

Department of Wildlife Protection organizes Surinsar Bird Festival

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13: Department of Wildlife Protection organized Surinsar Bird Festival to commemorate birthday of Birdman of India "Dr. Salim Ali".



Officers of Wildlife Protection Dept inaugurating Surinsar Bird Festival on Sunday.

As many as 500 students from various schools, colleges and universities of Jammu region participated in different events of the bird festival. The prominent among participating educational institutions were Central University of Jammu, University of Jammu, Women College Parade, MAM College, GGM Science College, Women College Gandhi Nagar, Government Higher Secondary School Surinsar and Learning Temple High School, Kathua.

Joginder Singh, Member of District Development Council from the area alongwith Bodh Raj Sarpanch, Surinsar and other PRI members also attended various programmes of the day long festival.

The highlights of the festival

were bird walk in which participants travelled along various nature trails in the adjoining forest area to watch the birds and their habitats under the guidance of expert bird watchers from JK Birdlife (an amateur bird watching group).

Participants also paid floral tributes to the Birdman of India - Dr. Salim Ali and highlighted his contributions in the research and conservation of birds in India. On spot painting competition was also organized in which students from Class - I upto university students participated. Paintings were made by the students on three themes i.e. "Birds - Flying Wonders", "Backyard Birds" and "Birds across different landscapes". Team of experts evaluated the onspot paintings in four categories - primary (upto Class - V), sub-junior (Class - VI to IX), junior (Class - X to XII) and senior (above Class XII). Best three paintings in each category were given trophies and certificates. Besides, consolation prizes were given to the participants who narrowly missed the 3rd prize.

A photographic exhibition on birds of Jammu & Kashmir with special reference to the birds of Surinsar - Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary was inaugurated by Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservation of Forests (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir. Wonderful photographs of beautiful birds taken by various expert bird photographers were displayed in the exhibition. Prominent bird photographers whose contributions were displayed were Guldev Raj, Prof. Parmil Kumar, Yatin Gupta, Parmil Kumar, Yatin Gupta, Parvaiz Shagoo, Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Vishal Kapoor, Adv. Shvait Khajuria, Hemant Kumar, Nazim Ali Manhas, Rajat Kumar, Dileep Koul, Ajay Kumar, Pankaj Chibber and Dr. Neeraj Sharma.

Collegium system for appointment of Judges can be improved: Ex CJI Thakur

NEW DELHI, Nov 13:

The collegium system for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary can be improved and criticised without coming up with an alternative "does not lead us anywhere," former Chief Justice of India T S Thakur has said.

His remarks come against the backdrop of criticism from various quarters about the collegium system.

"Everyday you will read somebody saying the collegium system is not the right system. Nobody can say that the collegium system for the appointment of Judges is the most perfect system but the collegium system itself can be improved as the Chief Justice recently mentioned," Thakur said on Saturday.

He was apparently referring to the remarks of D Y Chandrachud who was sworn in as the Chief Justice on November 9.

"... I don't think anyone can possibly argue against an attempt to improve the system," Thakur said at a function in the national capital.

Thakur was the Chief Justice from December 2015 to January 2017.

He also mentioned about the apex court striking down a constitutional amendment to bring in the National Judicial Appointments Commission to select Supreme Court and High Court judges.

The law, passed by Parliament with near unanimity, sought to overturn the collegium system.

"It was tested in the court and the court found that it was compromising the independence of the judiciary... That does not mean that if there is another opportunity or if there is another way of doing the same thing... Please do it by all means."

"Instead of simply criticising the system without coming up

with an alternative does not lead us anywhere. These are issues, whether it is protecting federalism or the fundamental rights or secular credentials of the country, these are aspects which can be eventually be taken care of only by an independent judiciary. That is where I think the role of the judiciary and the media assumes great importance," Thakur said.

Last month, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju said the people of the country are not happy with the collegium system and according to the spirit of the Constitution, it is the government's job to appoint judges.

The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four senior-most judges of the court.

It has often been dubbed by its critics as being opaque. (PTI)

One killed in road mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Nov 13: One person died in a road accident near Chadhawa village on Samba - Udhampur road today.

According to the information, the car fell down from the bridge of the drain and the driver was seriously injured. With the help of local people and the police, the injured was brought to the Primary Health Center in Nud, where he was given first aid and referred to GMC Jammu.

But he died on way to GMC.

