

Srinagar Admin launches massive anti-encroachment operations, several under construction structures demolished

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 8: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad an inten-



Anti encroachment drive in Srinagar.

sified anti encroachment operations was launched by District Administration in various parts of the City to evict Government Land from the illegal occupants.

During the operations several structures being constructed illegally on Government land were also demolished.

In North Tehsil of the District, a team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood conducted a massive anti-encroachment drives in

Harwan and Syedpora areas and retrieved about 40 kanals of Prime Government land from the land grabbers worth crores.

Similarly, in Pantha Chowk, a team of Revenue and Police Officers/Officials headed by Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Rakib Ahmad undertook an anti-

encroachment drive and State land measuring 10 kanals were evicted from the encroachment in estate Panthachowk, behind DPS.

Moreover, such anti-encroachment operations were also held in other parts of the District in order to evict encroachments on Government land.

Speaking about the anti-encroachment drive undertaken to preserve Government land, the DC Srinagar said anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire State and Kahcharie land encroached by the land grabbers. He said involvement in land encroachment will be dealt with sternly as per the law.

CHITRADURGA (K'taka), Jan 8:

Targeting the ruling BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge today said in a democracy if one person is made a god, it will not be democracy, but will become an autocracy.

He called on all sections of the society, especially SC/ST and other weaker sections to unite for safeguarding the Constitution and democracy.

The veteran leader further while pointing at Modi projecting his Gujarati identity while seeking votes during Gujarat polls, urged people to vote for the Congress during upcoming elections in Karnataka, while highlighting that he too is son of the soil here and asked people support him, his party and its leaders.

"For every thing Modi, in a democracy if you make one person a god, it is not democracy it is autocracy, it will lead to dictatorship. Think about it. You have to know your rights and you should

fight to get it," Kharge said.

He was addressing the "Aikyata Samavesh", a large convention of SC/ST communities organised by Karnataka Congress in the run-up to the Assembly polls, which is likely by April-May.

Kharge further said, "if you have strength, if you are united, you will have value. If you are not united, the divide and rule principle which the British used and now Modi is using, will be applied on you by everyone else in the society. Keep this in mind."

The goal should be to protect the democracy in the country, and to safeguard the Constitution, he said, if the Constitution and democracy is there, one can ask for reservation, promotions, and can become MLA or a Minister.

The AICC chief suggested that lakhs of people are joining Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in his "Bharat Jodo Yatra", an nationwide march which he is undertaking, because it focuses on unemployment, price rise, among other issues.

"There are more than 30 lakh

job vacancies in the government sector, Modi is not filling them, why? We have to question and demand for it to be filled. Out of 30 lakh, 15 lakh is for SC/ST and OBCs, these are assured jobs," he said.

"They (ruling BJP administration) are not recruiting to fill up these vacancies, because, if poor get jobs and get money into their hand, their (BJP) game will be over. So they are recruiting people on daily wages and contract basis for jobs," he added.

Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah, state Congress chief D K Shivakumar, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, were among a host of party leaders who attended the event.

Stating that we should question the Government which is silent on its promise to provide two crore jobs every year, Kharge said, "Did anyone ask? No. When Modi comes only Modi, Modi slogans echo and when Amit Shah comes Shah, Shah slogans, ask them about jobs." (PTI)

Covovax to get approval as booster in 10-15 days, says SII CEO

PUNE, Jan 8:

Serum Institute of India chief executive officer Adar Poonawalla today said its Covovax vaccine will get approval as a booster in the next 10 to 15 days, adding it works well against the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at Bharti Vidyapeeth University here, Poonawalla, when asked about states and districts not getting Covishield vaccines, said there are ample stocks with the Union government for supply.

"Covovax will be approved as a booster in the next 10-15 days. It is actually the best booster because it works very well against Omicron, more than Covishield," said Poonawalla.

He said everyone was looking at India, not just in terms of healthcare but because the country managed to take care of a

huge and diverse population and also helped 70 to 80 nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This was all possible because of the leadership of our Central government, our state governments, healthcare workers, manufacturers, all of whom worked together with one common goal," he said.

