



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing at the laying foundation stone and dedicates key development projects at Mandya, in Karnataka on Sunday. (UNI)

PM dedicates world's longest railway platform in Hubbali

DHARWAD (KTK), Mar 12:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dedicated to the nation the "longest railway platform in the world" at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubbali Station near here. The record has been recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records recently, officials said, adding that the 1,507 m long platform has been built at a cost of about Rs 20 crore. Modi at an event here, also dedicated the electrification of Hosapete - Hubbali - Tinaighat section and the upgradation of Hosapete station, for boosting connectivity in the region. Developed at a cost of over Rs 530 crore, the electrification project establishes seamless train operation on electric traction. The redeveloped Hosapete station will provide convenient and modern facilities to travellers. It has been designed to resemble the Hampi monu-

ments, officials said. The PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects of Hubbali-Dharwad smart city. The total estimated cost of these projects is about Rs 520 crores. He also laid the foundation stone of the Jayadeva Hospital and Research Centre, which will be developed at a cost of about Rs. 250 crores and will provide tertiary cardiac care to the people of the region, and for the Dharwad Multi Village Water Supply Scheme, which will be developed at a cost of over Rs. 1,040 crores. He also laid the foundation stone for Tupparihalla Flood Damage Control Project, which will be developed at a cost of about Rs 150 crores, officials said. The project aims to mitigate damage caused by floods and involves construction of retaining walls and embankments. (PTI)



Newly elected office bearers of Jammu's E-Rickshaw Union posing with senior BJP leader Rajeev Charak and others at Jammu.

E-Rickshaw owners form body

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: E-Rickshaw owners of Jammu today constituted a body under the name and style "Jammu's E Rickshaw Union".

Elections of Jammu's E Rickshaw Union were held today at Channi Himmat in Jammu where senior BJP leader Rajeev Charak was the chief guest. Narendra Singh was elected as president of the Union and Darshan Kumar as general secretary.

On the occasion, E-Rickshaw owners apprised the BJP leader of their grievances. They informed him that in absence of any clear policy in place, the rickshaw drivers are not allowing E-Rickshaws to ply after which it was decided to constitute a union followed by elections. Charak said when the

Government of India and the J&K Government are going to provide green number plates on electric cars or bikes and other vehicles, then the contempt or insult of e-rickshaws in Jammu cannot be tolerated.

The BJP Leader said if an auto driver harasses any E-Rickshaw owner, the Police and RTO should take immediate action on him so that the direction of making green mobility and electric power can be further promoted by the Government of India in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Other who were present on the occasion included Vikram Singh Jamwal, Bherav Singh, Ravi Kumar, Daya Ram, Heera Lal, Arjun Kumar, Sandeep Kumar, Jeevan Lal, Mohan Lal, Perma Nand Gupta, Ajay Kumar, Raja Ram, Sajjan, Suresh Kumar, Ramesh Lal, Mahesh and Mangal Singh.

Sampriti releases Amar

Malmohi's, Gowhar's books

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: A literary function was held by 'Sampriti' in the K L Saigal Hall here, today.

The first session was presided over by veteran writer and critic, Dr R L Shant and Professor Talashi was guest of honour. The function started with the welcome address by Rattan Lal Jowher, president 'Sampriti' followed by the release of two Kashmiri books namely: "Ben , Tshen Tu Bawath based on research and critical analyses. It was authored by Dr

3 shops gutted in fire

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 12: Three shops were completely gutted in a fire incident at Sudh Mahadev main bazaar, here last night.

Even as there was no loss of life, the shops were completely gutted in the fire that broke out during the intervening night of 11-12 March.

These shops included a General Store, barber shop and Blacksmith shop, owned by Gaurav Gupta, who had given these on rent.

On being informed, police team and Incharge Fire Station Chenani rushed to the spot and controlled the blazes. Chenani police registered the case in this connection.

The exact cause of fire could not be ascertained while property worth over Rs 7-10 lakh was lost in the incident.

