

DIG CKR reviews security scenario in Budgam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: Deputy Inspector General of Police CKR Srinagar Sujit Kumar today visited district Budgam and chaired a review meeting regarding security scenario, anti-militancy operations, law and order, anti-drug drive and other issues related to day-to-day policing at District Police Office Budgam.

During the meeting, DIG CKR took stock of the overall security situation of the district. He also held a threadbare discussion regarding the recent murder case and expressed his

satisfaction with the investigation of the case.

He directed the officers for the successful culmination of the case on merits.

DIG CKR also directed all the officers to complete the investigation of all pending cases on priority. He also laid stress on strengthening police-public relations, and service-oriented policing which will help in gaining the confidence and trust of the general public.

He emphasised the officers to adopt a professional approach while dealing with counter-insurgency operations and law and order situations.



Apni Party provincial president and former Minister, Manjit Singh addressing a meeting at Ramgarh on Wednesday.

Apni Party believes in economic upliftment of people: Manjit Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 15: Apni Party provincial president, Jammu and former Minister, Manjit Singh today said that his party believed in economic upliftment to upgrade the living standard of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former Minister was addressing a workers meeting when he referred to the underdevelopment, increasing unemployment, feeling of alienation with the present administration etc.

The workers meeting was organized by district president, Legal Cell, Samba, Sahil Bharti in Ramgarh.

“The people have lost hope with the present Government due to its disconnection with the people on ground. The administration has failed to take up the works in hand suggested by the people in the back to village programmes which has kept the people in the rural belt in an extremely underdeveloped situation with no proper road connectivity, improper health and educational institution infrastructure,” he said.

He said that the Apni Party has repeatedly demanded holding of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir so that the concern of the people can be redressed.

H&ME forms selection committees for lateral entry in new GMCs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: The Health & Medical Education (H&ME) Department has formed two selection committees for the one-time absorption of doctors by way of lateral entry into the newly established Government Medical College, Udhampur and Government Medical College, Handwara.

The committees will work for the selection of doctors from Government Medical Colleges of J&K including JVC SKIMS, Srinagar, who may apply for appointment as faculty members in the newly established Medical Colleges. H&ME has formed two committees, one for GMC, Udhampur and Handwara.

For the new Government Medical College, Udhampur, the committee will have the Administrative Secretary Health & Medical Education Department as Chairman, Principal, GMC, Jammu as Member, Principal, GMC, Udhampur as Member-Secretary, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar as Member and External Subject Expert, to be nominated by H&ME as Member.

They will also submit an affidavit from the 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that once appointed in the Government Medical College, Udhampur/Handwara shall not claim transfer to the parent College, apart from the relevant experience certificate from Head of the Institution for the post for which application is being submitted.

Traffic Police hold eye camp for drivers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Udhampur Reasi Traffic Police today organised free eye camp for drivers at Jakhami in collaboration with Rotary Eye Hospital. A sight of 127 drivers and Traffic Police officers/officials was checked.

Among them 27 drivers are advised for thorough check up at eye hospital.

DySP traffic Arun Jamwal supervised the camp.



A driver undergoing eye checkup.

Commissioner ST visits Basohli, holds interactive session with traders, officers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: As a part of Tax Awareness Initiative 'Kartavya', Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr Rashmi Singh, along other senior officers conducted maiden tour of historical town Basohli and held an interactive session for the trading community as well officers of various departments.

The programme was followed by an interaction with the local Trade bodies.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner gave a brief introduction about the Kartavya-Tax Awareness initiative of the department. She said that paying taxes is the kartavya of every responsible citizen and we must perform this pious duty with all our commitment. She stressed that along with the kartavya of

citizens to pay taxes, it must also be the kartavya of DDOs to file timely returns. She further stated that today's interactive session has been organized for the benefit of trading community and other departments.

Commissioner informed that the government has established suvidha kendra with a dedicated telephone number for resolving various issues raised by the taxpayers and DDOs.

Later, Commissioner had an interaction with the women SHG members working in the area.

