

Killings in border shelling: Govt comes under fire for failure to tackle situation

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 19: Expressing grief over the death of five members of a family, who were killed in cross border shelling in Poonch yesterday, various organisations and prominent individuals have grilled the Central; as well as the State Government for failure to tackle the situation.

Senior National Conference leader and MLA Kangan, Mian Altaf Ahmed, while expressing shock over the prevailing situation along Line of Control in J&K and the killing of five members of a family, alleged that the Government had done nothing for the affected border area people.

"Contrary to tall claims of the Centre as well as the State Government that necessary steps like construction of underground bunkers, shifting of affected people to safer places by providing them land, nothing has been done for the affected people in last three years," he alleged and demanded immediate relief to the affected people.

He urged the Government to act immediately and move the border people to safer areas for preventing human loss.

A meeting of NCP was held under the chairmanship of NCP State president and former Minister Thakur Randhir Singh to strongly condemn the killing of five members of a family in border shelling.

While addressing the meet,

Singh lamented that despite making tall promises the Centre and the PDP-BJP Coalition Government have not taken any initiative so far to provide permanent durable shelters to the dwellers of the shelling prone forward areas. He also sought formulation of a contingency plan to meet the challenges unfolded by border shelling besides keeping available mobile medical teams for timely assistance to the suffering people.

"People are getting killed but the Government is seen nowhere to take care of the sufferers. Such is the callousness of the authorities that the targeted people are not even being provided timely medical assistance," Singh alleged and stressed that an effective strategy should be adopted and Army be given free hand to enter the occupied area to teach a lesson to the Pakistan Army. He also urged the Government to provide relief of Rs 20 lakh to each effected family and employment to one member of each family of the victims besides adequate relief to injured persons.

To lodge protest against no clear policy on J&K and worsening situation along the border, Sunil Dimple, president of Jammu West Assembly Movement, took out a mock funeral procession of the Central as well as the State Government and also staged a dharna on the main road to Janipur High Court road, here today.

The protesters raised slogans against Home Minister Raj Nath Singh, BJP-PDP Govt and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for the failure of Government to tackle the situation. Along with the Central and State Government, an effigy of Pakistan was also torched.

Addressing the protesters Sunil Dimple urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to start a decisive war and give Pakistan a befitting reply. He lamented that Jammu Kashmir State was on fire, innocent people and jawans were dying on the border while the PM was mum on the situation. He also demanded Rs 20 lakh ex-gratia relief to the families of deceased in border firing.

The workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena, under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta, took out a protest march in Jammu city against the Pakistani shelling in Mendhar area of Poonch, which claimed five innocent lives.

The protesting party workers raised anti-Pakistan slogans and also burnt the Pak flag expressing their anger.

Stating that the neighbouring country had crossed all limits and was indulging into repeated skirmishes on the border killing our soldiers and people, Ashok Gupta stressed that a full fledged war was the only way out to stop Pakistan from carrying such condemnable acts.

UDHAMPUR, Mar 19: Member Legislative Assembly, (MLA), Chenani, Dina Nath Bhagat today inaugurated Fruit Show-Cum-Kissan Mela at Sudhmahadev of tehsil Chenani in presence of District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar.

Nearly, 1000 fruit growers from far-flung areas of the district participated in the Kissan Mela to exhibit their fruits. The Fruit Show-Cum-Kissan Mela was organized by Horticulture Department under MIDH-2017-18. More than, 25 fruit samples including fresh and dried fruits of various kinds viz. apple, pear, quince, pomegranate, persimmon, lime, Galgal, Walnut, Almond and Peanut besides, value added products such as Jam, Juice, Pickles, Squashes of different fruits were also displayed in the mela to boost the home scale processing of horticulture produce.

Director Horticulture, Anuradha Gupta, General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ashok Kumar Mattoo, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chenani, Davinder Sharma, Chief Horticulture Officer, Brij Vallabh Gupta and other district and tehsil officers of the district were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering of farmers, MLA Dina Nath Bhagat said that Government is committed to provide marketing facilities to the farmers at their doorsteps and for this purpose fruit and vegetable markets are being strengthened

across the State. He said that there is dire need to optimally exploit the tremendous potential in horticulture, agriculture and allied sectors throughout the State. The MLA stressed upon mechanization and diversification in farming to make it a profitable business. He said that the diesel ploughs have been introduced for the first time in hilly areas of the State which is showing good results. He said micro-irrigation is being introduced and orchardists have been provided with quality planting material for raising new orchards.

