



Former Ministers, Sham Choudhary and Priya Sethi listening to public grievances at Jammu on Friday.

Sham, Priya, Munish listen public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: BJP activists are working with the principle "To ensure welfare of the needy and neglected", stated senior party leaders, while hearing public grievances at party office here, today.

J&K BJP vice-president and former Minister, Sham Choudhary, former Minister, Priya Sethi and BJP All Morcha incharge, Munish Sharma accompanied by BJP Media incharge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, listened to the public grievances and took up the same with the concerned department officials for their early solutions.

Numerous individuals and deputations visited the BJP office to meet the party leaders and narrate their woes and problems. The issues presented by common masses before the senior party leaders were related to PHE, PWD, Rural Development, Revenue, Irrigation & Flood Control, Education, Agriculture etc.

A deputation of farmers from border areas requested for the demarcation and categorization of cultivable land.



SSP Mohd Yasin Kichloo and others who attended community awareness programme on 'Cyber Security' at JU on Friday.

JU organises community awareness programme on Cyber Information

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Community Service and Social Justice Club, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Regional Branch Jammu, organized community awareness programme on 'Cyber Information'.

The Community Service and Social Justice Club of JU intends to address the different social and environmental issues confronting society and motivate the participation of the students. A considerable number of students and scholars of the different departments attended the programme.

Mohd Yasin Kichloo, SSP J&K Police, was the chief guest and resource person of the programme, while Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu presided over the function.

The chief guest happens to be a cyber security expert and he made a remarkable contribution to promote cyber security in society. Mr Kichloo applauded the efforts

of the university for promoting the awareness programme on cyber security as it is the need of the hour to protect ourselves from cyber-attacks and threats.

The resource person through his vast experience in the field of cyber security and cyber crimes delivered a captivating lecture and shared his valuable personal expertise. He discussed in detail, the preventive measures to be adopted by all of us in case of any cyber attack.

Dr Shashi Prabha, Coordinator of the Community Service and Social Justice Club, presented formal welcome address.

Prof Satnam Kour, Chairperson, UTSAAH also spoke on the occasion. Dr Garima Gupta, Assistant Dean Students Welfare, Dr Sadaf Shah, Dr Suvidha Khanna, Dr Chinmoyee, Dr Sarita Sood, Dr Seema Rohmetra and Sumankumari were present during the programme. The vote of thanks was presented by Mehak Manhas, student of 1st Semester (Geography).

Pir Panchal holds mega cultural event in Swalkot

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Mar 17: To boost the local talent in the hilly belt of Jammu, Pir Panchal a social and cultural organization organised a mega cultural event at far flung village of Swalkot in Reasi district today.

A large number of local youth and including members of civil society and prominent people took part in the function which was presided over by president of Pir Panchal, Ramesh Hangloo.



The local artists of Swalkot and adjoining areas being honoured after a cultural event on Friday.

The local artists enthralled the gathering with their talent and performance. The officers of civil administration as well as civil society members termed it a great effort on the part of Pir Panchal to exploit the local talent and provide them chance for performance on a bigger platform.

In his address Ramesh Hangloo asked the local youth to be associated with their roots as people of J&K belong to a rich civilizational background and they should feel proud of their

rich cultural heritage. He said it is our duty to keep our past legacy intact and take it to the younger generations as well.

Hangloo said the society which ignores its past and culture gets vanished. He said though J&K is a mixed civilization including Dogras, Kashmiris, Paharis, Gujjars and Bakerwals all have their distinct cultural identity and uniqueness. This peculiarity is strength of the people of the UT and forms strong bond of our society, he added.

He said artists have played a great role in enriching culture and strengthening inter-community bonds and in the changing times they have to shoulder an added responsibility also.

He asked the people to follow the idea of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi that India first. The Pir Panchal taking a cue from this has launched a campaign all over the Jammu region.

On the occasion all the artists were honoured and presented mementos by Vijay Koul general secretary, Pir Panchal. The local leaders and members of civil society Abay Ram and Asha Devi also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the richness of the local culture of the area.

Girdhari Lal a well known artist managed the stage.

Health Secy reviews progress on works in B&J Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, today reviewed progress on developmental works being executed in the Bone and Joint Hospital Jammu besides discussing strategy for early operationalization of the hospital.

A detailed presentation was made by the Principal, GMC Jammu, delineating physical and financial progress on works in Bone & Joint Hospital, Jammu besides Action Plan for operationalisation of the hospital.

