

Rice Hispa outbreak in Jammu areas: SKUAST-J issues pest alert

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) has issued a pest alert in response to a recent sporadic outbreak of Rice Hispa (*Dicladispa armigera*) in select areas of Jammu District.

The alert comes following observed damage in scattered rice fields, posing a potential threat to the rice crop.

Reports confirm Rice Hispa outbreaks in limited locations, including Mandal, RS Pura, and Bishnah blocks, as identified by scientists from SKUAST-Jammu.

Collaborating closely with the Department of Agriculture and supported by Agricultural Extension Officers, SKUAST-Jammu swiftly responded to observed damage at the research farm in Chatha, under the guidance of Prof RK Samotra, Director Research.

The team, including experts like Dr Rajan Salalia and Dr Vijay Bahadur Singh, conducted an in-depth survey to assess damage

extent and conducted adhoc recommendations.

Survey findings revealed concerning damage levels by this sporadic pest, particularly affecting the vegetative phase of rice plants. Damage ranges from 10% to 80% across surveyed fields, with indicators of infestation including leaf tip whitening, desiccation of young leaves, and blistering due to larval penetration.

To address the issue, the expert team suggested using chlorpyrifos 20EC (0.05%) at 1250 ml/ha upon manifestation of damage or insect presence, followed by a second round of spraying 40 days later.

Clipping and destroying the top three-fourths of leaves of highly infested crops at the early vegetative stage can also help suppress populations.

The potential escalation of this minor pest is compounded by climate change factors favoring its multiplication.

The pest alert highlights the critical need for vigilance in monitoring and timely intervention to counter its impact.

SR College starts JKAS Prelims test series

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: SR College Of Competitions, J&K's premier academy for Civil Services, has started a test series for the aspirants preparing for the JKAS 2023 Prelims Examination to be conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission and scheduled in the month of October.

SR College of Competitions has been guiding the Civil Services aspirants since the year 2000 and a number of students coached by the college have made their entry into various prestigious and coveted All India and other services like

IAS, IFS, IPS, JRS, IFOs, JKAS JKPS, KCS and many other national and state level services.

The latest test series for Prelims 2023 consists of 17 sectional and full mock tests of General Studies and CSAT. The students are also being provided with explanations and doubt clearing sessions wherever required.

"The response is overwhelming and the tests are scheduled every Sunday and Wednesday. Further Full Mock Tests will help the aspirants in getting their preparation assessed and evaluated," said Heemu Bhat, Office Coordinator.



HoD Cardiology Dr Sushil Sharma and Swami Vishwatamanand Ji Maharaj inaugurating health Camp in Poonch on Sunday.

Healthy heart -Mantra for successful, healthy pilgrimage: Dr Sushil

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 27: Keeping in view the ongoing holy pilgrimage of Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra in Peer Panjal ranges Head Department of cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long Cardiac awareness cum Health checkup camp in association with Municipal Council Poonch in loving memory of Sher-e-Poonch late Yashpal Sharma (former MLC), the man behind instrumental in maintaining peace and harmony among all religion in the Valley who also played a phenomenal role in preserving and protecting the rich cultural and religious heritage of Poonch district.

The camp was organized at Shri Dashnami Akhara Mandir Poonch for masses with particular focus on pilgrims with cardiac issues. The Camp was inaugurated by Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwatamanand Ji Maharaj accompanied by Sunil Sharma (President MCP), Dr-Sushil Sharma, Vinay Sharma (SSP Poonch) and Sandeep Mehta in presence of Municipal Councillor Poonch Balvinder Singh, Naresh Kumar, Sanjay Khajuria and Mohinder Singh amidst vedic invocations for universal peace and well-being.

More than 1500 individuals availed the health checkup service. **20 bovine animals rescued**

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: Udhampur Police have foiled a bovine smuggling bid under the jurisdiction of Police Station Majalta and rescued 20 bovines, which were being transported to Kashmir valley.