MLA said that the drip-irrigation scheme approved by the Government is underway for execution in favor of fruit growers for increasing productivity. Adequate promotion needs to be given to different schemes launched under horticulture sector so that those living in rural areas could get benefit of the same, he added.

He called for a change in the mindset of the unemployed youth towards entrepreneurship and asked them to become job providers instead of job seekers. He said that such exhibitions besides encouraging the youth for setting up their income generating units help in developing cordial relationship between the department and the local people.

Later, MLA distributed certificates among the progressive farmers.

MLA inaugurates Fruit Show-Cum-Kissan Mela
Excelsior Correspondent

across the State. He said that there is dire need to optimally exploit the tremendous potential in horticulture, agriculture and allied sectors throughout the State. The MLA stressed upon mechanization and diversification in farming to make it a profitable business. He said that the diesel ploughs have been introduced for the first time in hilly areas of the State which is showing good results. He said micro-irrigation is being introduced and orchardists have been provided with quality planting material for raising new orchards.

MLA said that the drip-irrigation scheme approved by the Government is underway for execution in favor of fruit growers for increasing productivity. Adequate promotion needs to be given to different schemes launched under horticulture sector so that those living in rural areas could get benefit of the same, he added.

He called for a change in the mindset of the unemployed youth towards entrepreneurship and asked them to become job providers instead of job seekers. He said that such exhibitions besides encouraging the youth for setting up their income generating units help in developing cordial relationship between the department and the local people.

Later, MLA distributed certificates among the progressive farmers.

across the State. He said that there is dire need to optimally exploit the tremendous potential in horticulture, agriculture and allied sectors throughout the State. The MLA stressed upon mechanization and diversification in farming to make it a profitable business. He said that the diesel ploughs have been introduced for the first time in hilly areas of the State which is showing good results. He said micro-irrigation is being introduced and orchardists have been provided with quality planting material for raising new orchards.

MLA said that the drip-irrigation scheme approved by the Government is underway for execution in favor of fruit growers for increasing productivity. Adequate promotion needs to be given to different schemes launched under horticulture sector so that those living in rural areas could get benefit of the same, he added.

He called for a change in the mindset of the unemployed youth towards entrepreneurship and asked them to become job providers instead of job seekers. He said that such exhibitions besides encouraging the youth for setting up their income generating units help in developing cordial relationship between the department and the local people.

Later, MLA distributed certificates among the progressive farmers.

Intensify efforts to double farmers' income by 2022: Hanjura to Agri Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 19: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, today exhorted upon department officers to intensify facilitating efforts for welfare of farming community and work in targeted mode to achieve doubling of farmers' income by year 2022.

The Minister said this after jointly inaugurating the one day Exhibition cum Kisan Mela with Minister for Industries and Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga.

The Exhibition cum Kisan Mela was organized by the Agriculture Department Samba under "Support to State Extension Reforms Mission on Agriculture Extension" (ATMA) with the active participation of agriculture and other allied departments. The Mela saw participation by more than 1000 farmers.

Stressing on the importance of such events, Hanjura said that these events play a major role in sensitizing farmers about new technologies, high yielding variety of seeds and other innovations being introduced in the sector besides providing better market exposure to the agriculture produce of the State.

The Minister said the Government is making all efforts for sustained growth of agriculture sector by introducing several innovative measures to enable farmers to get maximum returns from their land.

Hanjura stressed upon the officers to ensure effective implement-

ation of Government sponsored schemes meant for socio-economic transformation of farmer's community. "This will help in achieving the target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022", he asserted.

He maintained that agricultural

SUKAST to ensure that the farmers are consistently apprised on new researches, technologies being developed by State agriculture scientists, so that they can utilize these in their farms and increase their productivity.



Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura and Industries Minister Chander Parkash Ganga inspecting stalls at Kisan Mela in Samba.

marketing reforms are being worked out and stress is being laid on farmer-producer organizations for value addition and increasing farmers' income.

Minister for Industries and Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga, addressing the gathering praised the department for organizing the Mela in Samba. He said that these initiatives will help the farming community to get aware about the new agri technology that is available at their door step.

He asked the institutions like

Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Advisory Board for Development of Kisans Daljeet Singh Chib, Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Board for the Welfare of OBC Rashpal Verma, District Development Commissioner, Samba Sheetal Nanda, Director Command Area Development Jammu Jitender Singh, Director Agriculture Jammu H.K. Razdan and other officers of the Agriculture and Allied Departments were also present on the occasion.