Poonawalla was conferred the first Dr Pantangrao Kadam Memorial Award at the hands of NCP Chief Sharad Pawar and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in an event to mark Kadam's birth anniversary.

Appealing to students who wished to pursue education abroad, he said there was no place like India to fulfil dreams due to the presence of institutions like Bharti Vidyapeeth and others.

"Even if you have to go abroad, come back as soon as possible," he said. (PTI)

Sajjad Shaheen asks people to unite against divisive forces

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, Jan 8: Sending out a message of unity among the masses, National Conference (NC) leader and district president, Ramban, Sajjad Shaheen today asked people in general and party workers in particular to "unite against forces who attempt to destroy the J&K and divide its people."

"Nowadays, people of erstwhile state of J&K are facing a great crisis and are concerned whether their democratic, Constitutional and fundamental rights will continue to exist," he said while speaking in a working Committee meeting of Banihal

Assembly constituency held here today in which prominent functionaries of block committees, DDC counselor Khari and delegates, participated.

Claiming that Jammu and Kashmir is bubbling with enthusiasm to have a strong, stable and responsive Government under the banner of National Conference, Shaheen said that all permutations and combinations by opponents will fall flat whenever elections are held in the erstwhile State.

On the occasion, several political workers from various parties joined NC and resolved to strengthen the party and its leadership.



Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma inaugurating optical store Chashma Junction at Channi Himmat.

Goel Opticians unveils Chashma Junction

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Goel Opticians today officially unveiled their state-of-the-art optical store, Chashma Junction, here at Channi Himmat area near Vermani Mall.

As per a statement, the store was inaugurated by Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma.

Amit Goel, the owner of Goel Opticians store operating from Raghunath Bazar area, said, "In order to cater to the growing demand of the quality and genuine eye-care products, Chashma Junction has been opened at Channi Himmat, Gandhi Nagar,

Trikuta Nagar, Sainik Colony, Bathindi and other areas."

The statement said that the Goel family has a vast experience of over 50 years in the medical sector and almost 20 years' experience extensively in the field of eye care.

Pertinently, Chashma Junction is a Zeiss Vision partner in Jammu. Zeiss is an internationally renowned technology enterprise of optics and optoelectronics.

Congratulating Amit Goel, Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma hoped that more Chashma Junction stores would be opened in other parts of the city in the days to come.

Youth Cong organises meeting at Hiranagar

Bharat Jodo Yatra instilling hope among youth: Uday Chib

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Jan 8: Continuing with the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' preparations, Jammu Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress conducted a preparatory meeting at Hiranagar in Kathua district today.

The meeting was organised by Romi Sharma and chaired by PYC president Uday Bhanu Chib, Navneet Kaur and Amit Sharma said that such specialised surgeries in Shub Tilak Multi Speciality Hospital will be a great relief for the people of rural areas.

Sharma further said, "Conducting such major surgeries free-of-cost in private hospitals has become possible only due to the efforts of PM Narendra Modi who launched Ayushman Bharat Scheme for the poor people of the country."

"Under the scheme", Sharma said, "The poor people are availing better treatment facility from the premier institutes of the country."

Meanwhile Sharma congratulated Rakesh Malhotra and Dr Kulbir Singh for taking such initiatives in their hospital.

for a better future, one which is based on love, and one where the party actually cares about the common man, he said.

PYC chief further said that 'we are visiting various Constituencies to oversee preparations so that yatra will pass through its scheduled route smoothly.' He added that to preserve the identity of unity in diversity of India, Rahul Gandhi has started the yatra and it is a grand success.

IYC secretary Navneet Kaur said that the Yatra has infused a sense of hope in the youth as it is taking up issues of utmost importance. Rahul Gandhi during the yatra is also addressing issues that address the youth directly, one of the major issues being unemployment. Also, the spirit of unity and brotherhood which is being hailed by the yatra, is attracting all people into this positive movement.

Amit Pathania said that the zeal of the people towards the yatra is very strong in all areas whether the yatra might or might not pass through their areas. Youth Congress has covered many areas, residential colonies and constituencies to invite people to join the yatra and spread right information about the route plan, entry points and other logistics so that all interested people get the opportunity to participate in the march.