Police party of Police Station Majalta, headed by SHO Rakesh Kumar, under the supervision of SDPO Rannagar Vishal Manhas, while performing routine naka checking at Manwal checkpoint, stopped a Container, bearing registration number JK03B 8711 for checking purpose.

On physical checking of the said vehicle, police team found 20 bovines loaded in the Container without any valid permission. Driver of the said vehicle fled away from the spot by taking advantage of heavy traffic on the road. The police team seized the said vehicle and rescued all the 20 bovines.

In this connection, FIR number 69/2023, under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Majalta and further investigation of the case is in progress.

Annual Machail Yatra close to 2 lakh mark

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Aug 27: Heavy flow of devotees continues in annual Machail Yatra and so far around 1,67,000 devotees of Goddess Chandi have paid obeisance at the holy shrine.

As per reports around 3443 pilgrims including 1941 male, 982 female and 517 children along with 3 saints paid obeisance to the Goddess today.

With an unexpected flow of pilgrims this year, the pilgrim

age is all set to touch 2 lakh mark before it concludes on September 5.

The Yatra had started on July 25 and it witnessed a sudden increase in number of pilgrims from the very first week of August and the trend is still continuing. Reports are that for coming days, helicopter service providers from Gulabgarh to Machail have received advance bookings and many pilgrims are still in the waiting list.

Poor drainage triggers protest in Ajit Colony

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: Residents of Ajit Colony in Ward number-32 area here today staged a protest demonstration against Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and demanded proper drainage system in their locality.

The protesters said that a channel drawn from Ranbir Canal for irrigation purpose is not properly made and its water flows into the lanes creating water-logging which makes it tough for the people to move through the lanes.

The protesters raised anti-JMC slogans and claimed that they visited Irrigation Department and JMC offices but only got assurances as none came forward to resolve the

issue which people in the locality are facing on daily basis.

A protester informed that lanes-drains and sanitation in the area is in very poor condition and the children and old age people often fall while moving through the water-logged lanes.

"The water-logging has also become a breeding place for mosquitoes while the city is witnessing increasing cases of deadly dengue," another protester said.

They urged upon the Mayor, Rajinder Sharma; Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria and JMC Commissioner, Rahul Yadav to look into the matter and get the problem solved so that the people of Ajit Colony may have a sigh of relief.



A scene from play 'Aag Ka Tamasha' staged at Jammu on Sunday.

'Natrang' stages Hindi play 'Aag Ka Tamasha'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: Theatre group 'Natrang' here today staged Hindi play 'Aag Ka Tamasha' written by Giriraj Sharan Aggarwal and directed by Neeraj Kant.

The play opens in a busy market where a cop is shown looking for one Fakir Muhammad alias Jhunjhuna Qawwal's house.

After inquiring a lot from many people, a man escorts the cop to Jhunjhuna's house who mistakenly thinks that the cop has come with an invitation for a commissioned Qawwali programme and start demonstrating his entire repertoire of Qawwalis.

The cop gets engrossed in his poetry recitations and soulful Qawwali renderings and forgets that he has come to arrest him.

Later, he remembers the purpose of his visit and drags the Qawwal to the police station.

On reaching police station, the Sub-Inspector tells Jhunjhuna that someone has filed a complaint against him for setting his Muftal Beedi Store on fire which resulted in a loss of lakhs of rupees to him.

The Qawwal pleads that his art works like fire extinguisher and does not set things on fire.

On this the proprietor of Mufatlat Beedi Bhandar is summoned, who accuses the Qawwal for setting his Beedi Store on fire as he was heard singing the entire night 'Aag Laga Doonga' (will set on fire).

Pleading further Jhunjhuna's wife Bulbul Begum informs that they were rehearsing a Qawwali that night whose lyrics were 'Har Dil Mein Mohabbat Ki Hum Aag Laga Doonga'.

Meanwhile, Ahe Ji, poet of that Qawwali, is also summoned. Both Qawwal and Ahe Ji were booked for conspiracy for setting on fire Muftal Beedi Bhandar.