VP for no disruptions in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, Mar 12:

Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhanekar sought views of leaders of various political parties on ways to curb disruptions in the House at a meeting held on Sunday on the eve of the start of the second phase of the Budget session.

Opposition members raised the issue of alleged misuse of central agencies against non-BJP governments and the move to appoint Dhanekar's personal staff on parliamentary committees.

Sources said that during his interaction with floor leaders, Vice-President Dhanekar mainly flagged the issue of whether disruptions can be allowed and if members can have a "free fall of information" in the name of free speech in the House as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution.

The article deals with freedom of speech in Parliament with certain conditions. The first phase of the Budget session was overshadowed by the Adani-Hindenburg issue as the Opposition disrupted proceedings demanding a JPC probe.

Dhanekar had been criticised by opposition parties over his decision to delete some portions of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's speech from official records in Rajya Sabha.

"I cannot allow Rajya Sabha to be an 'akhara' (wrestling arena) for free fall of information or allegations against anyone. Make a

statement, you are entitled to do it, but authenticate it, be responsible about it," the vice president had said at an event in Bengaluru early this month.

Leader of House Piyush Goyal, Congress' Jairam Ramesh, DMK's M Shanmugam, AAP's Sanjay Singh and Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav were among those present at the Sunday meeting here.

Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Dhanekar later had a one-on-one meeting.

After the meeting, Kharge asserted that the opposition parties want to play a constructive role in making the government accountable and sought discussion in the House on "every burning issue facing the nation".

"Met @VPIndia, ahead of the forthcoming session of the Parliament to seek his cooperation," he said in a tweet.

"We as Opposition parties are keen to play a constructive role in making the Government accountable and would want discussion on every burning issue facing the nation," Kharge said.

Several floor leaders raised the issue of the appointment of Dhanekar's personal staff on parliamentary committees.

The vice president responded by saying that the sole purpose behind the move was to achieve optimisation of human resources and output of committees. (PTI)



Secy Culture & Tourism being presented his portrait during valedictory function of painting workshop at JU on Sunday.

Three-day painting workshop by 'Utsaah' concludes at JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: The valedictory function of the three-day painting workshop organised by "Utsaah," the Clubs, University of Jammu, was held here today.

The workshop was the first event in the series of events lined up for the ten-day multi-arts festival "Duggar Darpan" being organised by "Utsaah" in collaboration with IGNCRA, Regional Centre, Jammu.

Dr Sayed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary Culture and Tourism Department, was chief guest on the occasion. While getting nostalgic about his own years as a student of the University of Jammu, he applauded the initiative of "Utsaah." Calling the University of Jammu as the "intellectual fountainhead" of Jammu, he shared his future goal of making more geospatial venues available for such initiatives.

In his presidential address, Prof Naresh Padma, Dean Academic Affairs JU, expressed his happiness in the reorganisation of the academics that have been set forth through the vision of NEP 2020 and is being materialised in the University through the "Utsaah" initiative.

Guest of Honour, Dr Archana Jha Choudhary, Member,

PWWA, Madhubani & Miniature Painting Artist, offered her lifetime support and membership to the Painting Club of "Utsaah."

Prof Satnam Kour, Chairperson, Utsaah, expressed her appreciation for Dr Sayed Abid Shah and Dr Archana Jha Choudhary's engagement as patrons, which she thought would not only encourage the artists but leave an indelible impression on their minds. She shared the future line of events for the festival.

On the occasion, Sooraj mesmerised the audience conjuring the local flavour with his vocals. Dr Sayed Abid Rashid Shah was presented with a portrait of himself which was created by Ajay Kumar, also the artist behind the murals adorning the city of Jammu, lately.

The programme concluded with an official vote of thanks offered by Dr Chinmoyee Maharana. Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion, included Prof Suman Jamwal, Dr Parmil Kumar, Dr Neeraj Sharma, SSVC, Dr Sadaf Shah, Dr Garima Gupta, Dr Suvidha Khanna, Dr Madhulika Singh, Dr Pritam Singh, Rakesh Sharma and Dr Priya Dutta. The programme was compeered by Sheetal Lalotra.

