

Lt Governor interacts with youth of J&K studying in Pune

Excelsior Correspondent

PUNE, Aug 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today interacted with the Youth of Jammu Kashmir studying in Pune at an event organized by 'Sarhad' Civil Society group.

In his address, the Lt Governor shared the transformational journey of J&K over the past few years and high-

Administration Bandipora to transform Aragam village into a book village, and for their other initiatives like Valley of Knowledge, Health Village and Literary floating festival on Wular Lake.

He said, the 'Pune for Kashmir', a socio-cultural-educational exchange programme by Sarhad is bringing the people of the two regions closer



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with youth of J&K studying in Pune at an event organized by Civil Society.

lights the role of the young generation in the social and economic progress of the UT.

Jammu Kashmir is transforming and is on the move. Our Youth living and studying across the world are brand ambassadors of new J&K. Today our youth are realizing their true potential and contributing to nation-building, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor underlined the importance of developing scientific temper, critical thinking, creativity and nurturing the unique personality among the youth for their all-round development.

He appreciated the efforts of 'Sarhad' for working in collaboration with the District

and reflects the true spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

The Lt Governor invited the youth from Pune to visit Jammu Kashmir and experience the transformation of the UT.

At the event, the Lt Governor released a book titled "Lalla" on Yogini Lalleshwari authored by Aruna Dhare. He congratulated the author for the excellent work and wished her success in future endeavours.

Vinod Tawde, National General Secretary, BJP; Sanjay Nahar, Founder Sarhad; prominent citizens from all walks of life, students and members of Sarhad and youth from J&K in large number were present on the occasion.

Labourer electrocuted, irate relatives block highway

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Aug 10: A 24-year-old contractual labourer was electrocuted during the laying of electric cables in Bari Brahmana area of Samba district today, officials said.

He was identified as Sabir Hussain, a resident of Nagrota area of Jammu. He was working as contractual labourer with PDD at Bari Brahmana. While working of laying of electric cables at Bari Brahmana he got electrocuted sparking protests by his relatives who blocked the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway for over two hours in the evening, resulting in a massive traffic jam, the officials said.

However, the protest culminated peacefully after Samba Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma along with Senior Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Benam Tosh visited the scene and persuaded the protesters to disperse.

"An inquiry will be carried out into the incident to fix responsibility. An immediate relief of Rs one lakh was given to the family while the process was initiated to provide them an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh in accordance with the norms," Sharma said.

PDP vice president, Hamid Choudhary said it is a matter of investigation how the electricity supply was restored when the labourers were busy working on the electric wires.

"Hussain's death is the result of negligence on the part of the Power Development Department," he said, demanding the registration of a murder case against the concerned official and a Government job to the family of the deceased.



Senior Cong leaders Hari Singh Chib and Uday Bhanu during mass contact program in Jammu on Thursday.

Stop harassing people on name of smart meters: Hari Singh, Uday

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural, president Hari Singh Chib has raised serious concerns about the harassment being faced by the people of Jammu region with regard to the installation of smart meters.

Chib highlighted these concerns during a door-to-door campaign conducted along with Uday Bhanu Chib, senior leader of Indian Youth Congress, in the Jammu North Assembly segment.

During the campaign, both the senior Congress leaders personally addressed the issues faced by the people and listened to their grievances. Chib observed that a major portion of the population is dissatisfied with the implementation of smart meters, as they have become a source of harassment for electricity consumers.

Senior Congress leader said that the electricity supply system in Jammu region is in complete disarray, and the installation of Smart Meters has only worsened the situation. He expressed his disappointment in the Power Department for leaving the people of Jammu region with no other option than to endure over-charged electricity bills and constant unscheduled power cuts. He asserted that the exorbitant electricity charges are beyond the means of the general masses, and the electricity bills are excessively inflated.

Uday Chib said that people are receiving electricity bills in thousands and even lakhs, indicating a new norm of charging consumers for electricity they have not used. He demanded a thorough investigation into the ongoing cheating and harassment of electricity consumers. He urged the concerned authorities to take action against those

responsible for wrong bills and provide relief to the general masses.

He said government is purchasing power at an average rate of Rs 3.75 per unit then why bills in thousands are coming from houses of poor people.

