

PDP-NC, Cong worried over anti-encroachment drive: Vibodh

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI Feb 4: BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC, Vibodh Gupta strongly asserted that under the veil of Article 370 and 35 A leaders of PDP, NC, and Congress grabbed

Vibodh said, "LG Sahab has ensured that no poor person is affected by the anti-encroachment drive". The Government at the Centre is pro poor and is for poor and marginalised section of the society and not for the elite corrupt people.



BJP general secretary, Vibodh Gupta addressing a press conference at Rajouri on Saturday.

State land and illegally constructed their bungalows, hotels, and industries. This he said clearly shows how these people have looted J&K during past 70 years. Vibodh made these remarks while addressing media persons here today.

"The Nawabs of PDP, NC, and Congress are worried as the Government is retrieving land encroached upon by them. Under the guise of Article 370 and 35 A, they started to consider Jammu and Kashmir as their estate and grabbed State land but the anti-encroachment drive will retrieve every inch of State land illegally occupied by them, said Vibodh.

Praising LG, Manoj Sinha,



Participants of SCERT training programme during valedictory function on Saturday.

SCERT training program on 'Content Enrichment & Pedagogy' concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Five-day training program on "Content Enrichment and Pedagogical Approach in Teaching of Sociology (Arts Stream) at Senior Secondary Level" by SCERT J&K, Divisional office Jammu concluded today.

This programme was organized by Department of Curriculum Development and Studies, Academic Unit II JKSCERT Jammu under the guidance and supervision of H R Pakhrone, Joint Director, JKSCERT Jammu.

The programme was attended by 47 Lecturers/Masters/Teachers teaching Sociology in Jammu Division. The aim and objective of this programme was to enrich the content of the subject and developing the different Pedagogical approach as per NEP-2020 which can be used by the teachers in their teaching learning process.

Special attention was given to the Activity based Pedagogy including Debates, Group discussions, Art Integrated Learning (AIL), Blended learning, Experiential learning in the different sessions during the training programme.

The programme was facilitated by the experts from different Institutions including, Dr Neharika Shubash (Research Associate, CSSEIP, JU), Dr Ashwani Kumar (AP, Central University, HP), Prof Shivali Gupta (AP, GDC Samba), Dr

Syed Nasser (AP, MAM PG College, Jammu), Dr Arun Kumar (AP, GDC Hiranagar), Dr Nisha Sharma (AP, Reasi Campus, JU), Jaswinder Kour (Sr Lecturer, SRML Parade Jammu), and Resource Persons from SCERT Jammu namely, Ashu Magotra (Sr Academic Officer), Amit Kumar Bhagat (Academic Officer), Ashok Kumar (Academic Officer), Anil Sharma (Academic Officer) and Lakshmi Puri (Teacher) who deliberated on different aspects of content enrichment and pedagogical approach in Sociology at Sr Secondary level.

Joint Director, SCERT, Jammu presided over the valedictory function in the presence of faculty of SCERT and encouraged the participants to work with zeal and zest and act upon the learning they achieved in the five-day training programme. Vote of thanks was presented by Neena Puri (Academic Officer) SCERT Jammu.

The training programme was conducted by the team, comprising of Coordinator, Amit Sharma and Associate Coordinator, Neena Puri, Neeraj Jamwal, Abha Verma, Parshotam Singh, Manjusha Kapoor, Anil Sharma (all Academic Officers) and Lakshmi Puri (Teacher) under the overall supervision of Prof Swarn Singh and Associate Prof Pawan Gupta. The programme was technically coordinated by Akash Khajuria (Teacher) and Lakshmi Puri (Teacher), SCERT, Jammu.

ISRO-NASA built satellite ready to be shipped to India for launch

WASHINGTON, Feb 4:

An earth-observation satellite jointly developed by NASA and ISRO that will help study Earth's land and ice surfaces in greater detail is all set to be shipped to India later this month for a possible launch in September.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in the US state of California on Friday to oversee the final electrical testing of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite before being shipped to India.

"This mission will be a powerful demonstration of the capability of radar as a science tool and help us study Earth's dynamic land and ice surfaces in greater detail than ever before," Somanath said at the formal send-off ceremony organised at the JPL which was attended by senior scientists from the two space agencies.

Later this month, the SUV-size payload will be moved into a special cargo container for a 14,000-kilometer flight to the U R Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.

ISRO and NASA joined

hands in 2014 to build the 2,800 kg satellite. In March 2021, ISRO sent its S-Band SAR payload developed in India to NASA for integration with the L-Band payload built by JPL.

