

Officers-contractors nexus

Scam worth crores surfaces in Mining Department Kathua

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 17: Unearthing a big scam the mining contractors of Kathua today alleged that State Government has suffered the loss of several crores through the hands of the Mining Department officials who were in nexus with a private contractor of Punjab in Kathua district.

While addressing the media persons the mining contractors led by Kamal Deep Singh gave details about the nexus operating in Ravi river mining and exposed that how the District Mining Department put the State exchequer to a loss of several crores.

He said that the department has not deposited any revenue of royalty in Government treasury collected during the last six months against the mining in Ravi river. Though, it has collected a huge amount of revenue with the help of Mining Contractor, Mohan Paul Singh of neighboring State of Punjab.

He said that the scandal came to fore when a Punjab based stone crusher operating in Ravi river submitted the GST returns and declared the royalty paid to J&K against extraction of material from Ravi river up to month of January 2018 and showed the receipt of Royalty on the name of Mohan Paul Singh Pannu.

He said when the Pathankot Deputy Commissioner came to

know about the matter and inquired about the issue of receipt from Kathua administration, the issue of illegal mining and issuing of receipt with the consent of District Mining Department came into light. The stone crushers are running regularly despite the State Government banning the

the contract of Mohan Pal Singh Pannu was cancelled by J&K State Government vide Government Order No 129-IND of 2016 dated 24-6-2016 and he was debarred from extracting material in village Kedian Gandyal over an area of 19.942 hectares of land then how he could collect the royalty from the stone crushers and how the Mining Department authorized him to collect the money.

He said Mohan Pal Singh was regularly collecting the royalty and he has collected the royalty under the latest receipt No 50051 on 10-

1-2018 which also bears the signature of District Mineral Officer, Kathua who is officer incharge.

Singh has appealed the Government to initiate vigilance inquiry into the matter to ascertain the facts and punish the guilty putting the State exchequer to a heavy loss. Besides, the corrupt officers may put behind the bars, he added.

He also demanded that the auction of 22 blocks of Kathua district which was postponed last month be started. Among others Arun Choudhary, Mandep Singh, Pawan Deep Singh and Balbir Singh were also present in the press conference.

Singh pointed out that when



Mining contractors during a press conference at Kathua on Saturday.

extraction of sand and stones from the river. The electricity bills also confirmed the running of stone crushers in Ravi basin. But the money collected on the name of revenue was not deposited in Government treasury, he added.

He said that Deputy Commissioner Pathankot also made contact with Kathua administration and asked them to inquire the matter of alleged scam. The Pathankot administration also started the investigation into the matter on its own, he added.

Singh pointed out that when

DC visits Bombgarh, takes stock of basic facilities

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Feb 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Leh, Avny Lavasa, today visited the Bombgarh site and took stock of basic facilities there.

The DC talked to leaders of various transport unions and all of them agreed to shift at Bombgarh within a few days. This crucial step of shifting of the unions will be instrumental in decongesting the main town area in the coming days especially during summer season when Leh witnesses huge vehicular traffic.

Avny Lavasa gave on spot directions to the concerned line departments for leveling of ground, proper installation of

water, electricity and public convenience facilities. Meanwhile, work on basic facility is being put in place on foot footing. Administration has further plans for development of Bombgarh site.

While the unions will function from the Bombgarh, a stand will be given to the unions near main market for the convenience of the passengers.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Moses Kuzang, Administrator, Municipal Committee, Leh, Rigzin Spalgon, ACD Tsering Paldan, Executive engineers of Construction, PDD, PHE and presidents and vice-presidents of all the transport unions.

Lost wallet handed over to owner

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: Police post, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu today handed over a lost wallet to its owner.

According to a police official, a man identified as Sachin Arora son of Ram Lubhaya, resident of Lucknow, today lost his wallet containing a cash amount of Rs 2500 and some important documents at a chemist shop within the premises of the Medical College while purchasing some medicines.

He said on his complaint, police went through the CCTV footages and in one of the footages, they found an old man picking up the lost wallet from the counter of the medical shop. The old man was searched and he was found in a ward of the hospital. "After recovering the wallet from the old man, the same was handed over to his original owner", the police official added.

Coalition non serious on rehabilitation of Pandits: JTC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) in its meeting here, today under the leadership of Shadi Lal Pandita discussed the problems faced by displaced Pandits.

Addressing the meeting Pandita said that PDP BJP Government is not serious in return of displaced pandits to Valley as till date they have failed to identify the land for the same and carve out satellite townships for them.

He said it seems that coalition is totally not interested in the welfare of the community which is leading an exiled life for last three decades now. He said even no headway has been made in implementing the job package of 6000 jobs by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2008 during last nine years and demanded that the same be implemented without any delay.

