



Secretary Finance Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting on Friday.

Finance Secy reviews progress of languishing projects

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: Principal Secretary Finance, Arun Kumar Mehta today reviewed the progress on languishing projects.

He said the Government was ready to make payments for the projects cleared by the High Powered Committee of Languishing & Infrastructure Projects.

However, he emphasized that all the payments would be made by Jammu Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) through an online mechanism developed for the purpose.

In order to streamline the process, an MIS Portal has been

developed and will be the only means available for updating the status of the projects by the concerned Nodal Officers and subsequently for submission to JKIDFC for payments.

For the smooth functioning of the projects, all the administrative departments have already been notified to provide information of their Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and various Nodal Officers working at district levels in the State.

He also directed for opening of Specialized Escrow Accounts for receiving payments under the JKIDFC for both PIA (Secretariat Level) and all Nodal Officers (Field and District Level) by the concerned administrative departments.



A scene from Jagdeep Dubey's Dogri play Amma, staged at Abhinav Theatre on Friday.

Jagdeep Dubey's Dogri play critiques female infanticide

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Mar 22: Jagdeep Dubey's Dogri play 'Amma', came as a warning to all those with patriarchal mindset, that female infanticide was an act contrary to the laws of nature and if this social malice is not stopped then the women as mothers may take extreme step of refusing to bear children at all.

Directed by Sapna Soni, the play was staged as the sixth performance of the ongoing Dogri Theater festival, being organized by North Zone Cultural Center and J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, at the Abhinav Theater, here today.

The play's plot revolved around Rashmi, the daughter-in-law in a middle class family who after continuous pressure to give birth to a male child gets greatly disturbed. She feels that she may also be subjected to torture and ill treatment which her own mother had faced after giving birth to three daughters. The imaginary meetings with her dead mother, her stories of torture, lead her to resolve that the male-dominated society which does not respect the females-the very vessels of progeny, have no right to continue as a specie and best punishment would that

women refuse to become mothers at all.

Notwithstanding playwright's novel treatment of topical issue of the female-infanticide, today's performance was conspicuous for its languid pace which led to a feeling of drag. With the result the good done work by actors was lost. The cast comprised of Sapna Soni as Rashmi, veteran actor Tilotama Jamwal, making appearance on stage after a log gap, Savita Khajuria as Amma, Jadeep Dubey as father, Tarun Sharma as Aman, and Aarna as Guddi.

The non-stop playing of back ground instrumental music, delay in changeover of scenes, low pitch of dialogues, which came as damper to the production-pointed towards that the fact that despite their enthusiasm and dedication Jammu's amateur theatre artistes, there is a dire need to hold training workshops by professionals theatre experts, as was being done regularly by J&K Cultural Academy in the past.

Music and singing was by Arun Slan, make-up by Rahul Kumar, costumes by Navneet Verma, sets Rajeshwar Aman and Navneet Verma. Next play of the festival, Saas Puran, will be staged on Sunday, March 24, 2019.



A cultural item being presented by artists during a civic action programme organised by police at Udhampur on Friday.

Police organizes cultural programme

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 22: Police here today organized a cultural programme under civic action programme.

Speaking on the occasion, M.K Sinha, IGP Jammu Zone, who was the chief guest, lauded the role of J&K Police in the service of public and impressed upon the participants to inculcate a sense of nationalism among the youth especially young children to always remain standby in the service of nation.

He also impressed upon the civil society with regard to the need of collaborated efforts to completely eradicate the menace of drug addiction from the society.

Bhim Sen Tuti, DIG Udhampur-Ramban range; Piyush Singla, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Mohd. Fareed, AD Adm SKPA Udhampur; Mohan Lal, SSP

Outdoor, SKPA Udhampur; Rajinder Singh Katoch, Addl SP Udhampur besides other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Rajiv Pandey, SSP Udhampur while speaking on the occasion thanked the IGP for making the gathering aware about initiatives of J&K Police under civic action programme to channelize the energies of youth towards constructive purposes.

During the cultural programmes, various items including skits on various social issues were staged by the artists of Natrang and these were directed by Balwant Thakur.

Dance items were performed by 'Naty Roots' dance group led by its Director cum Choreographer, Akash Dogra and patriotic songs were sung by Voice of Punjab Season-6 winner Sonali Dogra and little girl Annanya.

Cong fighting elections without direction, will: Sunil Sethi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today said that Congress is fighting election without any direction or any will.

Most of their senior party leaders have run away from standing in elections under fear of losing in Modi Tsunami and the party has to give mandate to leaders with no mass base across Parliamentary Constituencies, State chief spokesperson of the party, Sunil Sethi, said in a statement issued here, today.

He said that Congress party made lot of persuasion and coaxing to its senior leaders from Jammu to contest elections but they ran away by showing their reluctance on one or another manufactured excuse but in reality they knew that people of Jammu will never go with party whose leaders are making statements against national interests and against Armed forces.

