

Best-in-Class, 100-bedded Girls Hostel dedicated to people at Sarthal

Excelsior Correspondent
KISHTWAR, Mar 5: To retain the girls in secondary school and resolve the restraints like long distance schools, parents' financial constraints and other connected societal factors, a 100-bedded Girls hostel constructed under School Education Department's erstwhile scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) now SAMAGRA Shiksha was today dedicated by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav to people of Sarthal here at a simple but impressive function.

The Girls Hostel has been constructed near Government Higher Secondary School Sarthal to facilitate the girls of far flung areas. Chief Education Officer, Sudarshan Kumar Sharma; EXEN R&B Ravinder Kumar; ZEO, Ranbir Singh; Principal HSS Sarthal, AEE R&B, prominent persons, local PRIs besides other concerned officials of School Education Department Kishtwar were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC Kishtwar said that the Hostel has adequate facilities available for the comfort of girl students and will cater to the needs of the poor Girl students hailing from far flung areas to continue their studies without any inconvenience. While highlighting the significance of education for the girls, he encouraged the parents to send girls to school for their empowerment and self-reliance. In his address, the CEO assured that the facility will be extended to maximum girl students of the far flung adjoining areas from the current academic session. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also listened to the grievances of locals regarding the Schools and Water Supply Schemes of the adjoining areas and assured them that all their genuine grievances will be redressed of the same in the time bound manner.

Govt responsible for corruption: Partap

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 5: If our youth's future is in murk and the credibility of many different competitive examinations is on stake, it is the Government which is surely

the different examinations usually held under the control of SSB which is already blacklisted in many states and has been fined also by the Supreme Court of this country. He pointed out that the Apteck has failed in the past to ensure transparency and accountability in holding such exercises, due to which many states have banned it. He further added that the Government has already scrapped many recruitment processes on the grounds of doubts and allegations. Now, if Apteck is holding the exams for JKSSB, there is a chance that it might get scrapped again since it has a poor transparency record. Therefore, before anything goes wrong, the Government must reconsider its decision and choose a better option. Jammwal urged that the Government must show some ethics and it must learn from the past experiences. If such kind of blacklisted companies will be appointed to conduct the examinations which will decide the future of unemployment in the state then we must comprehend that it was the Government itself which is entirely responsible for the corruption, he added.

and purely responsible. This was stated by general secretary and spokesperson of Aam Adami Party (AAP) J&K, Partap Singh Jammwal, who lambasted the J&K Government while pointing its latest order over the selection of Apteck company for conducting Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) exams. While condemning the move, he said that the selection of the Apteck company is a violation of rules and regulations and it is a matter of concern for the youth of J&K. He questioned the UT Government directly and asked that how come a company could be considered to conduct



Artists of BLSKS performing Dogri Musical Play in Jammu on Sunday.

BLSKS celebrates Holi Mahotsav

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 5: Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) under the aegis of Sangeet Natak Academy, Union Ministry of Culture organised Dogri Musical Play 'Rang Dari Deo' written, produced and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Sangam Tru Art Production and National College of Computer Education also coordinated in the programme. Music in the play was composed by M.C. Kotwal and assisted by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor. The programme was inaugurated by Yash Pal Sharma, Councillor JMC, Ward number 35 and former president Swatch Bharat Jammu as chief guest. V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director of Directorate of Field Publicity and others were also present on the occasion. Kuldeep Magotra, Chief

Executive Officer, Volleyball Association of J&K presided over the function. Ramesh Sharma, Treasurer, Volleyball Association, Romesh Chander, president STAP and Mukesh Singh were guests of honour. The programme commenced with songs of Holi festival. The chief guest talked about history of Holi and said that this festival signifies victory of good over evil. M.C. Kotwal, general secretary BLSKS conducted proceedings of the function. Earlier welcome address was delivered by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. K.K. Joshi, vice chairman BLSKS also spoke on the occasion. Artists who participated in the programme were Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, K.K. Joshi and others. Deepak Kumar Dogra, programme coordinator presented vote of thanks.