Chib highlighted the increased frequency of unscheduled power cuts, which have caused significant problems for the people, particularly the elderly, the ailing, and children. He emphasized that the Congress Party is the only solution to address these issues effectively.

The senior Congress leaders urged the people to support the country's oldest party in the upcoming polls in J&K, as they believe that only the Congress Party can address their concerns and bring about positive change.

Smuggler held, 8 bovines rescued

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 10: Cops at Police Station Mendhar near here today rescued 8 bovine animals and arrested a bovine smuggler involved in the crime.

Police sources informed that during a routine checking, cops from Police Post Ari intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK20A-8911 driven by Imtiaz Ahmed, son of Sher Dil, resident of Naka Manjari, Gursai and during checking it was found that eight bovine animals were loaded in the vehicle illegally.

These animals were being transported to Kashmir from Mendhar without any permission.

The smuggler involved in bovine smuggling was arrested and a case in this regard has been registered U/S 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act at Police Station Mendhar and investigation started.



Security forces during search in a forest area of Rajouri on Thursday.

Searches at various places in Rajouri

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Security forces continued searches at various places in the border district of Rajouri following information of suspicious movement.

Search operations were today conducted in the forests of Gunda Khwas in Rajouri; Pangai, Shahdara Sharief, Dera

Ki Gali and Manyal in Thanna Mandi.

However, no contact was established with suspects in any of these areas, the officials said, adding searches will continue in different areas ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

All security agencies are maintaining a high alert in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, he added.

2 drug peddlers arrested; 30 grams heroin, 34 kg poppy straw seized

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 10: In two separate cases, Udhampur Police today arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 30 grams of heroin and 34 kg poppy straw from their possession.

A Police party of PP Roundmail, led by SHO Udhampur, Insp Raghbir Singh and assisted by PSI Rahul Jamal, intercepted one suspicious person during naka checking at Link Road Battal Ballian to Roundmail. On frisking of said person, namely Mohd Qazi, son of Mushtaq Ahmed of Dhiari, Tehsil Ramnagar, Police team recovered 30 grams of Heroin like contraband substance from his possession.

In this regard, case FIR number 419/2023, under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered in PS Udhampur and further investigation of case is going on.

Meanwhile, in another succession, 34 kg of poppy straw

was recovered from a car at Jakhani, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Udhampur.

Police team of Police Station Udhampur, led by SHO Raghbir Singh, under supervision of DySP Hqrs, S Gurmeet Singh, intercepted a Swift Dzire car bearing registration number PB10CF 8282, which was coming from Kashmir valley towards Udhampur.

During checking, 34 kg of poppy straw was recovered, which was hidden clandestinely in false compartment in the car. The arrested person (driver) was identified as Abid Ahmed Sheikh, son of Ab Gani Sheikh, resident of Ranbirpora, Anantnag.

In this connection, case FIR number 420/2023 under sections 8/15 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Udhampur.

In both the cases, Udhampur Police is working to unearth forward and backward links, so that all those involved in this illegal trade could be booked under law, said SSP Udhampur, Dr Vinod Kumar.

Retired Waqf employees demand pension, incentives

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: The pensioners of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf board have made a fervent appeal to Chairman Dr Darakshan Andrabi to settle their pension cases which have been stopped in Waqf office since April last year, so that they could be paid pension, salary and other incentives due to them.

They said due to stoppage of their pension, their families were facing tough times for livelihood. They have alleged that after retirement from the Waqf Board services since last April, not a single retiree has been paid a penny out of their due pensionary benefits and incentives without any reason.

The retired employees said that the Waqf board has huge resources and income worth

crores but unfortunately their pension has been arbitrarily halted. They said as per figures available, Waqf Board has 19,888 properties worth millions and was accounted one of the richest enterprises after the Government in Jammu and Kashmir. However, due to excessive exploitation of expenditures and plunder of funds by previous regimes, both the assets and the Waqf employees have suffered immensely. Waqf Board has nearly 99,653 Kanals of land in the Kashmir region, out of which 9,000 Kanals of prime land stands either illegally occupied, or has been encroached on by the leaseholders.

They have sought personal intervention of J&K Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr Darakshan Andrabi to clear their pension cases, pending in the Waqf office since last two years.

