

Rajinder Sharma, JMC Mayor emphasized for preserving our art, culture and mother tongue and said that it is the duty of all parents to ensure that their children learn and speak in Dogri.

Prof. Kailash Mehra Sadhu said that music is divine force and also a medium of worship and meditation, which make our lives vibrant.

Vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Chanchal Sharma.

## Billawaria kick starts lane, drain work in Gangyal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Continuing the campaign to provide better development as well as basic facilities to the people of the area of RS Pura-Jammu South constituency, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, started the work of lane and drain at Sector-2 adjoining Nag Mandir, Ward 56 Gangyal.

This work will be executed under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that this was a long pending demand of the local people and now the demand has been fulfilled. He said that this lane adjoins the place of Nag Devta Mandir, now with the construction of this lane, devotees (Sangat) visiting the Nag Devta Mandir will also get relief.

Deputy Mayor said, "We are committed to the development of Ward No 56 and ensuring that it remains a Model Ward. The construction of new lanes and drains is just the first step in our efforts to improve the infrastructure of the area. We will continue to work towards the betterment of the Ward and its residents," he added.

The Deputy Mayor also added that the project will be completed in a time-bound manner and strict quality control measures will be implemented to ensure that the construction

meets the required standards.

Deputy Mayor, said that the last four years, we have expended crores of rupees for the development process of Ward No 56 Gangyal. This significant investment has enabled us to undertake a range of crucial development initiatives that have transformed the Ward into a more liv-



Deputy Mayor, Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria kick starting construction of lane and drain in Gangyal on Thursday.

able and vibrant community. Some of the key projects that have been completed in Ward No 56 over the last four years include the construction of new roads, installation of street lights, the provision of improved waste management services, and the establishment of community facilities, such as parks and playgrounds.

"We are delighted to see the positive impact that these projects have had on the quality of life of the residents of Ward No 56", Billawaria said.

The people have expressed gratitude to Billawaria for starting the construction work of the lane and drain. Harbans Choudhary, Surjeet Kumar, Rajeev Dogra, Bhisnan Kumar, Vimal Devi, Naresh Kumar, Buta Ram and others were present.