



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah alongwith members of Public Accounts Committee of Punjab Assembly at Srinagar on Thursday.

Punjab Public Accounts Committee calls on CM

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 25: The delegation of Committee on Public Accounts of Punjab Legislative Assembly called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here. The Committee members who are here on a study tour of the State briefed the Chief Minister about their visit and showed interest in the initiatives and measures Jammu and Kashmir Government has taken in various sectors of development.

Two elderly persons killed in road accidents

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: Two elderly persons were killed in road accidents at different locations of the winter capital. As per reports, 70-year-old Kasim Din, son of Roshan Din, resident of District Samba, was seriously injured after being hit by a mini-bus bearing registration number JK02AC-4667 near Asia crossing, falling under the jurisdiction of Ware House Police Post. He was shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where doctors declared him as brought dead. The body has been handed over to family members for last rites after completion of legal formalities. A case has been registered at Ware House Police Post and manhunt has been launched to arrest the absconding mini-bus driver, who fled from the spot leaving behind the vehicle. In another incident, 65-year-old Thoru Ram, son of Sain Dass of Nai Basti was injured after being hit by a motorcycle bearing registration number JK02AS 6107 near Satwari, falling under the jurisdiction of Gandhi Nagar Police Station. He was shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where he failed to respond to the treatment and succumbed to injuries.

The Punjab Public Accounts Committee also discussed matters relating to the health, education, agriculture and allied sectors. Employability and skill development of youth and enhancing the orbit of their job market also came up during the meeting. The Punjab delegation said that J&K youth had greater opportunity of pursuing education and jobs in the Punjab. They said that the Government of Punjab would extend full help to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in this regard.

The body has been handed over to legal heirs after autopsy. The accused identified as Jagdish Gorkha, son of Charan Dass of Jasore, RS Pura has been arrested and the motorcycle also has been seized. A case has been registered at Gandhi Nagar Police Station and investigation started. Meanwhile, body of an unidentified male was recovered from Nandini, falling under the jurisdiction of Phalian Mandial police post. The body has been shifted to the mortuary of the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for identification. Police has taken the cognizance.

Power shut down
Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: In order to carry out the work of 33 KV tap line for upcoming (1x10) MVA, R/stn Shastri Nagar, the power supply to part of Shastri Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Nai Basti Satwari, industrial and adjoining areas fed from 1x10 MVA, 33/11KV R/stn Ashok Nagar and 11 KV feeders S-3 & SA-6 of (1x10+1x6.3) MVA, 33/11KV R/stn Satwari will remain affected on July 26, 2013 from 6 a m to 9 a m. The shut down is subject to fair weather conditions.

Soz takes up North Kashmir telecom issue with Sibal

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, July 25: Former Union Minister and PCC president, Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz (MP) today met the Union Minister for Telecommunication and Information Technology, Kapil Sibal, here today and took up the issue of non-existent telecom services in North Kashmir. During the meeting Prof Soz invited the attention of Mr Sibal to the plight of the people living in the hinterland of North Kashmir due to non-existent telecom facilities to the people of these areas. He pointed out that these backward areas had completely been neglected by the J&K State's Telecommunication Department which include Machil, Keran, Gurez, Tulail and Tangdhar. While explaining the plight of the people living in these areas, Prof Soz told the Union Minister that these areas remain cut off during winters and the people, especially women and children face great hardships. The PCC chief hoped that mobile towers would be raised in these areas to provide better connectivity. Mr Sibal assured the PCC chief to look into the matter and provide services to the area without any further delay after getting the survey done for the purpose.

Double drawl of POL case HC directs SSP Vigilance to appear along with case diary

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: In the much-publicized double drawl of Petrol Oil Lubricant (POL) by the vehicles attached with the Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, High Court today directed the SSP Vigilance Organization to appear before the court along with the case diary tomorrow.

The direction was passed in a petition filed by Prof S K Bhalla seeking quashment of order dated July 22, 2013 passed by the Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu where by four months time was granted to the Vigilance Organization for completion of preliminary enquiry into double drawl of POL. The petition was filed by Prof S K Bhalla seeking quashment of order dated July 22, 2013 passed by the Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu where by four months time was granted to the Vigilance Organization for completion of preliminary enquiry into double drawl of POL. The petition was filed by Prof S K Bhalla seeking quashment of order dated July 22, 2013 passed by the Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu where by four months time was granted to the Vigilance Organization for completion of preliminary enquiry into double drawl of POL. The petition was filed by Prof S K Bhalla seeking quashment of order dated July 22, 2013 passed by the Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu where by four months time was granted to the Vigilance Organization for completion of preliminary enquiry into double drawl of POL.

Army organises Joint Intelligence-Security Conference

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: The Headquarters Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) organised a Joint Intelligence Security Conference to take stock of the prevailing security situation in Chenab Valley at Batote, today.