He said that tactical support to Congress coming from lead-

ers of Pakistan exposed a serious nexus to undermine strength of the country. Pakistan and China is afraid of the new India which is strong enough not only to defend itself but doesn't shy to use offensive tactics to secure interests of Indians.

Sunil Sethi said that senior leaders of Congress are supporters to soft policy towards militants and separatists which no longer will be used as nation has understood that only way to deal with terror and its supporters is to wield iron rod and kill this snake to ensure lasting peace.

He said that excellent developmental works and strong measures against enemies of Indians are hallmark of Modi Government and people of this great country will make their contributions through votes to ensure emergence of strong Bharat in the new world order with pivotal role of India as one of super power. India is at the verge of reclaiming its position as world Guru, he added.

Traditional parties failed to represent Jammu region in Parliament: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: JKNPP Chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh today said that despite repeated opportunities given to Congress and BJP to represent Jammu region in Lok Sabha, the people of this marginalized region were a disappointed lot.

"These are the parties that continued to get peoples' mandate for the last around 70 years one after the other, but failed on each occasion to live up to the expectations of their electorates with their dismal performance in the Parliament having antagonized even their own voters," he said while addressing a press conference, here today.

Harsh Dev Singh alleged that never could Jammu region and its peculiar problems become the epicentre of discussion like Kashmir which found a mention in the Parliament on almost day to day basis. "And with the Jammu based MPs also toeing their party line on J&K, the entire focus of Parliamentary debates on J&K remained confined to Kashmir region only," he added.

Regretting the failure of the erstwhile MPs in projecting the cause of Jammu region in Parliament, Singh said that they had lost the right to seek peoples' votes. "They have no moral authority to represent Jammu region. They have cheated the West Pak Refugees, the PoJK migrants, the people on the inter-

national border and LoC besides having surrendered over their age old slogans of abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35-A. They failed to adequately safe-guard our pluralis-



Harsh Dev Singh addressing a press conference at Jammu on Friday.

tic ethos. Both BJP and Congress MPs remained mute spectators in the face of gross neglect of Jammu region even by the Gol apart from the State Government. Their leadership failed to protect and safeguard even the honour and dignity of the people of Jammu in testing times thereby shaking the faith of the people in all these parties," said the NPP Chairman.

Urging upon the people to support Panthers Party, Harsh Dev said that NPP alone had the political will and capacity to counter the anti Jammu forces. He said that NPP was a secular democratic party which respected all faiths and religions and believed in humanitarian values and brotherhood as against the divisive politics of opportunist power hungry political parties.

Surinder Chouhan, District president Jammu (Rural) of JKNPP, was also present in the press conference.

Shahid inspects major projects in Srinagar city

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 22: District Development Commissioner, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, conducted an extensive review and inspection of major developmental projects in city and outlines priorities for key infrastructure requirements for early initiation of projects.

ADC KK Sidha, JD Planning Yaseen Lone, officers from Tourism, Irrigation, Flood Control, Power and Revenue Departments accompanied him on the occasion.

The DDC inspected the ongoing work of Rambagh-Jahangir Chowk flyover where double-shift work has been started for early completion of the project.

The executing agency has completed 8 slabs in last 2 weeks and 20 more slabs are to be laid for completion of the double-lane flyover. He assured the local contractors of redress of their pending issues including GST refund, payment of bills and resolution of inter-agency issues.

Dr Shahid appreciated the team of contractors of ensuring double-shift construction and maintaining the fast pace of work assured during previous meetings which resulted in completion of 7 slabs in 2 weeks and efficient planning for completion of remaining 20 slabs in a shortest possible time.

He sought cooperation of local residents and shopkeepers in

the smooth execution of work. He was responding to complaints about forced parking by locals, wrong entry, removal of safety barriers and other incidents, for which police has been asked to take cognizance.

The DDC also inspected works including revetment of Jhelum riverbank, dredging of Peerzoo Channel, construction of parks and joggers path along the riverbank between Amira Kadal and Zero Bridge, illumination of riverbank between Convent School Bridge and Zero Bridge, and parapet walling of embankment at Shivpora.

He directed the departments for beautification and lighting of embankments at an earliest, establishment of kiosks to be run by SHGs of local residents, establishment of library, park and aesthetic infrastructure. Departments were asked for completion of works by April end. Flood protection work on left bank of river east of Zero bridge will also be taken up soon, it was decided.

A detailed discussion was also held for beautification of shikaras and also rehabilitation of owners of damaged / dilapidated shikaras. Consultation with stakeholders was also held during the visit. Meanwhile, the team of officers also visited Nishat area to finalise location for sports field to be developed for local youth.

Sexagenarian killed, grandson injured in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 22: A sexagenarian was killed while his minor grandson injured in an accident near a foot bridge at Malsu village of tehsil Bharderwah, this afternoon.

