

India's 'first' post office is bang on LoC

KERAN, Aug 10: India's "first" post office bearing PIN code 193224 is located on the banks of the Kishanganga river, the de facto Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district with Pakistan-occupied territory just across the stream at a stone's throw.

It was known as the last post office of the country until recently, when the India signboard near it described it as the "First Post Office of India", as it is the first one from the LoC or border in terms of distance.

Abdul Hamid Kumar, Superintendent Post Offices, Baramulla Division, said, "Earlier it was known as the last post office as we cannot deliver

beyond it. Then, the Army changed it to the first post office as it is the first post office from the LoC or the border in terms of distance."

The residents of this apparently sleepy hamlet said the post office has been functional even before India got Independence or Pakistan came into existence. It has not stopped delivering mail even at peak hostilities in 1965, 1971 or the frequent cross-border shelling incidents that had become regular occurrences after eruption of Pakistan-backed militancy in 1990.

Shakir Bhat, the postmaster, said the post office, which has been here since 1947, never stopped its services.

"Before the ceasefire

(agreement between India and Pakistan in 2021), it was very risky to go out, deliver the mail or pick up the posts. Today we feel peace and we want peace between the two nations to prevail," Bhat said.

The post office was even washed away in the flash floods that hit the Keran sector in 1993.

"I was appointed to the department in 1992. After the 1993 floods, the post office has been functioning from my house," he said.

Bhat said he does not get any rent for operating the post office from home and he is not seeking any.

He added that there are three mailmen, who work with him at the post office, providing a wide range of services to the local people and the security forces deployed at the first post of India.

The postmaster, however, said lack of dependable communication facility meant this post office cannot offer online services like other post offices across the country.

"For now, there is no (online communication) network here, so no digital services are being offered," he added.

Bhat wants peace to prevail as it has brought tourism to Keran.

"It is because of peace that everything is good. Tourism is here only due to peace," he said.



Secy Health during launch of National De-worming Day.

Secy Health launches National De-worming Day campaign

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhopinder Kumar, today launched National De-worming Day campaign at Government Higher Secondary School, Marh, here.

The De-worming Day is an initiative to make children worm free and grow healthy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary emphasized on the importance of De-worming of 1-19 years age group in all Government and private schools as well as Anganwadis. He also emphasized on sound mental health, Nasha Mukti, strengthening of Ayushman Bharat, school health and RBSK activities in school and community.

He urged the children to adhere to the practice of washing hands with soap, especially before eating, after using toilet and wearing shoes. He also stressed on following the tips on hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness.

Secretary informed that the campaign holds great importance as intestinal worm infections can cause anaemia, nutritional impairment, loss of appetite, weakness and anxiety, stomach ache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, weight loss, impaired physical and cognitive development and may cause a serious threat to children's health, education and productivity.

"De-worming helps in improving capacity to learn, work potential, livelihood opportunity and attendance at schools which would prove beneficial to the society," he added.

The Secretary emphasized that the main aim of the campaign is to de-worm all pre-school and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) between the age group of 01 to 19 both at Govt and private schools as well as Anganwadi centers. He informed that as per latest NCDC survey conducted in August 2022 there has been

significant decline in the prevalence of STH infection among school children from baseline survey conducted in 2017 from 56% to 36.5%.

Earlier, Secretary inspected CHC Marh and kick started plantation drive around the area and administered pledge of commitment under Meri Maati, Mera Desh Campaign.

Director Health Services, Jammu, Epidemiologist /Divisional Nodal Officer NHM, Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Block Medical Officer Marh, Chairman BDC, Member DDC, Principal GHS School, Marh and other medical staff were also present at the event.

Similar programmes were inaugurated across the UT at District & Sub District Level by District Development Commissioners and other senior officers.