Punjab police carry out special operation ahead of G20 meeting

CHANDIGARH, Mar 12:

Ahead of the G20 meeting in Amritsar, the Punjab Police on Sunday carried out a special operation across the state to check whereabouts and antecedents of all people booked under the Arms Act in the last five years, officials said.

The operation was conducted across the state simultaneously from 11am to 5pm and all commissioners and senior superintendents of police were asked to depute one team per police station for it, they said.

According to an official statement, the operation was carried out in the wake of the G20 meeting on the directions of Director General of Police (DGP) of Punjab Gaurav Yadav to check the whereabouts and antecedents of all persons booked under the Arms Act in the last five years who are out on bail or parole or have been acquitted.

The G20 meeting on education will take place from March 15-17 in Amritsar.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla said 4,000 police teams involving 2,000 personnel checked as many as 1,343 people, who were booked under the Arms Act in the last five years. Of these, 1,194 people were on parole or bail, he said, adding one person was arrested during the operation.

He said the intent was to keep a check on the influx of illegal

arms and ammunition from across the international border and the state borders, and maintain a vigil on gangsters and anti-social elements.

Such operations also help in infusing fear among anti-social elements and instilling a sense of security among the common people, Shukla said. (PTI)

Truck plunges into Chenab River, driver missing

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Mar 12: A driver went missing after the truck he was driving went out of control and plunged into Chenab River in Ramban District late on Sunday evening, police said.

They said the incident occurred when a Jammu-bound truck (JK13-7992) skidded off the road near Mehar area of Ramban District and rolled down into Chenab River.

"Soon after receiving the news, a police team from Ramban Police Station and QRT volunteers rushed to the accident site and started a rescue operation," police said.

SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma confirmed the incident, saying, "the rescue teams are currently at the spot and are trying their best to trace the missing driver".

Till the press time, the missing driver was not identified by the police.

Construction of drain at Paloura Top

This is to draw attention of the JMC authorities towards construction of a drain at Paloura Top Ward No. 59. At present this unconstructed drain is a deep source of air pollution which



has vitiated the atmosphere in the vicinity of the Colony. Not only this, it has become a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects which may give birth to diseases like dengue/malaria.

To avoid such a situation, it is essential that a concrete drain be constructed so that no filthy water accumulates in the area, and people have safe environs.

Sanjiv Chandel Paloura Top

Erratic electricity in Bantalab

Smart metering was done in some areas of Bantalab in hundreds of households in most non-technical manner without laying the main and subsidiary cables and the meters were installed on naked already existing lines in areas like parts of K B Nagar, Adarsh Nagar, Ganga Nagar etc along with the main market and adjacent areas. Even pole erection wherever needed was not done. We were told at that time that cables would be laid within a week and the naked wires would be removed along with all illegal connections.

It is pitiable to note that even after more than a year of this process, our area is still facing the problems of electricity in the form of unscheduled shut down, intermittent low voltages after every 2-3 minutes whenever the temperature touches just 30 degree celsius due to the apathy of JPDC, who are in deep slumber and are in no mood to complete the left over work of replacing naked wires by appropriate cables so that the transmission losses are effectively reduced and quality power reaches to every honest consumer. It may be mentioned here that the concerned authorities have been several times informed by print as well as electronic media about these grave problems but the authorities have turned a deaf ear even after explaining these problems in person to the concerned officers and lodging complaints on line.

Presently, the transmission system in this area provides a free for all situation, the naked lines inviting anyone to attach a hooked connection at any point of the lines thus burdening the honest payers, which anyone can notice.

