

CBI arrests Russian national in JEE-Mains exam manipulation case

NEW DELHI, Oct 3:

The CBI today arrested a Russian national in connection with its probe into alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, officials said.

The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against Mikhail Shargin, suspected to be main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was alerted by the Bureau of Immigration when Shargin arrived at Indira

Gandhi International Airport here from Almaty, Kazakhstan, at 0120 hours, they said, adding that he was immediately detained by the CBI and was questioned in connection with the JEE manipulation case.

"During investigation, it came to light that some foreign nationals were involved in compromising many online examinations, including JEE (Mains), colluding with other accused in the instant case," a CBI spokesperson said.

The investigation indicated that Shargin had allegedly tampered with the iLeon software, the platform on which the JEE

(Main)-2021 examination was conducted, and also helped other accused in hacking the computer systems of suspect candidates during the examination, the officials said.

In September last year, the agency had booked Affinity Education Pvt Ltd and its three directors, Siddharth Krishna, Vishwambhar Mani Tripathi and Govind Varshney, besides other touts and associates for alleged manipulation of examination.

It was alleged that the three directors, in conspiracy with other associates and touts, were manipulating the online examination of JEE (Mains) and facilitating aspiring students to get admission into top National Institutes of Technology in consideration of huge amounts by solving the applicants' question papers through remote access from a chosen examination centre in Sonapat (Haryana).

"It was also alleged that the accused used to obtain class 10 and 12 mark sheets, user IDs, passwords, and post dated cheques of aspiring students in different parts of the country as security and once admission was done, they used to collect heavy amount ranging from Rs 12-15 lakh (approx) per candidate," the spokesperson said. (PTI)



Former MLC, Ch Vikram Randhawa kick starting blacktopping of road in Ward 73 on Monday.

Randhawa kick-starts blacktopping of roads

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: Former Member Legislative Council (MLC) and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Vikram Randhawa kick-started the blacktopping work of roads in Ward Number 73 of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Ward Number 2 of Bhabliana Panchayat in the RS Pura Jammu South Assembly Segment here, today.

Former Legislator had taken up the issue of blacktopping of roads with the concerned officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) Division 1 and today the work has been initiated.

While speaking after inaugurating the blacktopping work of the roads, Randhawa said that it was the long pending demand of the people which has been now been fulfilled. He assured the people that all their demands would be fulfilled in a phased manner. He said that various developmental works are in progress and development will be brought at the doorsteps of the people.

"BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is working on the theme of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikaas' and is committed for the over-

all development of Jammu and its people", Randhawa said, adding that "BJP is working to mitigate problems of the people and give them respite from miseries which they are facing for the last over 70 years".

He said instead of talking about big things the BJP leadership is focusing on local issues which can make a big difference in the lives of people.

"BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has done tremendous work to ensure that every section of the society gets its due share with discrimination and lopsidedness becoming the things of past", Randhawa said, adding that the aspect has been ignored during the past eight years in power as PM Modi gave special attention towards J&K with abrogation of Article 370 remaining the turning point for the region which has opened the flood-gates of development and end of turmoil that lasted for over three decades under the meek dispensations of Congress and other parties.

Randhawa was accompanied by Vijay Sharma, Pawan Raina, Mittu Sharma, Mohit Raina, Sanjeev Singh, Jagir Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Surjeet Singh, Gurbaksh Singh and officials of PWD.

4 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Oct 3: District Mineral Officer (DMO), Kulwant Singh seized 4 vehicles used in illegal mining and transportation of raw material during raids in different areas here today.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Musarrat Islam, the DMO, along with his team, conducted raids in different areas of the district to check illegal mining, extraction, and transportation of raw material.

The DMO informed that during the drive, 3 dumpers and 1 tipper used in illegal

mining, transportation of illegally extracted minor minerals were seized, of which 2 dumpers were handed over to the SHO Chanderkote for legal action and Rs. 38, 785 was also recovered as a fine from violators.

The department is taking strict actions against illegal mining and we are trying to discourage it, the DMO added.

The DMO advised consumers to purchase minerals from legal sources only and stay away from illegal miners. "He warned that FIR will be lodged against the violators, if found involved in illegal transportation of minerals 2nd time.