His body has been kept in the mortuary of District Hospital Samba for postmortem. The deceased has been identified as 32-year-old Sanjeev Kumar Bharti, son of Billu Ram resident of Ward Number 10 Katra. The Samba police has registered a case in this context and started investigation.

Members across parties skip Parliament's Standing Committee meetings

NEW DELHI, Nov 13:

MPs from various parties have skipped the Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings after they were reconstituted in September to deliberate on the Bills for introduction in Parliament during 2022-23, according to the data on the Lok Sabha website.

After the reorganisation of 13 Standing Committees of the Lower House, 22 meetings were held from October to November 2022 for selecting the subjects to be considered during the year 2022-23 in which only 16 members were present on an average, the data showed.

The Standing Committee of Parliament consists of 31 members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in which 21 are from the Lower House and 10 from the Upper.

On an average, more than 40 per cent of members were absent in the meetings of more than a dozen Standing Committees of the Lok Sabha, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, External Affairs, Commerce, Housing and Urban Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, it showed.

The BJP which has the largest number of members on

the committees also accounted for the highest absenteers.

Notable members who were absent from the meetings of these committees were Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, Deependra Hooda (all Congress); Jaya Bachchan (SP); Hema Malini, Maneka Gandhi, Pragma Singh Thakur, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Praveesh Sahib Singh Verma, Kirit Premjibhai Solanki (all BJP); Ilaia Raja (nominated); Harbhajan Singh and Sanjay Singh (both AAP); Simranjit Singh Mann (Akali Dal Amritsar) etc.

Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Trinamool Congress's Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee, independents Kapil Sibal and Navneet Rana, RJD's Misa Bharti were also absent from the committee meetings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been raising this issue to ensure the presence of BJP MPs in the Parliamentary committees.

According to statistics, only 12 members were present in the meeting held on October 10, of the 31-member Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food

Processing.

While only 17 out of 31 members attended the meeting of the Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Finance on October 28, twenty-one members attended the meeting of the same committee held on November 4.

In the meeting of the Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs on October 19, only 14 members were present and only 15 members were present in the meeting held on the topic 'Combating Global Terrorism' on November 10.

The meeting attached to the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs on October 18 was attended only by 15 members.

According to statistics, only 14 members attended the meeting of the committee attached to the Ministry of Commerce on October 17 and only 15 members were present in the meeting of the same committee held on October 28.

Eleven members attended the meeting of the standing committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on October 17.

Twenty-four members were present in the meeting on Railways held on October 20. (PTI)



Dignitaries and artists posing together on last day of week-long Art Workshop 'Tapobhumi' in Srinagar.

Week-long Art Workshop 'Tapobhumi' by Baru Trust concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 13: The week-long Art Workshop 'Tapobhumi' culminated with the Sufi Music cum Painting Workshop held at Police Public School, here today.

The workshop was conducted by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG Ltd in which artists from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Chhattisgarh besides the host J&K took part.

On the occasion, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar was the chief guest and Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Income Tax, was the guest of honour. One thing which made this event very special was the presence of families of senior functionaries of J&K Police Department where-in artists enthralled the audience so much so that many among them went into state of trance enjoying the Sufi music.

The ADGP Kashmir presented Lifetime Achievement (JDA) Award to GR Gadda, first Exhibition Officer of Cultural Academy, on behalf of the Trust. Students of Fine Arts College, Srinagar also participated in the workshop on last day.

Anuradha Baru (president of the Trust) said that the Trust is

working for the promotion of Art & Culture with main focus on the state of Jammu & Kashmir covering all the regions. She also threw light on the title of the workshop

'Tapobhumi'. She said the title 'Tapobhumi' was given with a view that Kashmir is a land of Saints and Seers who with their great and hard devotion had made this land paradise on earth.



Large heap of debris from a Nallah lying unattended near Roop Nagar on main Janipur-Ban Talab Road.

-Excelsior/ Rakesh

JMC fails to lift flooded Nallah's debris from road at Roopnagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the Jammu Development Authorities (JDA) have totally failed to lift debris from the flooded Nallah piled up on the road near Petrol Pump on main Janipur-Ban Talab Road near Roopnagar in Jammu North.

For the last over two months, many officials of the JMC including Mayor, Deputy Mayor and several Corporators and senior officials besides officers of the JDA and from District Administration must have passed through that area but nobody bothered to notice the problem. At this point near Roopnagar Petrol Pump, massive flood hit thrice during July-August this year. The flood in Nallah forced suspension of vehicular movement for several hours as water level was 2 to 4 ft on the road. The stones and other debris from the Nallah spread all over the road.

