

Authorities seal 25 shops in Lal Chowk built on Pvt land

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 1 : In an ongoing drive against the illegal encroachment of land, the authorities today sealed 25 shops at Aftab market in Srinagar's Lal Chowk area that were built on private land. An official said that a few months back, a complaint was received from the successor of one Kulvant Singh, who claimed that their ancestral land measuring 2.6 Kanals at Srinagar's Lal Chowk area was encroached on which shops structures have been raised now.

"Acting upon the complaint the land was found to be recorded on their name, following which a due process was initiated and illegal

The shopkeepers said that with this move they and their families will be rendered helpless and are being pushed towards starvation, saying that how would they earn a livelihood for themselves and their families in absence of the business they have been doing for more than 50 years.

"We already had a meeting with the successor of Gandha Sahib and he said let us sit and talk and fix the rent agreement and we were waiting for his phone call and now you can see what they have done. This is mayhem for us," another shopkeeper said.

In the meantime, the authorities also conducted demolition drive at SSM College at Parihaspora in Pattan area of Baramulla district.



Shops sealed in Srinagar's Aftab market. —Excelsior/Shakeel

occupants were served eviction notices," the official said.

Meanwhile, the shops that have come up on the land have been sealed today following which the shopkeepers protested in the market, claiming that they have been paying the rentals to SMC for decades.

"We have been paying the monthly rentals since 1972 towards the SMC, and just three days back, we were given an eviction notice and we were not given even any chance to respond to that," a group of shopkeepers said.

The gate of college was pulled down and besides boundary wall and several kanals of government land were retrieved.

The District Administration Anantnag today conducted massive anti encroachment operations against various stone crushers operating from State and Kahcharai land.

A senior officer said that several commercial establishments had been identified who were operating from encroached lands and raking in profits at the cost of resources of common people.

Protest against road construction company

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Feb 1: The people of Begunara of Sub Division Thana Mandi blocked the road and protested against the Dharam Raj Construction Company.

they have to travel miles to get water from the spring. The protesters alleged that the area is being neglected while uninterrupted water supply is being ensured in the neighboring villages. They said if water supply is not ensured to the area, they



Villagers staging protest at Thannamandi, demanding restoration of water supply.

—Excelsior/Imran

The road construction company, which is constructing the Rajouri-Surankot road via Thannamandi, has uprooted the water pipes at Manyal due to which the water supply in the area has been affected

for the past one month, but they have not restored the water supply. Due to this the people had to resort to protest.

The protesting men and women raised slogans against the company management. They said that due to non-availability of water they were facing severe difficulties. They further said that

will be forced to intensify the protest. People told that they have repeatedly called XEn Jal Shakti Rajouri but he didn't pay any attention towards the issue.

Tehsildar Thannamandi Sahil Ali Shah reached the spot and pacified protestors by assuring that water supply in the area will be restored at the earliest.

Modi Govt policies derailed country's economy: Manohar

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Feb 1: Former minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today alleged that wrong policies of Modi Government have derailed the strong economy of the country.

Addressing public meeting at Mandli in Billawar today Sharma said that BJP leadership knows that people are angry with its policies and they have got a taste of it despite their double-engine Government. The electorate of J&K are waiting for an opportunity to take this government to task for its misdeeds. The BJP has nothing to offer to the people of Jammu and Kashmir except divert their attention through their divisive and diversionary mode of politics.

He asked the people to reject BJP and the opportunistic forces dancing to the tune of party for the sake of individual favour or lust of power. "I want to tell them that the voters of J&K are politically mature and cannot be misled

by false slogans and promises. They know their well-wishers and whom to vote for," he added.

"The wrong economic policies of the Modi Government have derailed the robust economy of the country, leading to unprecedented hike and large scale unemployment in the country. The people are facing the brunt of the huge taxes as the Modi Government is passing on the burden to the common people," Sharma said.

Dr Manohar said people of J&K had great hopes when they gave huge mandate to BJP in 2014, but all their hopes were dashed to the ground during last eight years. Now people of J&K were expecting some relief in Union Budget but that didn't happen either. He said while there are some good things in the budget, there was no mention of MNREGA, poor rural labour, employment and inflation. Some fundamental questions remained to be answered, he claimed.

CEC Kargil reviews Haj preparations

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Feb 1: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan today chaired a meeting at Council Secretariat here to review and discuss preparations for Haj 2023.