Live stock thieves arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Oct 3: Police arrested two live stock thieves. As per police sources, a

Congregations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: The annual congregation of All India Chogga Mahajan Biradari (AICMB) will be held on October 5 (Wednesday) 2022 at Muralian Bishnah Road (Miran Sahib) district Jammu.

On the occasion, the pooja will commence at 9 am followed by hawan. The bhandara (langar) will start from 1 pm onwards.

All the biradari members have been requested to take part in the congregation and seek blessings of the deities--Kaliaveer Ji, Mal Mata ji and Datti Maa Mangla Dhyani Devi.

The annual congregation of Bargaota Brahmin and Bhalwal Rajput biradaris will be held on October 5 at Baba Badgal Devsthan near Central Sanskrit University in Kot Bhalwal area of Jammu. On the occasion, a free homoeopathic medical camp will be organized by Dr Shakti Dhar Sharma and his team.

First Indo-Russian International Symposium begins at NIT Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: The 1st Indo-Russian International Symposium (IRIS-2022) on 'Tribological aspects of Smart Materials and Adaptive coatings for Space, Industrial Applications' began today at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The five-day long international symposium is being jointly organised by NIT Srinagar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, J&K in collaboration with Ishlinsky Institute for Problems in Mechanics Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia.

The inaugural function was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, while Prof Satish V Kailas (IISC Bangalore), Chief Engineer, Mechanical Department, Kashmir division, Er Abdul Rashid Dar were the guest of honour on the occasion.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof Rakesh Sehgal is the patron of the five day event. Prof Irina Goryacheva IPM, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia and Prof M F Wani from NIT Srinagar will chair the international symposium.

In his presiding speech, VC IUST, Prof Romshoo said there is

a strong connection between the theme of this symposium and global challenges and national aspirations. "If we highlight the ten most challenges of the world, five are related to the environment. The major challenge that world is facing today is the climate change," he said.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof Rakesh Sehgal said the initiative is aimed at bringing together the researchers, scientists, technocrats and practicing engineers to discuss and address the issues related to development, characterization of smart materials and adaptive coatings for space and industrial applications.

On the occasion, Prof Irina Goryacheva IPM said tribology is a very important science and there is a need to explore it more.

Prof M F Wani, Dean (R&C), NIT Srinagar briefed about the motive of the international symposium. Institute's Registrar, Prof Syed Kaiser Bukhari said both India and Russia are in the forefront of space technology and hence the successful outcome of this project will provide a significant boost to the space programs of both countries.

Prof Satish V Kailas (IISC Bangalore), Chief Engineer, Mechanical Department, Kashmir division, Er Abdul Rashid Dar also shared their valuable suggestions with the participants.

Bhagwant Mann Govt wins confidence motion; Cong, BJP abstain

CHANDIGARH, Oct 3:

The Bhagwant Mann-led AAP Government in Punjab today won the vote of confidence, an expected outcome, with thumping majority as 91 of the ruling party legislators voted in support of the motion.

The confidence motion, which was moved by Chief Minister Mann on September 27 after the ruling party accused the BJP of trying to topple the state government, saw main opposition Congress abstaining during the voting. The BJP already announced to boycott the assembly session as it had accused the AAP government of violating the Constitution by bringing the confidence motion in the assembly.

Congress MLAs staged a walk-out from the House on another issue.

During the discussion on confidence motion, AAP MLAs hit out at the BJP, saying after Delhi their 'Operation Lotus', a bid to topple the government, also failed in Punjab.

After a lengthy discussion on the motion, Speaker Kular Singh Sandhwan put it to vote in the House on the concluding day of brief session. He asked MLAs to raise hands who were in support of, and then asked those who were against the motion of confidence.

Announcing the results, Speaker said 91 AAP MLAs supported the motion. He also said one of the three SAD MLAs who were present in the House and a lone BSP MLA "did not oppose the motion".

No Congress, BJP or lone Independent MLA was present in the

House at the time of voting.

"So, 93 MLAs have supported the motion and none is against it. Thus, the motion is unanimously passed," the Speaker said.

