



SSP Samba, Benam Tosh addressing a conference on investigations on Wednesday.

SSP asks police officers to personally involve themselves in investigations

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 15 : Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh today chaired a joint conference on investigations at DPO Samba with all Police officers concerned with investigations, learned legal advisors of Prosecution Wing and Additional District Magistrates (ADMs) with the objective of imparting best investigating skills to the officers concerned with the investigations, to improve conviction rate in the district and to ensure better coordination among police, magistracy and prosecution.

Joint Director Prosecution, Pawan Khajuria, ADC Samba, Rakesh Dubey, ACR Samba Sushma Chib, Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary, SDPO Bari-Brahmana, Rahul Nagar, DySP Operations, Garu Ram, SDPO Vijaypur Priyanka Kumari, Senior PO, Gurpreet Kour, DySP DAR, Ajay Anand, all SHOs, I/C PPs and IOs of district Samba were present during the conference.

ADC Samba and ACR Samba who are ADMs while addressing the conference gave assurance of extending full cooperation to police as and when required while conducting investigations especially in NDPS cases, whereas

Joint Director Prosecution gave important legal investigation tips and laid stress on conducting investigation in consultation with the legal experts right from the registration of the case till conclusion.

Additional SP Samba enumerated the investigation matters in which assistance of Executive Magistrates and prosecutors are essentially required.

In his address, SSP Samba, Benam Tosh said that standard and latest law books of IPC, CrPc, local and special laws, NDPS Act, Forensic Science books and Police rule will be provided to all Sub Division offices, Police Stations and police posts of Samba district and capacity building workshops will be frequently organized to impart investigating expertise to the investigating officers. SSP Samba advised senior police officers of district Samba to personally involve themselves in the investigations, supervision and monitoring of important cases and to bring all pending under investigation cases to logical conclusion on merits. Benam Tosh laid stress on the better coordination between investigating officers, prosecuting officers and magistrates especially in NDPS cases and other cases of heinous nature.



Major Gen (retired) R S Jamwal along with former legislators Shiv Dev Singh Manhas and Ramesh Arora releasing a book at Roop Nagar, Jammu.

Vijay's book 'Sangharsh Jeevan Ka' released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Major General (retired) R S Jamwal in presence of former legislators Shiv Dev Singh Manhas and Ramesh Arora today released a book 'Sangharsh Jeevan Ka' written by Vijay Kumar Singh, a senior member of Ahata-e-Waqar, a Day Care and Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens, Roop Nagar, here.

R S Jamwal was the chief guest and former legislators Shiv Dev Singh Manhas and Ramesh Arora were the guests of honour in the book release function held at Day Care and Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens at Roop Nagar, here on.

Around one hundred prominent persons and senior citizens of the centre were present on the occasion. Artists namely Uttam Singh Uttam (Jamwal) and Yash Pal Yash gave stunning performances which kept the audience spellbound.

While speaking on the occasion, Jamwal highlighted the

achievements of Vijay Kumar Singh in the literary field. Describing Vijay Kumar Singh, a multi-dimensional personality, he said that Vijay Kumar has contributed enormously to the field of literature. He said that every citizen must play his/her role for the betterment of the whole society.

Shiv Dev Singh Manhas also hailed the writer for his efforts. "It is my pleasure to attend this function and I must say you all have a great contribution to the betterment of society," he said.

Members of the coordination committee Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal, Tilak Raj Sharma, Raj Kumar Kohli, Shashi Pal Sharma and Pawan Kumar honoured the guests and wished Vijay Kumar Singh's success in his endeavour and for his active contribution to the society at large.

Bindrabhan Sher, a scholar & social activist on the occasion presented Valmiki Ramayan and Neelmat Puran to dignitaries.

Tony slams Govt decision of opening 26 new liquor shops in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu and Kashmir for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs, and District Development Council (DDC) Member Suchetgarh has strongly condemned the opening of 26 new liquor shops by the BJP's proxy Government in Jammu and Kashmir and 10 per cent hike in toll plaza rates.