Bani police arrests absconder after 7 years

Excelsior Correspondent
KATHUA, Mar 5: Kathua police arrested one absconder who was evading his arrest for last seven years. Police said the absconder was wanted in a case FIR No. 11/2012 U/S 457/380 at Police Station (PS) Bani. On specific information, a police team led by Inspector, Jaswinder Singh, SHO PS Bani under the close supervision of SDPO, Basohli Aakash Kohli apprehended the accused namely Mehmood Hussain, son of Abdulla of Chandyar, tehsil Bani from the Rohru Himachal Pradesh who was evading his arrest for last seven years. Police said a warrant U/S 512 CrPC was issued by court of law against him while and further investigation into this matter has been initiated.

NHPC organises Vasant Utsav 2023

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 5: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited, India's premier hydropower company, organised Vasant Utsav 2023 under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" with great fervour at the NHPC Residential Complex, Surajkund, Faridabad. As per a statement, RK Bishnoi, CMD NHPC inaugurated the programme in presence of YK Chaube, Director



NHPC CMD, R K Bishnoi inaugurating Vasant Utsav 2023 at NHPC Residential Complex, Surajkund, Faridabad on Sunday.

development and is poised for achieving greater heights in the future". The press statement said that the Vasant Utsav is celebrated by the NHPC to welcome the arrival of spring and to showcase the rich and diverse Indian culture. A number of stalls promoting local handicrafts, dress materials, food delicacies, puppet show etc. from various States/Union Territories as J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Assam etc. were set up by NHPC power stations, projects and regional offices. The special attractions of the Utsav were performances from renowned Manipuri singer Rani Sharma and traditional Bihu dance by all Assamese Students Union, New Delhi.

Indian Navy successfully test-fires BrahMos missile

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Mar 5: The Indian Navy on Sunday successfully test-fired in the Arabian Sea the ship-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic missile. The missile that was tested had the indigenous "seeker and booster", officials said. "The Indian Navy carried out a successful precision strike in the Arabian Sea by ship launched BrahMos missile with DRDO-designed indigenous seeker and booster, reinforcing our commitment towards Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence," said a senior military official. BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The anti-ship version of the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired jointly by the Indian Navy and the Andaman and Nicobar Command in April last year. India is also exporting BrahMos missiles. In January last year, India sealed a USD 375 million deal with the Philippines for supplying three batteries of the missile. (PTI)

Agriculture Deptt organises Farmers' Awareness camp

Excelsior Correspondent
KISHTWAR, Mar 5: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Sub Division Paddar today organised an awareness camp here at Panchayat Tipri in Block Bounjwah. Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Paddar Sahil Gandotra; Agriculture Extension Officer Ampy Singh, Jr. Agriculture Extension Officers Ajay Chander Sharma along with farmers were present on the occasion. The programme was organised under SMAE (ATMA) and attended by 25 number progressive farmers of the Panchayat Tipri. The farmers were made aware about the Central schemes being implemented for development and uplift of the farming community and to achieve the vision of the Prime Minister to double the Income of Farmers. The farmers are already being benefited by various centrally sponsored schemes like SMAM which enables the farmers to obtain government assistance to upgrade their Mechanized Agricultural Inputs, PM Kisan



A PIA written balloon found in Muthi Khurd village in Samba District on Sunday.

Another PIA written balloon found in Samba village

Excelsior Correspondent
SAMBA, Mar 5: Another suspicious balloon with PIA and some Urdu letters written on it was sighted at Muthi Khurd Village of Ghagwal area here on Sunday, police said. They said that this is the second such balloon recovered from the area. A police spokesperson said that today, the balloon was sighted in the house of Lambardar of border Muthi Khurd Village, Sunil Dutt. He accordingly shared the information with local police followed by which, a team led by Ghagwal Police Station incharge Bharat Bhushan Attri, reached at the spot and took the suspicious object into custody. "Police are further investigating the matter," he said.



Planwala Sarpanch Geeta Devi receiving Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman in New Delhi on Sunday.

Planwala Sarpanch Geeta Devi conferred with Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 5: Geeta Devi, Sarpanch, Planwala Lower, has been conferred with the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, today. A press statement said that the award was given in the context of International Women's Day (March 8th) to women who have made significant contributions to the water supply and sanitation sectors. Geeta Devi, Sarpanch of Pallanwala Lower, was awarded for her exemplary contribution in the field of Gobarahan/Biodegradable waste and Plastic Waste Management, it said.