In the 117-member Assembly, the AAP has 92 MLAs, including the Speaker, Congress 18, SAD 3, BJP 2, BSP 1 while 1 is an Independent.

Later, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MLA Manpreet Singh Aali, who was present during the voting, said he had opposed the motion. He also said that he informed the Speaker about his decision.

The SAD legislative wing said it opposed the confidence motion, asserting that it (motion) was a farce and that there were other urgent issues which should have been taken up for discussion.

The AAP had earlier claimed that at least 10 of its MLAs were approached by the BJP with an offer of Rs 25 crore to each of them in a bid to topple the six-month-old government under its 'Operation Lotus'.

As the discussion began on the motion, Congress MLAs staged a walkout as they were demanding that the Speaker should allot them time to speak and raise issues during the Zero Hour.

The two BJP MLAs — Ashwani Sharma and Jangi Lal Mahajan — have been boycotting the session.

The confidence motion was moved by Mann on the opening day of the assembly session and then he targeted the BJP over its alleged 'Operation Lotus' and the Congress for allegedly being hand-in-glove with the saffron party.

Taking part in the discussion on Monday, the chief minister said that people of Punjab reposed their trust in AAP this time and that trust was not a commodity, which can be purchased.

Mann questioned why opposition Congress and BJP ran away from discussion.

Hitting out at BJP, Mann alleged that loktantra (democracy) is being made into 'paisatantra' and 'loot tantra'.

On 'Operation Lotus', Mann alleged that attempts are being made to throttle democracy.

"The country faces two threats — one internal and another external. Internal threat is very dangerous, this is what is going on in the country at this time," he said.

Mann said that Congress MLAs who walked out from the House should have remained present and supported the motion because their party in many states has seen legisla-

tors joining the BJP.

AAP MLA Sheetal Angural was the first one to take part in the discussion on Monday. Angural said he has submitted to the State Vigilance Bureau all details, including call recording and mobile phone number, besides a "sting" he did when three people, who claimed to be meeting him on BJP's behalf, had met him recently and offered money and position under 'Operation Lotus'.

Angural claimed that he also did a sting in which those who met him could be heard as saying that they will "arrange" a meeting with a BJP leader "who will seal the deal".

"They may use any tactics, but Bhagwant Mann and Arvind Kejriwal's team is honest," he said while hitting out at the BJP.

Attacking the Congress, Angural and some other AAP MLAs said that the grand old party was playing the role of BJP's "B" team.

AAP MLA Dinesh Chadha also hit out at the Congress and said, "We saw what happened in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, the party whose MLAs have switched over the most should have said that they support this confidence motion. Rather, Congress MLAs claim there is no provision in the Constitution for bringing confidence motion."

Senior AAP MLA Baljinder Kaur also hit out at BJP over "Operation Lotus", saying the saffron party feels they can form governments everywhere on the basis of "money power".

"But first in Delhi and now in Punjab, their operation has failed," she said.

Another AAP MLA Prof Budhram equated BJP with "serial killer" of democracy.

Earlier, Speaker Sandhwan on Monday allotted two hours' time for discussion on the confidence motion.

Last week, the BJP had accused the AAP of 'betraying' Governor Banwarilal Purohit and running away from discussion on burning issues of the state.

The assembly session was convened after the governor on September 25 gave his nod to summon the House on September 27 after days of squabble between the Raj Bhavan and the AAP government over holding a session of the assembly.

The governor had withdrawn the permission to hold a special session on September 22 when the AAP government wanted to bring a confidence motion. (PTI)

ESRM presents 490th Monday Theatre

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: Ek Sath Rang Mandal (ESRM) today presented its 490th Monday Theatre with new progressive Nukad 'Bapu Ney Kahha Thha' on celebrating the auspicious day of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti under Monday Theatre series at it's Headquarter Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal.

Today's Nukad was based on the life, history and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi. This Nukad started with the family Bhajan always sung by Bapu. An anchor old man follower of Bapu revealed the importance of advises and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi. Mohan Dass Karmchand

was born at Porbandar, Gujarat on October 2 in 1869. He was great freedom fighter. He started freedom movements in India from British rulers.

