

Meeting of Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee held ADG PIB stresses for coordination-cooperation between media units, Central Govt Depts

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: Additional Director General (Region) PIB J&K and Ladakh, Rajinder Chaudhry here today said that coordination and cooperation between media units of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting,



Officers from PIB J&K and Ladakh, J&K DIPR and others posing for a group photograph during a function at Jammu on Wednesday.

J&K DIPR and Central Government Departments will be strengthened for effective communication and best publicity of Government of India (GoI) initiatives, policies and programmes.

Chaudhry said this while chairing a meeting of Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) organized by Press Information Bureau, Jammu.

He also said that better media integration and synergy among units is significant in achieving better media cover-

"The publicity should not be seen as an event based activity but has to be a sustained ongoing process and the story ideas like soft stories/success stories must be shared and should be converted into concrete stories in collaboration with media

units," he maintained adding: "A positive story planned and placed well in the media will help change the course of any ongoing GoI project, policy or scheme for best implementation."

Chaudhry appreciated the efforts of media units based in J&K for giving best publicity to 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Y20 in Ladakh and commemoration of the foundation day of Maharashtra and Gujarat in J&K.

Joint Director, Press Information Bureau, Jammu &

Teacher, Translator, Editor, Publisher, Radio Jockey, Mass Media, Speech Therapist, Defence etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Surinder Kumar, Principal of the College, apprised the students about linguistics as a new subject for PG Course and how the students can opt it to become a distinct linguist. He appreciated the efforts of Department of English for taking the initiative to introduce this subject to the students.

The program was coordinated by Prof Shafiq Jahangir, Dr Monika Malhotra, Prof Deepshikha Sharma and Prof Harpreet Kour. Formal welcome address was presented by Prof Deepshikha Sharma and the program ended with formal vote of thanks by Dr Monika Malhotra.



Staff and students of Govt SPMR College of Commerce after counseling session.

Counseling session on linguistics & literature held at Commerce College

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: Department of English, Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu today organized one day awareness-cum-counseling session on linguistics and literature for students of Semester 6th.

Dr Reena Salaria, Coordinator Department of Linguistics and Literature Cluster University was the resource person on the occasion. She highlighted the importance of developing language, writing, communication, literary and linguistics skills as career opportunity.

Dr Farooq Ahmed, faculty from Department of Linguistics and Literature talked about different career options like Professor,

Child Guidance and Well Being Clinic started in SMGS Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: Child Psychology and Counseling Services were started in DEIC SMGS Hospital Jammu by the team (comprising of Faculty of Department of Psychiatric Diseases, Child Psychologist, Social Counselor, Special Educator) led by Dr Mannu Arora (Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatric Diseases, GMC Jammu), with the aim to help children suffering from emotional, social or psychological disorder.

Principal and Dean, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma was the chief guest on the occasion. She inaugurated this special clinic in the Department of Pediatrics, SMGS Hospital Jammu for the children suffering from mental health issues, attention deficit, hyperactive disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and learning disability.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr Mannu Arora mentioned that their team is running the Child Guidance and Well Being Clinic in Psychiatric Diseases Hospital Jammu under UNICEF program and now in coordination with HoD Pediatrics, Coordinator DEIC and Medical Superintendent of SMGS Hospital, they have started this clinic on OPD basis in SMGS Hospital, which will cover more children requiring attention and care regarding their mental health issues. He conveyed that this clinic in SMGS Hospital Jammu shall function on every Wednesday on weekly basis from 12 to 2 PM.

Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics, Dr Ghanshyam Saini conveyed

that with this joint effort of Department of Psychiatric and Department of Pediatrics, many children suffering with mental health issues will be benefitted as in this special clinic they will be treated and counseled by the certified experts and can lead a healthy productive life.

Dr Dara Singh (MS SMGS Hospital Jammu), Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Deputy MS), Dr Rakesh Banal (Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric), Dr Sanjeev Kumar Digra, Dr Ashu Jamwal, Dr Sunil Dutt Sharma, Dr Mohd Razak, Dr Ravi Kumar Parihar and Dr Koushal Khajuria (Faculty of Department of Pediatrics) were also present on the occasion.

awaiting the Indian Government's clearance for his visa to return from London for his mother's last rites, JKNPP founder Bhim Singh's son has apologised to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for participating in an anti-Government protest last year after which he was blacklisted by the High Commission.