Secretary emphasized that the OPDs, Indoor Services, Physiotherapy Services and Elective Surgical Services should be made operational in the Hospital by first week of May-2023. He said that early operationalisation of Bone and Joint

Hospital, shall cater to a large number of patients who move outside the UT for orthopedic and trauma related treatments. Further, other facilities shall be gradually developed over a period of time in a phased manner for making it a "State of Art Institute", he added.

Instructions were also issued to the concerned to make all adequate provisioning for radiology and other Diagnostic Services and operational aspects of the hospital.

The meeting was attended by Principal GMC Jammu, Director Finance, H&ME, Director Coordination New GMCs Jammu, Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Managing Director JKM-SCL, Deputy Director Planning H&ME, Nodal Officer (Coordination) Bone & Joint Hospital Jammu besides other senior officers of H&ME Department.



Ashok Koul and other BJP leaders at party meeting in Kathua on Friday.

Booth level worker can reach highest position in BJP: Koul

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 17: A booth level worker in the BJP could reach the highest position in the party's organization, whereas in other parties, all the big posts are reserved for one family only, stated Ashok Koul, BJP general secretary (Org).

Ashok Koul along with other senior leaders conducted a comprehensive Pravast in the area under Booth Nos. 9, 12, 13 Shakti Kendra Shivnagar Ward No. 19 of Kathua constituency.

Ashok Koul, accompanied by DDC Vice-Chairperson Raghunandan (Babloo), spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia, Panchayat Raj Cell convenor, Shiv Dev Jambwal, district president, Gopal Mahajan, former district president, Prem Dogra, Rajesh Mehta, Vishal Parihar, Rahul Dev and other party leaders interacted with beneficiaries, senior party leaders, prominent citizens and leaders of social castes belonging to the area.

Gopal Mahajan said that dedicated BJP workers are taking the policies of the party as well as public welfare schemes to every house in the area. He added that the party workers are working on the mission mode.

BJYM leaders review party activities at Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 17: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) district Doda Prabhari, Rakesh Gupta and district Doda Seh-Prabhari, Darshan Kumar attend an introductory meet with youth team of BJP and reviewed the ongoing campaigns of Yuva Morcha.

A meeting was organized at Party Headquarter here with the Yuva Morcha of district Doda along with Mandal Pradhan and general secretary and to take stock of the progress made in various schemes and initiatives undertaken by the Central Government.

They also listened to the workers' grievances and discussed ways to strengthen the party's organizational structure in the district.

Street play 'Dheeth' staged

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Mar 17: On fourth day of Theatre Festival 'Trikuta Natya Utsav', a Nukkad Natak in Dogri 'Dheeth' was staged at SMVDU.

Vice Chancellor Prof. R.K Sinha; Registrar Nagendra Singh Jamal along with faculty, staff and students of SMVDU witnessed the play.

Earlier in his address Prof. Sinha talked on the importance of such festivals.

The play begins with journey of a Saint and his disciple towards 'Indralok' and en-route on seeing the holy city of Jammu the Saint decides to descend.

First he wished to take a dip in sacred Tawi River but finding the

water polluted they avoided the dip.

They then moved towards the Jambwan Cave and found it is all covered by a long row of shops selling junk food and other eatables.

They moved ahead and came across a group of persons weeping bitterly over the death of a friend who had apparently died of drinking yoghurt kept in a recycled polythene bag for about a



A still from Nukkad Natak 'Dheeth' staged at SMVDU.

week.

The funeral procession was stuck in a lane that has shrunk to less than two feet because of illegal and unauthorized encroachments on both sides. Sadhus decided to fly away in disgust.

The street play was staged by Rangyug.



BJP leaders during a meeting at Mandal Nagrota on Friday.

Highlight Modi Govt schemes: Rana Strengthens party to ensure victory in elections: Sham Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent

NAGROTA, Mar 17: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only party which is committed to serve the people, meet the challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir and make it a part of the country's growth story.

This was stated by former Minister and State vice president, BJP Sham Lal Sharma, while intensifying Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyan in Shakti Kendra No. 1 (Marh) at Mandal Nagrota of Nagrota Assembly of BJP District Jammu North.

On the occasion senior BJP leader and former MLA Nagrota Devender Singh Rana, Mandal president, Harish Sharma, general secretary, Balbir Singh, Mandal president, Mahila Morcha, Vandana Devi, senior worker, Rattan Lal, Shakti Kendra Parmukh, Ashok Kumar, Alpkaleen Vistarak, Parshotam Lal, booth presidents and workers were present.