In a statement issued to media here, today, the senior AAP leader said that approximately 26 new liquor shops are being opened in J&K out of which 22 are going to be opened in Jammu and four in Kashmir. He asserted that this makes it amply clear that the J&K Government is playing in the hands of liquor mafia crossing all the limits. He said that it is an irony of this Union Territory and its people that the administration has turned a blind eye towards the genuine demands of the protesting people on roads. However, with none demanding the increase in liquor trade, it seems that Administration is still hell bent upon turn the City of

Temples into a City of Liquor shops.

Tony said that the UT Administration is running the affairs as per the BJP ideology and termed it as 'Bagal Mein Chhurri Muh Mein Ram Ram' ideology. He demanded that the proposed initiative of opening new liquor shops be withdrawn at the earliest as it has the potential of further taking youth to the wrong path of drug and liquor addiction.

Tony reminded that BJP president, Ravinder Raina had said that Nitin Gadkari assured to shift the Sarore Toll Plaza but it is a mockery of the J&K's BJP leadership as there is none to listen to them in the high command.

The senior AAP leader said that the performance of the J&K Administration can be summed up briefly by stating that this BJP Government is looting the people by imposing tax after tax be it through Toll Plaza or by imposing Property Tax. He said that people feel that only air has been left tax free by this Administration and nobody knows when they will bring air too in the category of taxable items.

Sat, Ashwani, Baru listen public grievances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Sat Sharma (CA), former J&K BJP president and former Minister accompanied by Ashwani Sharma, former MLA and Sanjay Baru, convener, Urban Local Body Cell, J&K BJP listened the public grievances at BJP Headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here, today.

Senior BJP leaders listened to the numerous individuals and deputations from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir who visited the party office to represent the issues of their respective areas as well as their individual concerns.

BJP leaders, on the spot addressed various issues presented in the camp related to the water, electricity, lanes, drains, roads, health, revenue departments, ration issue etc.

Sat Sharma, Ashwani Sharma and Sanjay Baru dis-

cussed their issues with the concerned officers after which they assured them that their issues would be addressed soon.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma stressed on the need to address the public issues in a satisfactory manner. He said that these camps have provided a way to the masses to highlight their issues. He said that people reach the party office with a very positive mindset that their issues would be resolved soon.

Ashwani Sharma, said that the BJP leaders make every effort to solve the issues represented before at the earliest. He said that many of the issues presented today were solved on the spot whereas other issues are impressed for their early solutions.

Sanjay Baru diared all the issues presented in the camp and said that BJP is committed to address the issues faced by the masses.



Winners posing with dignitaries at University of Jammu on Wednesday.

JU organizes 'Paak-Kala Pratiyogita'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Heritage and Tourism Club, University of Jammu in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Regional Branch Jammu organized 'Paak-Kala Pratiyogita'- a fireless cooking competition under the aegis of Duggar Darpan, here today.

The students and scholars of various departments of University of Jammu participated in the competition.

Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director Tourism, Jammu was the chief guest, while Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu presided over the function.

The chief guest applauded the efforts of the University for promoting local culture through such innovatively planned activities and emphasized that such festivities foster better connectivity and cohesiveness among communities.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University, in his presidential remarks said that there is a dire need to preserve our cultural ethos and heritage which represents the true essence of community. He also stressed upon the broader relevance of such events, stating that they provide a forum for the preservation and dissemination of cultural traditions and inspire innovation and leadership among youth.

Prof. Satnam Kour, convener of UTSAAH expressed gratitude to all the luminaries for gracing the event and making it a grand success, while Prof. Deepak Raj Gupta, Director

SHTM highlighted the diversity of local Dogra cuisine and its importance in promoting tourism in the region.

The students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management showcased the culture of Jammu by organizing various Dogra cultural performances. The event was coordinated by Dr. Suvidha Khanna, coordinator, Heritage and Tourism Club, University of Jammu.