In an open letter to the Prime Minister, Ankit Love (39) said he regrets throwing eggs and stones at the High Commission during the February 2022 protest, and requested the PM to intervene so that he could return and perform the funeral of his mother Jay Mala (64).

Mala, a Supreme Court lawyer, died on April 26 and her body has been kept at the mortuary of Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu after Love requested it be kept there till he returns to perform the last rites.

"I will be deeply thankful if you could kindly forgive me and allow me to visit Jammu to perform the last rites of my mother... I need to reach Jammu urgently as everyone is waiting for my arrival to perform the last rites," Love said in an open letter to PM, adding it was also the wish of his mother.

Mentioning the Indian High Commission's denial of approval for his travel, he said, "I assure you that henceforth there will be no such act by me against my Nation which I love very much and am very much proud of."

Love said he was "misguided" by some other people surrounding him to commit the mistake, but expressed hope he will be forgiven and his visa cleared.

He also urged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Jammu District Magistrate Avny Lavasa not to remove the body from the mortuary, and also postpone the post-mortem. (PTI)

No ST on supply of goods for erecting transmission lines: HC

JAMMU, May 3:

The Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh High Court has held that no Sales Tax is exigible for the supply of goods for erecting transmission lines, substations, and power grids.

The bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri has observed that the transaction between the assessee and the contractors in which the assessee has supplied the goods and material purchased by it from outside the State against C-Forms for the purpose of erecting transmission lines, sub-stations, and power grids for itself did not amount to "sale" as it was defined under Section 2(L) of the GST Act before 15.05.1997.

The assessee/appellant is a Government of India undertaking engaged in establishing its own grid stations and laying wires for the transmission of electricity. It is in the execution of its works, the assessee purchased some goods, materials, and machinery, etc. from outside the State. The assessee has taken registration under the Central Sales Tax, 1956.

The assessee first buys goods, material, and requisite machinery from outside the State and hands over the same to the contractors for consumption, fixation, and laying out in the works of the assessee. As is claimed, the ownership and possession of the property used in the execution of the works of the assessee remains with it and the contractors are only engaged to execute the work on payment of labor charges.

The assessee submitted that since no property in goods is transferred to the contractors, as such, no payment against such material handed over to the contractors, to be used in the execution of works of the assessee, is charged. Since the assessee was not making any

local sales under the GST Act, as such, was not initially registered under the Act.

The Assessing Authority held that as the assessee had taken registration under the CST Act to import goods from outside the State against C-Forms, was, therefore, a "dealer". It was the plea taken by the Assessing Authority that only a dealer, who is registered as such under CST Act can use C-Forms to purchase goods for personal use. It was concluded by the Assessing Authority that the transactions made by the assessee were liable to tax. Consequently, the Assessing Authority also imposed interest and penalties under the GST Act.

The issue raised was whether the applicant has supplied the "goods" defined under the GST Act which shall be deemed to be a sale before 15.05.1997 under Section 2(L) and is a dealer under the Act amenable to tax.

"We are sure that if the Authorities under the GST Act lift the veil, they would certainly find that the two agreements styled as labour contract and supply contract are, in essence, a single composite contract to execute the works of the assessee by the contractor. If that exercise is done by the Authorities under the GST Act, the contractor, who has executed the works contract of the assessee, may fall in the GST net. In that eventuality, even the assessee, who is supposed to deduct the tax at source while making payments to the contractors could also be held liable. Be that as it may, with the aforesaid observations, we leave it to the Tax Authorities to act in the matter inappropriate manner," the court said.

The court held that had the assessee followed this usual mechanism, it would have rendered the contractor liable to pay tax under the GST Act. To avoid the liability of the contractor, the assessee, in terms of a supply contract separately executed, purchased the goods and materials from the contractor from outside the State and delivered the same to the self-same contractor to be used in different works of the assessee.