Among others Deputy Commissioner State Taxes, Ranjeet Singh; ADC Basohli, Ajeet Singh, CEO BBDA, Dr. Des Raj and representatives of Trade community and women Self Help Groups were present.

Secy Dharmarth Trust visits Bhaderwah

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, Mar 15: Ashok Kumar Sharma, the Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Dharmarth Trust, today visited Bhaderwah to assess various issues related to Trust properties and those faced by locals.

Accompanied by Additional Secretary Varinder Singh Jambwal, Sharma first visited the Vasuki Naag Temple to interact with the Pujaris and the residents of Gatha village.

As per a statement, the Gatha residents apprised Sharma about the significance of a paddy field of Bhagwan Shree Vasuki Naagji Maharaj located near Fish Pond Road, where Hindus perform annual rituals before the sowing season and have darshans of Vasuki Naag Ji Maharaj in the form of Shesh Naagji.

The locals complained about people draining waste on the land, which holds religious importance,

SKUAST-J organizes awareness cum input distribution programme

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Agrometeorology Section of SKUAST-Jammu today organized one-day awareness cum input distribution programme for farmers to improve the socio-economic status of the economically weaker section, specially SC & ST category.

Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, Prof Nazir Ah Ganai was chief guest of the occasion and he stressed that agriculture based start ups can reach out to the farmers which help to give higher status to these sections so that greater amount of income is devoted to their children's education, health and nutrition.

He also emphasized on regular production of different agriculture standardized products like processed fruits and vegetables, preparation and marketing of dairy products, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping etc for income generating economic opportunities.

He encouraged the farmers to work in a collective approach to take the maximum output from field by reducing the input

used in field. He stressed the farmer community to come forward regarding their agricultural related problems and to adopt the new climate resilient technologies developed by SKUAST-J, Chatha, Jammu.

Prof R K Samnotra, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu highlighted the various activities undertaken by the university for the welfare of the farmers for boosting their income from agriculture enterprises and also encouraged them for participation in such type of programme.

The programme was preceded by Dr Mahender Singh, Chief Scientist and Incharge AICRPAM, who gave detailed information on climate change in region and mitigation in day to day field management operations.

Prof B C Sharma, Dean, FoA, & Head, Division of Agronomy, SKUAST-J, Prof. Anil Sharma, Nodal Officer, ICAR Cell and other staff members of Agrometeorology were also present on this occasion. Dr Veena Sharma, Technical officer, AMFU-Chatha presented the vote of thanks.

School magazine 'Pehal' released

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 15: Chief Education Officer (CEO)



CEO Udhampur Arvin Kumar Koul along with other officers of Education Department releasing magazine of GGHS Sattani.

Udhampur Arvin Kumar Koul released school magazine 'Pehal' of Government Girls High School (GGHS) Sattani, here today.

The Magazine was released

in presence of AD Planning Darshan Kumar, DEPO Udhampur, Principal of Government GHSS Jaganoor, ZEO Jib, Sarpanch Sattani, Senior Headmaster Kavita Gupta, staff member and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvin Kumar Koul lauded Senior Headmaster, staff members and students of GHSS Sattani for putting in their best efforts to publish the School magazine.

The programme ended with vote of thanks presented by Kavita Gupta.

Rare laparoscopic kidney cancer surgery performed at DH Pulwama

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: A rare cancer treatment surgery, usually done at Tertiary level hospitals, was performed by consultant urologist Dr Aashaq Hussain Bhat and his team at the District Hospital, Pulwama.

Known as Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy, officials said, it is a highly advanced and technically demanding procedure to be carried out in Stage-I carcinoma.

DHSS said that it is the first-of-its-kind surgery done in any district hospital across J&K.

Doctors said usually such patients are referred to tertiary

level hospitals where it consumes much time for patients. Dr Aashaq Hussain Bhat said that CT showed mid polar renal cancer which needed this kind of surgery.

He said after mobilisation of the kidney, the renal artery was clamped with a laparoscopic Bulldog clamp and the mass was resected with health margins.

Led by Dr Aashaq Hussain, the team included Dr Iffat, Consultant Anaesthesia and Dr Shahzada Gani, and was assisted by Mehrajuddin Reshi, Fancy Jan, and Khurshid. The arrangements were supervised by Mohammad Shaban.