Executive Councillor, Revenue, Mohsin Ali; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve; Chairperson Haj Committee, UT Ladakh, Muhammad Ali Majaz and Haj Committee Members attended the meeting while Executive Officers of Haj Committee J&K and Ladakh attended the meeting virtually.

At the outset, the CEC took feedback from the Executive Officers of Haj Committee J&K and Ladakh regarding agenda

points and training of Haj pilgrims for 2023. The meeting discussed issues faced by Haj pilgrims of UT Ladakh.

The Executive Officer of Haj Committee J&K assured that due training will be provided to an officer of Haj Committee of Ladakh as requested during the meeting so that smooth functioning of Haj Committee of Ladakh could be ensured at the earliest.

The Chairperson of Haj Committee, Ladakh requested for accommodation to Haj Committee in Kargil.

Responding to the request, it was assured that due space will be provided for the office establishment of Haj Committee Kargil at an earliest through DC/CEO LAHDC Kargil.

Mehbooba instigating public against encroachment drive: Brig Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: While the ongoing anti-encroachment drive against the big land sharks, politicians, bureaucrats, and influential persons has been welcomed by the majority of law-abiding citizens of Jammu & Kashmir, PDP chief, Mehbooba Mufti is using the same to instigate members of a particular community to turn it into a law and order problem playing her usual victim card and communal assault, alleged Brig (ret'd) Anil Gupta, spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"Her call to the people of J&K to unilaterally rise against the administration is a clear act of provocation against the Government that is implementing the orders of the High Court. In doing so she has once again displayed her hatred for the Constitutional authorities and Indian Army by involving the LG and Army authorities and terming Raj Bhavan and Badami Bagh Cantonment as encroachment of the State land.

Blaming Mehbooba for spinning lies to provoke the people Brig Gupta reminded her that the Army is in occupation of the land that belonged to the erstwhile State forces of the Maharaja as it

was decided to hand over the possession of such land to the Indian Army after the unilateral ceasefire declared by Pandit Nehru in 1948.

In fact, the palatial bungalows occupied by the politicians on Gupkar Road, also belong to the Army as it was the property of the State Forces, he added.

"In her hate-filled tirade, she also blamed the BJP for using the anti-encroachment drive to persecute the people of J&K and uproot them from their homes.. Her statement is contrary to the assurances given time and again by the LG that the rights of the common man and poor man will be secured and their land will not be touched", Brig Gupta said.

The LG has further assured that only powerful and influential people who misused their position to encroach upon the State land will surely be evicted. The turn of events so far clearly indicates that the Government is committed to its stand but Mehbooba is trying to unnecessarily politicize the entire exercise, asserted Brig Gupta. "I challenge Mehbooba Mufti to give even one incident of a poor man's house being demolished", he added.

Protest rally against politicians involved in encroachment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DF&SS) here today under the leadership of their president Ashok Gupta took out a protest rally demanding termination of politicians from the prime membership of political parties they belong to for their involvement in encroachment of State land.

Addressing protesters Ashok Gupta mentioned about anti-encroachment drive of the Government under which large chunk of State land has been retrieved at different places in Jammu and Kashmir Union

Territory in which even the big-wigs were not spared.

He claimed that common masses and poor people would not be touched during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive launched to retrieve the State land.

"The Government is concerned to safeguard interests of poor people but those who have illegally occupied the government land by using their positions will be dealt with strictly," the Shiv Sena leader maintained.

Abhishek, Sushil, Lovely, Bharat, Kulu, Prem, Naresh, Bantu, Vikky, Rampal and others were present in the protest rally.



Participants of hands-on training programme at BGSBU Rajouri.

BGSBU organizes lecture cum hands-on training on Geological landforms

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Feb 1: Environmental Sciences Program, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, School of Biosciences and Biotechnology in BGSBU University Rajouri, organized an invited talk cum hands-on training session on Geological landforms.

BGSBU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Akbar Masood said that purpose behind the training was intended to stir among Post Graduate students of Environmental Sciences to reinforce experimental and contextual learning outside the class-

rooms by making real-world connections.

During the program, the subject expert, Dr Omkar Verma from School of Sciences, IGNOU, New Delhi, delivered an important talk on Geological landforms and highlighted the main geodynamic processes related to the evolution of the Himalayas and demonstrated to the students the various geological formations in the BGSBU University along with the adjoining area.