The court saw it as a shrewd move on the part of the assessee to defeat the provisions of the GST Act. (Agencies)

Kailakh Trust delegation meets DSEJ, seeks Sanskrit to be compulsory in schools

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: The members of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust members called on the Director of School



Kailakh Jyotish Trust members submitting a memorandum to DSEJ on Wednesday.

Education Jammu Ashok Kumar Sharma and submitted him a memorandum urging that Sanskrit memorandum should be made compulsory from the first class in the schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

Trustee Ajay Sharma also presented a book written by the head of the Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri and informed about the Devvani Sanskrit and social works being done by the trust.

The Trust General Secretary Parbodh Sharma said that the land of Jammu and Kashmir has been the eternal center of Shaivism and

PSA invoked against one notorious timber smuggler in Bhadarwah

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, May 3: In a significant move towards protecting the forests and ecology of the region, the District Magistrate of Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan has slapped the Public Safety Act against Ashiq Hussain Sheikh (Panag) S/o Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, R/o Runta, Bhadarwah. The decision was taken after the DFO Bhadarwah produced material record in the form of a Dossier against Ashiq Panga, who has been involved in forest cutting and smuggling for the past 25 years.

Ashiq Panga has been known to have no fear of law and has been responsible for the destruction of a significant amount of forest in the area. The move to detain him under the Public Safety Act is expected to create fear among his associates and other smugglers, and will serve as a warning to all those who engage in such illegal activities.

Speaking on the matter, the DFO Bhadarwah said that they have prepared five more Dossiers against timber smugglers, which will be shortly slapped. This move is crucial in the interest of protecting the forests and ecology of the region, which is a matter of utmost importance.

Secy Industries Ladakh inaugurates leather products training programmes

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, May 3: In an ongoing endeavour to create an ecosystem of skilled women to become successful entrepreneurs, and enterprising Self-Help Groups, an awareness cum product demonstration training programme has been organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Ladakh with experts from CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai at the Department of Handicrafts, from 2nd to 4th May in Leh and on 5th and 6th May in Kargil.

Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Ladakh Saugat Biswas interacted with the participants and enquired about their aspirations and expectations from the Department.

Biswas discussed with Assistant Director, Handicraft Department Dr. Stanzin Rabgais developing a section at the Brand Ladakh showroom for selling essential items - tools and tapestry - required for the production of leather products, etc. He stated that quality tools are a prerequisite for producing good products and stated that this step will ease the availability of such items, not easily available in Ladakh, as flagged by the participants.

Further, Biswas directed Joint Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Lakshya Singhal to organise a visit of the participants to a Brand Ladakh Showroom situated in Leh market and also organise a session on the Sustainable Industrial Policy for the participants' understanding.

Biswas stressed on the importance of producing refined and quality products and urged the participants to make the most of such workshops to learn and produce well-finished products, with emphasising on creating a Unique Selling Point for the product.

The Commissioner/Secretary also directed the concerned officials to install the recently procured machinery for leather product manufacturing at the Common Facility Centre at Chuchot, Thiksey and Matho for the leather product manufacturers of the surrounding villages to benefit from. He also informed

on this holy land the founder of Pratyabhijnadarshan, Acharya Abhinava Gupta, great poet Kalhana, great poet Vilhan and many ancient Sanskrit sages have originated. "The birth place of the



Secretary Industries interacting with trainees.

that post the procurement of more machines, similar facilities shall be made available at other blocks.

Discussions were also held on organising a month-long hands-on training programme at CSIR Chennai in the coming months, specially designed for women entrepreneurs.

Executive Councillor

Ghulam Mehdi, also present during the event commending the efforts of the Department, stated that the constant trainings and support have resulted in the change that can be seen in the quality of the products over the period of a year.

Around 45 women are participating in the ongoing training programme.



Members of delegation of BJP KDD posing for a group photograph with Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants).

BJP KDD delegation meets Relief Commissioner

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 3: A delegation of BJP Kashmir Displaced District (KDD) led by Chand Bhat, District president KDD and Hira Lal Bhat, Seh Prabhari KDD here today met Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants).