While pronouncing the judgment, it was observed that laws are made to punish and not to reward anyone for spreading the message of peace and love through artistic expressions.

Artists who performed in the play were Chirag Anand, Vedhant Suri, Mehak Singh, Sumit Bandaral, Chaitanya Shekhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Harsh Dogra and Nikhil Sharma.

Lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant, publicity was designed by Vanshika Pandoh, the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and presentations were done by Sushant Singh Charak.



Members of Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society posing for a group photograph after a meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

TNWS discusses issues, raises demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: A meeting of Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) was held here today under the chairmanship of TNWS president, Rajinder Parshad Kakkar where problems of Trikuta Nagar were discussed and demands were raised.

Speakers in the meeting demanded that the Urban Health Training Centre of Trikuta Nagar should be upgraded to Community Health Centre.

They said that this demand was taken to those at the helm but nothing has been done in this regard till date because of which the senior citizens will take out a peaceful protest rally on September 2, 2023 at 10.30 am from TNWS office to Urban Health Training Center to remind the concerned authorities for the demand.

TNWS members also claimed harassment at the hands of JDA in

transferring residential plots to their spouses.

They said that JDA makes excuses that the concerned files were not traceable or were sent to Civil Secretariat for clearance.

They also said that theft cases have increased in Trikuta Nagar while the cases of chain snatching, drug abuse etc are also disturbing the residents.

The issue of car parking was also discussed and multiple cars parking facility was demanded in Trikuta Nagar colony.

Another demand which was discussed was that of repair and widening of bridge over Nallahal in Sector 4-5 of Trikuta Nagar and the TNWS members claimed that it has become accidental prone.

Prominent among those who participated in the meeting were Ashok Kumar Arora, Vijay Gupta, Dr. TR Gupta, Anil Sharma, Dr. Arun Gandotra, R.K Kakroo, Rannik Dubey and O.P. Sharma.

Urgent Plea for road repair in Poonch Colony, Bantalab

For several years, we, the residents of Poonch Colony, have endured the consequences of recurrent floods that have mercilessly eroded our main road. This vital artery, which should be a symbol of connectivity and progress, has instead become a symbol of neglect and suffering. The daily commute has turned into a hazardous adventure, and the erosion has brought down property values, leaving us in despair.



We beseech the concerned authorities to consider the urgency of our situation and act promptly to restore our road. The black-topping and repair of this road are not just infrastructural needs; they are essential for our safety and well-being.

The second issue that haunts us is waterlogging, a menace caused by damaged drains. Our streets turn into waterlogged quagmires during heavy rains, creating unhygienic and perilous living conditions for our families. We cannot stand idly by any longer while our homes and lives are disrupted by this avoidable problem.

We implore you to allocate the necessary resources and attention to repair and upgrade our drainage system. This will not only prevent further flooding but also contribute to our community's overall quality of life.

We stand ready to cooperate in any way possible, from granting access to the affected areas to supporting the execution of these vital repairs. Your response to our plea will undoubtedly strengthen our faith in the democratic process and the ideals of community welfare.

Asrar Ahmed Khan
Resident of Poonch Colony
Bantalab, Jammu

Plea to JMC authority

I want to bring kind attention of the concerned authority towards some critical issues that affects our community and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Smart City. Our society, like many others, grapples with the challenges of inadequate infrastructure, and we believe it is high time for the authorities to address this issue.



The road in our society is in dire need of improvement. The potholes, uneven surfaces, and poor drainage systems not only hinder daily commutes but also pose a significant threat to the safety of our residents. We earnestly request that the authorities invest in upgrading our road infrastructure to meet the standards of a Smart City. This would not only enhance our quality of life but also contribute to the overall development of the area.

Additionally, our locality faces an alarming risk of dengue due to waterlogged areas during the monsoon season. Stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which are vectors for this deadly disease. Dengue poses a grave health hazard to our community, especially to children and the elderly. To protect our residents from this menace, we implore the authorities to take immediate action to improve drainage systems and ensure efficient water disposal.