Dr Verma spoke about the general overview of principles and concepts of geological formations and geophysical methods that gave students first-hand experience of practical learning.

Earlier, Dr A A Shah, Associate Dean, School of Biosciences and Biotechnology, in his introductory session, highlighted the need for such types of hands-on training. He asked the students to appreciate the natural beauty and the herbal and geo resources of the Himalayas and do research for their sustainable development.

Dr Shreekar Pant, Coordinator CBS, introduced the expert to the students and deliberated that the need for understanding of geological principles is pivotal to understanding the principles of environmental sciences.

2 vehicles seized

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Feb 1: On directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, a team of Mining Department today under the supervision of District Mineral Officer (DMO) Doda, Sunil Manhas, with full cooperation of Police Department seized two vehicles involved in illegal mining near old wooden suspension bridge at Pul Doda.

The erring vehicles were booked under Mining Act. The team of officials headed by DMO Doda has also destroyed the path used by sand mafia for illegal sand extraction at Pul Doda near Old Bridge.

Talking to the reporters, the DMO said that action against illegal mining shall be intensified and anyone involved in it shall be booked under relevant sections of the law.

Bharat Bhushan visits Chakrali, Chatha Gujran, takes stock of people's issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairman, DDC Jammu today interacted with the inhabitants of villages Chakrali and Chatha Gujran and listened to their problems and assured early redressal.

During the tour of Chakrali Village, the DDC Chairman held a public meeting wherein prominent people of the village apprised him about the burning issues of the area including the breach of Army ditch leading to flooding of fields and blocking the movement of tractors. They demanded a protection wall to stop the water from reaching fields and approach road on the right side of the ditch to ensure the movement of tractors and other vehicles. They said that the road will also facilitate the security forces to reach their destination with great ease.

After listening to the issues of people, the DDC Chairman assured to take up the matter with army authorities and the concerned departments to start the work at the earliest. He said that he will leave no stone unturned to pace up the work after raising the issues before the concerned quarters.

Later, Bharat Bhushan visited Chatha Gujran, and held a public meeting wherein locals demanded

construction of the lane and black topping of roads especially in the central part of the village as the same were in dilapidated condition and villagers were facing difficulties while moving on these road stretches.

Consequently, the DDC Chairman promised to start the construction work sooner than later and also vowed to black top the roads although he said that climate is not conducive right now for the road work and as soon as warm weather will ensue, he will ensure



DDC Chairman Jammu, Bharat Bhushan along with BJP district president North, Omi Khajuria during a tour of Chakrali and other villages on Wednesday.

start of black topping work. Omi Khajuria BJP district president North, Ajay Sharma BJP district general secretary, North, Mandal president Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Sarpanch, Vandana Kumari, Booth president, Sawan Singh, Executive Engineer, PWD, Sunil Dogra, BDO, Marh, Vijay Kumar Sharma and technical staff accompanied the DDC Chairman and noted down the points for early start of the work to bail out people from the difficulties which they are facing right now.

After listening to the issues of people, the DDC Chairman assured to take up the matter with army authorities and the concerned departments to start the work at the earliest. He said that he will leave no stone unturned to pace up the work after raising the issues before the concerned quarters.

Later, Bharat Bhushan visited Chatha Gujran, and held a public meeting wherein locals demanded



Teachers from various CBSE schools in Udhampur who participated in workshop on Financial Literacy.

DPS Udhampur hosts workshop on Financial Literacy

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 1: Keeping the importance of financial literacy in changing scenario of the world, Delhi Public School Udhampur organized CBSE workshop on Financial Literacy so that teachers may plan well for systematic savings to fulfill the future requirements.

Resource Person appointed by the CBSE, Sunil Kumar, who has worked as one of the leading CA firm of Udhampur (RHVP & Co), Registered member of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds of India) having total of 10 years' experience in taxation and 7 years in the field of financial products, cleared all the doubts related to equity, recurring and investments.

Workshop threw light on how to plan future in a better way for productive and settled life without any worries. The workshop

was attended by around more than 100 teachers from various CBSE schools of Udhampur namely Kendriya Vidyalaya Udhampur, Kendriya Vidyalaya Chennani, APS Dhar road Navodaya Vidyalaya, KC Gurukul & DPS Udhampur.