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Kallar Himati Fruit Mandi Complex, Udhampur - 182101 TENDER NOTICE

Subject: Outsourcing of GATE ENTRY FEE COLLECTION for 2018-19.

For and on behalf of the "Agriculture Produce Market Committee Kallar Himati, Udhampur", sealed offers/bids on prescribed forms are hereby invited from the public at large and individuals/Contractors (Registered) / Firms of good repute for collection of "GATE ENTRY FEE COLLECTION CONTRACT" at Fruit & Vegetable Market Kallar Himati Udhampur for one year starting from 00.00 midnight of 1st of April -2018 to 00.00 midnight of 31st of March -2019. The minimum reserved bid offer is Rs. 16,40,500/- (Rupees Sixteen Lac Forty Thousand Five Hundred only).

The Tender Application Forms, along with Terms & Conditions may be obtained from the office of the Secretary APMC Kallar Himati, Udhampur against payment of Rs. 1000/- in shape of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Secretary A.P.M.C. Udhampur from 16-02-2018 to 23-02-2018 during working hours The duty filled in Tender Forms & complete in all respects affixed with Rs 20/- Revenue Stamp and accompanied with CDR worth Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) drawn in favour of Secretary Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Kallar Himati, Udhampur, should reach the office of the Secretary, APMC through Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier by or before 23rd Feb-2018 up to 1:00 pm Sharp.

The sealed tenders shall be opened on 26th Feb-18 at 2.30 pm. In case of holiday or strike on the fixed date, the next working day will be treated as the last date of receipt of tenders and opening of the same in APMC office Udhampur by the Committee Constituted for the purpose in presence of the Tendering parties at 02.00 PM.

The gate entry fee for each type of vehicles entering in Fruit Market Kallar Himati Udhampur shall be as under:

S. No	Type of Vehicle	Entry Fee per Trip for 2018-19
1	i) Trolly; 20 tyres, 18 tyres, 14 tyres ii) Trolly; 12 tyres, 10 tyres	Rs 250/- Rs. 165/-
2	Truck/Bus/Junga (407/6-tyres)	Rs. 100/-
3	Matador/Tractor/Trolley/Jonga/Tata Mobile/ Tata Sumo/Van/LMV-4 wheeler	Rs. 40/-
4	Auto, Load Carrier-3 wheeler	Rs. 20/-
5	Rehr-Man driven	Rs. 5/-

SUMMARY:	
1. Period of Contract:	1st of April to 31st of March 2019
2. Sale of tender application start from:	16th of Feb-2018
3. Last date for Sale of tender application	23rd Feb-2018 upto 1.00 pm
4. Receipt of Tender Applications	26th Feb-2018 to 1:30 pm
5. Date of Opening of Received Tender Applications:	26th Feb-2018 at 2:30 pm
6. Cost of Tender Applications Forms/Terms & Conditions:	Rs. 1000/-
7. Minimum Reserve Bid Amount;	Rs. 16,40,500/-
8. CDR Amount;	Rs 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand)

Sd/- Secretary Agriculture Produce Market Committee Udhampur

DIP/J-11159/17 Dated: 17-02-2018



Industries Minister Chandler Parkash Ganga inaugurating new premises of J&K Grameen Bank at Ramgarh on Saturday.

Ganga inaugurates new premises of Grameen Bank

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 17: Minister for Industry & Commerce, Chandler Parkash Ganga today inaugurated the new premises of J&K Grameen Bank, Ramgarh, Kathua in presence of R K Chhibber, Chairman JKGB, Romesh Vaid, General Manager JKGB, Regional Manager Kathua/Samba Ramdev and several other JKGB officials and customers.

Speaking on the occasion, Ganga applauded the role played by J&K Grameen Bank in providing various financial services to the people of J&K. He also informed the gathering about various schemes of Central Government as well as State Government for entrepreneurship development. The Minister also interacted with staff members and customers of the branch.

Chairman R K Chhibber also spoke on the occasion and informed that J&K Grameen Bank has 217 branches in J&K State. He spoke about various loan facilities provided by the

Neeru Sharma's book released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: Dogri Bhasha Academy, Jammu, in collaboration with Rashtriya Kavi Sangam, Jammu

Kashmir, organized a book release function wherein Hindi and Dogri Literary personality and translator Neeru Sharma's book, entitled CHINTAN (collection of articles in Hindi) written by her, was released.

On the occasion, Neeru Sharma was also felicitated on being awarded by the Kendriya Hindi Nideshalya, New Delhi for her book PAGDANDI (collection of short stories in Hindi) for the year 2017.