He was great follower of non violence which gave him fame and name throughout the world. His remarkable achievements are itself a history of independence. His principle of non violence is having historical importance for the countrymen and the younger generation. The Nukad ended with Bapu's popular Bhajan. People around appreciated the message of Nukad as well as of Mahatma Gandhi's ideology. Actors who performed in the Nukad included Raju Mad, Happy Gupta and Vijay Malla.

Woman killed, husband injured in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: A woman was killed while her husband received serious injuries in accident near Gumpul here.

As per police sources, a couple received serious injuries after an unknown vehicle hit their motorcycle near Gumpul.

Both the injured were rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where doctors declared the woman as brought dead, while

her husband was undergoing treatment, when last reports came in.

The deceased was identified as Asha, a resident of Patoli Brahmana, while the injured was identified as her husband Ashok Kumar.

The body of the deceased has been shifted to mortuary of GMCH for autopsy.

A case under relevant sections has been registered at Police Station Kanachack and investigation started.

Tawi Andolan activists hold awareness camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: The need for saving the holy river and to spread the awareness for its conservation, activists of Tawi Andolan today organised an awareness camp at Tawi Ghat Bikram Chowk wherein hundreds of people gathered to immerse the Holy Saakh.

Led by Tawi Andolan convener, Chander Mohan Sharma scores of volunteers comprising president, Ch Sushpaul Singh co convener, Balvinder Bhatia, Sunita Devi, Raj Kumar, Santosh Kundal, Veena

Bakshi and girl volunteers from University stopped devotees from immersing flowers, Churnis and polythene bags in the river so that river Tawi water should not get polluted.

Former MLA, Shiv Dev Singh, State president BJP Kisan Morcha, Omi Khajuria also visited the Tawi Ghat and appreciated the efforts of all the volunteers. The former MLA Shiv Dev Singh advised the people to keep the river Tawi clean.

Maha Yaga solemnized at Durga Nag

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 3: In connection with celebration of Durga Ashtami, a Maha Yaga as usual was solemnized at Durga Nag, shrine here, today.

The Yaga started yesterday evening with Kalash Pooja and Puranahuti was performed this afternoon. The Maha Yaga was organised by Durga Nag Trust under the supervision of its secretary, Dr Rattan Dhar. The senior trustees Kundan Kashmiri and Razdhan, Financial Advisor Gulabi Manager, M L Bhat and M K Dhar also participated in the function.

The Maha Yaga was performed under the guidance Pt Avtar Krishan Jyotshi. The devotees were served Prasad after Puranahuti. Bhajan Kiratan was held in the premises of Durga Nag shrine during the two days of religious function and a large number of devotees drawn from different parts of Kashmir thronged the shrine on the occasion of Durga Ashtami to pay their obeisance to Goddess and seek blessings.

Absconder arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMNAGAR, Oct 3: Police apprehended one absconder, who was evading arrest for the last three years.

The accused, identified as Munshi Ram, son of Titru Ram of Dalsar, Ramnagar, was absconding since 2019 in case FIR number 78/2015, under section 457/380 of Police Station Ramnagar.

An arrest warrant under section 512 CrPC was issued against him by the Court of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class Ramnagar.

A Police team, headed by SHO Ramnagar, Inspector Pushpinder Singh, under the supervision of SDPO Ramnagar, Dr Bhishm Dubeey raided suspected locations of the accused and arrested him.

Crime against women on increase in J&K: NAUP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: National Awami United Party (NAUP) has expressed concern over increase in crime against women in J&K.

In a press conference here today NAUP District Samba presided, Sushma Kumari has urged



NAUP leader, Sushma Kumari addressing a press conference at Jammu on Monday.

the agencies to check infiltration of beggars from outside who are easily seen at prominent places.

Shikha Bandal and Indu Chopra were also present in the press conference.

Two bikers snatch gold ornaments of old lady

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: Two bikers snatched gold ornaments of an old lady in Sector 3 of Pamposh Colony in Janipur here today.

As per police sources, two miscreants on a motorcycle restrained the way of an old lady in Sector 3 of Pamposh Colony in Janipur and assaulted her. Later, the miscreants snatched the gold ornaments of the lady worth lakhs and escaped from the spot.