The meeting was chaired by Maj Gen AK Singh, General Officer Commanding, Counter Insurgency Force (Delta). The civil officials from the districts of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar including DC, Ramban, ADC, Doda, DIG (P) Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban-Batote Range, IG, CRPF, Jammu and the representatives of the various civil intelligence agencies attended the conference. Major agenda points discussed during the conference were - review of security threat to the two National Highways, viz : NH-44 and NH-244, passing through Chenab Valley, security threat to Amarnath Yatra and update on terrorists activities. The objective was to improve the synergy between the Army and the Civil intelligence agencies. The conference assumes significance especially post Gool incident. The Deputy Commissioner, Ramban thanked the Army for its prompt assistance post Gool incident in preventing the security situation especially on the National Highway from spiraling out of control. He appreciated the efforts of GOC, CIF (Delta) in meeting opinion makers, students, village elders for diffusing the situation at Ramban. The civil administration was overall appreciative of the role played by the Army in restoring normalcy in the three Districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban post Gul incident. Both the Army and the civil administration acknowledged the need for working together towards the cause of the people and the security of the State.

On the basis of said complaint, case FIR No.17/2013 U/S 5(2) P.C.Act 2006, r/w 161 RPC P/S VOK was registered and the Vigilance sleuths laid a trap in which the Patwari was caught red handed while accepting phenolphthalein dusted amount of Rs 4000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witness. The tainted money was recovered from his possession and the accused was taken into custody for further investigation.

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11 die during 28 days long pilgrimage 4296 yatris perform darshan

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: On 28th day of annual Amarnath pilgrimage, 4296 yatris today performed darshan at the holy cave shrine of Lord Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas even as 11 persons including 10 devotees have died so far due to medical reasons during the yatra. Reports said 4296 yatris today performed darshan at Shri Amarnath ji cave shrine taking total number of pilgrimage this year to 3,16,858. Yesterday, 6035 yatris had paid obeisance to Lord Shiva. Today, 1935 pilgrims left Baltal for holy cave shrine. They included the yatris, who left by air. About 1000 pilgrims left for yatra from Nunwan, Pahalgam. Meanwhile, a convoy of 21 vehicles, carrying 28th batch of 609 devotees, left the Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar here this morning to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Lord Shiva.

In 2011, 106 people died due to medical reasons when a total of 6,35,611 pilgrims undertook the yatra. The deaths due to medical reasons might be fewer this year as Shri Amarnath Shrine Board banned persons below 13 years or above the age of 75, besides women who were six weeks or more pregnant, from participating in the yatra. Nitish K Sen Gupta Committee, which was set up in 1996 to enquire into the tragedy in which 243 people were killed in the yatra area, had recommended that no person under the age of 15 years or above 65 should be encouraged to undertake the pilgrimage. Besides, the Board also did not allow yatris without compulsory Health Certificate to register for this year's yatra.

While explaining the plight of the people living in these areas, Prof Soz told the Union Minister that these areas remain cut off during winters and the people, especially women and children face great hardships. The PCC chief hoped that mobile towers would be raised in these areas to provide better connectivity. Mr Sibal assured the PCC chief to look into the matter and provide services to the area without any further delay after getting the survey done for the purpose.

CEC calls on Azad, others

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Rigzin Spalbar today called on Union Minister for Health, Ghulam Nabi Azad at New Delhi and apprised him of the present status of health sector in the Leh district. Mr Spalbar highlighted the need for upgradation and opening of new health sub centers, engagement of doctors and ambulances. He also sought uninterrupted and timely flow of funds under NRHM to Leh district. Mr Azad assured the CEC that he would ask the Minister of State for Health of J&K to enquire about the health related requirements of Leh district. The Union Health Minister conveyed to the CEC that he would visit Leh from September 16 to 21 to review and inspect the ongoing works and progress in health sector, inaugurate the new infrastructure and take up other health related issues in detail. Later, CEC had a meeting with the high authorities of NHPC urging them for early completion of transmission lines and power sub stations in Leh enabling proper use of power from 45MW Alchi Hydel Project. He also laid emphasis on speeding up work on 66/11 KV transmission lines of Leh-Kharu and Alchi-Khaltisi so as to ensure power facilities to the people living in these areas. Mr Spalbar also called on members of National Commission for Minorities and held detailed discussion on the progress on various issues pertaining to Ladakh region. The meeting reviewed the present status of Commission's follow up already taken up with various quarters that include recognition of Bhoti language in 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution, transferring of management authority of Mahabodhi Temple Bodhi Gaya to the Buddhists and granting Deemed University status to Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Mind Games' in SMVDU

