

SC cautions HCs over passing orders against arrest, coercive steps

NEW DELHI, Apr 13:

The Supreme Court today cautioned High Courts over passing orders against arrest or coercive steps pending probe even as they decide not to entertain quashing petitions, and said police has the statutory right and duty to investigate cognizable offence and criminal proceedings are not to be scuttled at the initial stage.

The apex court, which observed that passing such "blanket" interim orders without assigning reasons would hamper investigation, said courts should not thwart any probe into cognizable offences and quashing of a complaint or FIR should be an "exception rather than an ordinary rule".

"We caution the high courts again against passing such orders of not to arrest or 'no coercive steps to be taken' till the investigation is completed and the final report is filed, while not entertaining quashing petitions under section 482 CrPC and/or Article 226 of the Constitution of India," said a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud.

The bench, also comprising Justices M R Shah and Sanjiv Khanna, said that functions of judiciary and police are "complementary, not overlapping" and power of quashing should be exercised sparingly with circumspection in the rarest of rare cases.

The top court said this in its 64-page judgement by which it quashed the September last year interim order of the Bombay High Court which had directed that "no coercive measures shall be adopted" against the accused in respect of an FIR lodged in 2019 on allegations of cheating, forgery and others.

In its verdict, the bench noted that high courts must appreciate that speedy investigation is the requirement in criminal administration of justice.

"The order of the high court must disclose reasons why it has passed an ad-interim direction during the pendency of the proceedings under Section 482 CrPC. Such reasons, however brief must disclose an application of mind," the bench said.

"The aforesaid is required to be considered from another angle also. Granting of such blanket order would not only adversely affect the investigation but would have far reaching implications for maintaining the Rule of Law," it noted.

The bench said that while examining an FIR/complaint, the quashing of which is sought, the court cannot embark upon an enquiry as to the reliability or genuineness or otherwise of the allegations.

"It is only in cases where no cognizable offence or offence of any kind is disclosed in the first information report that the court will not permit an investigation to go on," it said.

"Ordinarily, the courts are barred from usurping the jurisdiction of the police, since the two organs of the State operate in two specific spheres of activities and one ought not to tread over the other sphere," it said, adding, "Save in exceptional cases where non-interference would result in miscarriage of justice, the court and the judicial process should not interfere at the stage of investigation of offences". (PTI)

CEC reviews issues due to ongoing border tension

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Apr 13: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, today convened an important meeting at the Council Secretariat, Leh, with the officials of the Indian Army to review the prevailing issues due to ongoing tension at the border, especially restrictions on the traditional grazing and objections on developmental activities in the border regions of Leh-Ladakh.

Concerned Councillors, BDC Chairpersons and village representatives of the border regions of Leh put forth their grievances during the meeting and seek immediate interventions from both parties so that developmental activities do not suffer in the border regions.

Reacting to restrictions on traditional grazing lands in the Changthang region, Army officials requested the locals to cooperate with the Army until the border situation is back to normal.

The Army also assured to assist them in carrying out necessary developmental activities in the border villages. Taking stock of grievances and issues of border regions, the Army assured to take the matter with their higher authorities to address it at the earliest.

CEC expressed hoped to resolve the grievances arising due to lack of communication, from the collective effort of the local Council and the Indian Army.

DC/CEO LAHDC Leh Shrikant Suse, Executive Councillor for Animal/Sheep/Councillor Tangste, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs/Councillor Turtuk, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor, Major General Akash Kaushik, Colonel Ajay Londhe, Major Pratik Singh Rao and Captain Mayank Bisht from the Indian Army, Councillor Chushul Konchok Stanzin, Councillor Nyoma Ishey Spalzung, Councillor Korzok Karma Namdak, Nominated Councillor Ven Konchok Tsephel, BDC Chairpersons of Nyoma, Rupsho, Durbuk, Nambardar/Sarpanch of Demjok and Tsaga took part in the meeting.