The statement further said that Geeta Devi has contributed immensely to making people aware of solid and liquid waste management in her Panchayat, and through Gram Sabhas, Ward Sabhas, and door-to-door campaigns, she has helped to bring about behavioural change. She played a vital role in initiating door-to-door waste collection in Palanwala using tricycles and aims to make her Panchayat litter and plastic-free, and a model for other Panchayats to emulate. The program where Geeta Devi was awarded was attended among others by the President of

India, Droupadi Murmu, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti, Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food processing Industry and others. The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development, has been working in coordination with district administrations and elected representatives to make all villages in the UT of J&K ODF Plus. Currently, over 4100 villages in the UT have been declared ODF Plus, with effective solid or liquid waste management systems in place. The department has also established two Gobarahan Plants, with 36 more under construction. Door-to-door collection in villages across J&K has also started, so that waste collected from households can be disposed of in a way that does not become a health hazard. A comprehensive capacity-building program is also underway in the entire UT to build the capacities of all stakeholders.

"Appreciation at the national level will go a long way in achieving the target of Sampooran Swachta," said a Department of Rural Development official. The Sarpanch further said

Sharma starts road blacktopping work

Excelsior Correspondent
R.S. PURA, Mar 5: Sarpanch, Panchayat Kotli Shah Doula, Badrinath Sharma here today started blacktopping work on Tanda road. Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that blacktopping of the road was a long pending demand of the locals of the area and work on the same has been started. He also highlighted the major works taken up in the Panchayat during the last three years and said that the Panchayat would be developed as a model one as more projects are in pipeline for the area which will be executed in a time-bound manner. "With coordinated efforts, pace of development will continue in coming times as well," he maintained adding: "Besides development projects, various welfare schemes meant for the socio-economic upliftment of poor and needy will be taken at the door steps of the genuinely



Sarpanch, Panchayat Kotli Shah Doula, Badrinath Sharma starting blacktopping work on Tanda road.

deserving people in the Panchayat." He claimed that development of road infrastructure brings multiple socio-economic benefits to the people and catalyzes local economy. The Sarpanch further said

Ayushman Bharat scheme cannot be converted by states: Health Minister

Excelsior Correspondent
PATIALA/NEW DELHI, Mar 5: Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said the Union Government's flagship programme the Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres cannot be converted to any other scheme by state governments. Earlier, the Union Health Minister had said the Punjab Government was converting Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) into 'Mohalla Clinics', a pet project of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, and had warned of stopping the funds for the scheme. The AB-HWC is formulated with a 60:40 contribution ratio by the Centre and the state. Mandaviya was on a visit to Patiala on Sunday during which he made a surprise visit to review the security arrangements at a NEET-PG exam centre in the city. He also interacted with the candidates' parents there. This is the first time that the Union Health minister has visited a National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) exam centre during an examination, a Health Ministry statement said. "Visited NEET-PG exam centre in Patiala, Punjab, and took the state of the arrangements," Mandaviya said in a tweet in Hindi. Mandaviya also paid obsequence at the Shri Kali Devi Mandir and Gurudwara Shri Dukhniwaran

Massive walkathon against drug addiction held at Bandipora

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 5: Jammu Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF) today held a massive walkathon against drug addiction in North Kashmir's Bandipora. The event was organized with the aim of raising awareness about the dangers of drug addiction and promoting a drug-



People during anti-drug drive in North Kashmir's Bandipora on Sunday.

free society. The walkathon began from the main market Bandipora and continued through the streets of Bandipora. Participants, including members of JKNPF and local residents, carried placards and banners with messages promoting the cause. The event also featured speeches by experts in the field of drug addiction and recovery. The Party patron Sanjay Kumar expressed his satisfac-

tion with the turnout and support from the local community. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness about the devastating effects of drug addiction and the need for a collective effort to combat the issue. "We organized this walkathon to send a strong message to our community that we will not tolerate drug addiction,"