As this summer is expected to be very hot, the authorities of PDD and JPDC are requested to complete the main left over work of cabling and pole erection wherever needed, so that the honest payers are relieved of this torture

S. Saraf and others Bantalab

Illegal power connections in Parglata

I want to bring into the kind notice of the PDD department the menace of illegal power connections prevailing in Parglata area of Bajalta near Noor Masjid.

Due to the illegal power connections electricity plays hide and seek as such the inhabitants are facing insurmountable hardships on account of them.

Though the department has been apprised about the illegal power connections but the department has not taken any action so far and relieved the inhabitants of this agony.

As there is a single transformer in the locality and the masses by resorting to the power theft has resulted in load shedding and damage to the transformer.

Sooner the department fixes the problem the better it would be in the interest of the masses.

It is therefore requested to the Chief Engineer PDD to replace the transformer with a high voltage one and direct the subordinate officials to check the illegal connections so that masses heave a sigh of relief.

Mohd Irfan Janipur

Samba police solves 2 more theft cases, arrests 3 thieves

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 12: Samba police has solved two more theft cases, arrested three thieves and made recoveries of stolen items and cash.

Arrested thieves have been identified as Behari Lal, son of Chuni Lal of Jhalani Jammu, Mohit Gupta, son of Ashwani Gupta of Janipur, Colony Jammu and Vikas Sawhney, son of Amar Sawhney of Janipur Colony Jammu.

Two cases were registered at

Pandey heads 'Roots in PoJK'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: Gurdeep Singh Pandey (Adv) has been elected as president while Akhil Tandon (Adv) as general secretary of "Roots in PoJK", a social organization working for the cause of displaced people from Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In a meeting of the working committee members held here today, it was unanimously decided to reconstitute the Roots in PoJK Committee. While G S Pandey was unanimously inducted as president, Ronik Sharma (Adv) as convener, Jagdeep Singh (Adv) as vice president, Akhil Tandon as general secretary-cum-spokesperson, Paramjeet Singh -organising secretary and Deepak Sharma as treasurer of the Roots in PoJK organization. While extending gratitude to the Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha for the construction Samriti Bhawan of martyrs of 1947 in Jammu, new Committee urged the LG to fix a time line for the completion of this Bhawan.

Plea to JMC authorities

We the residents of Lane No's 7 & 9 Surya Vihar, Bohri Jammu want to inform the JMC authorities regarding desilting process currently underway from Paloura to Anand Nagar. But it is stated here that the desilting process has not been undertaken below the pullies at Lane No's 7 & 9 at Surya Vihar, which kindly may get cleaned before water is released in the canal.

It is apprehended that obstruction at the pullies results in water entering in the nearby houses of Lane No. 7. It usually happens in such a scenario.

Therefore, it is, requested that the desilting process may be undertaken at the above mentioned points to avoid nightmare to the residents who suffer because of this water.

Soom Nath Dhar on behalf of residents of Lane No's 7 & 9, Surya Vihar, Bohri, Jammu

Construct new bridge at Devika Udhampur

About 2 years ago the single lane narrow bridge at Cremation Ghat, over Devika and less talked but much encroached Doodh ganga confluence, Udhampur was declared unsafe by the Distt Administration Udhampur. A Hindi written warning signboard was also installed on the western edge of the bridge and that is still standing there erect. The new bridge construction initiative, in place of unsafe one, was taken or not by the concerned quarters in those days is not known. However, the unsafe bridge

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E-mail : action@dailyexcelsior.com

remained there standing in its extremely exhausted and risky condition and kept serving the people.

Now after a long gap of 2 years, the same bridge has been declared unsafe by the present Distt Administration on the unanimous recommendation of Distt Road Safety Committee Udhampur in view of the deteriorated condition of the bridge and that is for the safety and security of the common masses. Being an Udhampur local I feel constrained to voice here that mere declaration is not sufficient. The declarations would not solve the serious problem. At least this time the declaration should have been coupled with the "New bridge" construction announcement in place of deteriorated and unsafe bridge that would badly affect the fast approaching April Month's 3 days annual Baisakhi Mela on the bank of Holy Devika rivulet Udhampur.

