

Admn fails to act against cultivators of Bangh, opium

Resentment over increasing drug menace in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Resentment is brewing among the common masses in Kashmir over the failure of the administration to take on the cultivators of Hashish and Charas in different parts of the Valley as increasing drug menace and its trade is spoiling the vitals of the society and ruining the career of its promising youth.

According to sources the parents of the youth are perturbed over the growing drug menace and cultivation of Hashish and Charas in different parts of the Valley by a section of farmers to earn a good money from the catchy crops as the successive Governments over the years have failed to act against the people cultivating Bangh (Charas) and opium in their fields to earn a good amount.

Sources said that the cultivation of these banned crops is mostly common in the districts of Budgam in Central Kashmir, Pulwama, Shopian and Anantnag in South Kashmir and Lolab and other parts in Kupwara district of North Kashmir under the very nose of the administration but no action has been taken against the people involved in cultivating and trading of extracts from Hashish and Bangh like Charas and Aafin.

Sources said the trade of drugs is thriving in Kashmir and a part of the money earned by it has also been going to terror funding over the years. Despite authorities being aware of the fact, no concrete steps were taken for years together to take the punitive action against the people cultivating banned crops like Bangh and Hashish in their fields. Facing no threat and action from the enforcing agencies the cultivators of banned crops take full advantage of administrative inertia and fully indulge in cultivating of the crops used for producing of banned drugs, sources added.

Sources said the drug addiction has become so common in the Valley that some medical shops are being opened for quite some hours in the evening time for sale of banned drugs. This business is also thriving in the Valley and has become a cause of concern for a large section of society there. These shops without selling any prescribed medicine only sell some banned drugs to the drug addicts at the throwaway prices, sources

added.

Sources said in Pulwama district of South Kashmir the people in villages of Gullar and Kath, as well as some villages of Chadura tehsil in Central Kashmir district of Budgam are highly affected where the Khashkash from which opium is being extracted is cultivated. This illegal trade has become a thriving business for people as 10 marlas of land gives a yield from Rs four to five lakh.

Likewise the Ganja and Charas is mostly cultivated in Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam districts in areas of Bijbehara, Strigufwara, Wofzan and Khudwani, Wacchi , Sangam and Kohimoh etc, sources said .

Showing his grave concern over increasing drug menace in Valley and cultivation of crops from which Charas, Ganja and opium is being extracted, RTI activist, Dr Raja Muzzafar Bhat said that his organization has launched a campaign in this regard to educate people about the ill effects of drugs as well as cultivation of crops from which Charas, Ganja and opium are being extracted. He said it needs creation of public awareness and a massive campaign to apprise the people about the ill effects of the drugs as it is eating up vitals of the society and if not controlled entire society will perish some day.

He said the drug addiction has become so common in Kashmir that youth use Fevilcol, poppy substances and brown sugar. He said in Lolab area especially Devar the Bangh is being cultivated openly and the locals have patronage of some politicians also in this regard. The Bangh is being cultivated in various areas of Kashmir like the other agriculture crops. These harmful crops are being irrigated properly besides fertilizers are also being used in the fields for a good harvest, he added.

He said for last two to three years the people also took advantage of lockdown and law and order situation. In 2019 there was total bandh due to re-organisation of State and last year it was the lockdown which came handy for the people cultivating the banned crops.

However, the Commissioner Excise J&K, Rahul Sharma said that his department does not spare any one cultivating Bangh and opium crops. “Whenever we get any input in this regard we act and

take legal action against the cultivators of banned crops besides destroying the crops in the fields. The crop is being destroyed by the team on the spot and punitive action taken against cultivators”, he added.

Besides, the Police also registers cases against the people indulging in cultivation of banned crop and Crime Branch is the Nodal Office for the same. Whenever the department gets any information it raids the area within no time, he added.

The Drug Controller J&K, Lokita Khajuria said that she too has received the information that some medical shops are being run in some parts of Kashmir during evening hours and the department has sought a report from the concerned officers in this regard. Those found indulging in any unlawful activity will be punished under law, she added.

She said that there are reports that some employees are opening medical shops in evening hours which is being looked into.