A fireless cooking competition was held in which the students of various departments participated, and the competition was judged by Prof. Sarika Manhas, JU's Department of Home Science, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Lecturer, Food and Craft Institute, Jammu; and Chef Vishal Saproo, Executive Chef, Lemon Tree Hotel, Jammu.

The first prize winners of the competition were Ayushi Sharma, Ashmit Jandyal and Komal Aggarwal, while 2nd prizes were won by Ananta Charak, Divansh Mahajan and Arjun Bhalla and 3rd prizes were secured by Swardhani Sharma, Surishi Sharma and Nitika Sharma.

Dr. Anil Gupta, Associate Dean Student Welfare, Dr. Garima Gupta, Assistant Dean Student Welfare, Dr. Pritam Singh, Assistant Dean Student Welfare, coordinators of various Clubs and faculty members of the University were present during the event.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Priyanka Sharma and the master of ceremony for the event was Ananta Charak.



Various dignitaries participating in a meeting of Thinkers Club in Jammu on Wednesday.

Thinkers Club for preservation of Dogra history, culture

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Former IGP Johny William's concept of the Thinkers Club was realized today as various dignitaries gathered at the Vintage Scottish Hall here.

Among the attendees were Advisor Rajeev Bhatnagar, former Chief Secretaries C Phunsak and BR Sharma, retired army and police officers, eminent women from academia, and representatives from various civil society backgrounds.

Notable personalities present at the event were retired Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, Vikrant Kuthiala, Naveen Anand, Prof Neeru Dhalla, Prof Renu Nanda, Prof Sapna Sangra, retired Col Khandpur, retired Brigadier Rajeev Manha, and Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, who heads many sports promotion forums.

The discussion centered on the life and times of Jammu's past and the rapid changes taking place in the region. The participants reminisced about the yesteryears, shared a sense of history, common aspirations, and future hopes.

They also glorified the valour of the Dogras and highlighted their contributions to sports, art, culture, and theatre.

The attendees expressed the importance of preserving the Dogri language and unanimously agreed that it is vital to preserve Jammu's history, values, and culture.

They also emphasized the need to sensitize the younger generation to their roots, ancestry, and enduring values of harmony, which have made Jammu proud.

Finally, the group concluded that the new generation must embrace the modern new Jammu while blending it with the past.

Applicants accuse SKIMS of favoritism in Senior Resident Microbiology recruitment

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: In a startling disclosure, candidates have accused the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) of tampering with its recruitment process to favor a certain "blue-eyed" candidate for the position of Senior Resident in Microbiology.

The candidates told the Excelsior that SKIMS advertised the openings for Senior Residents in the Microbiology department on January 6 this year and conducted interviews on January 9 to choose two applicants for the available positions.

However, to their astonishment, a third applicant joined as a Senior Resident in Microbiology on March 1 without following the selection process. The candidates contend that the third candidate was a blue-eyed contender who was given the position due to partiality and favoritism.

"We have no issues with the selection of two candidates through the order dated January 9, 2023, but with the third candidate that joined as an SR in Microbiology in SKIMS out of nowhere. The blue-eyed candidate was an in-service candidate who could not obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from her department on time. As a result, she was accommodated

later in the process," one of the candidates said.

The applicants accused the SKIMS administration of displaying partiality toward a certain candidate and ignoring the merit-based selection process. "Why was she not included in the earlier selection list, if she was selected for the job? Furthermore, why was she selected almost one month after the initial selection process, and if the position was available, why was it not advertised?" another candidate asked.

The SKIMS administration, however, refutes any wrongdoing and maintains that the selected candidate was the first on the waiting list. They said that the selection process was transparent and adhered to all the guidelines set by the institute.

"The recruitment process was conducted with no irregularities, and the successful candidate was selected from the waiting list. She was the first person on the waiting list to be offered the position after it became available. The waiting list is valid for six months, during which time candidates may be offered the position if it becomes available," Director SKIMS, Parvaiz Koul told Excelsior. He added that the candidate had already appeared for the interview and that there were no violations of the selection process.



Katra Hoteliers submitting memorandum to Secy Culture & Tourism on Wednesday.