Dr J C Gupta, Pro Vice Chairman DPS Udhampur, welcomed this initiative of CBSE of hosting this workshop at DPSU.

Dr Kunal Anand, Principal DPSU and District Training Coordinator CBSE CoE Chandigarh, presented a formal welcome address and threw light about this unique workshop, which was first of its kind on Financial Literacy.

The program began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the resource person along with Vivek Gupta, MD of DPSU and Sucheta Gupta, Dr Kunal Anand along with Headmistress Bhavni Sharma & Chief CCA Coordinator Rakhi Gupta.

Hold early elections in J&K: Manjit Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 1: Former Minister and Apni Party Provincial President Manjit Singh has demanded early elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a monthly meeting here at Vijaypur, Singh said that the LG-led administration has completely collapsed, resulting in problems to the people.

"People in Jammu as well as Kashmir regions have faced equal discrimination in the LG-led administration and the youth are the worst sufferers due to the rising unemployment in the UT," he said.

"Only an elected Government can come up with a solution to the rising grievances of the people in the twin regions," he added, while seeking early elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the alleged uncertainty over the

Government's land eviction drive, the Apni Party leader said that people in Jammu and Kashmir are worried about their land, future, resources, employment and protection of rights from the outsiders.

"The LG administration must address this confusion among the farming community," he further said.

Singh said that if Apni party forms the next Government in the UT, it will ensure equitable development of all the regions by ending the discrimination.

"We will also address the issues of the DPs and refugees while asking the current dispensation in the Centre to release the pending financial package of Rs 25 lakh per family," assured Singh.

Raman Thappa, Saleem Alam, Vipul Bali, Sai Bhagat among other leaders were also present on the occasion.

HC upholds detention under PSA of narco smuggler

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: High Court has upheld the detention order passed by Divisional Commissioner Jammu along with the proceedings conducted under Section 3 of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act 1988 whereby Daljeet Singh of Kathua placed under detention.

While dismissing the petition, justice Mohan Lal observed, "the petitioner has been involved in many criminal activities and against him five FIRs have been registered in different police stations in District Kathua", adding "from the bare perusal of the FIRs

and the allegations therein against the petitioner, it is discernable, that the petitioner is a hardcore criminal, has become a terror figure among the people of the area, the actions taken against him under ordinary law from time to time have not been proved to be deterrent".

"It seems that petitioner deteneue instead of mending his ways has continuously been indulging in criminal activities and has not shown any respect for the law of the land, as such, the petitioner/deteneue has created a sense of alarm, scare and a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the public of the area", High Court said.

IGNOU extends last date for fresh admission, re-registration

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the January 2023 session till 10th of February, 2023.



This was informed by Dr Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In-Charge. Earlier, the last date for fresh admission was 31st January, 2023.

Before filling the admission form online, a candidate needs to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile number, Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee. The direct link of the portal on IGNOU website is https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in.

To enroll in the next year or semester, candidates must fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2023 form by the submission deadline. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can still apply for re-registration for January 2023 provided the minimum duration is completed and programme validity has not expired.

The gate of college was pulled down and besides boundary wall and several kanals of government land were retrieved.

The meeting ended with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the resource person along with Vivek Gupta, MD of DPSU and Sucheta Gupta, Dr Kunal Anand along with Headmistress Bhavni Sharma & Chief CCA Coordinator Rakhi Gupta.



DAP workers during a protest demonstration at Batote on Wednesday.

DAP demands written order against land eviction

Excelsior Correspondent

BATOTE, Feb 1: Democratic Azad Party (DAP) here today continued protest demonstration against the land eviction order.

Workers and leaders of DAP demanded written order by LG administration mentioning that no poor shall be touched by the authorities during land eviction drive.

"While the Government on one side gives verbal assurances that no poor shall be touched, on the other hand the authorities are demolishing properties of poor and needy people," DAP vice chairman GM Saroori said.

He said, the Government shall clear the confusion and give a written order to all district authorities, directing them not to touch properties of the poor.

DAP chief spokesperson, Salman Nizami said if the Government is saying that poor people will not be touched then why the notices are served to all?

"Poor people have nowhere to go. Government can't act so brutally and destroy their homes," he maintained. The protesters raised slogans against anti-encroachment drive launched by the government and said that DAP will not stay silent unless they get a written assurance. "As long as the written assurances are not given we will continue protest," the protesters said.

