

## Ladakh employees protest, demand special allowance

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
LEH, June 29: A large number of Government employees held massive protest demonstration and projected the demand of 12.5 % special duty allowance (SDA) at par with the Central Government employees.

The employees from various departments under the banner of State Government Employees Association (SGEA), Leh assembled at Polo Ground here and under the leadership of Tashi Chospel and strongly condemned the step motherly attitude of the State Government towards the employees posted in Ladakh region. Giving ultimatum to State Government, president of the Association said that if the demand is not fulfilled, the employees will go on indefinite strike from July 10.

Despite the assurance given by Finance Minister in presence of Minister Nawang Rigzin Jora, the promise was not fulfilled.

Mr Chospel appealed all the employees posted in Ladakh region to get united for their common cause. The agitating employees struck work and shouted slogans against the Government and in support of their demands.

Later, the employees marched up to the Council Secretariat and handed over a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister to the Chief Executive Councillor Leh projecting their demands.

Other prominent trade union leaders from Ladakh including Mohd Ayub and Ms Norzin Angmo (vice president) also addressed the large gathering.

## PK will not allow erasing of Sanskrit civilization of Kashmir

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: Panun Kashmir (PK) today reiterated that it will not allow the forces inimical to ancient civilization of Kashmir to erase every sign and structure of the Sanskrit civilization of the Indian nation in Kashmir of which the Kashmiri Pandit community is the civilizational seed and anchor.

working to retrieve the cultural and spiritual moorings of the Kashmiri Pandit community from the onslaught of the nefarious propaganda and designs of such forces.

He said in continuation of the research and documentation of the heritage, culture, traditions, religion and philosophy of the Kashmiri Pandit, Prakash has been involved in sensitizing the nation and the society about the civilizational continuity of the Kashmiri Pandit community towards the guarding the civilizational frontier of the Indian nation in Kashmir.

## JKDF Students Union flays BOPEE

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: JKDF Students Union has criticized the Board of Professional and Entrance Examination for canceling CET papers of Physics and Mathematics for no reasons.

Meanwhile condemning the attitude of the Government towards the inmates of the Jagti refugee camp, Sanjay Raina, Co-ordinator, P K Jagti Unit said, "the Kashmiri Pandit community is being subjected to the State sponsored genocide and intimidation to drive them to the verge of desperation and despondency. On the Prime Minister's visit the electricity was restored for two days to give an impression that the camp dwellers are being given proper amenities but after the two days of his visit to the State, the electricity crisis continues unabated unhindered when the mercury and humidity are increasing rapidly in Jammu, subjecting the Kashmiri conditions under duress."

**JKDF Students Union flays BOPEE**  
A meeting of the Student Union was held wherein the BOPEE authorities were condemned for the unjustified decision, which is bound to harass the students. The decision will affect the career of thousands of students who are to appear in the CET, which has been postponed for more than a month. These students wouldn't be able to decide whether to wait and appear in the CET or to take admission somewhere outside the State, the meet observed.

The JKDF student leaders asked the BOPEE authorities to explain the reasons for cancelling the Physics and Mathematics papers of CET. "If they fail to do so, they will have to face the strong protest of those students whose career is on stake, they warned."

Those who were present in the meeting, included Abhishek Slathia, Nikhil Sharma, Lalit Raina, Honey Singh, Kannav Gupta and others.

## SPCB employees protest against non-regularization

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, June 29: A delegation of Adhoc employees of Jammu and Kashmir State Pollution Control Board (JKSPCB) said despite completing all formalities their regularization is delayed even after repeated assurance from Government.

## Boy killed in lightning, 2 hurt

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
RAJOURI, June 29: A minor boy was killed while his mother and sister injured in lightning in Dalori area of district Rajouri this morning.

A police spokesman said that the incident took place when 7-year-old Shamim, son of Muneer Hussain, resident of Morha Chapra was standing in his Veranda while his 10-year old sister, Nagina and mother Rashida Begum were also nearby. It was raining heavily. Suddenly, a strong beam of light from the sky hit the boy killing him on the spot and causing injuries to the mother and sister. The injured were later hospitalized.

As per letter number SPCB/Estb/co/js/387/532 dated April 23, 2012, to resolve the pending issues of 26 employees, working in the Board against the clear vacancies' the Member Secretary has communicated the Government in the letter. "We don't know why our orders are not released, despite fulfilling all formalities," the delegation said.

The employees today observed strike in the department, but they called off strike in the afternoon after assurance by Arun Kumar Tikko, Member Secretary and incharge chairman of JKSPCB, about their regularization.

The delegation said that Tikko assured them that their demands will be completed within first week of July.

## Pedestrian crushed to death

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
UDHAMPUR, June 29: A pedestrian was crushed to death by an unidentified vehicle near Green Bar at Dhar Road, here last night.

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Ravi Sharma presenting Santoor recital at Jammu.

## ICCR organises santoor recital of Ravi Sharma

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Jammu through its endeavours of presenting unique programmes of music, dance and drama under its Horizon Series today mesmerised the lovers of music in a 'Santoor Recital' showcasing eminent musician, composer and instrumentalist, Ravi Sharma.