The delegation demanded that ration slips of those migrants who are presently out of station because of one reason or the other should be given to their blood relations without any hurdle.

A handout claimed that the Relief Commissioner conceded the demand.

To the demand for enhancement of monthly cash assistance to eligible migrants, the Commissioner told that proposal for that has already been taken

SMVDU organizes seminar on 'Essentials of Product Development'

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, May 3: A one-day national seminar on "Essentials of Product Development" was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

The School of Mechanical Engineering (SME) under the Faculty of Engineering at SMVDU organized the program. Dr Anshu Anand, Associate Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, acted as the coordinator of the seminar and briefed all participants about its objectives.

The program was aimed to provide exposure to emerging trends and technologies used by product designers worldwide. Over 100 participants from various engineering institutes within and outside J&K registered for the seminar.

Two mining employees booked for overcharging

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, May 3: Police today booked two employees of a mining contractor for overcharging/cheating customers and seized 6 vehicles for illegal mining in the district.

"A written complaint was received at Police Station Samba from complainants Mahesh Gautam and Rohit Sharma to the effect that private employees of mining contractors were overcharging for sand and cheating the complainants by giving them receipt of Rs 1100 only against Rs 4000 actually charged at Daboh near Nud," Police sources said.

They said accordingly a case under FIR Number 104/2023 U/S 420/188 IPC was registered at

Bus driver held with 96 bottles of illicit liquor

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, May 3: Kathua Police today arrested one bootlegger and recovered 96 bottles (750 ml each) of illicit liquor in Lakhapur area.

Acting on a tip off that the driver of the Sleeper Bus bearing registration number UP40T-6629 is doing the trade of illicit liquor and enroting the liquor from Punjab towards Jammu, a police team led by Inspector Vijay Kotwal (SHO, Police Station Lakhapur) under the supervision of Deputy SP DAR Kathua Subash Chander during special checking at dispatch point Lakhapur

up with Union Home Ministry and the outcome is awaited shortly.

Discussion on implementation of Central and J&K Government Social Welfare and other schemes in favour of displaced community was also held.

The Relief Commissioner informed that some welfare schemes have been implemented in favour of the displaced community where as for implementation of other schemes there are some income criteria obstacles.

Demand for PMAY benefits to displaced community and maximum enrollment of Kashmiri displaced voters was also raised.

Those who were part of the delegation were Moti Lal Bhat, District general secretary KDD, Vimal Raina and others.

Prof Eswaremurthy, Head of SME, was the chief guest during the inaugural session of the seminar. He motivated the students to learn new techniques of product development.

The seminar featured a series of expert talks by faculty members from institutes of national importance who discussed various aspects of product development in the current scenario. The seminar gave participants the opportunity to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, concerns, practical challenges encountered, and the solutions adopted in the field of engineering design.

Dr Anshu Raina, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, served as the co-coordinator of the program and presented the vote of thanks.

Police Station Samba and two accused namely Attam Singh son of Shamsheer Singh, resident of Bishnah (Jammu) and Baldev Raj son of Ram Das, resident of Samba were arrested in the instant case and further investigation into the case started.

Meanwhile, sources said 6 vehicles including a dumper bearing registration number JK08L-9145, a tractor trolley bearing registration number JK21-7266 and four tractor trolleys without registration numbers were seized for illegal mining in district Samba. The vehicles were seized by police teams comprising of SHO Police Station Samba Rajeshwar Singh and Incharge Police Post Gouran Sajid Jaral.

On checking, 96 bottles (750 ml each) of illicit liquor was recovered from the dickey of the Bus, following which its driver namely Harnek Singh son of Jaspal Singh and resident of Simbal Jhalian (Punjab) was arrested. On questioning the accused, he disclosed that he used to sell the illicit liquor to the people of the concerned area to gain illegitimate profit.

In this regard, a case under FIR Number 47/2023 U/S 48 (a), 50 Excise Act was registered at Police Station Lakhapur and further investigation initiated.