



DC Doda Vishesh Mahajan chairing a meeting.

## DC Doda reviews physical, financial progress of works under District Plan

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 12: Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, reviewed the status of works under the District Plan sector-wise and scheme-wise in a meeting held today and emphasised the need to expedite the completion of works before March 20.

The Assistant Engineers/Junior Engineers of the concerned works and departments have been called to remain present on the site and show the actual progress of works virtually to the DC on the said date.

He expressed concern over the slow progress of various projects being implemented by the Jal Shakti, Public Works and Rural Development departments. He directed the Superintending Engineers and Assistant Commissioner Development to hold daily reviews and inform the DC's office on a daily basis about the status of completion of ongoing works and incurred expenditure.

The meeting started with the review of the Jal Shakti department. It was apprised that 23 out of 158 works were not taken up

during the current year due to various reasons. The DC directed the Superintending Engineer of Jal Shakti Department to surrender the allotted amount against these works immediately and fix responsibility for not resolving the issues timely.

While reviewing the progress of works under PWD, the DC reviewed AE/JE-wise progress, visited various work sites virtually, and issued on-the-spot directions to complete the works before March 20, 2023, besides achieving 100% expenditure.

In the RDD sector, various categories of works were visited virtually. Underlining the low expenditure by some Block Development Officers, the DC issued clear-cut directions to achieve 100% targets, both physically and financially, before March 20.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Superintending Engineers of PWD, PDD, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineers of PWD, PDD, JSD, REW and other concerned officials.

## NC will fight for J&K issues in Parliament, outside: Rattan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: Provincial president Jammu and J&K National Conference (JKNC) for Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta has asserted that National Conference will take its fight pertaining to the issues of Jammu and Kashmir to the National Capital unitedly with the other opposition parties and ensure that the struggle reaches its logical conclusion.

He expressed this while addressing a workers meeting at Bateda in Bhalwal, Nagrota constituency here today. The meeting was organised by Kuldeep

as a result of which the people are being deprived of their very basic rights.

"Since there has been no positive response of the J&K Administration to address these serious issues despite having been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities including the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, therefore the National Conference headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah has decided along with other parties in the All Party Meet to intensify this crucial fight for the people of J&K by taking it to the National Capital Delhi. He added that this decision has been taken

## Darakshhan lays foundation stone of Waqf office, inspects Madarsas

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 12: Continuing her Pir Panjal visit, Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi today participated in many events and programmes in Poonch.

She laid foundation stone of

cessful and meaningful life ahead.

"Waqf managed educational and vocational institutions are on our priority agenda and the mess of mismanagement of decades is being corrected by multiple measures taken by the Board during the past few months," she said.



Dr Darakhshan Andrabi meeting with people at Poonch on Sunday.

Waqf Office Complex at Purani Poonch, inspected Eid Gah Islamia Poonch, visited the shrine of Hazrat Sain Illahi Bakash Bataalkote Loran and also visited Jamia tu Falahat Girls Madarsa, Hostel Gareeb Nawaz & Janaza Gah at Sayid Gafoor Poonch.

Dr Andrabi was accorded a warm & grand welcome by the local population at all events. Speaking to media after the participation in programmes at educational establishments, Dr Andrabi said that educational reforms of Waqf Board are aimed at upgradation of our educational sector wherein addition to the religious education based on Sufi teachings, modern scientific & knowledge based education will empower our young minds and thus prepare them for a balanced suc-

cessful and meaningful life ahead.

"Waqf managed educational and vocational institutions are on our priority agenda and the mess of mismanagement of decades is being corrected by multiple measures taken by the Board during the past few months," she said.

She also participated in a meeting with the religious preachers and scholars of Poonch and stressed on the need of informing people about the teachings of Islam about peace and humanity. CEO J&K Waqf Board Dr Majid Jahangir & Administrator Waqf Poonch Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi ACR Poonch also accompanied Waqf Board Chairperson.

Dr Andrabi also held a long meeting with the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders at Poonch and reviewed the party's public outreach initiatives. She emphasized on the party leaders to inform the public about the welfare programmes and flagship initiatives of the Modi Government. The Waqf Board Chairperson also met many public delegations at Poonch.