As per police sources, after offering Friday prayers at a mosque, a 63-year-old man identified as Abdul Salam Ganai along with his grandson namely Mohammad Amad Hamza (9) were heading towards their home, when the motorcycle bearing registration number JK02P-8319, they were riding on plunged into 50 meter gorge from an off road near a foot bridge in Malsu area, resulting into injuries to both rider and pillion.

After getting information, police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured persons to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bharderwah, where doctors declared sexagenarian as brought dead and after first aid, referred the minor injured boy to GMCH Jammu for advanced treatment.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Bharderwah Police Station and investigation started.



Senior political activist Abdul Ahad Yattoo speaking at a function after joining PDP.

Congress leader Yattoo joins PDP

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 22: Veteran political leader, social activist and former general secretary of the State Congress Committee Abdul Ahad Yattoo today joined People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Abdul Ahad Yattoo joined the PDP along with hundreds of his supporters in presence of party president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in

Srinagar. Yattoo hails from the Pattan area of Baramulla and has been actively involved in the State politics and contested many elections during last three decades.

Mehbooba Mufti, while welcoming Yattoo into the party fold said that his joining will further strengthen the party at the grass root level in general and Pattan area in particular.

Bail denied to faith healer, woman in suicide case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: Principal Sessions Judge Reasi Kamlesh Pandita has rejected the bail application of a woman Shamim Begum and faith healer Mushtaq Ahmed for instigating one Mohd Ashraf to commit suicide.

As per the police case, Mushtaq Ahmed claiming to be a 'Peer' came into contract with the deceased and persuaded him to learn faith healing for earning his livelihood. Accordingly, deceased left his house along with his family members to live with Mushtaq Ahmed and with the passage of time the accused developed illicit relation with the wife of the deceased.

When the deceased came to know about this, Mushtaq Ahmed started threatening him and forcing him to give divorce his wife. Due to the circumstances created by Mushtaq Ahmed and Shamim Begum, Mohd Ashraf committed suicide.

After hearing both the sides, Principal Sessions Judge observed, "court is very much conscious of the fact that personal liberty is sacrosanct in our Constitution but if the public interest and security of the community outweighs the individual interest, the same can be circumscribed by due process of law which in the present case has been followed".

"Offence under Section 306 RPC is heinous in nature and when same is committed by a Peer(faith healer) against the faith and bond of mutual trust between husband and wife, that too at the of behest of lust , it has serious ramifications in the society and conscience of the public is shaken", the court observed, adding "the interest of the general public and victim family has to be considered , possibility of the accused persons winning over the witness or their jumping over bail cannot be ruled out".

With these observations, court rejected the bail application.

Ravinder launches election campaign in Nowshera

Excelsior Correspondent

SUNDERBANI, Mar 22: Launching election campaign Ravinder Sharma (ex-MLC), chief spokesperson Jammu Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) addressed series of meetings in Nowshera assembly segment of district Rajouri today.

While addressing party workers, the ex-MLC asked the party workers to gear up for Lok Sabha elections in order to defeat the communal and divisive agenda of BJP. Sharma said that the Congress party, is the only secular and unifying force in the country. He said that Congress party has always strengthened the secularism and worked for poor and weaker sections of the society and it will continue to safeguard the secular fabric of the country and the State.

Sharma referred to numerous achievements of UPA 1st and UPA 2nd and said that tremendous development had

benefitted each and every sections of the society, throughout the State and these development activities are visible even today but the present regime in Centre and State is busy to divert the attention of the people and mislead the masses from reality. He said that people should not get carried away by the negative forces who are trying to create division and hatred which is dangerous for the broader interests of the State and the nation.

He said that the graph of militancy has been increased and security situation deteriorated during the past five years and the situation on borders has gone bad to worst during Modi regime. The people should vote for development and defeat the divisive agenda of BJP.

The PCC leader asked the party workers to go to the people at the grassroots level and make them familiar about the policies and programs of Congress party which ensure all round development, unity and integrity of the nation.



Political worker, Fazal Mehmood Baig being welcomed into Peoples Conference by its Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone and others.

Fazal Baig joins PC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 22: Prominent political worker from Baramulla, Fazal Mehmood Baig has joined Peoples Conference (PC) today in the presence of Party's Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone.

Welcoming Baig into the party fold, Lone said that he would work dedicatedly for the welfare of the people and to strengthen PC's mission of change at grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion Baig expressed full faith in the leadership of PC to usher the State in an era of development and prosperity and pledged to work towards real political and social empowerment of people at grassroots level.

PC candidate for Baramulla Parliament Constituency, Raja Aijaz Ali and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: According to Superintending Engineer, Electric Maintn and R.E. Circle, Jammu, the power supply to Bathindi and its adjoining areas fed from B-5, B3 and B-2 feeders will remain affected on March 23, 25, 27 and 29 from 07 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Kunjwani Market, Ekta Vihar, Deep Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Shiva Colony, Kunjwani Bye Pass, MES and its adjoining areas fed from SR-1 and MES-3 (From Kalu Chak) feeders will remain affected on March 24, 26, 28 and 30 from 10 am to 02 pm.

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