Dr Itoo visits D H Pora, inspects works under JJM

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: As part of JJM fortnight, Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Dr G N Itoo today visited the Damhal Hanjpora to witness the proceedings of a special Gram Sabha convened to certify the village as Har Ghar Jal and declared that all the 603

Chief Justice visits Budgam, inspects facilities at 'Pareesha'

Excelsior Correspondent

BUDGAM Aug 10: To commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh today visited

Justice was accorded warm welcome by the superintendent and other staff of "Pareesha".

The Chief Justice thoroughly inspected the facilities being provided to the inmates in the institution. The Chief Justice patiently heard the young girls and listened to their aspirations and concerns and assured them to get the same resolved in the shortest possible time.

The inmates of the institution displayed their creative talents in a painting competition and also by performing different cultural items to commemorate and celebrate 75 years of India's Independence.

Witnessing the incredible talent of the budding artists, the

Chief Justice was deeply moved by the creativity displayed with the vibrant strokes of painting brush on the canvas, depicting the essence and unity. Adding melodious notes to the occasion, the children at "Pareesha" performed a heartfelt group song dedicated to the Chief Justice and other guests.

The lyrics resonated with gratitude and a collective vision for a brighter tomorrow. The performance left a lasting impression, showcasing the spirit and potential of the young generation.

Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M.K. Sharma; PDJ Budgam, Khalil Choudhary; SSP Budgam, Al-Tahir Geelani; Superintendent, Child Care Home, CWC, Chairperson, Budgam, and other senior officers of district administration as well as members of judicial fraternity were also present on the occasion.



Chief Justice during visit to Child Care Institution in Budgam.

district Budgam and inspected facilities at "Pareesha" Child Care Institution for Girls at Khan Sahib, here.

The Chief Justice's visit is second in a row to the homes for children in need of care and was marked by warmth, compassion, and commitment towards improving the living conditions of the inmates of Child Care Institutions is a testament to the spirit of India's progress for inclusive and equitable society.

On his arrival, the Chief



PCC working president Raman Bhalla welcoming new entrants into party fold during a function in Jammu.

Only Cong can lead J&K to path of peace, prosperity: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Several prominent people today joined Congress under the leadership of working president of JKPC Raman Bhalla.

While welcoming them into the party fold Bhalla said that people of Jammu and Kashmir were expressing their pain and anguish against the BJP Govt and its anti-people policies. Their induction in to the party would further strengthen the Congress party in J&K. On this occasion, Subedar Banarsi Lal along with his supporters join Congress.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that the unprecedented price rise and record unemployment especially in Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi government has utterly failed to bring the prices under control. The common man is suffering due to unprecedented prices of all essential commodities and unreasonable taxes. All sections of society are worst sufferers under BJP regime. J&K tops in unemployment in the country and the educated youth are frustrated. The daily wagers, need based, contractual and other temporary employees are protesting for regularization.

The government has failed to provide relief to the masses

which the BJP leaders used to claim. He said that Congress party is the only truly secular, democratic and progressive force which can keep Jammu and Kashmir on the path of peace, progress and harmony while the forces of hatred would create wedge in the society and the regions for vote bank politics.

Bhalla while welcoming them to the Congress party, extensively dealt with emerging political scenario in Jammu & Kashmir, where Congress party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive, democratic and secular policies. He appealed the people to look back to the history of traditional harmony, peace and secularism and reject the forces of exploitation and hatred for a better future, for which Congress is the truly secular, democratic, nationalistic and progressive force to lead the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the path progress and prosperity.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Block president Surinder Singh Dutt, Aman Bawa, Kuldeep Mahnas, Pankaj Sharma, Karnail Singh, Beedi Chand, Vaneet Thapa, Som Nath, Rakesh Thapa, Karam Chaud, Ajeet Kumar, Bishan Dass and others.

IHMR University inaugurates MBA programme 2023-25

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: IHMR University, Jaipur organized an inauguration ceremony of newly admitted students of MBA (Hospital and Health Management), MBA (Pharmaceutical Management) and MBA (Development Management) programmes,

He shared that Indian Healthcare market was valued at INR 21.14 Trillion in FY 2021 and it is estimated to reach INR 110.21 Trillion by FY 2027, expanding at compounding annual growth rate (CAGR) of ~30.70 percent during the FY 2022- FY 2027 forecast period.