Addressing the gathering, the former Minister appreciated the selfless and relentless efforts of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for laying the strong foundations of a new India with a promise and hope for inclusive development to all segments of the population. This is certainly achievable given the commitment of the people in general and the BJP workers in particular, who are carrying for-

ward the mission of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas' with sincerity of purpose, he added.

The BJP leader exhorted upon party cadre to strengthen base of the party at booth level to ensure surrounding victory in all the impending elections in the Union Territory. He asked the party leaders to contact the ground level workers and the common masses hailing from their booth area to apprise them of the works done by the BJP Government, both in State and Center, and discuss their issues in detail alongside.

Sham Lal asked them to do their task diligently and ensure their work to the full expectations of the organization. He laid special emphasis on the Booth Sashaktikaran. "Senior party leaders in conjunction with local leaders should contact every prominent person in the booth in order to increase the party's base and endorsement of its policies and works" he added.

Devender Rana, in his address, asked the booth level workers to disseminate information about Modi Government's flagship schemes among the common masses so that doubts if any can be warded off timely leaving no scope for the opposition parties to take undue benefits by swaying people by misleading them.

MACT dismisses application of insurance company with costs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: In a batch of six clubbed Claim Petitions, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Doda has dismissed with costs of Rs 3000 an application moved by Oriental Insurance Company Ltd seeking rejection of Claim Petitions under Order -7 Rule 11 CPC.

The respondent insurance company sought indulgence of the Tribunal for rejection of Claim Petitions on the ground of res-judicata; limitation and claim of petitioners being not covered by Insurance Policy.

While dismissing the application of the insurance company, the Presiding Officer said, "it is trite and perhaps needs to no reiteration that while dealing with an application under Order 7 Rule 11 CPC seeking rejection of plaint/petition, only averments in the plaint/petition read in conjunction with documents relied upon- have to be considered".

"Plea(s) taken by defendants in the written statement/objection or for the matter in the application under Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC which are in the nature of Defence- have to be wholly dis-regard-

ed", the Tribunal said, adding "in the instant application, respondent insurance company has indeed attempted to raise defence like maintainability of petitions on account of limitation and contested its liability to compensate petitioners despite issues in the case having been framed".

"By this approach, respondent company has just sought to put cart before the horse. Present application of respondent therefore is wholly misconceived and does not fall in the ambit of provision of Order 7 Rule 11 of CPC", the Presiding Officer said, adding "for an entity like respondent insurance company to file meritless and ill-conceived application like one in hand and to keep pursuing it for nearly two years - is a course which, if I may say so with utmost moderation- is profusely meaningless and wholly inappropriate, apart from being cause of loss of precious judicial time".

With these observations, Tribunal dismissed the application as misconceived and sans merit with costs of Rs 3000 to be deposited within one month for disbursement to the petitioners and posted the matter for evidence of petitioners.



Faculty members of SVSU and HESK signing an MoU on Friday.

SVSU signs MoU with HESK

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU), Haryana today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindu Education Society Kashmir (HESK).

A press statement said that the purpose of the understanding was to promote mutual cooperation between SVSU and HESK for skill development through short term programs, assessment and certification and establish a framework for exchange and collaboration in the areas of skill education, implementation of Government projects and short term programs.

It said that the students aiming to make a career in the skill development sector will benefit from the programme and provide specialisation across different programmes, including short terms courses like Python programme, Google Ads Specialists, Business Development representatives and Data Entry operator.

The full 4-6 months programme is designed to strengthen the basics and fundamentals of professionals while providing them on-the-job training across diverse skill development sectors to provide a competitive edge.

Prof BL Zutshi, President HESK stressed on how skilling and education can pave the way to India's success. He said, "our youth are talented, energetic, and ready to embrace new opportunities."

"This collaboration between SVSU and HESK will further augment the skill set of our youth and set the skill development sector on the road to success," he said.

Prof Verinder Rawal, General Secretary of the Hindu Education Society Kashmir, stated that Gandhi Memorial College has been dedicated to building an inclusive learning environment for the last many years and hoped that this collaboration with SVSU would provide the students with an opportunity to develop their capacities and shape their futures.

DDC Rajouri inaugurates 16 Anganwadi Centres

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Mar 17: District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal today inaugurated 16 Anganwadi Centres completed under the convergence mode of ICDS and RDD.