"This marks an important milestone in our shared journey to better understand planet Earth and our changing climate. NISAR will provide critical information on Earth's crust, ice sheets, and ecosystems," JPL Director Laurie Leshin said.

Somanath said that the NISAR spacecraft will be integrated into the satellite bus at the U R Rao Satellite Centre for launch within the next year.

"This is one of the most complex satellites. The elements that are built by JPL are excellent," Somanath said.

The event at JPL was marked by the ceremonial breaking of coconuts in front of a scale model of the satellite by NISAR project heads of NASA and ISRO Phil Barela and C V Shrikant respectively.

The JPL Director also presented the ISRO delegation with a jar of JPL lucky peanuts to be eaten during the launch of the satellite. (PTI)



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma inaugurating programme on millets at Miran Sahib on Saturday.

Jugal highlights use of Millets in daily food

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament from Jammu-Poonch, Lok Sabha constituency today said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global hub for Millets'.

He was addressing a programme in connection with promotion of daily use of Millets (Mota Anaaj) at Miran Sahib in R S Pura constituency today which was organized by Department of FSSAI in collaboration with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district Jammu South team.

Jugal said that 'Millets' were among the first crops to be domesticated in India with several evidence of its consumption during the Indus Valley civilization.

He, while narrating the benefits of Millets in our daily use said that they are the very much nutritious and digestive as they will boost up immunity and help in maintaining good health.

He said that to double the income of our farmers Prime Minister has also taken up a great step to move towards the daily use of Millets "Mote Anaaj" in our daily life and appealed the

nation to use it for which a programme was also organized at Parliament. Different kinds of food items prepared with Millets are also served in Parliamentary Central Canteen, he added.

He said that now Millets are named as "Shree Ann". He said that Millets are the good source of protein, fiber, key vitamins, and minerals. The potential health benefits of Millets include protecting cardiovascular health, preventing the onset of diabetes, helping people achieve and maintain a healthy weight, and managing inflammation in the gut. He appealed the masses to use Millets in their daily life.

Former Minister, Sham Lal Choudhary, president M.C.R.S Pura, Satpal Pappi, Deputy Director Food Safety & Drugs, Madan Mangotra, Sarpanch, Dev Raj Sharma, Mandal presidents, BJP Vikram Sandhu, Vijay Sharma, Councillors, Gharu Ram, Raj Kumar and others were also present.

Food items prepared with Millets like Bajra, Maize, Raw Millets and others were also displayed. Madan Mangotra Deputy Director FSSAI & Sarpanch Dev Raj narrated the benefits of daily use of millets in his welcome address.

Talk on 'New Trends in Cyber Security' organized

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Feb 4: GLDM Govt. Degree College, Hiranagar organized an expert talk on the topic, "New Trends in Cyber Security" under the banner of IQAC in collaboration with the Department of Computer Applications, here today.

The resource person on the occasion was Syed Ali Hussain Kazmi, Head Operations and Business ARCON. Having more than 13 years of rich experience in business development and operations across EMEA (Europe Middle East and Africa) region, Kazmi is a young, dynamic personality in this field.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of the College welcomed the resource person and apprised the students about the role of extra-curricular activities in overall personality development of the students. She further gave some overview regarding the topic and its necessity in today's digital world.

Prof. Sujat Khan during his keynote address deliberated upon

the importance of data security and also deliberated upon the secure use of digital equipment and how we use protection while surfing the internet so that our data and profile remained secure.

The resource person while interacting with students provided some tips on how to safely use the digital devices while being connected with the internet. He also shared some incidents of cyber threats and how these threats can be prevented. He further discussed the new technologies which are adopted by developed countries for the security of data.

The students asked questions about the safe use of social media and how their data and devices can be kept secure while surfing the internet to the resource person after the talk.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof Parveen President (Incubation Innovation Council of the College).

Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Mukesh, Dr. Arun Bose and Sanjeev Sharma were present during the event.

Natrang's Fresher Acting Theatre workshop commences

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: An acting workshop commenced here today at Natrang Studio Theatre with lighting of ceremonial lamp by Natrang founder president and director, Padmashree Balwant Thakur.

He was joined by vice president Natrang, Suresh Kumar; Neeraj Kant, secretary and workshop director, Gauri Thakur.

This workshop will be conducted by Gauri Thakur - a young theatre director who has been trained in various workshops under National School of Drama patronage.