Remdesivir not for home use, meant for hospitalised patients: Govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 13:

The Centre on Tuesday said doctors should ensure "rational and judicious" use of anti-viral drug Remdesivir, underlining it is to be given only to COVID-19 patients admitted in hospitals and is not to be used in home settings.

At a weekly press conference, NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul said, "Remdesivir is to be used only in those who require hospitalisation and are on oxygen support. That is the precondition.

"There is no question of its use in the home setting and for mild cases, and it is not to be procured from chemist shops."

The Union health ministry in its "Clinical Management Protocols for COVID-19" has recommended the use of Remdesivir in patients in the moderate stages of the illness.

The drug has been included as an "investigational therapy" and recommended only for restricted emergency use purposes.

As the shortage of Remdesivir was reported in some areas, its export was banned and the medicine is available in plenty, Paul said, adding that "queuing outside chemist shops to procure Remdesivir is creating distortions".

"We appeal to physicians to ensure rational, correct and judicious use of Remdesivir in hospitalised patients," he said.

In view of a sudden spike in demand due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, India on Sunday banned the export of injection Remdesivir and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) till the situation improves.

To ensure easy access of hospitals and patients to Remdesivir, all domestic manufactures of Remdesivir have also been advised to display on their website, details of their stockists/distributors to facilitate access to the drug, the Union Health Ministry had said.

Drug inspectors and other officers have been directed to verify stocks and check their malpractices and also take other effective actions to curb hoarding and black marketing.

The State Health Secretaries will review this with the drug inspectors of the respective states and UTs, the ministry had said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) also urged the medical fraternity to ensure judicious use of Remdesivir injection in coronavirus infected patients. (PTI)

Jail inmates learn 'Art of Living'

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Apr 13: Art of Living (AoL), with the support of Kathua District Jail authorities successfully conducted a 7-day Prison Smart Programme for 30 inmates that featured deep breathing techniques, powerful meditations, yoga, interactive and life transforming knowledge sessions with senior Art of Living trainers, Bhagwati Prasad and Dr Nitin Sharma of Kathua Chapter of AoL.

"End of the weeklong programme is beginning of change in lives of the participants," claimed Jail Superintendent, Rajni Sehgal SSP.

"We will organize intermediate programmes of AoL too and I hope one day we will have an AoL teacher from among the inmates," she maintained.

Sehgal informed that Prison Smart Programme is a popular stress-relief and rehabilitation programme designed to transform lives of people working in or incarcerated within criminal justice system and it helps them relieve stress, sleep better, heal traumas, gather a holistic and positive understanding of life, let go of the disturbing past etc.

Ajay Kapoor, State Coordinator, AoL Bureau of Communications said the inmates reported feeling happier and mentally refreshed at the end of the programme.

Rajni starts dev works at graveyard

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Senior Congress leader and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Councillor, Rajni Bala of Ward 60 today started construction work of watchman's room and laying of Kota stone flooring at graveyard in Paloura.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajni said that the work will incur an expenditure of Rs. 16.21 lakh out of which Rs. 12 lakh stands released.

She said that she will leave no stone unturned to ensure that her Ward gets fully developed and further added that crematoriums and graveyards should be properly equipped with all necessary facilities as people visit these places in deep grief.

The JMC Councillor hoped that the work will be paced up in coming days and all the problems confronted by the people at the graveyard will get addressed very soon.

JMC engineers, locals, Som Nath Sharma, Shahab Ahmad Khan, Virender Mehta, Tarun Vaid, Nazeer Ahmed, Mohd Hafeez, Sohbat Ali, Aftab Ahmed, Muneer Hussain and Mumtaz Choudhary were also present on the occasion.

Drug peddler arrested, 50 grams heroin seized

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Apr 13: Udhampur Police today arrested one more drug peddler and recovered 50 grams of heroin from his possession.

The accused, identified as Mohd Haneef, son of Abdul Rashid of Chak Rakwalan Udhampur, was arrested from Debreh Morh, Krimchi, where a naka was led by SHO Udhampur Chanchal Singh, under the supervision of Sahil Mahajan, DySP Hqrs Udhampur.