Katra hoteliers call on Secy Tourism, seek efforts to prolong stay of pilgrims

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: A joint delegation of Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK) & Federation of Hotels, Restaurants, Industry & Commerce of Jammu Region called on newly appointed Secretary Culture & Tourism Dr Syeed Abid Rasheed Shah and apprised him with regard to various issues related to Tourism Industry and Hotel industry in particular.

The delegation, comprised of President HRAK & HRCJR Rakesh Wazir, Chairman HRAK Sham Lal Kesar, SR Vice President HRAK Virender Kesar & others, submitted a memorandum to Secretary Culture & Tourism. Director Tourism, Jammu Vivekanand Rao; Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta and Special Secretary Tourism, Amarjeet Singh were also present during the meeting of delegation.

Wazir emphasized that need of the hour is to increase the stay of one crore visiting Vaishnodevi pilgrims and for that places of the Tourist interests around Katra, especially Shiv Khori, Patnitop,

Natha Top, Sanasar, Bhaderwah, Mansar, Surinsar, Kol Kandoli, Deva Mai etc are needed to be developed.

He said that all Industrial benefits need to be extended to Tourism Sector besides developing of non polluting Industrial parks around Katra and especially related to the products linked to Vaishnodevi pilgrimage.

Shyam Lal Kesar apprised that registration of Hotels, Guest Houses and renewable of the same, which was being done by Tourism Department since long, has been stopped on one pretext or the other. He sought one time registration on the pattern of industries.

Virender Kesar suggested that Tourism department should utilize its full resources in publicizing of places of Tourist interests, exploring the new destinations in the Union Territory besides bringing more and more Tourists in the UT.

Rasheed listened to the delegation patiently and assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to each and every point raised in the meeting and the points which pertain to him will be addressed immediately.

GMC Baramulla performs path-breaking surgery in colorectal cancer

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: The Department of General Surgery at GMC Baramulla has made a significant breakthrough in the field of colorectal cancer surgery by performing its maiden laparoscopic-assisted Low Anterior Resection on a 65-year-old female with Adenocarcinoma of the rectum.

The surgery, which is an advanced minimal access procedure, officials said, is only performed in a few tertiary care hospitals in J&K, marking this a noteworthy achievement for the department.

The officials said that the patient is recovering well in the postoperative period, and the expenses of the surgery were covered under PMJAY.

"Despite the limitations faced by an institution in its infancy, the Department of General Surgery is making all efforts to offer regular onco-surgery services to the public," Dr Parvaiz Masoodi, Medical Superintendent of the hospital told Excelsior.

He said such surgeries are routinely being carried out at the hospital and has got the necessary expertise and the equipment for the conduct of the surgeries which are not only complex but also require a lot of expertise.

"We have planned that we will be carrying out such surgeries here given the fact that we have got the requirements

The anaesthesia team was led by Dr Fayaz Munshi and Dr

178 MT silk produced in J&K during FYs 2021-23: GoI

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Total 178 metric tonne (MT) of the raw silk was produced in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during the financial years 2021-23.

Union Minister of State for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh shared this information in the Lok Sabha today in reply to an un-starred question of National Conference Member Parliament Hasnain Masoodi.

"Raw silk production in J&K during the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 was 99 MT and 79 MT (till Dec 2022) respectively," the Union Minister told Lok Sabha.

To another question of the NC MP, the Union Minister said that Government of India through Central Silk Board provided central assistance of Rs 546.65 lakh during 2021-22 against J&K's proposals towards implementation of seri-

culture related beneficiary interventions under Silk Samagra-2 Scheme.

"Further, an MoU has been signed between Central Silk Board and National Highways Authority of India for development of mulberry plantation on National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir," the Union Minister said.

Replying another question of the NC MP about total number of households involved in the supply chain of silk production during the last five years, the Union MoS Textiles said, "around 27000 households are involved in cocoon production and reeling activities of silk production chain in J&K during the last five years".

