

'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign aims to reach out to people: Wani

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: JKPC president Vikar Rasool Wani and working president Raman Bhalla today day 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' yatra in Makhanpur Gujran Panchayat to highlight the various issues of public concern including property tax, price rise, unemployment and other problems faced by people.

The programme was organized by JKPC Minority Department Chairman Rajinder Singh Nathu. Prominent among those who joined Yatra include Ravinder Sharma Ex-MLC, Tarlok Singh Bajwa Ex- MP, Balwan Singh Ex- MLA, Indu Pawar Ex- MLA, Shashi Sharma, Karan Bhagat, Rajinder Singh, Bushan Dogra, Amrit Bali and Sarpanch Makhanpur Gujran Ravinder Kour.



Cong leaders and workers taking out 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' yatra at Makhanpur in Jammu.

Government," he added.

Raman Bhalla referred to inflation, unemployment, women's safety, Central Government's handling of



China, rise in hate speeches, alleged capturing of institutions, and toppling of elected govern-

Speaking on the occasion, JKPC president said that 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign aims to reach out to people in the hinterlands ahead of the 2024 general elections. This state-level campaign, he said, will strengthen the Congress' prospects and act as an extension of the Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that passed through the politically crucial state recently. The 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign is aimed at apprising people at the grassroots level of the failures of the central Government, he said.

"BJY went beyond politics and issues were raised on the basis of ideology by Rahul Gandhi. It had nothing to do with elections. But in the 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' campaign, we have a direct target - the failures of the Narendra Modi



Secretary Tourism Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed during visit to Purmandal-Utterbehni on Sunday.

Secretary Tourism visits Purmandal, Utterbehni; reviews progress on development works

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 12: Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited historical areas of Purmandal-Utterbehni to review progress on development works being executed in these religious tourist destinations.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Mansar Surinsar Development Authority Ved Parkash, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Vijaypur, Vinay Kumar, Engineers besides other officers and locals.

During his visit, Secretary took stock of progress on various projects being executed for development of Purmandal-Utterbehni religious tourism circuit under Development of Purmandal Circuit, Samba district.

will be earnest effort of the government to boost development tempo in these areas with a long term sustainable perspective to tap the areas massive potential" added the Secretary.

Secretary, while interacting with members of the civil society and local representatives, emphasized on all stakeholders to actively participate in the developmental process and cooperate with government agencies so that the tourist footfall can further be increased and catered to.

While giving details on the recent developments, Deputy Commissioner apprised the Secretary that a coordination committee having members from local administration, religious organizations, Dharmarth Trusts, Tourism Department and other prominent citizens has been constituted for implementation of projects and addressing issues so that development works can be carried out smoothly.

Meanwhile, Secretary also interacted with the locals including elected representatives, religious organizations of Purmandal-Utterbehni and listened to their issues and demands including fund availability and other issues.

He assured that all the genuine demands and grievances projected by them will be taken up for early redressal.

District Development Council member, Avtar Singh, local Sarpanch of Purmandal and Utterbehni were also present.

Secretary had a detailed review of development projects being done at Purmandal including construction of paved pathways to the complex, construction of view points, installation of focus lights and poles with high mast lights and solar lights.

He sought active participation and involvement of public especially youth in developing Purmandal-Utterbehni as a major religious and pilgrimage tourism destination in Jammu.

"Purmandal and Utterbehni have historic significance in the region with vast potential and religious importance to attract tourists. It

Locals lock school after teacher found drunk

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 12: The residents of Chanti Tatora village in Bhaderwah's Bhalla area locked down a Government Primary School after a teacher was found in an inebriated condition there.

ASP Bhaderwah, Kameshwar Puri said that he received a complaint in this regard from the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Bhalla and action will be taken against the wrongdoer teacher tomorrow as today was a holiday due to Sunday.

The villagers informed that the accused teacher Bikram Singh created ruckus in an inebriated condition when objected by the villagers and some bottles of alcohol were also recovered from him.

Dilmir Chowdhary, ADC Bhaderwah when contacted told Excelsior said he came to know about the incident and will issue a notice to the accused teacher tomorrow.

ASP Bhaderwah, Kameshwar Puri said that he received a complaint in this regard from the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Bhalla and action will be taken against the wrongdoer teacher tomorrow as today was a holiday due to Sunday.

The villagers informed that the accused teacher Bikram Singh created ruckus in an inebriated condition when objected by the villagers and some bottles of alcohol were also recovered from him.