During his search, 50 grams of heroin, one weighing machine alongwith cash of Rs 25,000/- was recovered from his possession.

In this connection, a case FIR Number 131/2021, under Section 8/21/22/27-A NDPS Act has been registered at PS Udhampur and further investigation is underway.

Office bearers of Lions Club posing for a photograph at R.S Pura.

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Election of Lions Club R.S Pura was held here today at R.S Pura where Deep Sharma has been elected as president of the Club while Sawtantar Singh has been elected as general secretary.

The election was held under the chairmanship of S. Jagjit Singh Azrot, founder chairman of the Club, in which other office bearers of the Club elected were Naresh Gupta, treasurer; Sahil Gupta, PRO; Rampal Sharma, joint secretary and Anil Kapoor, environment chairman.

Others present on the occasion were Kewal Sharma, M.L Khanna, Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Dinesh Gupta and Rajinder Singh Sudan.

Man arrested with illicit liquor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Khour Police arrested a man and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

As per police sources, on specific information about manufacturing of illicit liquor, a team from Police Station Khour led by SHO Inspector Balwinder Singh conducted raid at Kharab Balli area.

Police team apprehended a person with around 150 litres of lagan and 1.5 litres of illicit liquor.

The arrested person has been identified as Tilak Raj, son of Kablu Ram of Kartyal Simble Tehsil Kharab Balli.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Police Station Khour and investigation started.

55 qtl Khairwood seized in Akhnoor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: A Forest team from Jammu Forest Division seized about 55 qtls of firewood in two different incidents.

Official sources said that 40 qtls of Khair wood billets were seized from village Sunail. It said during the intervening night of April 12-13 Khair trees were illegally felled and converted into billets for further transportation of the same to different locations.

A team of Forest field staff led by Block Officer Chowki, Surjeet Singh, on direction of Range Officer Kalidhar - Pawan Sharma, along with the police party from Akhnoor Police Station inspected the spot and seized the illegally felled stuff and brought the same to the Forest Rest House Akhnoor for confiscation of the same.

In another incident, a team from Kalidhar Forest Range that was on routine duty to keep check on the smuggling of forest produce near Tung Bridge tried to intercept a Tata mobile 207 at about 2 am, coming from the side of Tung bridge but the driver of the vehicle didn't stopped the vehicle. The staff on duty chased the smugglers but taking advantage of the night the driver of the vehicle fled away and in a jiffy he unloaded the khair wood billets/firewood in a deep gorge near village Sagani on Maira- Mandrian road. The khair wood billets/ firewood weighing approximately 15 qtls, was recovered and seized from the spot and brought to FRH Akhnoor for further proceedings.

Both the operations were closely supervised by Divisional Forest Officer Jammu Alok Kumar Maurya. He said that the forest offence report (FOR) has been registered for confiscation proceedings of the illegally felled stuff.

Youth killed as car hits motorcycle

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Apr 13: A youth was killed when his motorcycle was hit by a car near Grid Station Thathri here today.

As per police sources, an Alto car bearing registration number JK06A-2778 hit a motorcycle bearing registration number JK21B-7719 near Grid Station Thathri, resulting into on the spot death of motorcyclist.

The deceased was identified as Guptheshwar Singh, son of Dayal Chand, a resident of Nagni Kuthyara District Doda.

After conducting autopsy, the body of the deceased was handed over to legal heirs for last rites.



Ill-fated vehicles after accident. —Excelsior/Rafi Choudhary

Councillor starts road blacktopping work

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Councillor of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Raj Kumar Tarkhan today started road blacktopping work at Dairy Mohalla and Bhalla Enclave in Ward 51, Channi Himmat.

A deputation of locals met Tarkhan few days back with the demands like up-gradation of transformers and roads and tube wells.

Locals of the area alleged that the area has been neglected by the successive Governments and authorities.

A handout stated that Tarkhan met with concerned authorities and got the road blacktopping work sanctioned.