Held at the Auditorium of Red Cross Bhawan, Kachhi Chawni, Jammu, this Instrumental concert kept the audience spellbound through the simply magical performance by versatile maestro Ravi Sharma. Earlier welcoming the distinguished guests, the Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Balwant Thakur said that ICCR through its new initiatives is making all out efforts to showcase the best of the talent of the region in a highly focussed manner.

The great instrumentalists of the town were earlier reduced to mere accompanists in most of the music concerts and they never had the occasion to exhibit their mastery over the art and the form. But this was the third occasion when ICCR Jammu has brought before music lovers the great instrumentalists in a focused manner. Earlier Sitar Recital by O N Raina and Flute Recital by Rakesh Anand had

## 3 smugglers acquitted

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu, Subash C Gupta today acquitted three heroine smugglers named Ved Parkash, Tarsem Singh and Tarsem Lal as prosecution miserably failed to prove the case.

These accused persons were arrested on June 18, 2009 by Khour Police along with six kilograms of heroine.

After hearing both the sides, 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu observed, "where there are contradictions in version of the official witnesses, corroboration from the independent witnesses is imperative in order to have just, fair and impartial justice. However, in the present case, it is totally lacking as independent witness namely Jagdeep Singh has not supported the prosecution at all".

After going through the statements of the witnesses, the Court held that prosecution has miserably failed to prove the alleged recovery of heroine from the possession of the accused. Accordingly, the accused were acquitted of the charges leveled against them.

## CTA meets Higher Education Minister, projects demands

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: J&K College Teachers Association (CTA) led by its president Dr Avinash Kumar Gupta met Mohammad Akbar Lone, Minister for Higher Education and apprised him about the various demands of the teaching fraternity.

The Association presented number of demands to the Minister for redressal and the same were discussed in detail, in presence of Principal Secretary Higher Education, KB Aggarwal.

The Association said that the teachers whose placements have been withheld for delay in attending orientation/refresher courses, should be given the benefit of placement from their actual due date, incorporation of provisions of SRO-222, issuance of notification regarding the new UGC Career Advancement Scheme rules, creation of Professors posts in colleges, rationalization of direct teaching workload of college teachers, transfer of teachers to their respective towns, who have completed their outside tenure, enhancement of age of superannuation.

## Geeta recitation programme in memory of Uttarakhand victims

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: In memory of people who lost their lives in cloudburst at Kedhar Gathi in Uttarakhand recently Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Paath was held at Geeta Satsangh Ashram Muthi today by Swami Kumar Ji.

A large number of prominent people, scholars and devotees participated in the religious programme and prayed for eternal peace of those who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Paying tributes to victims, Swami Kumar Ji said no one can better understand the pain of these victims than the Kashmiri Pandits who are the victims of state sponsored Tsunami and Tsunami of terrorism and were uprooted 23 years back and forced to leave and exiled life since then.

Swami Kumar Ji also launched a relief fund on behalf of community from the Ashram and appealed all community members to donate generously for this noble cause.

## National Sample Survey celebrates 7th National Statistics Day

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, June 29: 7th National Statistics Day was celebrated today by Regional Office Jammu of the National Sample



National Sample Survey officials paying tributes to Prof Mahalonobis during National Statistics Day celebration at JU on Saturday.

Survey Office (Field Operation Division), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

A programme in this connection was organized at Jammu University wherein rich tributes were paid to late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalonobis, whose birth anniversary coincides with the National Statistics Day on June 29.

Officers from NSSO (FOD) Jammu, Sub Regional Office Udhampur and Directorate of Economics and Statistics GoI, participated in the function wherein a debate competition by students of the Department of Statistics in Jammu University, was also held. The main theme of the Statistics Day was 'Labour and Employment Statistics'.

Speakers on the occasion, paid rich tributes to late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalonobis and threw light on his notable contribution in the field of Economics, Planning and Statistical Development in the post-independent era.

Inderjeet Singh, Deputy Director of the National Sample Survey, Regional Office, Jammu, highlighted significance and relevance of the National Statistics Day. Celebration of Statistics Day will sensitize our statistical fraternity and other stakeholders about the importance and role of statistics in addressing global

challenges besides inspiring them for addressing data gaps in the country and State so that right inputs could be provided to the planners and policy makers for ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth, he said.

Paying tributes to Prof Mahalonobis, he said that the late Professor was the first Statistical Advisor to Union Cabinet who laid the foundation for promoting teaching and research in statistics and for developing the official statistical system in the country.

## Kidnapped girl recovered

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
MENDHAR, June 29: A kidnapped girl was recovered by Mendhar police with the arrest of her kidnapper from a local hotel at Nowshera last evening.

A police spokesman said that action was taken after the parents of the girl lodged a report that their daughter Fozia, has been kidnapped by SSB jawan, Aftab Ahmed, son of Abdul Hai, resident of Bera. The police party came into action and recovered the girl from Nowshera and handed over to the family after medical examination at Mendhar hospital. The accused was apprehended and a case FIR No. 90/2013 was registered in this connection.

Further investigation was in progress.

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