

SBI celebrates 58th Bank Day with enthusiasm

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 1: Various branches of State Bank of India today celebrated 58th Bank Day in remembrance of

that the Bank will always help such institutions, which are working for the weaker sections of the society. SBI Jammu Cantt celebrated



Chief Manager, SBI Udhampur Branch, BL Saini distributing stationery and gift items among children of Jagriti Bal Ashram on the occasion of Bank Day on Monday.

the transformation of the former Imperial Bank into SBI on July 1, 1995. On the auspicious occasion, staff of SBI, J&K Zone dedicated itself towards the service of the society by organizing blood donation camps at its Administrative office here in winter Capital of the State as well as in Srinagar.

ed the Day as Pensioners' meet in its premises, wherein a large number of pensioners attended the meet. Chief Manager, Sunil Sharma, requested the pensioners to use technology products of the Bank to get rid of the long queues while taking payments of their pension. They were also offered tea, snacks and mementos.

In Jammu, the camp was conducted in collaboration with Red Cross Society and Government Medical College Jammu. A total of 33 units of blood at Jammu and 25 units in Srinagar was donated. On the occasion, almost all the branches of SBI undertook at least one corporate social responsibility activity in their area of operations.

The Budhal Branch of SBI celebrated the Bank Day by holding a function in the premises of the Bank. The Branch Manager, Gurdeep Singh Bali briefed the gathering about the programmes, policies and achievements of the Bank in not only banking sector but social sector as well. He further assured to improve upon its functioning and extending more help for matters of common interest especially school children and needy poor.

DGM, SBI, J&K Zone, Ajit Kumar Jain, expressed his gratitude to Red Cross Society and doctors for providing timely support for the noble cause.

The Kacchi Chawani Branch of the Bank organized a free medical camp for its customers, to celebrate the occasion. Free medical services were provided to about 35 customers by Dr Kavita Mijhon along with Pharmacist Joginder Kumar and Sohan Lal from Red Cross society. Free medicines were also provided to the needy patients. On the occasion, Chief Manager of the Bank, Archana Kachroo highlighted the significance of the community service banking as a mode for serving the society. Sweets were also distributed among the staff members and customers.

To celebrate the occasion, SBI, J&K, donated an air-conditioned ambulance to Shriya Bhatt Mission Hospital, Jammu. The ambulance was handed over by Deputy General Manager, SBI, J&K, Ajit Kumar Jain in an impressive function held here. In his address, he appreciated the role of the Mission Hospital and its activists and assured

Amar Colony residents protest, block road against power failure
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 1: Irrate people of Amar Colony Gole Gujral, Phase Second held a demonstration this evening and blocked the road in protest against the power failure in the area.

The protestors shouting slogans against the PDD authorities and Chief Engineer M&RE alleged that the area is facing a complete black out for last one week after the transformer developed a snag.

The protestors said that two transformers were replaced during this period in the area while one was replaced on Saturday and it did not function even for an hour while, the another which was installed yesterday evening broke down today morning resulting into complete blackout in the area.

The protestors said that people especially old and infirm are facing hardships in this sweltering heat and despite paying the power tariff in time the PDD authorities have taken the area for granted.

JD(S) concerned over fate of earthquake victims
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 1: Janta Dal (Secular), J&K, has expressed serious concern over the fate of earthquake victims of Doda region, who deprived of any aid by the Central Government, are struggling for their survival.

While addressing the office bearers here at Party Headquarters, Working president of JD(S), J&K, Kulbir Singh, expressed grave concern over the indifferent attitude of Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi towards Doda earthquake victims, who were patiently waiting for their visit and expecting a package for their relief and rehabilitation.

It is unfortunate that both PM and UPA Chairperson even did not utter a word on the tragedy. He added.

The meeting also expressed concern over the prolonged power cuts and unreasonable price hike in essential commodities making which adds to starvation of poor people.



Qamar Ali Akhooon addressing a large gathering during his visit to Kargil after assuming charge of Advisor to Chief Minister.

Akhooon visits Kargil after assuming charge of CM's Advisor

Excelsior Correspondent
KARGIL, July 1: Advisor to Chief Minister, Qamar Ali Akhooon got warm welcome during his visit to Kargil after assuming the charge of Advisor to Chief Minister.