The newly inaugurated Anganwadi Centres are part of a larger initiative to construct 110 such centres in the district under the convergence mode of ICDS and

it is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible facilities. With the construction of these 110 centres under the convergence mode of ICDS and RDD we are taking a significant step towards improving early childhood care and education infrastructure in the district."

The District Development Commissioner also appreciated efforts of teams involved in construction and equipping these centres.



DDC Rajouri Vikas Kundal inaugurating Anganwadi Centre on Friday.

RDD. The cost of each Anganwadi Centre is Rs 7 lakh. These centres will be equipped with modern facilities such as drinking water facilities, toilets and poshan vatikas to provide a healthy and hygienic environment for children.

Speaking at the inauguration, Vikas Kundal emphasised the importance of these centres in providing early childhood care and education. He said "Anganwadi Centres play a crucial role in the overall development of children and

He urged them to continue their efforts ensuring children attending these centres receive best possible care and education. He assured that construction and equipping these centres will be completed within stipulated timeline.

Among the others present on the occasion were BDC Rajouri, Darbar Chowdhary; BDC Dhangri, Tazheem Akhter; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; BDO Rajouri, Chander Kant Bhagat and other officers.

AJKPC reminds Govt its promise of establishing Panchayat Sectts

*Seeks compensation for landslide victims

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 17: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) today made a fervent appeal to the Government to provide relief to the owners of houses that were damaged in block Gund in Ganderbal on February 19, 2023 in a massive landslide.

While interacting with a deputation of local Panchayat members Anil Sharma, president of AJKPC who was on a visit to the district Ganderbal has requested the Divisional Commissioner Ganderbal.

Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to depute a team of Revenue officers in Panchayat Halqa Sonamarg 'C' of block Gund to access the losses caused by the landslide and award suitable compensation to the victims without any further delay.

Sharma informed that AJKPC had received an information from the local Panchayat members regarding the loss of property of people in this landslide. He further stated that Gund area is a tribal dominated under-developed, and the government must consider the demand of compensation as a gesture.

Later, while addressing a gathering of Panchayat members and senior office bearers of the AJKPC in another Block-wise program in district Ganderbal, the AJKPC president said that the officers must

understand that Panchayats are not born in air but are result of lawful provision as enshrined under the Constitution of India thus both Executive and Panchayats must accept co-existence and learn to respect each other.

The participants also raised the issue of establishment of Panchayat Secretariats as was

earlier promised by the J&K Government and reminded the administration to take necessary steps in this regard and issue funds in phased manner so that within next 3-4 years all the Panchayats have their own Secretariats.

Sharma had called for establishing Panchayat Secretariats wherein the junior officers of all line departments would be sitting on property days of the week to listen the grievances of the villagers of the respective Panchayats. The Panchayat members also reiterated their demand of increase in MGNREGS Labour wages and release of pending dues under material component.

Prominent among who addressed the gathering include Ishfaq Raina, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ameen Bhat, Ramzaan Chodhary, Naseema Bhagum and Mushtaq Malik.

Kissan Council president for boosting Agri startups

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: J&K Kissan Council president and Member J&K Kissan Advisory Board, Tejinder Singh today stressed on boosting the Agriculture and Horticulture startups in the UT of J&K to overcome the growing unemployment among the youth.

In a statement issued here, today Singh said that Rural youth be educated about the startups in Agriculture and Horticulture

which can boost their economy and also they will not hanker for pity Government jobs. He said that Government should organise workshops and seminars across the UT and educate youth about the startups for a sustainable

economy.

He however expressed satisfaction that recent budget for J&K presented by Union Finance Minister has generated a new hope for small and marginal farmers. He said for Agriculture Rs 1239.45 crore more have been allocated than previous budget this year and likewise Rs 267 crore more have been allocated for Animal Sheep Husbandry and fisheries than previous year which will surely boost these sectors.

He said LG Manoj Sinha has fulfilled his promise of allocating Rs 900 crore funds for Holistic Agriculture Policy and 120 crore for crop insurance which are the steps to make sustainability in Agriculture.

Settle other demands of package employees: AMEAK

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 17: All Minority Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK) has urged the Government to address the security concerns of the PM package and other minority community employees serving in the Valley as has already been agreed by the LG Administration and settle their other demands.

In a statement here, today the Association president, Sanjay Koul and general secretary,

Rohit Raina also demanded that the construction work on migrant colonies be intensified in Valley and till their completion the Estates quarters be allotted to the package employees living in private accommodations.

They however complimented the LG Manoj Sinha and his entire team for issuing regularization orders of package employees and expressed the hope that such steps will surely restore the confidence of the employees.