Jugal inaugurates PMGSY roads

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Apr 11: Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP Member of Parliament from Jammu - Poonch, Lok Sabha constituency visited village Samilpur, Badhori, Rakh Amb Talli along with DDC Chairman, Keshav Dutt, DDC members Subash Bhagat, Ramesh Kumar and Shameem Begum and BDC members Kamlesh Kumari and Rajni Kumari. He inaugurated roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana worth Rs 3.50 crore in district Samba.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, inaugurated road from main road village Badhori to Bari Khad at village Badhori in block Bari Brahmana in Vijaypur Assembly constituency worth Rs 2.30 crore stretched over the length of 4 kilometers and road from Rakh Amb Taali to Manohar Gopala in Samba Assembly constituency stretched over the length of 2.05 kilometres costing to Rs one crore

approximately. The total cost of Projects are 3.50 crore without differentiating any caste or creed. Everybody



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma inaugurating PMGSY road in Badhori, Samba on Sunday. -Excelsior/Nischant

approximately.

Member of Parliament, while speaking on the occasion said that Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is majorly funded Centrally sponsored scheme to provide connectivity to the rural areas and both of these roads on provide connectivity to the ST community. He said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is working for Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas and every area is witnessing equal development

today is getting the benefit of Centrally sponsored schemes which are launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to uplift every country men.

Mandal presidents, BJP Attresh Dutta, Mohinder Pal Bika and Shamsher Singh Shera, Sarpanch Mohd Saleem, senior leaders BJP, Jangbir Singh Chiku, Girdhari Lal Sharma, Madan Choudhary, Davinder Singh Sonu, Sanjeev Kumar, Sarpanches and Panches were present on the occasion.



Members of ADCSA during a press conference at Jammu.

Addition of 2 more subjects in Sr Assistants' syllabus for SAC exam opposed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: While opposing the Government order for addition of two more subjects in the syllabus of Senior Assistants for SAC examination, Jammu Kashmir Ladakh All Departments Clerical Staff Association (ADCSA) has demanded necessary amendment in the order.

Addressing a press conference here today, Nazir Ahmed Bhat, Gurmeet Singh, Ashish Sharma, Umar Jan Bhat, Neeraj Sethi and other members of the Association expressed strong resentment over addition of two more subjects in the syllabus of SAC examination for Senior Assistants, stating that it is clear injustice with them as most of the Senior Assistants (outside Secretariat) has crossed the age of 45 years and they are yet to depute for the said training. They said the Government order number 318-JK (GAD) of 2021 issued on 08-04-2021 has made it very difficult for them to pass such rigorous examination.

“The non-availability of training at right time has already affected the Senior Assistants badly, so the Junior Assistants

who were appointed after issuance of SRO 272 of 2008 have to undergo the training of foundation course during their probation period but there are no proper arrangements with Government to impart training during the probation period which is also injustice with the cadre, resulting into stagnation at the level of Junior Assistants,” the ADCSA members said.

The members said that the Government has totally failed to facilitate the training process for cadre outside Secretariat by virtue of which the whole cadre gets stagnated. They said, even if, few thousands get chance by luck and clear the exam, they become victim of the unnecessary delay in DPC, especially in Education Department.

The ADCSA members appealed the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter and direct the authorities for necessary amendments in Government Order Number 318-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated 08-04-2021 so that the disparity with outside Secretariat clerical cadre may be removed and they are accorded promotional avenues at par with clerical cadre of Secretariat services.

DC Kathua, MD NHM review COVID containment measures

*** Stress on increasing testing counters**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav along with Mission Director NHM, J&K; Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, today conducted visit to the main entry point of Union Territory of J&K Lakhampur to take stock of the COVID-19 containment measures, especially screening and testing of inbound passengers.

The officers were accompanied by Addl. Director, NHM, J&K, Hitesh Gupta; Chief Medical Officer, State Surveillance Officer, Jammu, Nodal Officer Lakhampur and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the officers took stock of arrangements put in place for testing of travellers coming from outside UT and other COVID control measures.

The meeting of officers of allied departments was also convened wherein various issues were discussed. The meeting decided to increase testing counters for smooth movement of passengers; deployment of additional manpower including paramedics & supportive support and establishment of five additional DEOs

under Emergency COVID Response Package through National Health Mission.

It was also decided that for proper testing of passengers including truckers stamping of the persons and necessary COVID-19 protocols need to be followed for which reorientation of the staff deployed for testing at Lakhampur shall be conducted by Chief Medical Officer. For passengers coming by train at Kathua, directions were issued for enhancing RT-PCR testing.