Excelsior Correspondent
KATRA, July 25: Natrang today staged one of its highly innovative play 'Mind Games' in Hindi at Maitrika Auditorium of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), in its ongoing event - INSPIRE. The play has been written and directed by Sumeet Sharma and was witnessed by Vice Chancellor SMVDU, Prof Sudhir K Jain, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University, Prof Talat Ahmed, Registrar SMVDU, Roopvatar Kaur and scholars, students, mentors and resource persons from all over the country. The play revolves around a character Ajeet, who represents the mind model of a contemporary man whose rejections, anxiety, likes, dislikes, passions, reasons, fears, emotions, fantasies, dreams, etc have a lot to share with all of us. The absurd thoughts which he develops create humour but unknowingly we are laughing at our own habits and shortsightedness while laughing at him. The three personalities; what we are, what we think we are and what we think we should be are revealed in the play. Sumeet Sharma as the lead character 'Ajeet' lived his role with professional flair. Gaurav Jamwal as his 'Dream' was also very impressive in portraying such a complex character. Others who supported the play with their noteworthy performance included Mohit Sharma as 'Boss', Rahul Singh as 'Kumar', Vineet Sharma as 'Simran', Mohd Yaseen, Sushil Raina, Vishal Sharma, Ashwani Bali, Uplaksh Singh Kotwal, Sajra Qadir, Shekhar Sharma, Sakshi Parkash and Shilpa Chandra. The lights were professionally designed and executed by Suraj Ganjoo and the sound effects were scored by Pawan Verma.

Patwari caught red handed accepting bribe

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 25: Patwari of Halqa Nandpora, Srinagar was caught red handed by State Vigilance Organization while accepting a bribe for issuance of revenue extract. The accused Patwari, identified as Tariq Ahmad, was demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 4000 from the complainant who had already lodged a complaint with the Vigilance Organization that the former was demanding a bribe for issuance of revenue extract. As per reports, Army jawan Rajinder Rathore, son of RD Rathore, resident of Faridabad, Haryana, posted at 19 Armoured Regiment, shot himself dead with his INSAS service rifle after his duty at Chatta Army Cantonment, early this morning. After hearing gun-shot, other Army personnel rushed to the spot and shifted the profusely bleeding jawan to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where doctors declared him as brought dead. The body was handed over to Army, while a case has been registered and investigation started.

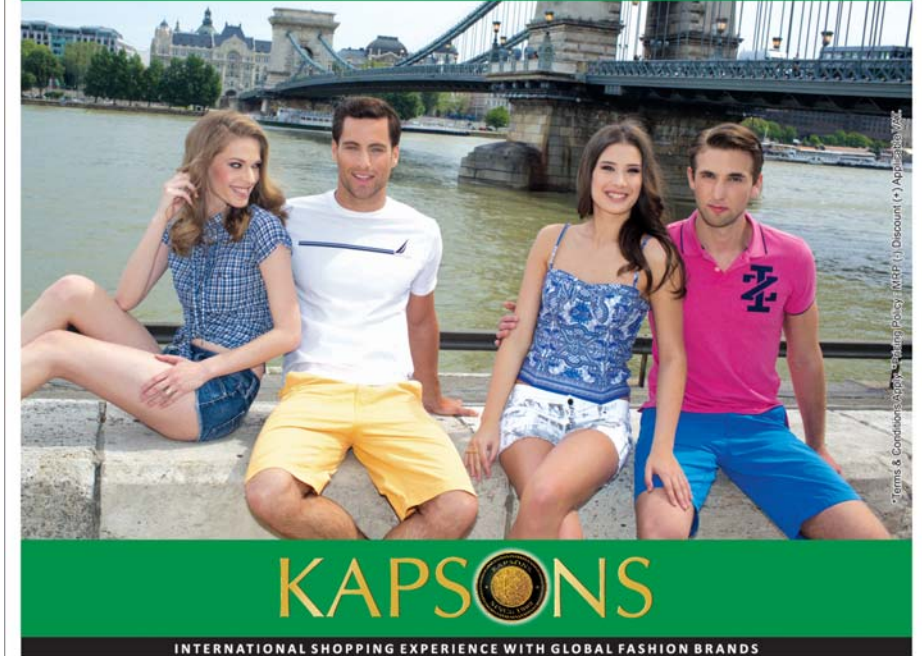
Army jawan shoots self, dies

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 25: An Army jawan allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Chatha area of the winter capital. As per reports, Army jawan Rajinder Rathore, son of RD Rathore, resident of Faridabad, Haryana, posted at 19 Armoured Regiment, shot himself dead with his INSAS service rifle after his duty at Chatta Army Cantonment, early this morning. After hearing gun-shot, other Army personnel rushed to the spot and shifted the profusely bleeding jawan to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where doctors declared him as brought dead. The body was handed over to Army, while a case has been registered and investigation started.

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