ABVP announces Agriculture University unit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad has announced its new unit of Agriculture University Jammu.

Maninder Singh has been unanimously elected as the Unit President and Tanvi Choudhary as Secretary while Manoj Singh Sidhu, Naveena, Sumit and Rohan were elected Vice-Presidents and Rahul Sharma, Dinesh Sou and Aman Manhas were elected as a Joint Secretaries.

ABVP also announced Unit Incharge of different Ayams. Vivekni was declared as Unit incharge for Agrivision, Nishant Jasrotia for SHoDH, Kartik Parihar for Students for Development (SFD), Kedar for Students for Seva (SFS), Mridul Sharma for Rashtriya Kala Manch

(RKM) and Kanav for Study circle. Shivalika, Shivam Aniket, Kamakshi Sharma, Rhythm and Harmandeep were nominated as co-incharge respectively.

Further Shivainshu was nominated as Convenor of Horticulture and Gourav Singh as Convenor of Agriculture while Niharika and Utkarsh as Co-Convenor respectively. Shubham Jamwal is Incharge for Boys while Ranjana Bali is Incharge for Girls, Stanzin Incharge for Media. Kunwar Tej Partap is Co-Incharge and Ankit Bishnoi, Rahul Bhadu is Social Media Incharge.

On the occasion, ABVP J&K Universities Incharge Mukesh Manhas, outgoing president of SKUAST-Jammu, Sourav Manhas and former Agrivision Convenor Deepak Pandey were also present.

Performance of BJP Govt extremely poor: Manohar

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Jan 8: Former minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today said that performance of BJP Government has remained extremely poor during past eight years.

Addressing public meeting at Kenta Panchayat Baggan Lowar today, Sharma said that BJP was playing vote bank politics with both tribals and non tribals by making false, tall and illogical promises besides illogical distribution of categories like RBA, ALC, OBC, EWS. He said that the conspirators are all out to jeopardize the legitimate rights and interests of the tribals and render them unreal and ineffective socially, educationally, economically and politically.

He pointed out that sky rocketing prices of essential commodities and negligible job opportunities for the educated youth were the most projected issues. He also expressed grave concern for denial of district status to Billawar.

Dr Manohar said that the Government has discriminated with Billawar, Ramkot, Lohai-Malhar, Bani, Basohli, Mahanpur tehsils by denying district status to Billawar. People of the area have been agitating

for creation of district of Billawar but district status still eludes. The area has been subjected to backwardness in various fields of development including road connectivity, tourism potential, providing requisite health infrastructure, developing agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry facilities. All this could be properly planned had the District headquarter been at Billawar.

Territory administration accusing it of failing to ensure the safety of minorities in J&K. "BJP regime has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir in various spheres, as it lost its identity, status, right over jobs, lands, opportunities of trade and transport and business besides whatsoever selections and recruitment were done in the UT, witnessed corruption and scams," Manohar said.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Sarpanch Puran Chand, Inder Bhushan Gupta, Rattan Tripathi, Subash Singh Municipality Corporation, Sumit Verma, Punu Ram Jamodia, Karan Singh Ex Sarpanch, Romesh Spolia, Ex-Sarpanch, Vijay Kumar Pyt Member, Krishan Chand Ex-Sarpanch Dyal Singh, Charan Dass Thangria and others.



Members of Senior Citizens' Club Udhampur releasing Dogri song on Sunday.

Dogri song released

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Jan 8: In a function here today Senior Citizens' Club Udhampur (SCCU) released Dogri song 'Aao Dharti Ki Swarg Bnache'.

Among others present in the function were Nisha, vice president Divyang Sewa Samiti; Mahadeep Singh Jamwal, president SCCU; Col. S.R Sharma (Rtd), Col Balwant Singh (Rtd), S.K Gandotra, Pooja Verma, Mohan Singh, Sushil Nargotra, Vijay Kumar, Pritam Chand, M.L Verma, B.K Gupta, singers Khushi, Neha, Ajit Singh and others.