Besides, the bridge facilitates daily thousands people of all shades for different reasons. Particularly, the swelling crowds of Udhampur locals as well as the wide spread and thickly populated peripheries, come for cremation and other rites of their near and dear ones at the sacred confluence of Devika and Doodh Ganga.

Moreover, there are numerous ancient temples on the Devika banks. The large number of Udhampurites, men and women, and non local pilgrim-devotees also through over daily for holy bath at Devika bowlies, performing pooja and darshans of Aap Shambhu deities. Especially, on the auspicious festival occasions there is also a mela like look. It is also pertinent to mention here that the said bridge is one of the main connections between the Eastern and Western Udhampur. Precisely, the bridge has undisputed significance from multiple angles.

So, in view of the stated facts the concerned quarters of administration as well as the public representatives from bottom to top should pay their keen attention towards the serious matter.

Swantrana Dev Kotwal Subash Nagar, Udhampur

Injustice with winter zone students

Sub conduct of exams of class 8th of hard zone area. It is to inform the concerned authorities that the students of Govt Middle School Malal Satyalta tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur winter zone falling in extremely hard zone are appearing in MSE Term 2 as per date sheet of soft zone areas issued by the concerned office. It is important to mention here that the students were observing winter vacations up to 28-2-2023 and schools opened on 1st March 2023.

As per date sheet of hard zone areas, the students were to appear in exams w.e.f. 24-3-2023 but due to mismanagement they were forced to appear in exams with soft zone areas which is clear injustice with the poor students who were not mentally as well as academically prepared to appear in exam. Moreover last year JK SED adopted uniform academic calendar for the whole JK UT in October 2023. Consequently the students of winter zone school of our area got very less time for term 2, a little over month.

Yash Paul Sarpanch (Malal Ramnagar)

Protest against doctor's murder VHP takes out candle light procession

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: The Vishawa Hindu Parishad (VHP) took out a candle light procession here this evening in protest against the murder of a 26 year female doctor by her Muslim friend at Janipur recently.

The protest was led by working president VHP, Rajesh Gupta in which a large number of activists of the organization including a sizable number of female activists of various Hindu bodies participated.

The doctor namely Sumedha Sharma from Gole Puli Jammu, near Ice Factory had done her BDS and now she was doing her MDS from Delhi. She had come to her residence in connection with holidays on eve of Holi. But instead of going to her residence she had straightway gone to the residence of her friend, Jawhar Mehmood on Tuesday

where she was murdered in cold blood.

Talking to media persons Rajesh Gupta said inviting Dr Sumedha to his residence by Jawhar was a pre planned conspiracy and the VHP is holding the candle light procession in protest against the same.

He demanded that the person responsible for this heinous crime be dealt under the law of land and given severe punishment so that it can be a lesson for others. He also demanded that such people be booked under POCSCO Act.

The other prominent leaders of Hindu organizations who took part in the protest included Kalpana Ji of Durga Vahini, Prant Bal Sanaskar Kendra head, Sakshi Ji, president of Prant Shakti Sadna Kendra Sushma Ji, Satsang head Aarti Kapoor, Jammu city convener Palak and Anjali Khajuria were among others present.

Team Bani commences 'Free Sunday Breakfast' service for patients

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 12: Team Bani, district Kathua has taken up the noble initiative of providing free food service to the patients admitted in Sub District Hospital, Bani.

This initiative of social service was started in the town today by Dr Rameshwar Singh.

Dr Rameshwar Singh in his address on the occasion said, "We all the volunteers of Team Bani have decided to start a free-food canteen facility for the patients at various health institutions especially hospitals in the hilly region of Kathua. However, realizing the enormity of funds involved in this endeavour and at the same time avoiding delay, we finally decided to provide the service on Sundays for the time being and that too at the Sub-District Hospital."

He said that in today's inaugural programme Sunday Breakfast was served to the patients.