Khatana inaugurates 'Mehfil-e-Gojri Adab', pays tribute to Kasana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: The Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust has organised a "Mehfil-e-Gojri Adab" programme at "Fateh Ali Sarwari Kasana" at Sarwari Kasana Hall of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Gujjar Colony, here, today. The Programme was inaugurated by Ghulam Ali Khatana M.P (Rajya Sabha) who was the chief guest on the occasion.

The writers, poets, journalists from various walks of life participated in the Mehfil-e-Gojri Adab Programme and presented their research work on Fateh Ali Sarwari Kasana. Besides, girl students of Brig Khuda Baksh Memorial Public Higher Secondary School who participated and presented

among Tribals and preserving their culture etc. The chief guest appreciated the arrangements of Gurjar Desh Charitable Management and complimented all the people for participation in the Cultural programme being organised by GDCT Management and other Trustees for making this programme a great success.

M.S. Chouhan general secretary, Hamid Hussain vice chairman, Shoukat Javed, Senior Trustee, Sardar Khan Senior Trustee, Saleem Mohammad Senior Trustee, Nighat Sultana, Bashir Ahmed Senior Trustee, Aslam Khan Senior Trustee, Rafiq Kohli Senior Trustee, Shouket Gujjar Trustee, Amjad Ali secretary, Naseem Akhter Trustee, Bashir Mastana Trustee, Tariq



MP (RS), Gulam Ali Khatana and other dignitaries releasing a book during a function organized by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust at Jammu on Sunday.

"Islamic Naat" were Sabha Firdous, Najma Kouser, Zabina Akhter and Samia Hamid.

During programme three books written and compiled by Tariq Abrar were also released on the occasion by the chief guest, poets, writers and senior trustees. The chief guest, Gulam Ali Khatana, the guest of honour, Ahmed Din Shanas, writers, poets, staff members, Trustees and members of Youth Wing of Trust were welcomed by Shah Mohd Chowdhary, Chairman of the Trust in the presence of patron-in-chief Haji Abdul Hamid.

The chief guest in his inaugural address lauded the role of Dr. Masud Choudhary Baba-e-Qoum, particularly Fateh Ali Sarwari Kasana in promoting the education

Abrar Trustee, Mohammad Amin Trustee attended the programme.

The authors, poets and writers who participated and presented their research papers included Hasan Perwaz, Abdul Ghani Jagil, Sarwar Chauhani, Abdul Ganigayoor, Naseem Akhter Fani, Jaan Mohd Hakeem, Bilal Zamzam, Karam Din Chopra, Prof. M.K. Waqar, Zaffar-ul-Islam Kasana, Ch. Ameer-ud-Din Kasana, Khakan Sajad, Ch. Jalal Din, Mohammad Hafeez, Mukhtar Hussain and many others.

Lastly, Chairman and team GDCT presented certificates and mementos to the participants and complimented all the members and participants for sparing their valuable time for the Mehfil-e-Gojri programme.

Priya, Rekha among recipients of Sushma Swaraj Award Koul asks Mahila Morcha to reach out beneficiaries of Govt schemes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: After wider consultations and discussions, the Mahila Morcha of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to start a national award in the name of former External Affairs Minister and a veteran leader, Sushma Swaraj from this year.

A programme in this regard was held in the presence of party general secretary (Org), Ashok Koul, former Dy CM J&K, Kavinder Gupta, former Minister, Priya Sethi, BJP district president, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan here at party Headquarters, today.

Mahila Morcha district Jammu South under the leadership of district president, Divya Jain organized a programme.

Prizes were given to Priya Sethi former Minister, Rekha Mahajan, district president, Dakshita Snud Sharma Research Scholar at IIT Jammu, Shivani Manhas Pilot in Air India, Kanchan Sharma, Dr. Vanita Kotwal, Sakshi Khullar artist selling paintings of Indian Heritage, Aekta Gupta, Professor, Neena Gupta corporate, Sanchaita Pradhan, promoter Shilpkari Bazar and Dr. Parul Jasrotia.

While speaking on the occasion,



BJP general secretary (Org), Ashok Koul presenting the Sushma Swaraj Awards at Jammu on Sunday.

sion, Ashok Koul said, to connect with women members of the party's Women's Wing should approach women voters in every district and tell them about the benefits of various Government schemes.

He asserted that over 25 crore women are believed to have benefited from the Jan Dhan scheme alone, under which bank accounts without any mandatory minimum balance are opened.

Kavinder Gupta said the Award, besides acknowledging the outstanding achievements of services of women from various fields also promotes their achievements and services as sources of inspiration to others in society.

Priya Sethi said that the country is gearing up for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Mahila Morcha in a first-of-its-kind initiative has planned to carry on a

nationwide 'selfie campaign' with one crore beneficiaries of Central Government's various schemes."