Protest against ration shortage in Pancheri

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 15: The villagers from remote Galiot area, near Landhar in Pancheri tehsil of district Udhampur held protest demonstration against the District Administration and Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department for the shortage of ration in the area.

The villagers of this remote area, bordering district Ramban alleged that there are very few ration outlets in the area. The ration arrives late and the people are not provided ration as per their quota. The AAY families are not provided sugar while PHH families are also being deprived of the ration. For over 3000-3500 population there is one depot and there is over 50% pilferage of ration specially sugar.

They alleged that there is no supervision by the Tehsil Supply Officer or other staff and the

public is badly suffering. The issue was taken up with the concerned TSO, who is posted there for the last 7-8 years but the situation did not improve. They said village Chowkidar Avtar Singh and others noticed three bags (150 kg) sugar hidden under empty gunny bags when ration dealer denied to issue to the AAY families. This created great resentment among the villagers.

They demanded that one more ration depot be opened in the area and entire staff including Salesman, Storekeeper and TSO be shifted from there and new staff be posted to break the old nexus so that entire public get ration as per their quota.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director FCS&CA, Jammu Mr Javed said that Assistant Director, concerned at Udhampur, Nassir Bhat has been asked to verify the facts and forward report to the Jammu office.

BIS JK Branch organizes 'Manak Manthan'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Branch of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized 'Manak Manthan', a technical discussion on Indian Standards, at Jalandhar in Punjab.

During the programme, discussion was held on Indian Standards on Foot-Valves, Reflux Valves or Non-Return Valves and Bore Valves to be used in Suction Lines of Agricultural Pumping Systems (IS 10805:2022). The objective of the discussion was to take inputs from the manufacturers of related industry and discuss the provisions of Standards, keeping in mind the technical as well as user perspective.

The program started with welcome address by Tilak Raj, Director and Head, BIS-JKBO. He emphasized the importance of Consumer Protection activities undertaken by BIS. He also briefed the participants about the initiatives taken by BIS to encourage stakeholder involve-

ment at grassroot level in standardization activity which will not only help in technical upgradation of national standards but will also broaden their reach to end the users.

Pankaj Atri (Joint Director, BIS J&K Branch) gave an overview of BIS, the National Standards Body and standard formulation process. He explained the various features of BIS website such as Know Your Standards, Standard of Week/Month, manak online website and BIS Care App. The sessions were made interactive through open house discussions on process being followed in manufacturing and testing by various industries in Jalandhar.

Later, the house had detailed deliberations on all clauses of the standard and raised a number of technical and editorial comments which will be forwarded to the related technical committee for further deliberations. The meeting was attended by participants from more than 20 different industries of Jalandhar district.

Sarpanch among 9 drug peddlers arrested in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: Police today arrested nine drug peddlers including a sarpanch in Kashmir and recovered contraband substances and psychotropic substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party under the supervision of DySP Hqs Baramulla Peerzada Aijaz Ahmad assisted by In-charge PP Delina PSI Showkat Ahmad, at a checkpoint established near Hyundai Showroom Rawathpora Delina intercepted a vehicle (Scorpio) bearing registration No. DL4CNB-9313 with four people on board.

They have been identified as Majid Ahmad Sheikh son of Javid Ahmad Sheikh resident of Muqaam Rajwara Handwara, Ferooq Ahmad Malik (Sarpanch Singhpora) son of Ghulam Hassan Malik resident of Singhpora Pattan, Sajad Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh resident of Raipora Palhallan Pattan and Faisal Ahmad Wani son of Zahoor Ahmad Wani resident of Wani Mohalla Pattan.

During checking, 40 bottles of codeine phosphate were recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to a police station.

A police party under the supervision of SDPO Uri Shokat Ali assisted by DySP Kubra Nazir arrested a drug peddler at Bimyar

Boniyar. 35 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession. "Accused has been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Shah son of Lateef Ahmad Shah resident of Pehlipora.