Earlier, after reaching Drass, Akhooon held meeting to review the ongoing project in Drass Sub Division.

On this occasion, Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC, Kargil, Kachroo Ahmad Ali Khan, Minister of State for Education and Medical Education, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Executive Councilor Rasool Naqvi, Executive Councilor Hajji Gh. Amir, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Fida Hussain, District Officer and Panchs and Sarpachs were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Akhooon stressed upon the officers to ensure better facilities to the people at their door step. He also asked Medical and Education Department to provide better facilities to patients and students.

Over 200 vehicles were accompanied by Akhooon decorated by flags of National Conference and Islamic School. People were shouting slogans like "Qamar Ali Akhooon Zindabad, Qamar Ali Akhooon Aagey Bado Hum Tum Haray Sath Hai".

Interacting with the party workers and people of Kargil at Tourist Facilitation Center Kargil, he thanked people for warm reception.

He also thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for giving him a Cabinet Rank Status again. MoS, Feroz Ahmad Khan and Executive Councilor Ghulam Rasool Naqvi also spoke on the occasion.

Veeri's dig at Govt for 19 hour power cut at Jagti

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 1: Former Minister and PDP MLA Abdul Rehman Veeri has criticized the NC led coalition for the problems of the Jagti Camp inmates who are facing 19 hour power cut for last two years now.

In a statement issued here, today the PDP leader has held the Omar Abdullah led Government fully responsible for the miseries of migrants in general and Jagti inmates in particular.

He said depriving people for 19 hours of power supply in a day tantamount to human rights violation and this Government has set a worst example of rights violation so far. The PDP leader while, extending his party's full support to Jagti camp inmates who are facing the tough days of their life due to power curtailment, said that if the situation does not improve the PDP will join the agitation in support of the hapless people of Jagti.

He said the Government is duty bound to provide the concessions to the migrants who have been uprooted over 23 years back due to ineptness of the then NC led Government.

Meanwhile JTC president Shadi Lal Pandita expressed his concern over the failure of authorities to restore proper power supply in the camp and warned that community will be forced to resort to road blockade again.

He said that it appears that the present Government was hell bent to eliminate the community with its anti people policies as prolonged power cuts had also hampered water supply in the camp and people are without water for days together.

Retiring employees given warm farewell

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 1: Plant Protection Mechanic in the office of the Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, S Balbir Singh, was accorded a warm send off at a simple but impressive function on his attaining superannuation.

Director Horticulture Jammu Anil Kumar Sharma wished him a happy, healthy and prosperous post retirement life. Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu also spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile Ch Bashir Ahmed Rana Kalis, Warden, Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel, Poonch was accorded warm farewell on attaining superannuation at a function, presided over by Haji Mohammad Azeem, where B A Rana was the guest of honour. The speakers lauded the contribution of Kalis who rendered 34 years of meritorious service in Education Department in different capacities.

Germany offers higher studies for KU students

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 1: Michael Steiner, German Ambassador met Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz former Union Minister and President Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and offered space for Kashmir University students for higher education in Germany.

In a statement Prof Soz said that German Ambassador came to meet him at his residence here last evening and among other things discussed, Michael Steiner was here to invite the students from Kashmir particularly the students from Kashmir

University to utilize space now available in Germany for studies at its centers of high learning.

Soz said, "I welcome the German Ambassador's offer of the space also available in areas like Engineering, Information Technology, Natural Sciences and subjects like Economic and Mathematics."

Soz also welcomed German Ambassador's statement for his offer of studies in Vocational Courses.

"I wish the State administration will take full advantage of the Germany's offer for studies in their country," Soz said.

Girl commits suicide

Excelsior Correspondent
RAJOURI, July 1: A young girl committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance at her residence in Kalakote area today.

A police spokesman said that 17-year-old Arti Devi, daughter of Beli Ram, resident of Gulabgarh, Kalakote became serious after she consumed some poisonous pills at her residence in the morning. The girl was rushed to Kalakote Hospital by the family members where she died after some time. The reason behind this extreme step could not be ascertained immediately. The police registered a case for investigation.

4 arrested, 250 ltrs illicit liquor seized

Excelsior Correspondent
RAJOURI, July 1: Police conducted a series of raids in various villages here today and arrested four persons for indulging in illicit liquor trade. During the course of action, 1350 kg Lahan was destroyed and 250 litres of illicit liquor seized, besides destroying five working stills.