Speaking on the occasion he said BJP will leave no stone unturned to end discrimination of decades with the neglected areas of Gandhi Nagar.

He also stated that the remaining demands of the people will also be addressed soon.

Choudhary Jagir Singh, Bittu Choudhary, Mahavir Gupta, Ramesh Kumar, Raj Kumar, Rakesh Gupta, Onkar Sharma, Chaman Lal, Mirza Bhagat and others were also present on the occasion.

One arrested for sale of illicit liquor

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Apr 13: While continuing its drive to take stringent action against illegal liquor menace, District Police today recovered 20 litres of illicit (Desi) liquor in the jurisdiction of Police Station (PS) Kathua along with accused arrested.

A joint team of Anti Drug Unit Kathua and PP Nagri in their jurisdictional area found one person namely Kishore Kumar, son of Banni Ram of Sumwan tehsil and district Kathua. The raid was conducted on the directives of SSP Kathua Romesh Chander Kotwal and DySP, Operations Bisham Dubey.

Patients will suffer as SKIMS halt routine admissions: DAK

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: With SKIMS hospital stopping all routine admissions and surgeries, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) today said that patients will suffer immensely due to the closure of these services.

In a statement issued here, President DAK, Dr Nisar ul Hassan said while it is critical to contain Covid resurgence, it is vitally important to take care of non-COVID patients as well.

"SKIMS hospital has ordered the closure of all routine surgeries and admissions from April 7 because of the resurgence of COVID-19 cases. This could be detrimental for patients," DAK President said.

He said that cancer patients can progress in no time and their disease will spread if their surgeries are delayed. "Even delaying simple surgery like gall bladder stone removal could lead to major issues in the long run," he said.

Dr Nisar said that most chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart, lung, liver and kidney disease require monitoring and drug dose modifications, and if not done they can land up in complications.

"Hundreds of patients every day are referred to this premier health institution for advanced care. Their fate hangs by a fine thread now," he added.

He said that while we fight the novel coronavirus, we must ensure that the price to be paid is not with the lives of non-COVID patients. "We need to implement strategies by which we can manage both COVID and non-COVID patients."

Dr Nisar impressed that the hospitals should have separate wards with dedicated ICU's for corona patients so that there is no disruption to the care of non-Covid patients.

Traders Fed urges MoS PMO to safeguard Wine Traders interests

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Traders Federation Ware House-Nehru Market on Tuesday urged MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh to take a sympathetic view of the issues pertaining to wine traders of Jammu as their livelihood is on stake after the unveiling of excise policy 2021-22.

A handout of Federation stated that its president, Deepak Gupta briefed Dr. Singh on phone about how the excise policy is going to hit the existing wine traders of Jammu.

He urged the MoS to inter-



Office bearers of Traders Federation and Wine Traders Association during a meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

vene and find an amicable solution to the problem whereby the affected traders get justice.

Gupta said that the issue is not of mere wine traders but their families, and the families of workers and others who are directly or indirectly connected with the business.

"Total souls which are going to get affected are nearly 30,000 and if things are not rectified in time there is every possibility that these people will have to face starvation," he maintained adding that MoS PMO is their last hope. Dr. retary CCI Jammu were also present on this occasion.

Khullar said that their licenses are valid till 2023 and demanded that the government should give them at least two years so that they can make arrangement for their livelihood.

Munish Mahajan, Federation senior vice president, Abhimanyu Gupta, junior vice president, Sham Lal Langer, general secretary, Vishal Gupta, secretary, Amit Gupta, cashier were also present in the meeting.

ADR takes Dr Lahori in Editorial Board

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Advanced Research Publications (ADR) has taken up Dr Rohit Lahori Interventional Pain and Palliative Care Specialist posted at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu has been made as Editorial Board member for its two International Medical Journals namely International Journal of Preventive, Curative and Community Medicine and International Journal of Preventive Cardiology.

