



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday.

Mehbooba directs depts to stick to 30% work allocation to SHGs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 22: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today directed strict compliance of Government directive of allocating 30% job orders by various departments for members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State. She also directed raising the financial limits of SHGs from present Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. one crore besides corresponding enhancements.

Chairing a meeting to review the status of Self Help Groups in the State, the Chief Minister asked for making necessary amendments in the guidelines for SHGs to make them compli-

ant with the needs of the day and the requirements of individual departments. She specifically asked for engaging the SHGs in the maintenance and upkeep of various assets, facilities and machinery put in the Government particularly Health Department.

Minister for Finance, Labour & Employment, Syed Altaf Bukhari was present in the meeting.

Mehbooba Mufti expressed displeasure in respect of some departments which have not made the outlined allocations for the SHGs while tendering out their works. She asked all the departments to revisit their

approach in this regard and involve these young technocrats in carrying out various jobs and works being executed by them.

In a significant direction, the Chief Minister asked the JK Bank to come up with a customized scheme within 10 days to provide financial support to these young entrepreneurs so that they don't lag behind for want of credit availability. She also directed undertaking capacity building of these SHGs by respective Departments so that they are able to deliver effectively in tune with the requirements of the individual Departments.

The meeting was informed that by and large the SHGs have exhibited satisfactory performance in terms of quality of works undertaken by them.

Earlier, Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kifayat Hussain Rizvi briefed the meeting about the salient features of the scheme.

The Self-Help Group schemes, it may be recalled, was introduced in the State to provide job avenues to qualified graduates in various engineering disciplines by involving them with construction and upgrade of infrastructure taking benefit of their technical background and know how.

Chief Secretary, B B Vyas; Financial Commissioner, Housing & Urban Development, K B Aggarwal; Administrative Secretaries of various departments; Chairman, JK Bank, Parvez Ahmad; heads of departments and senior officers were present in the meeting.

Vigilance produces challan against Vinod Koul, others in auction fraud

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 22: Vigilance Organization Jammu today produced challan against accused officers, officials and beneficiary of alleged irregularities committed in Handloom Development Corporation Project Samba.

Challan against Vinod Koul, then Project Manager, Export Oriented Handloom Development Corporation Project, Samba, Daleep Kumar Thaploo, 1/c Processing EOHPD, Raj Kumar Padha, then Accountant EOHPD, Madan Lal, then Storekeeper and Raman Pargal, Prop. M/s Laxmi General Store, Samba, was produced in the court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu.

An enquiry was conducted by the Vigilance into irregularities of auctioning of scrap by Handloom Development Corporation Project, Samba wherein it surfaced that tenders were called for the auction of the scrap on "as is where is basis" which was lying in premises of the Corporation Project, Samba

3 houses gutted

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, May 22: Three houses were gutted in fire which broke out at village Tund and Kral in Panchayat Ballian (Battal Ballian), here today.

The fire broke out this morning in the wheat field and soon engulfed three nearby houses of Hans Raj son of Mangat Ram, Lal Chand son of Hans Raj and Chet Ram son of Mangat Ram of Tund-Kral.

Even as there was no loss of life, all belongings in the three houses were reduced to ashes thus cause huge loss to the owners.

According to Sarpanch Ballian, Manmohan Rana, some miscreants set dry bushes on fire and the flames spread to almost one hundred canals land, which included State land and private land.

Fire is still not controlled fully while no one from administration side visited the village till filing of the report.

MLC, Belgian Ambassador call on Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 22: A 13 member delegation from Poonch led by Dr. Shehnaaz Ganaie, MLC, met Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan today.

The delegation requested the Governor to support the time-bound completion of Poonch Campus of the Jammu University so that the students of this far flung district could receive quality higher education; highlighted the hardships faced by the border dwellers, particularly during the recurring spells of shelling from across the border and demanded the urgent construction of community bunkers and stationing of critical care ambulances, particularly bullet proof vehicles; support for the construction of a well

equipped hospital and establishment of sports infrastructure in Poonch to provide an outlet for the youth.

Governor observed that all the issues raised by the delegation would be taken up with the State and the Central Governments.

Meanwhile, Jan Luykx, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, accompanied by Alexis Bossuyt, Counsellor Investment & Trade also called on Governor.