Referring to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, the concerned officers were directed to keep extra vigil on travellers coming from outside UT and they were asked not let anyone go without sampling.

The officers were further directed to take all precautionary measures and ensure RT-PCR testing of travellers coming from Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat and other states that witnessed surge in Covid-19 cases in recent times. The opening of additional COVID Care Centers for isolation of asymptomatic positive travelers from other States/ UTs was also explored.

CHC Chanapora new COVID Care Centre DHS revamps strategy to contain COVID-19 resurgence

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: In view of directions passed by the Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education Department regarding the preparedness of the Health Department in containing the resurgence of COVID-19, the Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Rather today revamped the COVID-19 containment strategy by forming Divisional level committee.

The committee, as per the DSHK, comprises of Divisional level officers of Directorate for South, North & Central Kashmir. “The teams have been directed to apprise Director on daily basis for a better patient, COVID health care services,” the DSHK said.

Rather has directed the teams to be in constant touch with respective health administrators of the zones for mitigating COVID emergencies and ensure for hassle-free services.

On his directions, the DSHK said, the teams are in the process of monitoring and strengthening the existing COVID care health care services. “The teams are touring all the COVID care facilities

across Kashmir Division,” he added.

The Director Health has also issued directions that CHC Chanapora, Srinagar be dedicated to suspected travellers from the airport and designated as dedicated COVID Care Centre.

He said the COVID maternity services utilized by Srinagar, Budgam and adjoining areas at CHC Chanapora have been shifted to JLNH Hospital.

Director Health has also directed CMO Srinagar to make Mini Maternity Centre Sanatnagar fully functional and rationalize the staff accordingly so that a dedicated COVID care centre is fully functional in stipulated time.

Dr Mushtaq also visited JAKALI COVID Care Centre, JLNH Hospital to review COVID preparedness there and also issued directions to take stock of the status of Oxygen and manifold services across the Kashmir Division.

A dedicated team has been assigned the job which will ensure smooth functioning of oxygen in all peripheral hospitals wherever the services are installed, DHS added.

Court pulls up school after student barred from online classes

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: A local court has directed a school to immediately allow one of its students who was barred from attending the online classes due to non-payment of dues to attend her online classes, while also directing the school authorities to hold additional classes for her as compensation.

A Small Causes Court in Srinagar issued the directions after a petition was filed by a class 6 student of Minto Circle Secondary School, Alochi Bagh Srinagar after she was removed from a WhatsApp group which the school was operating to impart online education to the students amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the petitioner was removed from the group, her father promptly contacted the concerned teacher who told him that she is being barred from getting an online education and is being removed from the group due to the non-clearance of pending dues.

The father of the plaintiff requested the school authorities to grant some time for the payment of the pending fee of three months but they did not pay any heed to the requests.

“It is submitted that the competent authority has issued circular

regarding payment of schools fee and moreover, it is a fundamental right of the plaintiff to receive education from any recognized school but the school authorities violated the circular and right to education of the applicant,” the court said.

The court observed that the plaintiff has made out a prima facie case at this stage and the balance of convenience also appears in favour of the grant of interim relief. “Further, in case the interim relief is not granted at this juncture, the applicant appears to suffer irreparable loss,” the court said.

“The non-applicants are directed to restore the online education of the plaintiff/applicant,” the court ordered.

Besides, the court stated that the non-applicants shall ensure due compliance to the circular...issued by Principal Secretary to Government Education Department...and that the plaintiff is not deprived of her precious right to education on any ground.

“The non-applicants are further directed to compensate the education of the plaintiff which she missed due to the removal of the applicant from the Apps used by the school for imparting online education by holding additional classes,” the court directed the school authorities.



Office bearers of Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum during interaction with media persons at Jammu on Sunday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

NGPPWF for consideration of IRP for promotion quota separately

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum (NGPPWF) has demanded consideration of IRP for promotion quota separately so that they also get promotion in time.

Addressing a press conference, Ajit Singh, Chairman of the Forum said that as per the

Government order No: 229-F of 2014 dated 17/10/2014 regarding pay anomaly, which effect have been given to the retirees since the year of 1996 when the 5th pay commission was implemented throughout state but it is only the Police department has denied the same, due to unknown reasons.