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma presenting key of an ambulance to Sewa Samiti, Jogi Gate in Jammu.

## Jugal dedicates ambulance to Sewa Samiti Jogi Gate

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma today dedicated an ambulance to Sewa Samiti, Jogi Gate (Jammu) from his MPLAD fund.

BJP State vice president Yudhvir Sethi, president Sewa Samiti Yoginder Saran, Director State Motor Garage Malik Tahir Gani, Corporation Dinesh Gupta, mandal president Parveen Kermi and senior BJP leaders Govind Sareen, Subash Gupta, Brij Lal,

Vipan Sharma, Arun Sethi and Joginder Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that demand for the ambulance was raised by the locals and members of Sewa Samiti for local use and accordingly, funds to the tune of Rupees 15 lakh were from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) funds. "Today, their demand has been fulfilled and ambulance has been dedicated to Sewa Samiti for public use," he added.

## Employment scams unravelled

BJP Govt's reputation: Harsh Dev

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: With reports of job scams hitting the headlines of various media channels every other day, the UT of J&K has earned the most dubious distinction in employment scandals during the last few years.

Addressing a press conference here today former minister and senior NPP leader Harsh Dev Singh said that while the Government failed to fill up the

recruitments in the UT. The irregular selections of Firemen and drivers made in Fire services Deptt through dubious means was also highlighted umpteen times in the media but the helmsmen have chosen to push the matter under the carpet for reasons best known, Singh said.

In another job scam of gargantuan proportions, the J&K Bank made appointments of around 3000 Banking Associates and Clerks through backdoor which was failed to invite due attention of authorities concerned despite the issue having been highlighted by the erstwhile State Governor SP Malik.



NPP leader Harsh Dev Singh addressing press conference in Jammu.

Singh disclosed that hundreds of backdoor appointments in various Govt Departments in a fair and transparent manner, the culture of fake, backdoor and other paid appointments grew by leaps and bounds. He said the recent past witnessed large scale retrenchments, of even the regularly engaged Govt employees, the new UT saw the resultant vacancies being put on sale by the various recruitment bodies through blacklisted agencies.

Pointing towards the much publicised scam in the selection of PSIs, FAAs and JEs in the UT, Singh said that it was the public outrage and fear of adverse consequences that had forced the Govt to rescind the said list wherein crores had been swindled by a corrupt mafia. He endorsed the demand of agitating youth to disengage the APTech company hired for making

recruitments in the UT. The irregular selections of Firemen and drivers made in Fire services Deptt through dubious means was also highlighted umpteen times in the media but the helmsmen have chosen to push the matter under the carpet for reasons best known, Singh said.

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NC provincial president Rattan Lal welcoming new entrants into party fold during function in Bhalwal area.

Sharma.

The senior NC leader said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are confronted with multiple problems as they have been the worst sufferers during the BJP rule especially post Article 370 abrogation and re-organization of J&K with the people being deprived of the rights to franchise for so many years now. He said that the harassment of the people of this sensitive region at the hands of the proxy BJP's J&K Administration has reached its peak with none to hear to their woes.

Gupta said that while the Assembly elections, Statehood, unemployment, eviction drive, Property Tax, Hike in electricity charges and the recruitment scams are the most serious issues

especially in view of LG Administration's arrogant and adamant attitude on every issue.

Provincial Secretary Bashir Ahmed said that only NC is the secular party in letter and spirit and has proved its mettle as bringing welfare and prosperity to the people during its rule. He appealed to the people to further support and strengthen National Conference.

Vijay Lochan, Provincial president SC Cell in his address, stated that NC will fight for protecting the rights of weaker sections in J&K as they are the worst effected people especially post Article 370 abrogation.

During the meeting, several Panchees and prominent youth of the area from different political parties joined the National Conference.

## Brainstorming on 'Still birth, Infant mortality & birth defects' held at SMVDU

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Mar 12: A one-day brain-storming meeting on "Still Birth, Congenital Malformations, and Infant Death among Newborns in Jammu and Kashmir Region" was conducted at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

The meeting was sponsored by J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, Deptt of Science and Technology, Govt of J&K and was organized by the team of ICMR-CAR scientists and scholars led by Dr Girish, Dr Sonali, Minerva, Rajeshwar, and Dr Rakesh Kumar, the organizing secretary and principal coordinator of ICMR-CAR, SMVDU.