Prof Anju Bhasin, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University Jammu, was chief

Police solves hit & run case

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 17: The Bari Brahmana Police has arrested the driver and solved the hit and run case.

Police today said that after launching the investigation in the hit and run case in which a 12 year old boy identified as Vishal Kumar S/o Vijay Kumar of Dhainsar, Bari Brahmana was killed it arrested the driver responsible for fatal accident.

He has been identified as Joginder Singh, S/o Chail Singh of Changi thesil Madeen of Kathua district and the vehicle bearing registration number JK21/0097 was seized from naka Balole bridge.

The investigation of case is going on under the direct supervision of Inspector Mahesh Sharma, SHO Bari Brahmana, SDPO, Bari Brahmana, Usman Choudhary and SSP Samba, Anil Magotra, police said.

Woman's leg crushed by car

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Feb 17: A young woman sustained multiple injuries and her leg was badly crushed after she was ran over by a speeding car near Tehsil office complex at Mendhar town of district Poonch today.

Police said the incident took place when the woman, Shafayat Bi (33), wife of Gazanfar, resident of Ari village was moving along the road. A new, without number Tata car, driven by medical employee Niaz Ahmed (Dental Assistant at SDH Mendhar, R/o Saruti), hit the woman and ran over the victim. Her one leg was badly crushed and she sustained multiple injuries.

While the car driver escaped from the staff, the locals of the area rushed the accident victim to local hospital at Mendhar. The doctors provided preliminary treatment and then referred her to District Hospital, Rajouri. The police seized the car and registered a case against the Government employee.

Himalaya Health Care distributes prize money

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: Himalaya Health Care presented prize money of Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 to two toppers of Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research (JIAR) namely Nisha Raina and Ekta Manhas, students of BAMS, respectively.

The first prize winner Nisha Raina got JIVAKA Award and 2nd topper Ekta Manhas got Ayur Vishardha Award. Both the toppers received award money from Tariq Rashid, Regional Manager and Rajiv Pandita from Himalaya Drug Company in the presence of Principal JIAR Dr Raghuvir Singh and Vice Principal Dr Nitin Mahajan.

Cong plenary session from March 16 PM destroying economy: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Feb 17:

Rahul Gandhi today launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the PNB scam allegedly involving Nirav Modi, asking him to explain why it happened and what was he doing about it.

The Congress chief accused the Central Government of constantly refusing to accept its responsibility and alleged that the Prime Minister was "destroying" the economy through his actions.

"The PM should come out and say what has happened (on Nirav Modi) and why? And what was he doing about it," he told reporters after the first meeting of the Congress steering committee that will function in place of the working committee (CWC), the highest decision making body of the party.

He rejected the BJP charge that he had personal ties with Nirav Modi and had attended his promotional event, saying "they are trying to divert the issue".

Gandhi said it all started with the Prime Minister banning currency notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 on November 8, 2016, "when he took out all public money and put it into the banking system".

The Congress chief alleged that businessman Nirav Modi has fled the country with Rs 20,000 crore of that public money.

"The Prime Minister teaches children how to take exams for 1.5 hours , but fails to tell the country on who is responsible for this scam", he said.

Gandhi also said while the Defence Minister and Social Justice Minister were briefing on the issue, "the FM and the PM, who are responsible, have not said anything about it".

Meanwhile, a plenary session of the Congress to discuss and evolve the party's future strategy will be held in Delhi on

March 16, 17 and 18, its chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said today.

The dates were fixed at a meeting of Steering Committee, which was formed after dissolving the Central Working Committee. Congress president Rahul Gandhi chaired the first meeting of the Steering Committee.

Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and senior leaders including A K Antony, Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mallikarjun Kharge attended the meeting.

Gandhi had dissolved the Congress Working Committee and formed the 34-member Steering Committee to work in its place till a new CWC was set up.

The party's plenary session will be attended by all AICC delegates who elected the new Congress chief.

While all outgoing CWC members are part of the new committee, some permanent invites such as Amarinder Singh, Vilas Muttemwar, R K Dhawan, Shivajirao Deshmukh, M V Rajasekharan and Mohsina Kidwai, and all special invites have been dropped from the new panel.