SKUAST-K's Forestry celebrates 'Lavender Day', highlights potential

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: The Faculty of Forestry at SKUAST-Kashmir today celebrated Lavender Day with tremendous enthusiasm, showcasing the vast potential of medicinal and aromatic plants to drive economic growth and encourage innovation.

This event, organized by the Division of Forest Products and Utilization, brought together distinguished guests and experts in the field to underscore the importance of these plants.

The Lavender harvesting and distillation, a key highlight of the event, was inaugurated by esteemed guests, including Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K, and Prof. T.H Masoodi, the Director of Research at SKUAST-K. Accompanying them were Prof. Haroon Naik, Director Planning SKUAST-K, Prof. A.H Mughal, Associate Director of Research at SKUAST-K, and Prof. J. A Muglao, Head of KVK Pulwama.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. P.A Sofi, Head of the Division of Forest Products and Utilization. Prof. Sofi provided valuable insights into the division's ongoing research activities, innovative cultivation techniques, and product development based on medicinal plants.

Prof. S.A Gangoo, the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, emphasized the crucial role of

medicinal plants in holistic well-being and sustainable development.

In his address, Prof Ganai highlighted the significant economic potential of the medicinal and aromatic plant sector and emphasized the importance of innovation and value addition to develop products from these plants.

Two held with Ganja

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Two drug peddlers were arrested with 2 kilograms of Ganja here today, police said.

A police spokesperson said that a team of Police Post Narwal led by SDPO East, Syed Zaheer Abbas Jaffari assisted by SHO Bahu Fort Inspector Shiv Dev Singh, incharge Police Post Narwal, SI Lalit Sharma, and ASI Rafiqia Begum rounded up two suspects.

They were identified as Harjit Massih of Narwal Bala, and Rekha of Rajiv Nagar, he said.

During search of the suspects, two kilograms of Ganja was recovered, the police spokesperson further said.

The accused have been arrested and booked in case FIR number 231/2023 under sections 8/20/29 of the NDPS Act registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and further investigation taken up.

1270 perform darshan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: As 21 days are left for the culmination of 62 days Amarnath Ji yatra which started on July 1 this year, there has been constant decline in the Yatra rush for last over one week now.

On the 41st day of darshan today over 1,200 pilgrims drawn from different parts of country paid obeisance to the naturally formed Ice Shivlingam in the 3880 metre high Himalayan cave in the South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Officials said that 1,270 pilgrims performed darshan at holy cave from twin tracks of Baltal and Nunwan -Pahalgam by this evening taking the total number of pilgrims visiting the holy cave in last 41 days to 4,28,411.

Officials said that majority of pilgrims among them have returned to their home states while others are on the way. They said

the pilgrims who paid obeisance in the cave shrine by this evening also started their return journey towards the base camp of Baltal and transit camp of Panchtarni on their way to their home states.

Meanwhile the 37th batch of 999 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here early this morning for the twin base camps of Nunwan -Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district and Baltal in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district under tight security measures in a cavalcade of 33 vehicles, officials said.

They said among them 577 preferred the traditional and longest Nunwan -Pahalgam track while 422 preferred the shortest but terrain Baltal track.

The 62 -day annual yatra to holy cave will culminate on Sawan Purnima coinciding with Raksha Bandhan festival falling on August 31 when holy mace of Lord Shiva reaches Cave Shrine for darshan.

DC releases Rs. 29,51,500 for wards of construction workers

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 10: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya here today released an amount of Rs. 29,51,500 in favour of the wards of registered construction workers under Building and Other Construction



DC Udhampur giving cheque of Rs. 29,51,500 for wards of registered construction workers.

Workers Welfare Board scheme on account of educational assistance.

Speaking on the occasion

Vaishya lauded the efforts of Labour Department in providing financial assistance to poor labourers from time to time and exhorted for giving maximum benefits to poor labourers from government schemes.

He said that economic and social security of labour class is priority of the government.

Meanwhile, Mazdoor Dastkar Union (MDU) Udhampur in coordination with Labour Department Udhampur celebrated 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Vishwakarma Mandir wherein Pradyot Gupta, Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur was chief guest and he flagged off

'Triranga Rally' in the presence of S. Lakhvinder Singh, Darshan Kumar, District president MDU Udhampur and others.