Though some portion of the road was later cleared by the authorities with the help of JCB after floods, but a huge heap of stones and the debris from Nallah has been left unattended for the last over two and half months by the 'people at the helm of affairs'. The road has also been damaged at this point. It has become narrow and accident prone as well. The R&B Department has also left this portion unattended due to neglect on the part of JMC/JDA.

The concerned JMC Corporator and even SDM North concerned, have also turned insensitive to this problem of the people and thousands of other road users on daily basis. This is causing disruption in the free movement of vehicles.

The residents of the area have sought intervention of Deputy Commissioner Jammu and the new Mayor of the JMC, Rajinder Sharma to urgently intervene into the matter and get this road cleared and also ensure immediate repair work at this portion.

3-day annual function of Arya Samaj Trikutana Nagar concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13: The 3-day-long annual function of Arya Samaj Trikutana Nagar (Jammu) concluded today.

On all three days, Yagya (Agnihotra) was performed under guidance of Vedic Scholar Acharya Somdev Arya from Swami Atmanand Gurukul Swai Madhopur Jaipur, who was assisted by Ranvijay Shastri Dharmacharya of Arya Samaj Trikutana Nagar. Bhajans were sung by Udeveer & Rajver Arya and Vedic Sermons by Acharya Somdev Arya.

The purpose of celebration was to make people aware of our Vedic culture and teachings of Arya Samaj which was founded by Maharishi Dayanad Sarswati in the year 1875. Maharishi

Dayanand Sarswati (1824 to 1883 AD) not only founded Arya Samaj but was a great Vedic Scholar, Social Reformer and a motivational force to hundreds and thousands of freedom fighters of Indian freedom movement.

The occasion was graced by BJP J&K president Ravinder Raina, Ashok Koul (general secretary, BJP J&K), Rekha Mahajan (secretary BJP J&K), Arun Choudhary (president, Arya Pratinidhi Sanha J&K), Sukriti Choudhary (Sanchalika, Arya Veerangna Dal J&K) and members from All Arya Samaj of Jammu and surrounding area.

Committee members of Arya Samaj Trikutana Nagar Jammu i.e. president Bharat Bhushan Arya, vice president Ravinder Rekhi and secretary Subhash Arya were also present on the occasion.

Training programme on empowering women concludes at SKUAST-Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13: 5- day training programme on Empowering (capacity building) of women through livestock farming concluded at Division of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST- Jammu.

This training, sixth in series of twelve number of five days training programme in the financial year 2022-23, was sponsored by National Commission for Women (NCW), Govt of India, New Delhi under capacity building programmes.

Prof J P Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, was the chief guest during the valedictory session of the training programme. In his address, he asked the trainees about their experience and learning during the five days of training.

Dr M S Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R S Pura gave a brief note on the importance of women-oriented training programme on livestock farming.

At the outset, Dr Pranav Kumar, Training Coordinator of five days training programme, gave details of the activities conducted during the five days training programme. He informed that trainees were exposed to clinical visits, various practical demonstrations such as vermicompost making, cow dung log making, value addition of milk, natural farming

preparations/concoctions, indigenous technical knowledge for the



VC SKUAST-Jammu and others at valedictory session of training programme.

treatment of dairy animals, cattle dung based entrepreneurial opportunities etc in such a way that they could start their own enterprise as well as for the promotion of organic/natural farming.

During the valedictory session, extension folder in Hindi on Lumpy Skin disease and entrepreneurial opportunities through animal waste (cattle dung & urine) management were released by the dignitaries and distributed among the participants. Various inputs (such as milk can, milk pot, strainer, tub, lactometer, apron, mineral mixture, dewormer, vermicompost, cow dung logs etc) were distributed among the trainees for scientific and hygienic rearing of dairy animals at farm level.

Convenors of the training programme namely Prof Kamal Sarma, HoD, VAHEE and Prof Sunil Kumar, HoD, LPT, Training co-coordinators Dr

Jonali Devi, Dr Harsh Sharma, Dr Pawan Kumar Verma, Dr Nishi Pande, Dr Pratiksha Raghuvanshi, Dr Ankur Rastogi, Dr A K Pathak, Dr N K Pankaj, Dr Puneet Choudhary, I/c KVK Jammu, teaching & non-teaching staffs and post graduate students of the division were also present during the valedictory session.



Former Minister, Priya Sethi posing with prominent artists during Kala Darpan at Jammu on Sunday.