A complaint in this regard was lodged by the son of the old woman namely Avinash Fotadar, son of late Roop Krishan, a resident of Sector 3 Pamposh Colony Janipur District Jammu with police.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR Number 105/2022 under sections 341, 323 and 382 IPC has been registered at Police Station Janipur and hunt has been launched to nab the miscreants.

Man dies due to electric shock

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: A man died due to electric shock in Getla area here today, police sources said.

The deceased was identified as Sahil Kumar, son of Ashok Kumar, a resident of Chatha Gujra. He received electric shock while working at a welding shop in Getla area.

The body of the deceased has been shifted to mortuary of Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for post-mortem.

Kanachack Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

Auto driver nabbed with banned polythene bags

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: Gandhi Nagar Police nabbed an auto driver along with large quantity of banned polythene bags.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Gandhi Nagar laid a naka and intercepted an auto.

During checking, police team recovered 8 quintals of banned polythene bags from the auto and arrested the driver, who was identified as Madan Lal, son of Kasturi Lal, a resident of Janipur District Jammu.

A case FIR Number 253/2022 under relevant sections has been registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and investigation started.

GRP seizes 13 bottles of Corex

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Oct 3: GRP Kathua while patrolling on Railway track near patrolling hut at 25.2kms recovered 13 bottles of Corex from the possession of one Luther Singh, son of Hamam Singh of Bhed Balod tehsil and district Kathua today.

A case FIR No 06/2022 was registered in GRP Police Station (PS) Kathua. The recovery was made by GRP Kathua under the supervision of Chanchal Singh SDPO Railways Vijaypur and Arif Rishu SSP Railways Jammu.

ED attaches assets of former I-T Deptt officer in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, Oct 3:

Assets worth Rs 7.33 crore of a former income tax department officer, who was compulsorily retired by the Union government few years back on charges of corruption, have been attached under the anti-money laundering law, the ED said Monday.

Five immovable properties of Andasu Ravinder have been provisionally frozen as per an order issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on September 30.

Ravinder, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1991 batch, last served as an additional director of the income tax (I-T)

department in Chennai.

He was arrested by the CBI in August, 2011, when an alleged bribe amount of Rs 50 lakh was being delivered at his residence.

Ravinder was compulsorily retired from service, along with a number of other I-T department officers, on charges of corruption by the Union finance ministry in 2019 under 56J of Central Civil Services Conduct rules.

The money laundering case was filed against the officer after studying a CBI FIR against him which claimed that "during the check period from 01.01.2005 to 29.08.2011 disproportionate assets (DA) of more than Rs 2.32 crore was generated by the former I-T department officer and his wife Kavitha Andasu."

The CBI had said the DA of the couple was 171.41 per cent more than their known sources of income.

"Andasu Ravinder and others pursuant to a criminal conspiracy concerted indulged in the criminal act of generation and possession of accretions disproportionate to the known sources of income of Ravinder and his wife," the ED alleged. (PTI)

Bharat nominated as SNWF president

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 3: A general body meeting of Shastrri Nagar Welfare Forum (SNWF) was held in which 30 member Committee was announced in the presence of nominated advisors-N.K Mishra and Kuldeep Mahajan.

Bharat Gupta was nominated unanimously by all the members as president of the Forum; T.N Vaid and Sanjeev Sharma, vice presidents and Surinder Sharma as secretary-cum-treasurer along with 28 executive committee members.

Speaking on the occasion Bharat Gupta assured the Committee to work actively for upliftment of Ward Number 22 and its adjoining areas of Shastrri Nagar.

Man dies in road accident

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 3: A middle-aged man was killed in a road accident near Salani bridge at Rajouri town this evening.

The deceased has been identified as Arvind Sharma (45), son of Ram Nath, resident of Jharkhand, at present Jawahar Nagar, Rajouri. He was working as carpenter here for the last about 20 years.

The mishap took place when he was moving on a motorcycle. The bike hit by truck causing serious head injuries to Arvind. He was rushed to District Hospital Rajouri by police where doctors declared him as brought dead. The body was sent for autopsy. The police registered a case and started investigation.

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