As per the party's Constitution, the 25-member CWC has 12 elected members and 11 nominated members, besides the Congress president and the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

The new members of the CWC will be elected either at the plenary or after it. (PTI)

Daughters of PK hold function, stress on preserving culture

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: Daughters of Panun Kashmir, as usual, organised a function today at KP Sabha-Jammu Hall. The function was held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Nidhi Mitra Tikoo, eminent psychologist-educationalist and senior Panun Kashmir activist. Swami Krishnanand Ji of Avdoot Ashram, Haridwar was the chief guest on the occasion. Ashwani Kumar Chrungoo, president, Panun Kashmir made the presidential address while Swami Rawal Ji of Bharat Mata Mandir was the guest of honour and S Bhau Singh Mehta, Khalsa Centre-London was the special guest on the occasion.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Ritu Bakshi, while Vimla Chrungoo, secretary, DOPK presented the vote of thanks. On the occasion, Adv. Hunar Gupta, legal issues activist and Sardar Randhir Singh Bali, general secretary, Guru Teg Bahadur Gurudwara, Narwal-Jammu were honoured for their good work in their fields of activity.

A Book titled "The Infidel Next Door" by Dr. Rajat Mitra, Human Rights Activist and writer of international repute was also released on the occasion. Paras Chrungoo and Drishti, the two budding and upcoming iconic voices of

Daughters of PK hold function, stress on preserving culture

Jammu and Kashmir made two beautiful musical presentations in the function.

Ashwani Kumar Chrungoo, in his address said there is an imperative need to protect, preserve and promote the tradition in exile while referring to recent festival of Maha Shaivratri. P K is concerned about the security and political situation of the Jammu and Kashmir State, he added.

He said it is surprising to believe that the State Government has sanctioned 80,000 arms licenses to people in the State. The Government of India needs to look into this whole issue urgently, Kashmiri Pandits as indigenous people of Kashmir demand a serious dialogue with the Government of India on its issue of resettlement in the Valley of Kashmir as per Margdarshan resolution.

Dr. Nidhi Mitra Tikoo in her welcome and keynote address complimented Daughters of Panun Kashmir for the great work it is doing. P K is a ray of hope for the nation in context of Kashmir and there is no alternative to the struggle it has launched for the last 20 years.

Swami Krishnanand Ji Mahraj said that the whole nation is with the cause of Kashmiri Pandits. Bhau Singh Mehta and Swami Rawal Ji Mahraj also spoke on the occasion.

Advocate Jatinder got 34 votes and defeated his rivals Advocate Ajay Gupta, Advocate Rajeev Gupta and Advocate KL Verma to win the post of president. Advocate Sunil Kumar Bhatti was elected as vice-president while Advocate Lovely Mangol was elected for the post of general secretary.

Advocate Lakshmi Thappa was elected as joint secretary whereas Advocate Hitesh Dwivedi was elected unopposed for the post of cashier.

SBA elects office bearers

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 17: Samba Bar Association (SBA) elected its



Newly elected office bearers of Samba Bar Association posing for a group photograph.

office bearers with Advocate Jatinder Kumar Sharma as president.

Ghagwal Police rescues 8 bovine animals

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 17: District Police Samba under the overall supervision of Anil Magotra, SSP Samba has succeeded in foiling bovine smuggling bid by rescuing eight bovine animals.

A police party of PS Ghagwal headed by Inspector Amit Andotra, SHO Ghagwal under the close supervision of Deepak Dagra, Dy SP Hqs Samba, during naka checking at NHW Tappal signalling a truck bearing registration number JK14B-0989 coming from Kathua side to stop. On seeing Police Party, the driver tried to flee from the spot but after chase the driver abandoned the vehicle at Sandhawi, Jatwal and escaped from the spot.

During checking of the vehicle, eight bovines were found laden inside the vehicle which were being transported illegally. The vehicle was seized on spot and all the bovines were rescued.

In this regard a case FIR No. 34/2018 U/S 188 RPC, 2/3 PCA Act, 177 MV Act, stands registered at P/S Ghagwal and investigation started to nab the driver.

People protest, demand shifting of garbage dumping site

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 17: The residents held protest at Kot and demanded immediate shifting of garbage dumping site.

Hundreds of people residing in different areas of Kot Bhalwal assembled at Kot and held protest. They blocked the Jammu-Akhnoor road, due to which large number of vehicles got stranded.

The protesters raised slogans against Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and demanded immediate shifting of

Family planning camp organized at Distt Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 17: A mega family planning camp (laproscopic ligation for females) was organized today by Block Medical Officer, Samba, Dr Sudershan Singh Katoch at District Hospital, Samba.

The camp was conducted under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer, Samba, Dr

Police seeks help to trace missing youth

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 17: Police has sought help of the general public to trace a youth who is missing from last week.

A police spokesman said Muneer Ahmad Baba, 27, a resident of Waskoora Ganderbal working as dentre (Mistari) at a shop in Batamalo, left his shop on 11th of February and did not return till date.

"A missing report was lodged and investigation to trace him was started. If anybody having any information regarding the missing person, contact Police Control Room on 100," he said.

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