J&K has no dearth of talent: Priya Bhavishya Academy organises mega Kathak event

Excelsior Correspondent

Kolkata. The event showcased various levels of Kathak by young and dynamic performers that blended the seamless singing of classical music to promote a classical and new take on the traditional Indian dance form. The guests and all the classical art lovers and enthusiasts present loved and praised this unique event.

Speaking on the occasion, Priya Sethi said it is need of the hour to preserve and promote rich cultural heritage. She lauded the efforts of Bhavishya Academy, an Institute of Classical Dance, for organizing mega Kathak event today.

"It's true that dance and music knows no boundaries which binds the people in a unique cord and generates harmony in the society. Music transcends all boundaries, touches souls and creates an aura free of tension and hatred. The success of artists is reflected by the serenity with which the audience responds," she said.

Saying that music and dance play a pivotal role in preserving culture, Priya Sethi hoped that young artists would get due encouragement in their endeavours in this regard. She hoped that the artists will get adequate opportunities to showcase their talent on a bigger canvass.

JAMMU, Nov 13: Jammu based Bhavishya Academy an Institute of Classical Dance, affiliated to Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh had organized an event "Kala Darpan" here, today. On the occasion, Priya Sethi, former Minister was the chief guest while Gauri Diwakar, an eminent personality in the field of Kathak, was the guest of honour. Sheela Nanda, Secretary Social Welfare Department and Kritika Khanna, first female para-rower of the country were the special guests who inaugurated the programme with Gauri Diwakar and Charu Bhatnagar.

BJP leader Savita Anand was also present on the occasion. The Kathak dance event which comprised multiple performances with live classical music was choreographed by Parul Bhatnagar, Director Bhavishya Academy. Her team consisted of renowned musicians Suraj Singh, a grade artist in Gazal; Purshotam Kumar, senior Tabla and Pakhawaj player, Hakam Singh, disciple of Dr. Gurdial Singh from Itawa Gharana; Amit Anand, Tabla player Masters in Tabla from GNDU University Amritsar; Parshotam Kumar, All India Radio, approved artist, disciple of Vijay Anand, and Siddhartha Chatterjee from

Dogri Sanstha releases book 'Dogri Lok Sahitya Te Dogra Lok Sanskriti'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 13: Dogri Sanstha here today released eminent Dogri Writer, Prof. Shashi Pathania's collection of essays in Dogri language entitled as



Dignitaries releasing book 'Dogri Lok Sahitya Te Dogra Lok Sanskriti' at Jammu on Sunday.

'Dogri Lok Sahitya Te Dogra Lok Sanskriti'.

On this occasion Prof. Veena Gupta, vice president of Dogri Sanstha was chief guest and the function was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, president Dogri Sanstha Jammu whereas Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn', Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages was guest of honour. Prof. Veena Gupta congratulated Prof. Shashi Pathania for a brilliant work that has immense literary value and will fulfill the aspirations of many who wish to know about our regional folk literature and culture.

Dr. Arvinder Singh was of the view that Prof. Shashi Pathania has so much to offer to Dogri literature.

On this occasion, Prof. Shashi Pathania, the Writer also shared her feelings regarding the process and her wish to publish this collection of essays that are in fact document of our cultural heritage. Dr. Rajni Kumari presented detailed paper on the book and Promila Manhas conducted the proceedings. Inderjeet Kesar, vice president Dogri Sanstha Jammu presented vote of thanks. The programme was attended by a galaxy of litterateurs, literature lovers and artists.



People offering prayers at Mendhar Gurudwara during a function on Sunday.

-Excelsior/ Rahi Kapoor

'Prakash Parv' of Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrated

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, Nov 13: The Prakash Parv of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj was celebrated with great religious fervour at Gurudwara Baba Bandha Singh Bahadur in Mendhar, falling in Poonch district near the Line of Control (LOC).

The soldiers of the Indian Army, including people of all religions, who came from different parts of Mendhar, were served the Langar of the great Guru. For the last three days, Akhand Path of Sri Guru Granth Sahib is going on at the Gurudwara.

Today morning, Shabd Kirtan was performed and spe-

cial prayers offered for the peace in the region, country and the world over. Ragi Jathas led by Bhai Rasmeet Singh who came from Poonch, enthralled the Sangat by reciting Gurvani Path. Harmeet Singh, president of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Mendhar, said being border area, the number of people of Sikh community was very less, whereas, every year the Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji is celebrated here in which Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs have a lot of contribution. He said we celebrate this festival here by setting an example of mutual brotherhood as main teaching of Baba Nanak Dev Ji.