Ambassador discussed with Governor various matters of common interest to India and the Kingdom of Belgium. Governor invited the Ambassador to pay a longer visit to the State for identifying the varied fruitful possibilities which exist for Belgian investors to launch mutually beneficial projects in J&K.

JK Bank to set up separate vertical for start-ups to foster entrepreneurship

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 22: J&K Bank will be creating a separate vertical for start-ups to foster entrepreneurship, especially micro and small enterprises segment, in all districts, blocks and panchayats in the State.

The vertical once set up will draw the processes and procedures to offer single window facilitation to prospective entrepreneurs with the aim of hand-holding the budding entrepreneurs at the outset/inception phases.

This was announced by the J&K Bank Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed after the conclusion of the Policy Consultative Workshop for academic leaders presided over by Governor, N N Vohra.

CEO shared the role of financial institutions in creating start-up environment and confirmed bank's intention to channelize all resources to support entrepreneurs through the start-up centers. The initiative by JK Bank is in congruence with Governor's vision to hand-hold start-up aspirants in the State, he added.

Chairman Parvez Ahmed informed that "The bank is setting up a dedicated department and start-up vertical at its Corporate Headquarters with tiers upto the district level. We will deploy committed work force in all tiers who will be undertaking mega marketing and awareness initiatives for the general public. Through this vertical, bank aims to create a one

point access for entrepreneurs with a facilitation approach at every step. This approach has the potential to drive the entrepreneurial zeal of talented youth by harnessing the capabilities of innovative, young and dynamic entrepreneurs thus contributing to the financial growth of the State".

He informed that the most significant feature of these start-up centre will be that it will conduct orientation sessions and workshops for the budding entrepreneurs in collaboration with Government Departments, CAs and legal advisors to impart information of documents, registrations and other formalities associated with establishing a business such as GST registrations, projected balance sheet and business proposal creation.



People taking shelter in a bunker at Arnia Sector on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

One killed, 2 injured as vehicle plunges into gorge

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, May 22: One person was killed while two others seriously injured, when a load carrier (Tata Mobile vehicle No. JK02A/0278) rolled down into the gorge near Dera Nangali Sahib in Poonch this evening.

A police spokesman said that mishap took place on Mandi-Poonch Road when the vehicle was coming towards Poonch from Mandi side after off loading the goods. Near Nangali Sahib, the driver lost control over the speeding vehicle and it landed into a gorge at around 5 pm today.

The locals of the area rushed to the spot for rescue and police party from Poonch also arrived there shortly. While one person was killed on the spot, the two others

received serious injuries and were rushed to District Hospital, Poonch.

The deceased was later identified as Sajjad Ahmed (21), son of Khurshed Rather, resident of Sawjian (Mandi). His body was sent for postmortem.

The injured after providing preliminary treatment in District Hospital were referred to Govt Medical College Hospital, Jammu. They were identified as Taib Qazmi (16), son of Ikhlq Hussain of Nangali village and Gulzar Ahmed, son of Farooq Ahmed, resident of Sawjian in Mandi tehsil. The police has taken cognizance of the matter. It said that vehicle was over speeding and went out of control at a curve.

JKSSB announces change in test venues for teacher posts

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 22: Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (SSB) today announced a change in some test venues for candidates appearing in the objective written test on May 27 for the posts of General Teacher under district cadre Bandipora, Kulgam, Kupwara and Srinagar.

According to the break-up issued by the Board centres located at GEMS Public School Bijbehara, Anantnag and Shahi Hamdan College of Education Siligam, K.P. Road, Anantnag have been shifted to South Campus, University of Kashmir, High Ground- Fatehgarh, Anantnag.

Whereas, Boys Polytechnic College, Gogjibagh Srinagar centre has been shifted to Government College for Women, M.A Road, Srinagar, centre at NIELIT, Rangreth, Budgam to Bright Horizon Higher Secondary School Humhama Budgam and SSM Engineering College, Parihaspora, Baramulla to SRM Welkin Higher Secondary School Sopore, Baramulla.

Also, centre at Government Higher Secondary School Palhalan, Baramulla has been shifted to Pioneer Institute of Learning, National Highway, Hanjiweera Pattan Baramulla while the centre at MTM, B.Ed College, Tangmarg, Baramulla shall be read as MTM, B.Ed College, Kwarhama Baramulla.

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