Lyric of the song was written

by Col. Balwant Singh and the song was composed and sung by Pooja Verma hailing from Pancheri and music was given by Bunty Shah.

Speaking on the occasion, writer of the Lyrics Col. Balwant Singh said that launch of today's Dogri song is basically to give a message to the society to preserve the environment that can only make our motherland a heaven.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahadeep Singh Jamwal, Club president reiterated that the Club has one of its missions to provide a platform to the budding stars from all fields and to make them known to the society.

Jahanzaib slams admin for using police force against ReK teachers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Dr. Jahanzaib Sirwal, Spokesperson J&K Congress today slammed the J&K administration for using police force against the peacefully protesting Rehbar-e-Khel teachers, terming it as 'draconian' and unjustified.

In a statement issued to media persons, Dr. Jahanzaib strongly condemned the atrocity inflicted upon the peaceful flock of educated youth claiming that the government instead of muzzling the voice of vulnerable segments of the youths should create a viable atmosphere providing the vistas of opportunities to aspiring groups to lead a life with dignity.

The Congress leader questioned the ruling government at the centre that whether this was its model for development and progress of the region because except annulling all the recruit-

ment process and denying the due rights to youths nothing else has changed in J&K.

He said that people have a democratic right to protest peacefully and the ReK teachers were doing the same and therefore the action by the police force against the peaceful protestors is not at all justified rather is show the authoritative mindset of the BJP Government which is living in fool's paradise and thinks that decision taken by it are full and final and cannot be altered come what may.

The Congress Spokesperson said that it was undemocratic and arbitrary policies of the BJP Government that youths whether ReK teachers or several other aspiring sections are on roads seeking justice but those sitting at helm are busy in spreading lies and canards on satiating aspirations of all without any discrimination.



Management of Shub Tilak Multi-Specialty Hospital Akhnoor greeting Sham Lal Sharma.

Dr Prince Raina performs successful total hip-replacement surgery

Excelsior Correspondent

AKHNOOR, Jan 8: In what could be termed as a major achievement, Dr Prince Raina of Shub Tilak Multi-Specialty Hospital Akhnoor performed total hip-replacement surgery on a poor patient of area.

The patient was suffering from Avascular Necrosis of the right hip due to which it was difficult for him to perform the routine works.

"In such a situation", a statement said, "total hip replacement was the only option but since the patient hailed from a poor family, he was admitted to Shub Tilak Multi Speciality Hospital Akhnoor under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, where his surgery was performed free-of-cost."

"Before Ayushman Bharat Scheme was rolled out, it was not possible for a poor patient to go for such high-end surgeries because of high cost of such surgeries," it said.

As per the statement, former Health Minister Sham Lal Sharma was invited as the special guest to grace the occasion.

Congratulating the doctors, paramedical staff and the hospital management for performing the successful surgery, Sham Lal Sharma said that such specialised surgeries in Shub Tilak Multi Speciality Hospital will be a great relief for the people of rural areas.

Sharma further said, "Conducting such major surgeries free-of-cost in private hospitals has become possible only due to the efforts of PM Narendra Modi who launched Ayushman Bharat Scheme for the poor people of the country."

"Under the scheme", Sharma said, "The poor people are availing better treatment facility from the premier institutes of the country."

Meanwhile Sharma congratulated Rakesh Malhotra and Dr Kulbir Singh for taking such initiatives in their hospital.



Artists during concluding day of Amrit Yuva Kalotsav at Jammu on Sunday.

Amrit Yuva Kalotsav concludes, over 100 artists showcased talent

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: On the concluding day of Amrit Yuva Kalotsav organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and Girdhari Lal Dogra Memorial, Govt. Degree College, Hiranagar, mesmerising performances by the artists of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kargil enthralled the audiences here today.

Amrit Yuva Kalotsav featured over hundred artists who showcased the diversity in our culture through different art forms and it is a unique endeavour of the Akademi to revive interest of the youth in performing arts of India. The concluding day started with Ladakhi play 'Rongkhang' directed by Kacho Ahmed Khan

of Kargil. The day further witnessed mesmerising performances of Sars Bharti and Group who presented Geetu Folk Music and Dance in front of august gathering this was followed by Hindustani vocal by Rahul Mishra and Rohit Mishra of Varanasi.