We call upon our elected representatives, LG's administration and concerned authorities/departments to heed our plea and allocate the necessary resources to realize this vision. Together, we can work towards a smarter, healthier and safer society, in harmony with the aspirations of our nation.

Zorawar Singh
On behalf of residents of Nanak Vihar,
Lower Muthi, Jammu
(Behind Parshotam Dairy Farm Lane)

Dangling transformer wires endanger our villages

I write to express my deep concern about a perilous situation that has arisen due to dangling wires of local transformer in our village Bhalwal Brahmana, Tehsil Jourian (Akhnoor), Block Bhalwal Brahmana, Ward No 5 and Ward No 9. The presence of these wires not only threatens the safety of our community members but also raises questions about the maintenance and vigilance of our local utility services. It is disheartening to witness such a potentially catastrophic situation in our village. The sight of these wires swaying in the wind is a stark reminder that our safety is at stake.

I implore the responsible utility company with local authority to address this matter with the urgency it demands. The safety of our villages should never be compromised due to negligence.

Rakesh Kumar
Bhalwal Brahmana, Ward No 5

Shiv Parivar Mandir Barwala Sadar Sabha elects office bearers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: Shiv Parivar Mandir Barwala Sadar Sabha on Sunday organized a General Body Meeting to elect the office bearers of the Sabha at Gole Panjpeer, Talab Tillo, here.

On the occasion, participants unanimously elected Puran Chand as Chairman, Banarsi Lal as Vice-Chairman, Rattan Lal as President, Jagdish Kumar as Vice-President, Mohinder Kumar as General Secretary, Romesh Lal as Assistant Secretary, and Om Prakash as Cashier.

As per a statement, Tilak Raj was elected as Assistant Cashier, Rattan Lal Radha as Organising Secretary and Madan Lal as Assistant Organising Secretary. Ludhri Ram, Balkar Chand, Rattan Lal Mistri, Ranjeet Chand, Kuldeep Kumar, Bodh Raj, Janak Raj Radha, Soma Lal pangai, Ganesh Lal, Karan Chand and Bishan Lal were elected as Executive Members.

29th Bn CRPF holds free medical camp in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: A free Medical Camp was conducted today under the Civic Action Program by the 29th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at the Government Middle School SK Bagh in Pahroo, Budgam. The camp aimed to provide healthcare access and alleviate health concerns for local residents in need.

The camp, situated in the Zone BK Pora of District Budgam, received an overwhelming response from the community. Around 300 individuals benefited from the medical services provided at the camp.

Qualified medical professionals examined patients and administered necessary treatments. Additionally, free medicines were distributed to those requiring medical assistance.

Provide parking facility in Chhanni Himmat

I intend to highlight an other public issue regarding lack of Parking facility in Chhanni Himmat area. It is a well known fact that Chhanni Himmat residential colony and its market have grown manifold and emerged as one of the most sought after colonies to settle down.

It is observed that there is no provision for adequate parking of the vehicles. In lack of it the commuters are compelled to park their vehicles along road side that often leads to disruption to normal flow of traffic and sometimes jams as well. To the best of my knowledge, the only parking facility is available outside Shanti Ghat (Cremation ground) besides the other one having very small space near ICICI Bank.

Since these are not adequate to cater to the ever-increasing number of vehicles and growing market, the concerned authorities are appealed to provide a suitable parking where good number of vehicles may be accommodated. It may not be out of context to recall about bitter experience of huge traffic jams - a routine affair especially during festive season. In light of the above facts, the concerned authorities are requested to consider the need of suitable parking facility for the commuters in Chhanni Himmat.

Lokinder Singh Ravi
Jammu

Provide latest facilities at Jammu Railway Station

The Jammu Railway station should be set up with latest facilities without which people with disabilities, elderly passengers, or those with heavy luggage face many problems. Many modern railway stations are taking steps to address these issues, but there is still room for improvement in many places.