In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Magam at a checkpoint established near Sehpora Bridge intercepted 02 suspicious persons. During the search, police said, 50 grams of Charas and 240 capsules of Spasmo-Proxyvon were recovered from their possession.

"They have been identified as Shafaat Ramzan Ganaie @ Danish son of Mohammad Ramzan Ganaie and Adil Ahmad Ganaie son of Ali Mohammad Ganaie residents of Hanjibugh Magam.

In Kulgam, a police party of Police station Qazigund headed by SHO PS Qazigund at a checkpoint established at Bonigam intercepted a suspicious person carrying a gunny bag. During the search, 04 Kgs of charas was recovered from the bag. He has been identified as Bilal Ahmad Reshi S/O Bashir Ahmad Reshi of Nawa Bonigam, Qazigund. He has been arrested.

Meanwhile, a police party from Police Station Kund led by PS SHO Kund at a checkpoint established at Razloo crossing intercepted a suspicious person identified as Rahil Ahmad Shah son of Mohammad Afzal Shah resident of Churat. During the search, 05 grams of brown sugar was recovered from his possession.

Free medical camp organized by CRPF in Reyan

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 15: A free medical camp was organized by 38 Battalion of CRPF under the Civic Action Programme in Reyan area of Samba today. The camp was inaugurated by the Pradeep Chandra, Deputy Inspector General, CRPF who was the chief guest on the occasion.

During the camp, the health of the local people of the village was examined by the unit doctor and free medicines were also provided to the people. CRPF jawans also provided physical assistance to the physically weak and physically challenged people. Commandant of 38 Battalion, Dharendra Verma, CRPF officers Devendra Singh, Sarveet Singh, Rajesh Kumar Sharma and jawans of the battalion were also present during the programme.

Dr. Amit Kumar, Senior Medical Officer 38 Battalion and local doctors, Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dr. Zahida Choudhary, Dr. Safia

Khatar contributed significantly in organizing the medical camp. Village dignitaries and local persons, police personnel and public groups expressed their gratitude for this medical camp organized by 38 Battalion and also expressed their desire to organize such camps in future.

KEEWA delegation calls on CE Generation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: A delegation of Kashmir Electrical Employees & Workers Association (KEEWA) called on the Chief Engineer, Generation, Kashmir Division, Ghulam Rasool Khan under the leadership of its president, Nazir Ahmed Magrey here today.

The other members of KEEWA delegation included Manzoor Ahmed Rather, Mohammad Shaban Bhat, Mehraj-ud-Din, Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Ferooq Ahmed Khan, Abdul Majid Pakthoon, Mohammad Javed Shah and Mohammed Latif Mir. They submitted a memorandum to Chief

Budgetary allocation for I&C way below expectations: KCC&I

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: While welcoming the J&K Budget 2023-24 presented by the Union Finance Minister in parliament, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) today said that the budgetary allocation for Industry and Commerce is way too below expectation for addressing the problems faced by Industry.

In a statement issued, the trade body said that it welcomes the central assistance of Rs.35581 crores for the mitigation of natural disasters, to meet the expenditure incurred on account of the permanent restoration of infrastructure damaged due to the 2014 floods, rehabilitation, preservation and restoration of Dal & Nageen lakes providing funds for Wular Lake, besides

Apart from other allocations, KCC&I said that the budgetary support of Rs.457 Crores for up gradation of Tourism infrastructure, 255 crores for conservation of Environment, 90 crores for Dal-Nigean development, 25 crores for the pathway of Wular lake, 40 Crores for Tourism Promotion, are steps in the right direction.

"Also provision of 520 crores for Smart City is also welcome. Moreover, the equity

contribution for 624 MV KIRU & 800 MV RATLE Hydroelectric Projects, Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project is appreciable."

However, the trade body said, the allocation of only 200 crores for Industry and Commerce for existing Industry is way too below expectation for addressing the problems faced by Industry.

"No allocation of capital infusion in self-financing industries; providing support to industries by way of freight subsidies and other incentives to remain competitive with outside industry; no Scheme for addressing stressed loans of Borrowers and NPA's."