“Though there are many vacancies but the Government is reluctant to fill these vacancies for the best known to them”, he said and demanded uniform policy of 9 years of time shall be implemented for all and recovery from 14 years time bound employees of batch 1999 shall be stopped.

He added that the recruitment of followers is not used properly because instead of the trades for which they are recruited not allowed to them but they do duty as an orderly in the officers residences.

Singh said that 24x7 working hours is not possible in the present scenario and should be restricted to 8 hours (shift wise) a day. He added that police rules should be reformed in the interest of the general public in order to make police accountable for any omission and commission in order to enhance the image of the Police Department among the general public.

“Photograph section/employees shall be promoted in the time bound manner, transfer policy should be looked and SPOs who have completed 20 years should be made permanent”, the Chairman demanded.

Gaddi Sabha celebrates its Foundation Day

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Apr 11: The 39th foundation day of All J&K Gaddi Sabha was celebrated here today.

The celebrations begin with paying tributes to the founder President of Sabha, Late Thakur Dass.

A two minutes silence was observed and all prayed Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul of Thakur Dass.

Services of Dass for uplifting the community were lauded.

Speakers on the occasion said that the Sabha was founded by Dass about four decades back for uplifting Gaddis by getting them ST status by which thousands of people this community are enjoying different benefits presently.

The programme was organized under the chairmanship of Kuldeep Kumar, Youth President of the Sabha.

People from J&K and Himachal Pradesh participated



Members of Gaddi community during a programme to celebrate foundation day of Gaddi Sabha.

gramme was also organized in which renowned artists Sunil Rana and Reeta Puhani of Himachal Pradesh presented their songs in Gaddi language while Gaddi artist from J&K, Tirath Ram also performed on this occasion.

member Latti Marothi; Hans Raj Thukan, Balwant Singh, Kuldeep Kumar Sarpanch, Uttam Sarpanch, Suraj Parkash, Sardar Singh, Dr. R.D Charak, Subash Chander, RDC member Narsoo; Parkash, S.P Danar, Des Raj, Omkar Singh and others.



Pharmacy Graduates during a protest demonstration in Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

change recruitment rules for the post of Junior Pharmacist in the light of the extension of Central Pharmacy Act 1948, frame recruitment policy for Pharmacy Graduates of J&K, create posts of Junior Pharmacist at Panchayat and Block level, establish one CDSCO Drug Testing Laboratory for Kashmir Division and implement Education Regulations of Central Pharmacy Act 1948.

They also laid stress on start of PCI approved Diploma

J&K, Pharmacy Graduates were disqualified on the context of having degrees in Pharmacy and this matter was overlooked by Health & Medical Education Department because Central Pharmacy Act was not having jurisdiction in J&K.

“Since the implementation of Central Act in J&K UT, Pharmacy Graduates anticipated that things will change and they will be given the due recognition but on the contrary obsolete laws are still in place and Pharmacy Graduates continue to suffer,” they regretted.

3 notorious criminals arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 11: RS Pura Police arrested three notorious criminals alongwith sharp edged weapons, country made pistol and live round.

As per police sources, on specific information, a team from Police Station RS Pura led by SHO Inspector Jai Pal Sharma under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Shabir Khan and SP Headquarters Jammu Adil Hamid apprehended two notorious criminals and recovered two sharp edged weapons from their possession.

The arrested persons were identified as Sandeep Kumar alias Shotu, son of Tarsem Lal, a resident of Chak Aslam RS Pura and Amrik Singh, son of Behari Lal, a resident of RS Pura.

It is pertinent to mention here that these arrested persons were also wanted in a case registered under FIR Number 189/2020 under Sections 307, 341, 147 and 148 IPC and 4/25 Arms Act with Police Station

RS Pura.

Meanwhile, the police team also arrested one more notorious criminal identified as Jasbir Singh, son of Gyan Singh, a resident of Agra Chak, at present Jalandhar. He was already involved in various cases in RS Pura. During his search, a country made pistol and live round were recovered.

A fresh case under FIR Number 66/2021 under Section 3/25 Arms Act has been registered against Jasbir Singh at Police Station RS Pura and investigation started.

It is pertinent to mention here that Jasbir alias Kakka is running a road side eatery (dhaba) in Jalandhar and criminals after committing crime in Jammu goes underground and resides in his road side eatery in Jalandhar.

Further questioning of Jasbir is going on for getting more clues about the whereabouts of other criminals wanted by Jammu Police in various cases.