In his address Balwant Thakur said that Natrang in response to the growing demand of having regular acting training and learning opportunities in Jammu, has taken the initiative to conduct proper professionally designed acting workshops for new aspirants of theatre who wish to make their career in theatre,

film and television.

A handout stated that Natrang is going to start separate workshops for children in theatre and dance for which advance registration has already been started. In addition to this Natrang is also starting music classes in which the lovers of music will have the opportunity to learn under great masters of music.

Balwant Thakur said that the theatre equips a participant with a lot of confidence and sharpens communication skills in addition to the overall personality development.

Participants of this workshop include Arjun Prasher, Gurpreet Singh, Amit Singh, Vansh Pandotra, Shruti Thakur, Vrinda Gujral, Ishika Jandiyal, Mihir Gujral, Amit Brahm, Sheryaer Khan, Arun Sharma, Sumit Bandaral, Ishani Jandiyala, Abhimanyu Choudhary, Rafee Mushtaq, Rohan Sharma, Aman Gupta, Akhil Mankotia, Aadesh Dhar and Kushal Bhat.

Rs 35 lakh relief approved for 25 victims

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 4: In a meeting here today, district administration Ramban approved Rs.35 lakh relief in favour of 25 victims under SDRF.

After threadbare discussion and proper verification of all relief claims, District Development Commissioner Ramban, Rajinder Sharma approved release of Rs. 35 lakh in favour of 25 victims of different fire incidents and house damage cases in the district.

During meeting, the ADDC also approved Rs.10 lakh for

release to JPDCL Ramban under SDRF for temporary restoration of power infrastructure affected due to rains and snowfall across the district.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Giasul Haq, Executive Engineer PWD, Abhishek Gupta, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Nisar Ahmed, Deepak Kumar, Tehsildars and various other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the ADDC asked the officers to process all genuine cases timely, if any such incident occurs in their jurisdiction.

LG greets people on Sant Guru Ravidas Jayanti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has extended his greetings and felicitations to the people on the auspicious occasion of Sant Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

In a message, the Lt Governor said that the life and teachings of Guru Ravidas Ji continue to guide humanity towards an equitable society.

"Guru Ji embodied the spirit of compassion, brotherhood and dignity of humanity. His Jayanti is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to create a humane and just society and work for equality and fraternity," the Lt Governor said.

Police holders' money safe, say LIC employees

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: LIC employees and office bearers of Jammu and Kashmir said in a statement on Saturday that the public holders' money is safe with the central public sector undertaking.

Under the banner of Northern Zone Insurance Employees Association Srinagar Division and LIC Class-I Federation, a meeting was held here under the leadership of Pawan Gupta and Fayaz Ahmad Gul, Divisional Secretary and President Northern Zone Insurance Employees Association Srinagar Division, which discussed the impact of Hindenburg report on LIC.

As per the statement, the meeting said that ever since the US based short seller Hindenburg Research has published a "damning report" on the Adani Group of Companies, a large section of the people and political parties have expressed their concern over the LIC's presumably high exposure to the Adani Group of Companies and how it could risk the savings of the middle class Indians.

"Being responsible trade unions commanding the support of an overwhelming majority of the workforce in LIC, we want to clarify that we are opposed to political patronage to any busi-

ness group at the cost of the public sector, the people and the economy.

"We feel that the Government should conduct an impartial enquiry into the allegations made by the Hindenburg Report and find out the truth," the meeting said.

As far as rumours about LIC's exposure to the Adani Group of Companies and its potential impact on the hard earned savings of millions of Indians is concerned, the meeting said, "we would like to place that LIC is a long term investor and the investment decisions are taken keeping the long term benefits of the policy holders in mind."

"The investment policy of LIC is that 80% of its investments are made in secured instruments like Government securities or bonds. Hardly 20% of the investments are made in equities. The funds invested by the policy holders are therefore absolutely safe," the meeting further said.

"Regarding the investment in the Adani group and the supposed loss to LIC, we have to clarify that this loss is only notional and not real. LIC has not sold any Adani group shares held by it in the market to sustain any loss," the meeting added.



Dr Rohit Lahori receiving Fellowship of Pain Medicine during convocation ceremony of IAPM in Amritsar, Punjab.

Dr Lahori awarded Fellowship of Pain Medicine by IAPM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Dr Rohit Lahori, noted Interventional Pain and Palliative Care Specialist from Jammu has been awarded with prestigious Fellowship of Pain Medicine by Indian Academy of Pain Medicine (IAPM).