On total quantity of silk fabrics produced from Rajbagh Silk Factory, Srinagar between 2017 till February 2023, the Union Minister told the Lok Sabha that the production was 1,11,558.55 meters.



GM and Divisional Head J&K Bank Sunit Kumar posing with SSP Traffic (Jammu City) Faisal Qureshi and other officers at Jammu.

J&K Bank hands over branded barricades to Traffic Dept

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Collaborating with J&K Traffic Department for better traffic management in twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu, J&K Bank handed over 200 branded barricades-- 100 each in Jammu and Srinagar, to the Department.

In Jammu, General Manager (GM) and Divisional Head Sunit Kumar handed over branded barricades to SSP Traffic (Jammu City) Faisal Qureshi on in presence of Zonal Head (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey besides senior officials from the Bank and Traffic Department.

In Kashmir, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Shabir Ahmad and Deputy General Manager Ashok Gupta handed over these barricades to SSP Traffic (Srinagar City) Muzaffar Ahmad Shah in

presence of Cluster Head (Srinagar) Reyaz Ahmad Wani and senior officials from both the organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, GM and Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar said, "As a responsible financial institution, J&K Bank feels pleased to collaborate with an organization that remains committed to efficient management of public-traffic across the UT and towards achieving greater common good, we shall continue to extend our support to institutions for initiatives aimed at public welfare."

SSP Muzaffar Ahmad Shah and SSP Faisal Qureshi said these barricades will add to peoples' awareness about both the organizations besides enhancing aesthetics of barricade-points.



Artists staging the play at Natrang Studio Jammu on Wednesday.

'The Mousetrap' show series concludes at Natrang

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 15: Six show series of globally acclaimed play 'The Mousetrap', a classic murder mystery concluded at Natrang Studio Theatre, here today.

Based on the original work by Agatha Christie, the play was adapted in Hindi and directed by Gauri Thakur who is the youngest theatre director of Natrang and has the immense national/international theatre experience of directing plays within and outside the country including in South Africa and Mauritius.

The cast of the play consisted of students from a fresher's theatre workshop conducted by Gauri Thakur herself. The young and talented cast did a remarkable job of bringing the characters to life and keeping the audience guessing until the very end.

The Natrang Jammu, the first professional theatre group of J&K, is known for its commitment to promoting theatre in the region and providing a platform for young and talented actors and directors.

"The Mousetrap" is a classic murder mystery play that takes place in a newly opened guest-house, Monkswell Manor, located in the British countryside. As the investigation into a murder unfolds, the guests' secrets and motives are slowly revealed, and tensions rise as suspicions mount.

Each character has a potential motive and the audience is kept guessing as to who the real killer might be. In the end, the murderer is revealed in a dramatic twist and the motive behind the killing is exposed.

The on-stage cast included Ishani Jandiyal as Mollie Ralson, Amit Brahma as Giles Ralson, Abhimanyu Choudhary as Christopher Wren, Palshin Dutta as Boyles, Rafeeq Mushtaq as Major Metcalf, Kushal Bhat as Casewell and Sumit Bandaral as Detective Trotter.

The play was supported by the talented duo of Shivam Singh and Sheryaar Salaria, who handled the lights and Aadesh Dhar, who provided the music score. Sets enhanced the overall impact of the play which was erected by National Scholarship Holder Shivam Singh. Mohd. Yaseen coordinated the show and Neeraj Kant did the presentations.

The performance was well-received by the audience, who praised the cast and crew for their exceptional performance.

HC denies bail to BSF Commandant in SSB scam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 15: High Court has refused to grant bail to Border Security Force (BSF) commandant for his alleged involvement in irregularities in written examination conducted by the JKSSB last year and directed the CBI to complete the investigation in the case and file a supplementary charge sheet before it.

The accused Karnail Singh working as doctor and holding the post of CMO/Commandant Medical in the BSF had approached the court seeking bail in FIR registered by the CBI for gross irregularities committed along with other accused persons in written examination of SI posts in J&K Police conducted by the board in March 2022.

"I do not find any merit in the instant bail application. The