R.S Chib, DAP general secretary also addressed protesters over phone.

A memorandum in this regard was submitted to Tehsildar Batote in presence of DAP vice chairman GM Saroori.

Traders aghast as authorities fail to lift snow from Shopain Market

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 1: The authorities in Shopain have not bothered to clear the snow which has now accumulated on the roadsides at the main market making it difficult not only for the pedestrians to move, but the shopkeepers are also suffering.

The shopkeepers told Excelsior that the snow was earlier lifted but then it snowed again and for the last nearly 2 days, the concerned authorities have not bothered to lift the accumulated snow so that the movement of the general public is facilitated.

"The mounds of snow measuring 5-6 feet are right in front of the shops and it becomes really difficult for us to operate in such a situation; earlier the lifting of snow in tippers was done immediately, but this time there has been a delay," said Owais Ahmad, President, Traders Federation, Shopain.

He said that not the shopkeepers are suffering, but he said, that the movement of traffic is also getting hampered by the snow which

remains accumulated on the roadsides.

"Even the pedestrians are facing issues on their movement; it is the snow which has been cleared from the road, plus the snow which came down from the roof—all accumulated on the roadside," he said.

Another shopkeeper said that their businesses are taking a hit with the concerned authorities failing in lifting the accumulated snow well in time.

"There are some shopkeepers who have preferred to keep their shops closed because they are not even able to open them up; this time there has been a delay in snow clearance," he said.

The residents as well as the shopkeepers have requested the concerned authorities, especially the officials at Municipal Committee (MC) Shopain, to deploy the men and machinery to ensure the timely lifting of the accumulated snow from the market so that the traders can do their businesses smoothly and at the same time, the movement of the general public is facilitated.

3 OBC bodies concerned over non implementation of 27 pc reservation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 1: OBC Welfare Forum Srinagar, OBC Mahasabha JK UT and All India Backward Classes Federation has expressed serious concern over non implementation of 27 percent reservations for OBCs in J&K UT on the basis of Mandal Commission recommendations.

The three organizations also showed their utter concern that the Backward Classes Commission and Committees are headed by non OBCs since 1956 and their demand of appointing a member from the OBCs as the head of these bodies has not been conceded till date.

This was stated by OBC Welfare Forum Kashmir president, Ghulam Hassan Sher Gujri while addressing a joint meeting of these organizations here, today after attending the national convention of All Indian OBC Mahasabha at New Delhi.

He alleged that non appointment of chairman to these bodies is the main cause of discrimination to which the OBCs in the UT are subjected. He added that the parameters set by Apex Court

of country regarding the reservation to OBCs are not being implemented in J&K.

The meeting demanded caste based census and there should be a separate column for OBC castes and communities in census 2022. The meeting also alleged that there are many sub castes of OBCs and communities which has not been included in JK UT lists by the Government like Teelwani, Sub caste of Teeli, Band, Bughat, Hanji, Mallah, Gujri etc.

Gojri who was given a grand reception on his arrival after attending the national convention warned that OBC Maha Sabha will hold massive protest in Delhi next month.

Others who addressed included Mohammed Shabir Sambyal, president Dhobi Welfare Central Committee, Dr Tara Chand, Mohan Lal Pawar, general secretary OBC Mahasabha, Suneel Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Sonu Kumar, Raj Kumar Chalotra, vice president All India Backward Classes Federation, Manohar Lal Tidyral, Vijay Kumar, Ravi Kumar Dogra and Bansil Lal Choudhary.

JE lost life in road accident

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Feb 1: A Junior Engineer (JE) lost his life in a road accident here today.

Police sources informed that the JE has been identified as Anil Manhas, son of Kanwal Singh Manhas, resi-

Maruti Swift make bearing registration number JK06A/3484, driven by Anil Manhas was going from

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Doda to Kastigarh and the driver lost control over the vehicle near



Mingled remains of accident hit car in Doda. Police Station Doda in FIR no. 21/2023 Under Section 279, 304-A IPC.

They also said that the mishap occurred when the ill fated car of

Malwas resulting which the vehicle rolled down 200-300 feet leaving the JE dead on spot. Police has registered a case in this regard at Doda Police Station.

Doda in FIR no. 21/2023 Under Section 279, 304-A IPC. Investigation of the case has been entrusted to ASI Faizulla.