The meeting addressed the crucial issues related to still birth, congenital malformations, and infants' death. Prof RNK Bamezai, former Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU and Ex-Dean Life Sciences JNU, chaired the meeting, and representatives of most institutes of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir attended the meeting. Various experts shed light on different aspects of still birth and congenital anomalies prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir. Prof Bamezai suggested identifying biomarkers for still birth, congen-

ital malformations, and infants' death.

Representative of majority of the institutes of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir attended the meeting. They included Sunita Razdan Dhar, Joint Director JKST&IC; Prof Ghanasham Saini, Head Department of Paediatrics, GMC Jammu; Dr Rakesh Raina PHC, Akhnour; Dr Dinesh Kumar, Dean academics, AIIMS Jammu; Dr Audeesh Bhat, Central University of Jammu; Dr Javed Iqbal, Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine (ERS) SKIMS; Dr Renu Sharma, Dr Ritesh Kumar from AIIMS Jammu; Dr Anand Yelne, Consultant Pediatrician; Dr Sonia Nagyal, Consultant Pathologist; Dr Arunima, Consultant Gynae; Dr Kamaljeet Kaur, Consultant Paediatrician, of SMVDNH, Katra; Dr Anindya Goswami and Dr Mohd. Jamal Dar, Principal Scientists of CSIR-IIIM, Jammu; Pushpa Oraon, Associate Professor SMVDON, Katra; Dr Ruchi Shah from University of Kashmir; Dr Ekta Rai from SMVDU. They threw light on different aspects of still birth and congenital anomalies prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Rakesh Kumar presented the vote of thanks.



DC Kishtwar during visit to Paddar.

## DC Kishtwar conducts tour of Paddar

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Mar 12: With an aim to provide the essential health-care infrastructure and best of class sports facilities at the door step of the people of the far flung areas of District Kishtwar, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav who was on a day long tour to Sub Division Paddar inaugurated various health and sports facilities including 2 newly constructed Health and Wellness Centres buildings one here at Ligri area & other one at Gulab Garh area and also a developed Sports ground with turf Cricket Pitch & Flood Lights at Gulabgarh Paddar.

During his visit, DC was accompanied by BDC Chairman Paddar, Arpan Singh Rana, councillor DDC Paddar Hari Krishan Chouhan, SDM Paddar Dr Rishi Kumar Sharma, CMO Kishtwar Dr Mohd Youqub Mir, Tehsildar Atholi Satish Kumar, BMO Dr Anil Sharma, Ex.En PWD Division Kishtwar Ravinder Kumar, AEE JPDC Sudhir Shrama beside other.

Pertinent to mention that the Health & Wellness Centres Ligri was working in a private building, earlier. Now a well furnished and adequately spacious newly constructed building will ensure the smooth functioning of this centre by meeting out the infrastructural needs, said DC Kishtwar on the occasion of inauguration.

Also the H&WC Ligri will cater to 3000-4000 souls of the

Ligri panchayat and its adjoining area and the H&WC Gulab Garh Paddar is also of prime importance as the Gulab Garh is the Base camp for the Shree Machail Mata ji Yatra where lakhs of the pilgrims have a transit during yatra time.

In addition to the Sub-Divisional Hospital Atholi Paddar which is 2 Km away from Gulabgarh besides the special medical care counters established during the Yatra, H&WC Gulabgarh holds equal importance during Yatra time.

On the occasion, DC Kishtwar also listened to the demands and grievances of people at these places and assured them that their genuine demands will be redressed in time bound manner.

Responding to the issues and grievance raised by locals, he said that he will take up the matter with concerned departments.

He said that the replacement and repair of damaged electric poles in ligri and road compensation issues will be resolved immediately with the help of concerned departments.

Later, DC Kishtwar inaugurated the Newly Developed Sports ground including the Turf Cricket Pitch and the Flood Lights for the ground of Gulab Garh Sports Stadium Paddar in presence of Local PRIs and Concerned district and sectoral officers.

On the occasion, he also handed over the sports Kits to the Youth Club members through Panchayat Sarpanches.