Debashish Roy, Director and Head - Digital Innovation,

Experience and External Partnerships, Pfizer India, in his address, said that India is leading in the adoption of digital health technology and all healthcare professionals in the country will be using digital health records (DHRs) in their practice in coming years.

Dr Sheenu 2023-25, at its campus.

Dr P R Sodani, President, IHMR University, shared the entire journey of IHMR since its inception in 1984 as a Health Management Research institute. Currently, IHMR University is offering MBA (Hospital and Health Management), MBA (Pharmaceutical Management) and MBA (Development Management), he informed.

Dr Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, former Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and former Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, delivered the address as chief guest of the programme. He shared the insights of Indian Healthcare Industry, essence of Management and Leadership and development of Manager-Leader of Healthcare Systems.

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Guests lighting ceremonial lamp during inauguration ceremony for newly admitted students at IHMR University Campus.

BJP committed to address public issues on priority: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is committed to the welfare of people and the Central Government headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is very particular to mitigate the sufferings of the masses in every aspect.

This was stated by Yudhvir

people. He said that the aim of conducting such camp is to address public grievances at grass root level and BJP will conduct this type of programmes on a regular basis where public can come and approach for any type of problem.

The camp witnessed an overwhelming response from residents across Jammu city, as people flocked to the party office to discuss their concerns with senior BJP leaders. A diverse range of issues were raised by various deputations, seeking resolution on matters related to ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, Revenue,

Power, water scarcity, roads, development, and personal issues. Sethi gave a patient hearing to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer. He added that BJP is committed to uphold the treasured mission of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" by ensuring all segments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on the path of progress and development.



BJP vice president, Yudhvir Sethi listening public grievances at party office Kachi Chawni on Thursday.

Sethi, J&K BJP vice president while listening to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan in Kachi Chawni, here, today. Parveen Kemi president, East Mandal, Abdul Mehbub Choudhary, Vipin Sharma and Arun Sethi, general secretaries, Suresh Bharti, secretary, Harvinder Singh, Anuradha Mahila Morcha president East, Varun Jamwal were present.

Sethi said that BJP has decided to provide all the administrative and other facilities at the doorsteps of Jammu

DIPR Jammu plants trees in office premises

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: The Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu today took an eco-friendly stride by hosting a plantation drive as part of the ongoing "Meri Maati Mera Desh (MMMD)" campaign in its office complex.

Starting from August 9, the campaign, launched by the Prime Minister, aims to honour and appreciate the martyrs and brave hearts of India, till its culmination on August 15.

The plantation drive in the office complex was conducted in collaboration with the Social

Giving details about the MMDM plantation drive, DFO Alok Kumar Maurya informed that each panchayat in the Union Territory will receive 75 plants under the campaign, with an additional 75 from the Rural Development Department. The Forest Department is slated to plant a total of 175 lakh plants across the UT this year, he added.

Joint Director, Atul Gupta applauded the campaign's impact and encouraged everyone to plant trees in their surroundings. He emphasised post-plantation care as vital for success and urged everyone to participate in



DIPR Jammu officials during a plantation drive.

Forestry Department. Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry, Alok Kumar Maurya; Joint Director Information Jammu; Atul Gupta and Deputy Director PR Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, led the initiative. Different species of plants like Amla, Baheda (Terminalia Bellirica) and Araucaria were planted on the office Lawns.

the campaign at individual level to improve micro climates and curb urban pollution.

Officers and officials of both the departments also participated in the drive.

The Joint Director informed that similar plantation drives would be organised by all District Information Centres of Jammu.

Mohanlal Sons announces 'Rs 1 sale'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Mohanlal Sons has announced "Rs 1 sale"



in all its outlets across the country.