Nirankari Mission organises Blood Donation Camp

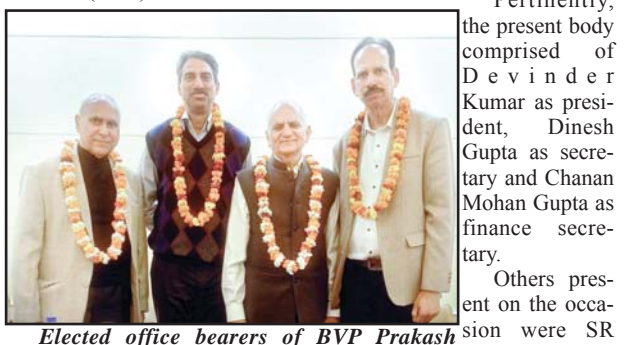
Excelsior Correspondent
KATHUA, Mar 5: Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, Social Wing of Sant Nirankari Mission here today organized a voluntarily blood donation camp at Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, Dayalchak. Devotees from local branches of the Mission like Marheen, Muthi Rakwalan and Hariachak also participated in the Camp which was inaugurated by Ranjeet Singh, Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Kathua. Speaking on the occasion he said that blood donation is a noble cause and appreciated the Mission for such services of regular blood donation camps, eye camps and other activities towards the welfare of mankind. Ajit Singh, Zonal Incharge, Zone-1 Jammu thanked all and said that about 8000 Blood

Donation Camps have been organized so far by the Mission and more than 12 lakh units of blood have been donated till date. Rajesh Kumar Hans, Mukhi branch Dayalchak delivered welcome address. Those presented on the occasion were Dr. Salve Sharma, Dr. Anuradha Rajwal from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Dr. Navneet Kaur, Director Red Cross Society Jammu and Secretary General ISBTI, B.R. Nirankari Sanyojak Kathua, Sat Paul, Sanchalak Kathua, Gian Chand, Sanchalak Jammu, Vijay Kumar Sanchalak Dayalchak and others. The Camp was held in collaboration with Blood Donation & Transfusion Department of Govt. Medical College Jammu, Indian Red Cross Society & JKSSB.

ly decided by all members that present body of the Branch will continue for the third consecutive year 2023-24 as well. Pertinently, the present body comprised of D. V. D. Kumar as president, Dinesh Gupta as secretary and Chanan Mohan Gupta as finance secretary. Others present on the occasion were SR Gupta, Justice S. K. Gupta, Dr. V. K. Gupta, RC Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Dr. Raj Kumari Gupta, RK Gupta, Prof. HR Ghayal, Dr. Dinesh Gupta and Kewal Krishan Kharyal.

BVP Prakash Branch elects body

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 5: A general body meeting was held today to elect new body of Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Parkash Branch.



Elected office bearers of BVP Prakash Branch posing with chief guest.

Arun Kumar Sharma (Regional joint general secretary, BVP) was chief guest on the occasion. It was unanimous-

2 arrested for stalking girl

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 5: Srinagar police today arrested two boys for harassing and stalking a girl near Dalgate while a scooter which was being used by the arrested persons has also been seized. According to the police, boys harassed a girl on March 4 as they were riding a scooter, making lewd gestures and passing comments. "The girl had posted about the incident on her social media account and subsequently also approached police post, Nehru Park with a written application," police said. Police said an FIR was filed at Ram Munshi Bagh Police Station under the appropriate legal provisions upon receipt of the complaint. The boys have been identified as Saqib Mehraj Sheikh S/o Mehraj ud Din Sheikh and Faizan Yousuf Sheikh S/o Mohd Yousuf Sheikh, both residents of Kanidiver, Hawal. The boys were arrested by a team led by SI Syed Khalil, DO Nehru Park under the supervision of SDPO Nehru Park Mansha Beigh, while the scooter bearing registration number JK01AG 5814 on which they committed the offence has been seized as well.

Women College student found hanging at house

Excelsior Correspondent
UDHAMPUR, Mar 5: In an apparent case of suicide, a teenage girl was found hanging from ceiling fan hook in her house in village Battal Ballian, here today. The deceased, identified as Tashu Rajput (19), daughter of Balwan Singh, resident of village Rathian in Battal Ballian Udhampur, was a student of Women College Udhampur. She was found hanging from a ceiling fan hook under mysterious circumstances. On getting the information, Police rushed to the spot and shifted the dead body to hospital for postmortem. The police after completion of all the legal formalities and post-mortem, handed over the body to family members for last rites. Even as Police has registered a case in this connection under 174 RPC for further investigation, the deceased appeared to have committed suicide for the unknown reasons.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com