## Kashmiri leadership exploited Jammu, Ladakh: Ch Lal Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 12: Choudhary Lal Singh, the founder Chairman of Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), today blamed the Kashmiri leadership for exploiting the people of Jammu and Ladakh in the erstwhile State.

Speaking in a media conclave

Jammu State and the need to bring it under Article 371 to protect local jobs and land, as has been done in twelve states of India, including Gujarat.

The DSSP chairman also conducted an extensive tour of Poonch District as part of their Jan Sampark Abhiyan.

During their tour, they held a series of meetings, including an



Choudhary Lal Singh along with other DSSP leaders in Poonch on Sunday.

HALLA BOLE, Choudhary Lal Singh said that had the Kashmiri leadership done any justice to the people of Jammu and Ladakh, J&K would not be suffering today.

Ch Lal Singh said that Kashmiri leadership ruled the State for seventy years but didn't bother to develop or exploit the potential of the beauty of Poonch, Jammu, and Bhanderwah.

"Instead, they pursued a divisive agenda by pitting Gujjars against Paharis and vice-versa," Ch Lal Singh said in the conclave.

He also discussed the DSSP's vision for a proposed separate

interactive session with the Civil Society of Poonch. The delegation included Senior Advocate BS Jamwal, Prof HR Sharma, Vice-President Suman Wazir, Senior Vice President Youth Divyansh Varma, Raju Pahalwan, S Daler Singh, Rahul Katal, and many local leaders of the DSSP.

He also visited the Ashram of Dashedi Akhara to seek blessings for the peace and prosperity of the whole society. The DSSP delegation also visited the residence of prominent leader late Yash Paul Sharma and enquired about the well-being of his family.

## Chandi Mata Bhajan released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: A video album of Chandi Mata Bhajan, sung by Kavita Dutt in her melodious voice, was released here today at K L Sehgal Hall of Abhinav Theater Jammu.

Prof D S Manhas, President ASDCSS J&K, who is Producer & Director of the album, informed that the Bhajan was written by Satish Kumar Dogra

video shot by Director Shashi Thakur & his team. Bhajan is beautifully sung by Kavita Dutt under the guidance of Dharmesh Nargotra, famous Ghazal singer.

On the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President BJP was chief guest and Bharat Singh, Secretary Cultural Academy was the guest of honour. Both of them appreciated the singer & the team. Maa Upasak Om Parkash Manhas, Baba Ramesh Lal &



Chandi Mata Bhajan being released by ASDCSS on Sunday.

on formulation of Holy Mace (Chharri Mubarak) which is taken by Maa Upasak Pyar Singh from centuries old Chandi Mata Temple Blassu Doda J&K in Mindhal Yatra every year. The annual Mindhal Yatra is organized by Aadi Shakti Devi Chandike Sewak Sanstha (ASDCSS) J&K.

In the Bhajan it is mentioned how Chharri Mubarak has been prepared by Sanstha on the directions of Maa Chandi Mindhal Wasni. The music has been composed by R B Studio Jammu and

video shot by Director Shashi Thakur & his team. Bhajan is beautifully sung by Kavita Dutt under the guidance of Dharmesh Nargotra, famous Ghazal singer.

On the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President BJP was chief guest and Bharat Singh, Secretary Cultural Academy was the guest of honour. Both of them appreciated the singer & the team. Maa Upasak Om Parkash Manhas, Baba Ramesh Lal &

Sanstha Members Ajay Sethi, Ravinder Singh, Prof Shrikant, Satish Kumar & Muninder Kotwal thanked the team for such beautiful composition & extended best wishes for future endeavors. Prof D S Manhas presented vote of thanks.

## LG's Special Grievance Camp for PoJK displaced held at Doongi

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Mar 12: District Administration Rajouri organised a special grievance camp for displaced persons of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) at Doongi, which received a massive turnout of participants.

The LG's Special Grievance

persons. He assured them that their grievances would be addressed in a timely manner.

The LG's special grievance camp for displaced persons of PoJK provided an opportunity for them to voice their concerns and avail of various government schemes, such as skill development, self-employment, social assistance, studies, sports, and



Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal handing over keys of commercial vehicle to unemployed youth at Rajouri on Sunday.

Camp aimed to address the issues faced by the displaced from PoJK and provide them with necessary support and assistance.