Vigilance produces challan against accused Revenue officials

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: The Vigilance Organization has produced charge sheet against the Revenue officials who are accused of misusing their official position and issuing Fard Intikhabs by disproportionately changing possession of Shamlat land in village Gharota.

Verification conducted into the allegations of selling of Shamlat land in excess from the share of the beneficiaries at village Gharota Jammu revealed that the accused persons namely Sher Singh, then Patwari Halqa Gharota (now expired), Baldev Raj, then Girdawar Gharota, Maqbool Mohd, then Patwari Gharota, Haji Mohd Hussain, then Naib Tehsildar Gharota and Vijay Kumar, then Naib Tehsildar Gharota, issued 14 number of Revenue extracts (Fard Intikhabs) by dispropor-

tionately changing the possession of 49 kanals of Shamlat land located in Khasra number 1121 in favour of five beneficiaries namely Parveen Singh, Shivdev Singh, Baldev Singh, Narinder Singh and Sanjay Kumar, all residents of village Gharota.

For the said acts of omission and commission on the part of the accused officials and private beneficiaries, case FIR No. 23/2012 u/s 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act 2006 and Section 467,468,420 and 120-B RPC was registered and investigation started.

Upon the conclusion of investigation, the challan of the said case was produced in the Court of Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu against the accused Revenue officials and private beneficiaries Parveen Singh, Shivdev Singh, Baldev Singh, Narinder Singh and Sanjay Kumar.



Dr Gurmeet Singh receiving 'Excellent Researcher Award' from former NASA scientist and Vice Chancellor of GLA University, Professor DS Chauhan, in Mumbai.

Dr Gurmeet gets Excellent Researcher Award

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Son of the soil, Dr Gurmeet Singh, has been awarded the prestigious 'Excellent Researcher Award' by Research Excellence and Academic Awards (REAA) 2018.

The award was presented in a glittering ceremony held on the campus of NL Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai, by former NASA scientist and present Vice Chancellor of GLA University, Professor DS Chauhan. Research Excellence and Academic Awards (REAA) have been initiated by Combined Society for Educational Research and Development (CSERD).

Dr Singh hails from Yarbugh, Baramulla in Kashmir and is presently teaching at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji Islands. The award was bestowed on Dr Singh in recognition of his proven track record of outstanding research and academic performance in different contexts in several international universities and multi-cultural communities.

Dr Gurmeet Singh is a well

published and internationally recognized researcher and academic who has published around 100 research works internationally, including a number of articles in high impact and top ranked journals.

Dr Singh has led and completed a large number of research projects funded by Governments, industry/business and universities, including Global Development Network(GDN), Oceania Development Network(ODN), Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (PARDI) and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and many other research grants. He has successfully supervised more than 20 PhD and MPhil students.

He is the associate editor for Journal of Global Marketing a prestigious international journal ranked by Australian Business Deans' Council (ABDC) and published by Taylor and Francis group. Dr Singh is also editor of another ABDC ranked journal 'Journal of Pacific Studies'. He is editorial board member of many international journals.

Damaged portion of National Highway in Kathua district.

-Excelsior/Pardeep

People demand restoration of National Highway

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 19: The people of Samba and Kathua districts are worried about the worsening condition of Jammu-Pathankot National Highway as it was damaged at various locations causing the road accidents. Number of deep ditches and broken patches and heaps of dumpings on the road were seen at various locations between Lakhapur to Hiranagar and onwards.

Under such circumstance the road accidents are very common on the highway. The tourist vehicles entering the State are unknown of road condition and they mostly become victims. The bus and truck accident at Mela Morh in Hiranagar on highway yesterday was also caused due to bad condition of road as eye witness narrated it. The accident claimed three lives and 23 passengers were injured in it.

A local person Ashok Kumar said that due to worst condition of National Highway, deep gorges were seen on the road and on

bridges. The vehicles in speed on highway take jump which some times result into the road accident. He alleged that despite the double lanning, the rate of accident is increasing on highway.

Not even a day passes when an accident does take place. Yesterday night a car also burnt into Ashes due to worst condition of road. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has started black topping of road. But it was stopped in the middle. The Authority machinery also removed old blacktopping from Kalibari bridge, Chadwal bridge few months earlier which also caused accidents due to imbalance of vehicle run on road.