Here are some additional points to consider in relation to the difficulties.

Accessibility for People with Disabilities and Elderly Passengers: It's important for railway stations to have accessible infrastructure such as ramps, elevators, and designated waiting areas for people with disabilities and elderly passengers. Some

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stations have dedicated staff or volunteers to assist those who need help.

Luggage Assistance: Providing luggage carts or porters can be immensely helpful for passengers who have heavy baggage, making it easier for them to navigate through the station. Some stations have this service available for a fee.

Drop-off Points: Designated drop-off points near the entrance of the station can greatly assist passengers who may have difficulty walking long distances or carrying heavy luggage.

Assistance for Boarding: Many stations have special services to assist physically challenged or elderly passengers in boarding the train. These services might include ramps, staff support, and priority boarding.

Information and Communication: Stations should ensure that important information, announcements, and signs are available in multiple languages, including regional languages, to cater to passengers from diverse backgrounds.

Security for Belongings: Railway stations need to maintain proper security measures to minimize the risk of theft and pick pocketing. Adequate surveillance and visible security personnel can help create a safer environment for passengers.

Awareness and Sensitivity: Station staff should be trained to handle the needs of differently-abled passengers and elderly travellers. This includes being aware of accessibility features, offering assistance, and providing a helpful attitude.

Feedback Mechanisms: Railway authorities should have a system in place for passengers to provide feedback on their experiences. This can help them identify areas for improvement and take necessary actions.

While visiting Jammu Railway Station or any other station, it's important to communicate your needs in advance if possible. Many stations have help lines or customer service desks that you can contact to inquire about available assistance. Additionally, travel companions or family members can also play a role in ensuring a smoother experience for those who require extra help.

Haresh Singh
Jammu

Plea to Financial Commissioner, Revenue

I am in possession of residential plot of land Dream City under sale deed mutation No. 727 dated. 6-7-1998, land measuring 7 Marlas, 2 Sarsai under Kharsa No. 361. Only 2 Marlas of land has been shown in the RoR of village Dharmal. I approached your office with an application dated. 31-12-2020 for the correction in RoR. Under section 27 of Land Revenue Act and committee constituted vide order no. GC/Sett/159 of 2014 has reached out the conclusion that the correction of the record of rights is required to be made.

The correction order has not been issued in my favour till date as the file is lying pending and unattended in the office of Director land records, Revenue complex Gole Gujral, Jammu since Nov. 2022 vide receipt No. 342/RDSLRIJ dated. 25-11-2022. It is requested to get the correction order issued in my favour at your earliest.

Badri Nath
Dream City (Dharmal), Muthi

Plea to Commissioner/ Secretary PWD (R&B)

This is to draw the attention of the PWD (R&B) Department authorities that PWD (R&B) Division Samba constructed road in Village Rakh Amb Tali Tehsil Samba under Kharsa No. 410 leading from Railway line to Village Balori. Ironically, the land is yet to be acquired through a proper process under the J&K land acquisition act, even no consent was taken from the owners.

Our requests and applications have proved futile. As such the acquisition of land in question needs to be initiated so that the compensation can be given. Right to prosperity and land used is a basic human right and we cannot be deprived of our property.

Gur Nandan Singh
Kehli Mandi Samba

Ishfaq Jabbar forms JKUM

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Ishfaq Jabbar, former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the Ganderbal constituency, today formed his own party Jammu Kashmir United Movement (JKUM).

Ishfaq Jabbar was expelled from the National Conference earlier this year and formed JK United Movement with the aim of addressing the pressing concerns and aspirations of the people.

The newly-formed party is set to focus on a range of critical issues, spanning from economic development to social justice, and education.

Speaking to reporters at the launch of the new party, Jabbar expressed his gratitude for the support he has received over the years and outlined the party's vision for a more prosperous and equitable future for the region.