The day culminated with power packed performances of Kathak by Nityanjali Society for Promotion of Classical Dance and Choral Music by the students of Girdhari Lal Dogra Memorial, Govt. Degree College, Hiranagar.

Earlier in the morning, a two day workshop on Art Critique was concluded in which senior experts, art critics and scholars like Balwant Thakur, Vijay Shanker Mishra, Prayag Shukla, Chetan Joshi and Tapati Chowdhurie shared views.

Two vehicle lifters held, 6 stolen bikes recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Digiana Police today apprehended two vehicle lifters and recovered six stolen bikes on their disclosure.

Acting on a theft complaint lodged on January 1 by a person namely Rakesh Kumar son of Hem Raj and resident of Gangyal (Jammu) regarding his Splendor bike (bearing registration number JK02BM 5440) stolen from Subash Nagar (Digiana), a case FIR Number 01/2023 U/S 379 IPC was registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar and investigation started.

During investigation, a team of Police Post Digiana led by Incharge PSI Balbir Singh rounded up two suspects namely Sunil Choudhary son of Chuni Lal, resident of Hansa (RS Pura) and Deepak Malhotra son of Rashpal Singh, resident of Subhash Nagar (Digiana), with the help of CCTV footages of the area. After sustained questioning, the accused

confessed their involvement theft case and on their disclosure six stolen bikes were recovered.

The bikes recovered from the accused are a Splendor Pro (black colour, chasis number HA10EYFHJ02914, engine number MBLHA10CAFFHK66107), Super Splendor (black colour, chasis number JA05EGJGB00836, engine number MBLJAR033JGB00783), Super Splendor (black colour, chasis number JA05ECP9B03664, engine number MBLJA05EMF9B03740), Super Splendor (black colour, chasis number JA05EGJ9C04613, engine number MBLJAR035J9C04566), Hero Honda Passion (red and black colour, chasis number 05M09C52686, engine number 05M08M38462) and FZ (green colour, chasis number ME121C0J1E2026529, engine number 21CJ026505).

Further investigation of the case was going on.

BJP misrule pushed J&K into dark era: Babu Rampaul

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Rampaul has accused BJP of pushing J&K into the dark era where everybody is unhappy and restless under the present regime and eagerly waiting for conduct of Assembly elections to get their popular Government.

While addressing the NC zonal meeting here today, he claimed that NC did everything for the benefit of the masses and ensured all round and equitable development.

"But BJP did reverse in the last seven years with the result

poor were made to run from pillar to post for basic necessities while the law and order situation has deteriorated, the business community is incurring losses, unemployment rate is highest in the country, corruption and scams are happening everywhere, administrators & bureaucrats are not being held accountable. This is the state of affairs in J&K," Rampaul said and exhorted his cadre to launch a full throttle campaign and reach out to the masses explaining what they got during NC rule and what they were getting now.

Zonal Secretary Dr Vikas Sharma and others also spoke on the occasion.

GMC reconstitutes SRC for 2023-24

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 8: The Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar has ordered the reconstitution of the Scientific Research Committee (SRC) for the Year 2023-24.

The SRC is going to have Dr Sabhiya Majid, Professor & Head of the Department of Biochemistry GMC, Srinagar as its Chairperson while Dr Imran Sayeed, Department of Physiology, GMC, Srinagar has been designated as the Member Secretary of the committee.

Dr Syed Sajjad Nazir, Professor & Head Department of Urology, GMC Srinagar, Dr Showkat Ahmad Kadla, Professor & Head Department of Medical Gastroenterology, and Dr Syed Shafiq Alam, Professor & Head Department of Neurosurgery have been designated as members of the committee.

Other members of the SRC include Dr Bashir Ahmad Sanaie, Professor & Head of Neurology, Dr Khalid Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Professor & Head of the Department of Cardiology, Hayat Mohammad Ahmad Bhat, I/C Head Department of Endocrinology, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad, Research Scientist -I, and Dr Mohd Younis Rafter Research Scientist -II.

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