On the occasion, Rekha Mahajan said due to the relentless efforts of the Government, women can make their presence felt by leading the Republic Day Parade, flying the most modern fighter aircraft Rafale or in the combat role against enemies, making the nation proud in the world of sports, taking advantage of self-employment opportunities to support the country's economic progress equally.

Meetu Sharma, Sarojini Sharma, and Anuradha Sharma conducted the proceedings of the programme.

J&K in dire need of sustained peace for speedy development: Altaf Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 12: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said that Jammu and Kashmir is in dire need of sustained peace for speedy development and prosperity of the region.

"New Delhi may or may not require a peaceful environment here, but we desperately do need it because the future of our youth is at stake due to the protracted uncertainty and turmoil. Only a peaceful environment can pave a way for a better Jammu and Kashmir," he said, while addressing a party convention in the Karpura Nishat area of Srinagar, here today.

Bukhari said that a long phase of violence and turmoil has left J&K incapable of maintaining a sustainable developmental pace. He said: "Look at the pathetic condition of Srinagar in terms of its developmental deficit! Once upon a time, it was considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world, but we could not maintain the required pace for its development, over the years, due to the prevailing uncertainty." He promised that once the Apni Party gets mandate to form a Govt in

J&K, it will ensure equivalent and speedy development across the region.

He said: "Our key agenda is to work for J&K's development and prosperity, thus, we will ensure a rapid pace of modern infrastructure development here, once we are elected to form a Govt."

On this occasion, Apni Party Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir vowed that the party will continue striving for the restoration of J&K's statehood. "After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, Apni Party leadership made the Union Government announce that no demographic change would occur in J&K and only the local residents will have rights on the jobs here and only domicile can have the ownership of agricultural land here," he claimed.

Speaking at the convention, Party's Provincial President, Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir urged people to support Apni Party in order to ensure peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dilshada Shaheen, Khalid Rathore, Mohsin Zaffar Shah, Jeelani Kumar, Adil Bhat, Irfan Zargar and others were present in the convention.

Dr Jitendra addresses newly inducted IAS officers, reiterates AI use

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also In-Charge DoPT and IAS Academy Mussoorie, today addressed the 124th Induction Training Programme (ITP) of State/UT officers recently inducted into the IAS.

The group of 131 officers belonged to 18 different States and 6 UTs cadres, and 7 of them belonged to Jammu & Kashmir. Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, K.Srinivas was also present on the occasion.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the State/UT officers recently inducted into the IAS.

In his address, the Minister reiterated the use of governance tools based on the latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). He said, the Civil Services Officers are now being trained and equipped with latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and Data Analytics to enable them with skills that are vital to the effective performance in the administrative context of today.

The 124th ITP for officers promoted from the State Civil Services to the Indian Administrative Service is designed in response to the Prime Minister's call for a shared national vision.

124th ITP has 131 participants from batches 2008 to 2020. The objective of the ITP is to enable participants who have been promoted from State Civil Services into the IAS to understand the all-India nature of the Indian Administrative Service and develop on a national perspective on the working of public administration and the macro-economy of the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the six months long ITP helps officers gain a wider national perspective that enables them to contextualise and understand the canvas of governance. The course featured a 2-week long Bharat Darshan tour including the North Eastern Region (NER) besides stints with the three Armed Forces to underscore the dimension of national security. Further, there are attachments with large public/private sector undertakings, municipal corporations and SPVs delivering key public services.

In view of the success of 'Mission Karmayogi' programme

in improving Good Governance and reaching out public services and Central Government's welfare schemes to the public at large, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Government may consider designing such a training module on the lines of the ITP for other Central & State Government employees as well. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is of the firm belief that the Civil Services is an important pivot in implementing the Government's welfare schemes and providing the benefits to the common man, he said.

The 124th ITP featured, for the first time, a day-long deconstruction module where experienced officers, who were inducted into the IAS from states across the country, interacted with participants and shared their experiences of having implemented important projects or having played key roles in framing / executing key policies. This was to bring to focus the need for a clear role change and hence, to adopt a systemic perspective to decision making.

Years on, 4 villages in north Kashmir's Pattan lack road connectivity, bridge

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 12: The authorities have failed in providing effective road connectivity for the last several decades to four villages in north Kashmir's Pattan while the locals of these villages have now tired of running from pillar to post, from department to department to get the attention of the officials so as to ensure that their grievance is addressed.

The villages, which lack connectivity and are largely relying on a kaccha-13 feet road, include Dargam, Resraypora, Gohiwa and Check-e-Dargam. The road is between Dargam to Resraypora and Gohiwa connecting Check-e-Dargam.