MESBAI general body meeting held

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 10: Military Engineer Service Builders Association of India (MESBAI), branch Udhampur, held its first general body meeting, here today.

Meeting was chaired by MESBAI Chairman Darshan Proach while Hony Secy Sandeep Gandotra was stage secretary and he managed activities of the house smoothly.

Darshan Proach addressed the first house general body meeting after the elections to discuss the strategy for smooth run of houses and overall welfare of builders also.

Sandeep Gandotra read out agenda of the meeting, according to which one person shall be appointed as computer operator to run branch office, process for release of PG should be accelerated, raising

special donation/welfare fund, control over very low rates invariably quoted in tenders, involvement of user/PMG without any technical knowledge, DCS are made by deptt based on old quoted rates by contractor, delay in finalization of Deviation order and star rates, makes of command not in contract and many more viable issues related to the builders were raised.

The Chairman assured the house to take up their genuine issue with HQ and Chief Engineer Northern Command and other concern quarters for early redresses.

Other present in the meeting were Bikram Slathia, Anil Senson, Sanjay Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Vijay Gupta, Inderjeet Sharma, Kush Pachyala, Umesh Mahajan, Joginder Singh, Lucky Khajuria and many more.



President of Jackson Group, JR Sharma and others during a press conference at Press Club, Jammu.

Jackson Group announces mega event 'Big Star of Jammu'

*Releases Punjabi devotional song

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: M Jackson Cultural Institute of Society is going to organize a mega event 'Big Star of Jammu' in dancing, singing and modeling.

This was announced by JR Sharma (Jackson), president of the Institute, while addressing a press conference at Press Club, here today. Regional Manager of V-Mart Jammu, Shyam Bisht, was also present on the occasion.

"We want that every person should get opportunity to participate in the programme and that is why they have set no age limit for the participants. People of any age can participate in this event and show their talent," he added.

Jackson disclosed that the auditions for the event will be held at all V-Marts in Jammu. He further informed media persons that the auditions will be held on August 12, 19, 23, 26 and 1st Sept at V-Mart Jewel, Talab Tillo, Kunjwani, Kachi Chawni and Janipur, respectively from 11 AM to 3 PM. "The

grand finale of the event will be held in mid of September and the winner will get an opportunity to do a video album," he added.

Later, a ceremony was organized to release a Punjabi audio/video song titled 'Meraya Murad Shah Ji' (devotional song of Baba Murad Shah and Baba Ladi Shah Ji), which has been sung by Jackson (JR Sharma), who has also given lyrics of the song.

The music of the song has been composed by Surinder Manhas. Surinder Singh Manhas is the studio and music arranger, Sonu Taneja video director, Ashok Jasrotia DOP, Manhas Sharma sound record, model JR Sharma. Costumes and Makeup has been done by Poonam Sharma while Choreography has been done by Rithima Sharma.

BS Baba (Baba Travels) was the chief guest while Shyam Bisht Regional Manager (V-Mart) was the guest of honour of the ceremony. Akram Khan, Sheetal Singh, Ramesh Parvanna, Rahi Sharma, Rohit Bains and Yageshwar Yogi were also present in the function.



Hundreds of mourners participating in funeral procession of Army man, Kalki Sharma at his native village Barwal in Kathua district on Thursday.

Tearful adieu given to Army man, hundreds join funeral procession

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Aug 10: Hundreds of people joined the funeral procession of Army man Kalki Sharma, 24, who drowned in Kashmir Canal at Sawan Chack, near here yesterday while taking bath with his friends.

The last rites of Kalki Sharma were performed at his native village Barwal in which hundreds of the villagers, his friends, relative, family members and Ex Servicemen participated.

His body was taken in Army vehicle with full army honours to cremation ground and hundreds of mourners with tears in their eyes participated in it who gave an emotional adieu to the soldier.

The prominent people and Army Officers attended the wreath laying ceremony and paid glorious tribute to departed soul. The villagers gave tearful adieu to him and saluted to this

young hero of Army and recalled his services to Army in Uri Sector. His good behavior, friendly and jolly nature was recalled by his friends and relatives.