The Fellowship was awarded to Dr Rohit Lahori during convocation ceremony of the Indian Academy of Pain Medicine, held today in the holy city of Amritsar at Shri Guru Ram Dass University of Medical Science.

The occasion was graced by

Dr Avnish Kumar (Director, Research and Medical Education, Punjab) as chief guest and Dr Manjit Singh Uppal (Vice Chancellor, Sri Guru Ram Das University of Health Sciences, Amritsar).

Dr Rohit Lahori is presently posted as Incharge Pain and Palliative Care in Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar (Jammu) under Directorate of Health Services Jammu. It is pertinent to mention that Dr Lahori is the governing council member of Indian Society of Study of Pain, the largest pain society of India.

Court grant pre-arrest bail to 3 in University clash

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: 1st Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Virender Singh Bhout today granted pre-arrest bail to Harshvardhan Singh Jamwal, Arun Pal Singh and Harish Pal Singh.

Yesterday, students and security personnel were injured in a clash at University of Jammu. According to the reports, some students of Government MAM College entered Zorawar Singh Auditorium in University of Jammu and launched physical attack on some law students to take revenge of some old rivalry.

Reports said that one of the security personnel present in the auditorium tried to pacify the assailants but they beat him too. In the clash, the security personnel and a law student received minor injuries.

After hearing Advocate Damini Singh Chauhan appearing for the applicant, court issued notice to the

Public Prosecutor with the direction to get report from the concerned police and to submit the same along with his objections.

"In the meantime, it is directed that in the event of arrest of petitioners/applicants, they shall be enlarged on bail subject till next date of hearing on furnishing surety and personal bond to the tune of Rs.50,000 each to the satisfaction of the IO provided the petitioners/applicants are not involved in any offence which is punishable with death or imprisonment for life or imprisonment exceeding 07 years or for the offence under any Special Act / Forest Act/NDPS Act/financial scam/ or land grabbing / cases involving Govt property (immovable or moveable or both) or any other offence relating to violation of any direction in any PILs pending before Supreme Court or High Court, subject to the conditions", read the order of the court.

Two held with charas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Gandhi Nagar Police today arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 10 kg and 180 grams of charas from their possession.

"During naka checking near Last Mohr, Gandhi Nagar, a team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar led by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspector Pankaj Singh arrested by PSI Basharat Hussain rounded up two suspects namely Sajjad Ahmed Zargar son of Gulham Mohamad Zargar, resident of Wagay Mohalla Bijbehra (Anantnag) and Syed Hussian Wagay son of Sona Ullah, resi-

dents of Naid Mohalla Bijbehra (Anantnag)," a Police spokesman said.

He said during search, 10 kg and 180 grams of charas was recovered from the possession of the accused. "In this regard, a case under FIR Number 30/2023 U/S 8/15/29 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and the accused got arrested," the spokesman said, adding, further investigation into the case was going on.

The arrests and recoveries were made under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and overall supervision of SP and South Mamta Sharma.

Adani's FPO pullout has not impacted India's image: FM

MUMBAI, Feb 4:

India's economic image is not affected due to Adani Group's recent decision to pull out Rs 20,000 crore FPO amid allegations of financial wrongdoings, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

The finance minister said there has been an accretion of USD 8 billion to the forex reserves in the last two days alone.

"Our macroeconomic fundamentals or our economy's image, none of which has been affected. Yes, FPOs (follow-on public offers) come in, and FIs (foreign institutional investors) get out," Sitharaman told reporters here.

The minister said there are "fluctuations" in every market but the accretion over the last few days establishes the fact that the perception of both India and its inherent strengths is intact.

Answering a broader question on the allegations against Adani Group, she said the country's independent financial sector regulators will be looking into the aspect and added that capital markets watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India has the wherewithal to ensure stability in markets.

"...For keeping the market and the markets regulated in prime condition, the Sebi is the authority. And it has the wherewithal to keep that prime condition," she said.

The finance minister also said that the RBI has already spoken out on the issue, referring to Friday's statement, which said the banking sector is resilient and stable.

About ten days ago, US-based short seller Hindenburg Research made a slew of allegations on the corporate governance front against Adani Group. The Ahmedabad-based group has denied all the allegations and termed it as a calculated attack on India. It has cancelled the FPO even after managing subscriptions to it.

Finance Secretary TV Somanathan on Saturday stood by

his comment on the controversy where he called it a storm in a teacup, clarifying that this is in the context of macroeconomic terms and the stability of India's public financial institutions.