The total population of these villages is more than 10,000 souls and the existing internal mud way is registered with the Revenue department as about 13 feet.

The residents said that on a daily basis the school children and patients are suffering because of the unavailability of a proper road.

"Presently we are not directly connected with Tehsil Headquarter, we always use a secondary road from Dargam village via Hyderbeigh to reach Tehsil headquarter Pattan, about 13 km, which consumes the time of people, especially the students as well as patients," Manzoor Ahmad, one of the residents said.

He also said that annually they also suffer losses in agriculture and horticulture due to the non-availability of a proper road. "During the rainy season, especially during the winter season we can't move even an inch because the condition deteriorates further," he said.

The residents said that they have to carry the apple boxes on their shoulders due to the unavail-

ability of motorable roads and that the politicians reach them during elections only to listen to their issues. "They have always given us hollow promises and in reality, nothing has changed on the ground," the residents said.

Another resident, Ghulam Hassan said that a few years back a woman suffered a heart attack and died while she was being taken to the hospital. "Given the fact that we had to go from a different route, it took more time and by the time the patient reached the hospital, it was already too late; if we had a proper and directly connected route, we could have saved her," he said.

The residents said that they have submitted several applications to the concerned officials, urging them to take the necessary action so that they have an effective and motorable road between the four villages. "Time and again we have submitted various applications in offices of former ministers of all political parties, even at the Civil Secretariat, but it is all in vain so far," they said.

Concerning the bridge at Check-e-Dargam, the residents said that the works there were started, but due to unknown reasons, it is still incomplete. As per eyewitnesses, in a gap of more than 2 years, only 2 pillars have been constructed there. However, the R&B which is constructing the bridge said that the works are on the approach.

When the officials of R&B and PMGSY were contacted for their comments, there appeared to be total confusion over which department was meant to execute the work. R&B officials said these roads were under PMGSY and the PMGSY officials said that they are not in charge.

Concerned officials of PMGSY in north Kashmir told Excelsior that several works are going on and that they will have to look into it to know the status. "We will not be able to provide the exact details as of now, as far as I know, these roads are not covered under the PMGSY," the concerned AEE said.

Sanjay Dutt making Tamil film debut, shoots in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 12: Sanjay Dutt is in Kashmir shooting for Tamil film 'Leo' that will be released by the end of this year.

Dutt has been roped in to play the antagonist in the film, and this will also mark his Tamil debut.

He flew to Srinagar from Mumbai on Friday for the shoot. The Bollywood actor was spotted super stylish in black and



Sanjay Dutt during film shooting in Kashmir.

seems like the hard-working actor turned fitter for his role in 'Leo'. He will be filming for a couple of weeks here.

A l o s t 500 artists have been involved in the Kashmir schedule of 'Leo' and the current schedule is expected to be wrapped by the end of March.

Touted to be an action drama, the film will feature Vijay as a gangster. Trisha, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Sarja, Gautham Menon, Mysskin, Priya Anand, Mansoor Ali Khan, Sandy, and Mathew Thomas will be seen in crucial roles. Anirudh Ravichander is scoring the music and the film is locked to release on October 19.

A recent video from the movie's shooting location went viral. Vijay may be seen in the released footage walking through a traffic bottleneck while wearing a spotless white shirt. The leaked clip was quickly shared on various social media sites. Everyone was asked not to release shooting location clips by a few Vijay fan clubs.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Three killed, 2 injured in road accidents

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: At least three people died and two others injured in separate road accidents in Jammu province, police said on Sunday.

They said that one Head Constable Farooq Ahmed (50) son of Bashir Ahmed Bhat of Jakyas, Doda was injured after he was hit by a bus at Narsoo area near Nashri tunnel on February 27, 2023.

"He was taken to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu the same day, where he breathed his last today at around 7 pm," police said.

In another accident, police said, one Darshan Kumar (50) son of Maan Parkash of Manwal, Majalata was injured after the scooter he was riding on was hit by a car on March 11, 2023.

"He didn't respond to the treat-

ment at GMC Jammu today," police further said.

"One Bashir Ahmed (74) son of Nak Mohammad of Data Tallab, Birpur, Bari Brahmana, who was hit by a truck near Imperial Resort Data Tallab, Birpur today, also succumbed to his injuries at GMC Jammu," they said.

Meanwhile, two persons identified as Rajesh Gupta (52) son of Koushal and his wife Geetu Gupta (41) suffered injuries after the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a tempo at Bari Brahmana.

"The duo has been hospitalised in GMC Jammu where they are undergoing treatment," police said.

While cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered at concerned police station the bodies of the deceased have been handed over to their family members after completing the legal formalities.