The raids were conducted at village Bravi, Bagnoti, Narian Patra, Lam, Jangar, Kha No 2, Nar Singh Pura, Dalhori, Dhani Dhar, Argi, Chingus, Soghat, Potha, Sanchal, Gharat, Brow, Ghooni, Raj Pur, Patha, Sarnoo, Grati, Chackli, Phalli, Bagla, Nanyal, Dhabar and Nowshera areas of the district.

During the process, four persons were arrested and booked under Excise Act. The arrested persons were identified as Sita Ram, son of Kala Ram of Nowshera and Babu Ram, son of Krishan Lal, Sudesh Kumar, son of Kulbir Singh and Sat pal, son of Krishan Lal, all three from Phalli (Kalakote).

The raids were conducted by sleuth of Excise Range led by Dr Sajad Majid, Inspector Excise, under the supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu, Anuradha Gupta and Excise and Taxation officer, Rajouri-Poonch Range, Salam Din Chowdhary.

Police foils new modus operandi of bovine smuggling in passenger vehicles

Excelsior Correspondent
UDHAMPUR, July 1: Foiling new modus operandi of bovine smuggling in passenger vehicles, Udhampur Police today arrested three smugglers in separate cases under the jurisdiction of Police Station Kud and Police Station Rehmbal.

Acting on reliable information, a Police party from Police Station Kud laid surprise naka at NHW near Kud and intercepted one passenger vehicle Tata Sumo bearing registration number JK02V-1897 which was on its way from Jammu towards Kashmir.

Noticing the surprise naka party, the bovine smugglers fled away from the spot leaving behind the abandoned vehicle. During the thorough search of the vehicle, the Tata Sumo was found loaded with two bovine animals which were tightly packed inside the Tata Sumo after removing its back seats. Both the bovine animals were rescued on the spot and vehicle got seized.

During another naka by Police party from Police Station Kud today in the wee hours, another Tata Sumo bearing registration number JK09-9179, on its way from Jammu to Kashmir, was intercepted. During search of the vehicle, this Tata Sumo was also found loaded with two bovine animals,

Estates Deptt employees protest, observe strike

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 1: The employees and workers of Estates Department held protest dharna and observed complete strike here today.

The employees under the banner of Co-ordination Committee of Estates Employees Association/ Union led by Prem Singh Bawa and Yash Paul Sharma assembled in the office of Dy Director Estates at Mandha here in the morning and started protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans in support of their demands and also against the concerned authorities.

The work in all the offices of the Estates Department remained

paralysed with the strike of the employees today. These employees have warned to launch indefinite strike if their demands were not met. The major demands of the employees included re-organization of Estates Department, regularization of daily wages, provision of two and half days additional salary, implementation of time bound promotion orders, release of pending arrears, finalization of seniority list for conducting DPC, construction of building for Dy Director's office and staff quarters and benefit of SRO-43.

Later on the assurance of Director Estates Mohd Hussain Malik, the Dy Director Rakesh Magotra held a meeting with the representatives of Coordination Committee in his office chamber and assured to meet their demands within one month. On the assurance the leaders deferred the indefinite strike for one month.

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New FSL building becomes fully functional

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 1: The new state of the art complex of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Bemina in Srinagar has become fully functional from today.

Even as the Lab was formally inaugurated a few days back, it was not fully functional because of some pending works of technical nature. These minor works were accomplished only last week and the Lab started functioning fully from today.

According to Director FSL, Inayat-ullah, the disposal of cases will be further speeded up now with the functioning of state of art lab, which is first of its kind in the country. Three cases were disposed off today, he added.

Pertinent to mention that the new FSL building comprises of new sections for dealing with cyber crime and brain mapping tests, which are being introduced here very soon.

"Butterfly" launches its products in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 1: "Butterfly", a kitchen appliances manufacturer company launched its products in Jammu region with a high profile dealers' conference, here today.

Dealers from different parts of the region participated and made the launch program a huge success.

General Manager, Marketing, VMS Selvam, who was the chief guest from the Brand, unveiled the entire product range of LPG stoves, Mixer Grinders, Pressure Cookers, Non-stick Cookware, Electric Chimneys, Hand Blenders, Induction Cookers, Electric Rice Cookers and Electric



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