Meanwhile, on the decision to convert outstanding dues into equity at Vodafone Idea, Somanathan said the transaction is being done as a package for all telcos.

He said the government share will be held by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) where the stake will be considered as a public shareholder.

DIPAM secretary Tuhi Kanta Pandey said the price has been taken at Rs 10 despite the Vodafone Idea shares trading lower on bourses because, as per laws, preferential allotments have to happen at the face value of a share.

The finance ministry officials present at the meet also made it clear that the tweaks on taxation in the insurance front will not impact the policy agenda of deepening penetration and clarified that there was sufficient data to suggest that investments were masquerading as insurance premiums due to which a decision was taken to tax the same.

Sitharaman said there is no timeline which has been decided to end the old tax regime, and the government has only introduced a simpler new tax regime, which has the incentives of lower rates.

The officials also denied that this will impact the savings in the economy. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said citizens are being given an expanded array of choices to determine what they want to do with their money.

Answering a question on introducing the controversial p-notes for GIFT City, Somanathan said it competes with other international financial services centres due to which such provision has to be made and added that India always retains the right to mitigate any perceived risks. (PTI)

350 kg poppy straw recovered from truck

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 4: In a major success, Police today seized 350 kg of poppy straw from a truck at Zero Morh Chenani (NH7) under the jurisdiction of Police Station Chenani.

The huge consignment was being smuggled in the truck bearing registration number PB10GV-298, which was on way from Kashmir to Jammu.

A team of Police Station Chenani, headed by SHO Om Parkash, under the supervision of Addl SP Udhampur, Anwaar Ul Haq, intercepted the truck while

conducting routine vehicle checking at Zero Morh Chenani on the National Highway.

The driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot leaving behind the vehicle on road. During checking of said vehicle, Police team recovered 350 kg of poppy straw like substance from it.

Police seized the recovered poppy straw as well as the truck and registered a case FIR number 25/2023, under sections 8/15 NDPS Act at Police Station Chenani. Further investigation in the case was underway.

Don't harass poor people in land eviction drive: Sena

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: J&K president of Bala Sahib's Shiv Sena Eaknath Shinde Group, Ashwani Gupta has urged upon the LG administration to strictly deal with land encroachers who have grabbed large pieces of Government land.

Speaking at a joining programme he also said that poor people who have build their houses on small pieces of Government land should not be harassed in the ongoing eviction drive and their land should be regularized on

charging nominal amount from them.

On this occasion Sanjeev Sharma was made Shiv Sena president of R.S Pura after many Shiv Sainiks from R.S Pura including Bishan Das, Sahil, Ajay, Ashok Kumar, Mulkh Raj, Ram Singh, Shiv Pal and Charan Dass joined Shiv Sena Eaknath Shinde Group under the leadership of Sanjeev Sharma.

Shiv Sena general secretary, Rakesh Kak; state secretary, Sanjay Bhatt and others were also present on the occasion.

Muslim Front for fight against Narco-terrorism

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 4: Jammu Muslim Front (JMF) here today expressed serious concern over the anti-national elements who are hell bent to disturb peace in J&K using narco-terror.

JMF leaders have appealed to the people to cooperate with police and make others aware to put up a fight against narco-terrorism.

During a meeting of JMF office bearers discussion was held on danger to peace because of terror module and anti-social elements who are hell bent upon to vitiate peace of J&K.

"Society has to rise to fight and help law enforcement agen-

cies to pinpoint hidden notorious elements who encourage terrorism and are targeting the younger generation," said JMF president, Qazi Imran.

He appealed to the government to form a Committee of social workers to keep an eye on modules of anti-social elements and complimented cops in Rajouri for busting terror module.

Chairman JMF Shuja Zaffar appealed to people to rise above political affiliations and strengthen the bonds of communal harmony.

He said that perpetrator of terrorism Pakistan needs to be taught an exemplary lesson to save future of youth and to let peace to flourish.

Pak drone shot down

NEW DELHI/JAIPUR, Feb 4:

A Pakistani drone carrying about 6 kg narcotics has been shot down by the Border Security Force along the International Border in Rajasthan on Saturday, a senior officer said.

The flying machine was brought down during the intervening night of February 3-4 in Srikaranpur area of

Sriganganagar sector of the state. "A Pakistani drone along with two bags containing six packets of suspected narcotics, weighing about 6 kgs, has been recovered by a joint team of the force and local police," a BSF spokesperson said.

A similar drone carrying about 5 kg drugs was shot down by the border force in Punjab on Friday. (PTI)