Articles from the field of all specialties of clinical, as well as basic medical science including medical informatics, health economics, health ethics, health promotion, management of diseases, health care of specific groups of population, medical statistics, health information systems, intersectoral and translational medicine, community medicine and public health, pharmacology, biophysics as well as medical articles of high academic and clinical quality are published in these journals



4 drug peddlers arrested with intoxicant injections, cannabis

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Domana and Pacca Danga Police arrested four drug peddlers and recovered intoxicant injections and cannabis from their possession.

As per police sources, on specific information, a team from Police Station Domana led by PSI Nitish Khajuria laid a naka near Anand Nagar and apprehended three persons along with 156 intoxicant injections.

The arrested persons were identified as Abhilash Koul, son of Ashok Kumar Koul of Hazuri Bagh Talab Tillo Bohri, Kunal Manhas, son of Chamail Singh of Tali Morh Jammu and Akshay Sharma, son of Rishi Sharma of Lower Muthi Jammu.

A case under FIR Number 104/2021 under Sections 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act has been registered against the arrested persons at Police Station Domana and investigation started to ascertain other persons involved in this illegal trade.

The arrest was made under the guidance of SHO Domana Inspector Mahesh Sharma, SDPO Domana Kosheen Koul and SP Rural Sanjay Sharma.

Meanwhile, a team from Police Station Pacca Danga led by SHO Inspector Ajit Singh and assisted by ASI Ashok Kumar laid a naka at Pakki Dhakki and intercepted a man, who was moving under suspicious circumstances.

During checking, police team recovered 80 grams cannabis from the possession of the man and arrested him.

The accused has been identified as Anshu Man alias Goga, son of Hans Raj, a resident of Pakki Dhakki District Jammu.

A case under FIR Number 56/2021 under Section 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Pacca Danga and investigation initiated.

JTC, SKF continue protest for 194th day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) continued their sit-in protest for the 194th day in Jagti Township.

The protest was led by President of the JTC and SKF Shadi Lal Pandita, who while speaking said that UT and Central governments are doing injustice with them by not redressing genuine issues.

The protesters were demanding enhancement of cash relief from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per month, 20,000 posts should be given to unemployed educated Kashmiri Pandit youth, one job should be given to those families in which no unemployed educated youth has been given job, on-spot police recruitment should be conducted in Jagti Township and other camps and non camps, ex-gratia for loss of properties in Kashmir, free rations to those pensioners who receive low pensions, interest free bank loans to over aged youths, permanent rehabilitation of K a s h m i r i Pandits in three townships in Kashmir valley with political and minority status, etc.

Others who participated in the protest were Raj Kumar Tickoo, Ravinder Koul, ML Razdan, KN Bhat, Rakesh Ambaradar, Kamal Pandita, Sunil Koul, Rakesh Tickoo, JL Koul, Ram Krishan, Vinod Bhat, Mohan Krishan, Vijay Bakshi, Vinod Moza, etc.



People raising slogans during protest.

Gang of thieves busted, 2 arrested with stolen vehicles

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Bakshi Nagar Police busted a gang of thieves with the arrest of two persons along with stolen vehicles.

As per police sources, complaints regarding theft of auto bearing Registration Number JK02AG 2426 from Shopping Complex at Sarwal and a tempo bearing Registration Number JK01Q-2412 stolen from a different location were reported at Police Station Bakshi Nagar and accordingly cases under FIR Numbers 60/2021 and 63/2021 under Section 379 IPC were registered.

To work out the cases, a team led by SHO Bakshi Nagar Inspector Ravi Kant and assisted

Subedar dies due to fall

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: A subedar of Indian Army died due to fall from first floor of Vaishnavi Dham on Railway Station road here today, police sources said.

The deceased was identified as Ramesh Kumar, son of Lakshmi Chand, a resident of Hissar Haryana. He was posted in Srinagar and was about to resume his duty.

He was initially rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu and later shifted to Military Hospital Akhnoor, where he failed to respond to the treatment and breathed his last.

The body will be shifted to mortuary of GMCH Jammu for autopsy, which will be conducted tomorrow in presence of family members.

Bahu Fort Police has taken cognizance in this regard.