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, was the Chief Guest during the event. District officers disseminated information about various Government schemes during the camp, and attendees appreciated the efforts of the LG Government for addressing the grievances of the displaced persons.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Kundal, highlighted the objective of the camp and stressed that the Government is committed to providing all possible assistance to the displaced

financial inclusion.

The Deputy Commissioner handed over keys of commercial vehicles to unemployed youth belonging to displaced community under the Mumkin scheme of Mission Youth.

Other attendees included ADDC, Pawan Kumar; BDC Doongi, Raiz Chowdhary; ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; PO ICDS, Shoket Mahmood Malik; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; DDE, Qadeer Ul Rehman; CEO Education, Sultana Kouser; DSHO, Dr Sarfraz Naseem Chowdhary; DSEO, Sandeep Sharma; and other district and sectoral officers, besides members of the Refugee Association.

On the occasion, he also handed over the sports Kits to the Youth Club members through Panchayat Sarpanches.



Winners &amp; participants of Vet-Fest 2K23 at SKUAST-J during valedictory function on Sunday.

## Vet-Fest 2K23 concludes at SKUAST-Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: Three-day long "Vet-Fest 2K23", organized by Faculty of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, concluded today.

The concluding day started with unveiling of selfie point and tug of war, followed by cat show, inaugurated by the chief guest Harvinder Singh, ADC Jammu, in presence of SSP Tahir Bhat, Dr Ata-ul-Munim Tak (Deputy Secretary, Health & Medical Education), DySP Nikhil Gogna and Dr M S Bhadwal (Dean, FVSc & AH, SKUAST Jammu).

In the tug of war, team of 2nd year boys bagged the first position and among girls, first year bagged the first position. In the cat show, Amigo won the best breed in Siamese breed category while Muffin cat won in best

dressed category and Simba won in Siberian breed category. Blackey (Persian breed) won the overall champion award.

During the valedictory session, Dr Anish Yadav, the organizing secretary, presented the welcome address. The ultimate cultural show "Rangrage" was performed by the students of FVSc & AH followed by award ceremony. The overall trophy was bagged by 4th year B V Sc & AH students.

The function concluded with the presidential speech by Dr Tak, in which he stressed students for development of their personality along with studies by organizing events of this kind. DSW Dr Katoch and Dean of the faculty, Dr Bhadwal appreciated the students and staff of the faculty for successful completion of the VetFest 2K23.

## Flower show organized at CSIR-IIIM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 12: After a gap of more than 10 years, the oldest flower show of the city was held by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine at CSIR-IIIM lawns at Canal Road, here today.

More than 1000 people from all walks of life participated in the show and appreciated the beauty of flowers. The special attractions of the show were the pot arrangements, the rangoli competition and the collection of bonsai.

Earlier, the lawns and gardens of the Jammu city were judged by a team comprising of renowned personalities in the field. On 26th February 2023, on spot drawing and painting competition were also held for school children in different categories.

Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof Umesh Rai, was the chief guest on the occasion of the culmination of flower show and the prize distribution ceremony. He beautifully linked the person's character with flowers, and appreciated the efforts of the CSIR-IIIM in continuing the old traditions. He also appreciated the enthusiasm of the younger generation in making rangoli and artistic arrangements.

Dr D Srinivasa Reddy, Director CSIR-IIIM, Jammu

highlighted achievements of CSIR-IIIM and said that the Institute would leave no stone unturned in continuing this annual event. He also appreciated the efforts of the armed forces in maintaining the floral traditions.

Dr Dhiraj Vyas, Head,



Winners of flower show &amp; events being awarded by JU VC.

Department of Plant Sciences and secretary, flower show earlier welcomed the guests and made them acquainted with various activities of the flower show by means of a presentation. Er Abdul Rahim, senior most Scientist, presented the vote of thanks and Rajni conducted the event.

Apart from the civil society members, the prize distribution was attended by the participants of various events, the prize winners and the school children. The prominent among the attendees were Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Dr OP Sharma, Prof Yashpal Sharma, Prof Namrata Sharma, Prof Piyush Malaviya, Jyotsna, Surinder Wahi, Er Rajneesh Anand and all the senior staff members, scientists and students of CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.