His friend Deepak Singh said that Kalki Sharma was very intelligent Army man. He was preparing for SSB interview schedule to be held in next month. Unfortunately the cruel hands of death did not spare him. Ex Capt. Gopal Singh said that his father was also an Army personnel and rendered his service in Gorkha Regiment. Now Kalki Sharma was also serving the country in the Army. He was very brilliant and performing his duties with dedication and good behavior. He was preparing for Army Officer's examination and got coaching in Pune. But unfortunate incident destroyed his dreams and life.

He, while paying tributes to Kalki Sharma extended his all sympathies to the bereaved family.

BJP's agenda all inclusive, focus on development, welfare: Dr Manyal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Congress MP, Rahul Gandhi lacks knowledge of the ideology, principles and working line of the BJP. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, general secretary Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party, said this while refuting Rahul's charges that the BJP has a divisive agenda in J&K.

He said that the Congress leader is making such statements out of mere frustration. He said that the Congress top leadership is, in fact, unaware of the prevailing environment in Jammu and Kashmir in particular, maybe they are ill informed by the local unit just to remain in the good books of the high ups.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that the BJP Government, under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during the past nine years, followed the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas', taking care of all, taking all together and winning the trust of all. The Government has a track record of framing and launching various welfare

schemes that are inclusive. Every section of society has its share in one scheme or another.

He said that citizenship rights have been given to refugees from West Pakistan, who were treated as second class citizens by previous governments of the Congress at the Centre. Again, it goes to the credit of the BJP that the STs in Jammu and Kashmir have been granted political reservation. Daughters of the soil now have basic rights after abrogating 35A, he added.

"For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, prestigious educational and health institutions like AIIMS, IIT, and IIM have been established. Medical colleges, even at the district level, have been established.

Airports in Jammu and Srinagar have been expanded and modernised with night travel facilities. The railway stations of Jammu and Kashmir have been included in the country's mega projects to develop them on modern lines, thus upgrading them to world-class status.

CARDC organizes program on Swami Dayanand Saraswati

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Centre for Advanced Research on Development & Change (CARDC), New Delhi in collaboration with Arya Girls School, Kacchi Chawni (Jammu) today organized a program on Swami Dayanand Saraswati.

The Program organized to commemorate 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, was inaugurated by Arun Chowdhary (president, Arya Pratidhhi Sabha, J&K) along with Dr Naresh Batra, Dr Ajay Sharma (convener, Krantiteerth, Jammu Kashmir) and Dr Pratibha Purandhi.

The students of Arya Girls High School, Kachi Chawni (managed by Arya Samaj Dayanand Marg Jammu) participated in various cultural activities and also presented patriotic songs. The program was also attended by presidents, general secretaries and other office bearers of various Arya Samajs of Jammu.

Dr Kulbhushan (convener, Arya Samaj, Dayanand Marg), Bharat Bhushan (president, Arya Samaj Samaj, Trikuta Nagar) and Sarika Narang (Principal of the School) were judges of the program. First, 2nd and 3rd prizes went to Sumit, Amandeep and Dinesh, respectively.

Arun Kumar Gupta along with Dr Naresh Batra and Sarika Narang were also honored by CARDC for their support.

The function was also witnessed by the parents of the school children and people from vicinity.

Sena resents non-issuance of DLs for last 8 months

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K unit expressed resentment over non-issuance of Driving Licenses (DLs) for the last eight months in J&K.

After submitting a memorandum to Transport Commissioner in Jammu in this regard, Shiv Sena J&K president, Manish Sahni here today told reporters that despite fulfilling all formalities and waiting for eight months, people are still awaiting the issuance of their DLs.

"The number of pending licenses has now reached nearly 30,000 and continues to increase with each passing day," he said adding: "The Department claims

lack of cards as the reason for delay of over eight months."

The Shiv Sena leader said that the department currently lacks hard copies of License Card and individuals are being urged to download their DLs online instead.

"But the Department is still charging individuals for printing and delivery fees amounting Rs. 200 and Rs. 50 respectively. This collection should be halted immediately," Sahni maintained.

He said that a memorandum has been submitted to the Transport Commissioner, highlighting all of these concerns.

Meenakshi Chibber and Sanjeev Kohli were also present on this occasion.