A statement issued by the clothing brand read, "come on

everybody, get in on the loot at Mohanlal Sons! Everything is one rupee. Yes, one rupee only, Countrywide."

"With hundreds of styles for men & kids on offer, from Kurtas to Sherwanis, JawaharJackets to suits and everything in between, there hasn't been a better time to overhaul your wardrobe."

It further said, "and with the festive season not far away, this is a good time indeed. So make some space, hire a truck and visit a store near you. But you better hurry, as the offer runs only till stocks last."

The statement further said that the offer is valid from August 11 to August 15 and is available both in-store and online at Mohanlsons.com.

Tpt Commr inaugurates nat'l campaign

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Transport Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Sharma, today planted 75 saplings here at Trial Ground, K h a n p u r a, Nagrota, under the "Meri Matti, Mera Desh" campaign.

A statement said that several officers and officials from Motor Vehicles Department, and J&K Police participated in the plantation drive.

After planting of the 75 saplings under the Vasudha Vandan programme, the statement said, the participants also participated in the Panch PRan pledge.

Addressing the participants, the Transport Commissioner said that such programmes aimed at instilling a sense of nationalism and inspiring the future generations to protect the cherished heritage of the country.

He said the campaign is a unified celebration of our soil and valour, commemorating the nation's journey of freedom and progress by connecting with the land and honouring the heroes. He sought public participation in

the campaign. Earlier, the Motor Vehicles Department pasted stickers on commercial vehicles under the

campaign. The stickers depicted "Meri Matti, Mera Desh," "Mitti Ko Naman," "Veeron Ka Vandhan" slogans.

Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra presented the welcome address while the proceedings of the function were conducted by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Esha Chib.

Assistant Regional Transport Officers (HQ), Rehana Tabassam; ARTO Board of Inspection (P), Kuldeep Singh, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (Flying Squad), Neeraj Sharma, SDPO Nagrota, Aakash Kohli, MVIs, SHO Nagrota besides various officials of MVD, Forest, and police were present on the occasion.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, Division Bench observed, "this court on 15.02.2021 passed certain directions on the basis of the report submitted by the Jammu Development Authority which showed that there was a meeting held on 14.01.2020 under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Government, H&UDD and certain decisions were taken including a request to the Deputy Commissioner Jammu for issuing necessary

directions for carrying out the decision. However, no response was received from the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu".

"The State counsel cannot tell as to whether any such response has been filed by the Deputy Commissioner", the DB said and accordingly directed the Deputy Commissioner to file an affidavit as to the steps taken in the light of the order passed on 15.02.2021.

"In the affidavit, the Deputy Commissioner may also mention about the other steps required to be taken in terms of order dated 15.02.2021", the DB said, adding "as per the aforesaid report, the Inspector General of Police was also directed to file an affidavit/report regarding the resistance by a mob against the fencing of the vacant land and also against installing the signboards, the same has not been done".

Accordingly, DB directed IGP to do so before the next date.

Woman dies in road accident

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: A 35-year-old woman riding pillion on a bicycle died in a road accident here at Pallanwala Village in Jammu District today.

Asha Devi wife of Prem Pal of Channi Platan, Pallanwala, was hit by a bike around 10:30 am at Pallanwala today, police said.

households have now access to adequate and safe drinking water through taps.

As per a handout, the Mission Director accompanied by SDM, OSD, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE and other Tehsil level officers visited the Filtration Plant for the D H Pora to check the water quality parameters in presence of the community members to get assurance about quality of water being supplied.

While addressing the special Gram Sabha, Dr. Itoo urged upon the community to take part in the water management and operation and maintenance of the water supply systems like

Illegal encroachment on State land near 4th Tawi Bridge

DB directs DC Jammu to file affidavit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: While dealing with an issue regarding illegal encroachment on State land near 4th Tawi Bridge, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal has directed Deputy Commissioner Jammu to file an affidavit with regard to the steps taken in the light of the order passed on 15.02.2021.

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