It said that Horticulture has been stressed for the last 2-3 years, and no exemption/refund of GST like in Himachal Pradesh has been provided apart from the absence of fast track TPT system, addressing the alternate road connectivity for horticulture items during peak export time and no Crop Insurance.

"The suffering Shawl Sector, particularly Pashmina, needed a boosted dose which was not there. There is also no support for 20000 Shawls, Handicrafts, Carpets, Pashmina artisan loans," it said.

ABVP for action against those who selected tainted agency for SSB exams

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Akhila Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad has demanded that those responsible for the selecting a blacklisted company for conducting JKSSB recruitment exams must be punished.



ABVP Jammu members addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

"ABVP since long has been saying that corruption on large scale is going on in JKSSB. As a result many exams were postponed and cancelled," said ABVP State Secretary, Akshi Billowria, while addressing a press conference, here today.

She stressed that deferment of exams was not enough and those who were instrumental in hiring a tainted company must be blacklisted now by the Govt. We are maintaining that Jammu Kashmir is entering into new dawn but the few people involved in such activity still want to push back the youth of UT, she added.

The ABVP Jammu also demanded that Jammu and Kashmir Public University Bill - 2022 should be revoked with immediate effect as this bill erodes autonomy of the Public universities with direct and unwanted interference of

bureaucracy. "It is ironical that at one hand the National Education Policy is supportive of giving financial, administrative and educational autonomy but on the other hand Public University Bill-2022 recently approved by the Academic Council of Govt of Jammu and Kashmir intends to brutally erode the autonomy of the Public Universities in the Union Territory, she added.

Akshi Billowria stressed that the JKPSB and Higher Education Department should follow the UGC norms and conditions for the higher education institutions "As the bureaucrats want to control the autonomous setup of universities, they are coping controversial model from here and there. The public University model of Odisha was challenged by UGC in Supreme Court and similarly it will happen with the Public University Bill of Jammu and Kashmir," she added and stressed that the administration must avoid bringing such controversial bill.

Akshi Billowria announced that if the Govt does not roll back such decisions which are affecting student fraternity and youth, ABVP will launch protest throughout J&K.

Ramnik Sharma, Media Convener and ABVP Jammu University President Sunil Roudhan were also present in the press conference.

On mother's complaint, 'drug addict' son among 5 thieves held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Police in RS Pura area claimed today that they have arrested five thieves, including a drug addict son of the complainant and recovered on their disclosure stolen gold and silver items worth Rs 1, 35,000 along with Rs 32000 cash.

A police spokesperson said that a complaint was lodged at Police Station RS Pura by one Shashi Devi wife of Rattan Lal of Suchetgarh stating therein that her son, Avinash Kumar and his friend Anil Kumar of Kapoor Pur broke open the locks of her house and decamped with golden ornaments and 1 quintal paddy.

On this, he said, a case FIR number 47/2023 under section 454/380 of IPC was registered at

Police Station RS Pura and investigation started.

The police spokesperson said that followed by this, special police teams of Police Station RS Pura led by SDPO Surinder Singh assisted by SHO concerned, Pawan Kumar with the help of CCTV footages and other information generated through local sources rounded up the accused named in the written complaint of Shashi Devi.

During questioning, the police spokesperson further said that the accused confessed their involvement in the crime and told police that they had sold golden ornaments with the help of Anil Kumar's wife Suman Devi to different jewellers identified as Krishan Lal of Akhnoor, Kamal Kumar of Kapoor Pur and Ashwani Kumar of Bus Stand, RS Pura.

"On this, police teams raided Akhnoor Raja Bazar, Kapoor Pur, Bus Stand RS Pura and finally recovered the golden ornaments including, one Mangal Sutra, 1 Nath, 1 pair of earrings, one pair of topes, one golden ring and one pair of silver anklets worth Rs 1, 35,000 and Rs 32000 in cash which they had allegedly taken after selling the stolen golden ornaments," said the police spokesperson.

SHO RS Pura, Inspector Pawan Kumar told the Excelsior, "two of the accused, including the son of the complainant, are drug addicts."

"Further investigations are on," he added.