But the NHAI did not bother to repair it timely. The Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Rohit Khajuria said that the NHAI was asked to start black topping work and it may resume within days. The work was withheld during the winter season and now going to resume as the administration of National Highway Authority of India Jammu told.

SKUAST-TAJ delegation calls on DyCM, demands more faculties

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: A delegation of SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ), led by its president Dr Vikas Sharma, called on Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh and submitted a memorandum regarding strengthening of research stations and sanction of additional faculties to SKUAST-Jammu.

Dr Vikas Sharma informed the DyCM that teaching association will welcome the decision of State Government to establish more universities in the J&K State, but it will not be acceptable at the cost of research centers / faculties of SKUAST-Jammu. He said that SKUAST - Jammu is working in its infancy stage from the last 17 years and there is a need to strengthen this only farm varsity of the Jammu region rather than to disturb its status. "Bifurcation will paralyse and impede the functioning of this already existing / acclaimed Agricultural University", said TAJ president.

Dr Vikas informed the Minister that on one side the proposal of SKUAST-Jammu for much required additional faculties

viz., Faculty of Horticulture, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Faculty of Dairy Technology has been made hostage by State Government to the process of seeking repeated queries from the last 12 years and on the other side, Government is planning to snatch already established research centres of SKUAST-J. He further informed that SKUAST-J is running with only two faculties namely Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Veterinary Sciences from the last 18 years whereas SKUAST-K possesses seven faculties to its credit.

After giving a patient hearing to SKUAST-J teachers, Dr Nirmal Singh said that for the overall development of Jammu Division and to address time to time demands of farming community, there is a need to strengthen the only farm varsity of the region. Further, he assured full support to SKUAST-Jammu from present State Government.

The deputation comprised of Dr Vivek M Arya (general secretary), Dr P K Rai, Dr Devinder Sharma, Dr Rajeev Bharat and Dr Rohit Sharma.



A JCB machine removing encroachment in district Kishtwar.

Illegal structures removed during anti encroachment drive

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Mar 19: The civil and police administration today took a tough stand against the unauthorised encroachments of footpaths and public roads.

During the drive, a large number of illegal structures like kiosks, rehries, pharies and sheds were removed.

In a drive against the illegal encroachment of public roads, footpaths and chowks, the civil and police administration today deployed heavy machinery under the large scale police deployment in presence of the Magistrates.

The officials of Municipal Committee a couple of days before had served notices to the owners of illegal structures to voluntarily remove the encroachments they have raised. This was followed by detailed drum beating on Sunday. But despite all these legal measures the encroachers failed to do the needful.

The district administration subsequently took a strong notice of encroachments and put in action the whole machinery. The Municipal Committee officials led by its Executive Officer Sanjay Sharma arranged heavy machinery to remove the encroachments. The team of Municipal Committee was given protection by a large posse of police led by DySP Headquarters Nihar Ranjan and

SHO Police Station Kishtwar Inspector Sameer Jeelani.

The drive was started from Malipeth and taken upto New DC Office Complex, then taken to Bonsasthan, Hidayal Chowk, Old Bus Stand and Heresthan. A total 31 kiosks, 7 permanent sheds and large of rehries and pharies were removed and seized accordingly.

District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Angrez Singh Rana when contacted said that the district administration has taken a strong view of the encroachments and has issued necessary orders in this regard. The notices were already served to all the stakeholders and at the same time the alternate spots for rehries and pharies were identified and ordered, one at the parking place near Dak Bunglow and another at Hartalab near old wine shop, said DDC.

While talking to media persons, SSP Kishtwar Abrar Chowdhry said that no encroachment on any public place will be tolerated at any cost. He said that every possible step will taken to remove all kinds of encroachments all along the town keeping in view the public interest. He also stated that videography of such spots which have been made encroachment free has been done and if any encroachment is repeated subsequently strict action would be taken against

Suri receives Hony Doctorate in Social Work from IVUP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Recognizing his efforts and



Raman Suri, a social worker from Jammu showing an honorary degree of Doctorate conferred by IVUP, Bengaluru.

outstanding contribution to the society, the Indian Virtual University for Peace and Education (IVUP), Bengaluru, has conferred Raman Suri, a prominent social worker and politician from Jammu, with an 'Honorary Doctorate in Social Work (Honoris Causa) with specialization in People's Concern'.

The Honorary Doctorate was conferred at the annual award ceremony of the institute to honour dignitaries from different walks of life in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the society and development of the nation at large. The event was held at Pune in Maharashtra. The awardees

were from all over the country, Suri being the only awardee from Jammu & Kashmir.

Receiving the honour, Suri said, "I will continue contributing towards the betterment of the society by improving the quality of life and quality of thoughts of people. We are one world, one family. Peace is our only destination. So, we all should start this wonderful journey of the upliftment of the society and a peaceful world, at the individual level and then see the change".

Originally belonging to a business family, Suri always had an urge to do something for the betterment of society and to uplift the masses. Thus, he started his journey as a social worker as well as a politician. He has actively contributed towards nation building as well.

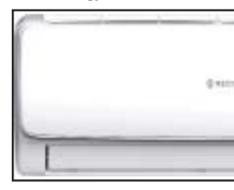
He started his works as early as 1998 by joining an NGO, as All India senior vice president. One of his prominent works being his key role in Sri Amarnath Yatra in the year 2000 & 2001, in collaboration with the J&K Police. He also did many projects in association with many other NGO's, Business Associations, Social Welfare Organizations, Lions Club, Orphans Home, Vridh Aashrams, etc.

He also held the post of Member SLCC, FCI J&K, Union Ministry of CAPD, after being nominated by the Government of India, in the year 2015, for two years and did many works for the upliftment of FCI in J&K.

Reconnect introduces energy efficient Inverter ACs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Considering buying an AC this summer but worried about the huge power bills, say 'Hi' to the latest energy efficient Inverter



ACs from Reconnect, which will help you tackle the scorching heat without having to worry about your pocket.

Powered by cutting-edge technology and loaded with all the latest features, Reconnect air conditioners undergo 3-level testing and reliability checks to ensure top-notch quality. This gives Reconnect the confidence to offer a whopping 5-year warranty on its air conditioners, for complete peace of mind.

Reconnect ACs are made up of 100% Copper. Copper condenser, evaporator and connecting pipes ensure stronger and high speed cooling. On top of that, Copper is less prone to corrosion, which means that your AC has a longer life and is easier to maintain.

Talking of reliability,

Reconnect air conditioners offer 'Stabilizer-Free Operation' so that your AC is protected from sudden voltage surges or drops. This ensures that the AC functions smoothly even at voltages as low

as 130V or as high as 265V.

All these features come housed in sleek and stylish designs which you are bound to fall in love with. With superior quality that meets the most stringent standards and world-class designs that meet your discerning tastes, Reconnect ACs are a perfect addition to any modern home.

And it doesn't just end there. Along with quality air conditioners, Reconnect also provides expert after-sales service with the help of resQ, India's leading electronics service provider.

Reconnect ACs start at an affordable price of Rs 18,990. To get more details about the models available and their prices, walk in to your nearest Reliance Digital or Jio store today.

J&K Grameen Bank conducts 30 VLPs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: J&K Grameen Bank, Regional Office Kathua with support under Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) of NABARD organized 30 Village Level Programmes including 12 in Samba and 18 in Kathua district today in rural and semi-urban branches.

Apart from maximum participation from SHG and NRLM customers, students, reputed persons of the area, panch, sarpanch, numberdaar, youth, men and women also participated in the programmes and there was a wide response from them.

On spot around 400 PMJDY accounts were opened during the camps by different branches of the bank for credit under second dose.

As a part of digital banking adoption in the banks such as internet banking, mobile banking, various payment systems people need not queue up in bank branch and all the facilities can be availed through digital media from home or while on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender
Sr. DEEG/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works mentioned hereunder. Bidders will be able to submit their original/bid copies upto closing date 20.04.2018 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (₹)	Cost of tender form (₹)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earneest Money (₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
95	Annual Maintenance Contract for operation & comprehensive maintenance of electrical assets at Dargah to Baramulla Section in Kashmir Valley.	1,51,81,817-64	5,000/-	Upto 20.04.2018 15:00 Hrs	2,00,910/-	365 Days	20.04.2018 at or after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
96	Opening of 5 Nos. passenger halts at Rozwan, Mughal, Nadgam, Patnipura and Sangadan at Banihal to Baramulla section of Firozpur Division.	37,23,325-00	3,000/-		74,475/-	180 Days		

251-Elect/T. Notice No.34-Elect/2017-18 Dated:-16/03/2018

837/2018

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE