

All recommendations from J&K for Padma awards rejected

Excelsior Correspondent/PTI
JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Mar 18: All recommendations from Jammu and Kashmir, four of them made by Governor NN Vohra, didn't find place in this year's Padma awards, which will be conferred on March 20 and April 2.

Jammu and Kashmir had recommended nine names, four of them by Vohra and all of them were rejected by a high-level 10-member Selection Committee.

Official documents revealed that all recommendations of eight State Governments - Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Uttarakhnad, Bihar, Rajasthan and Delhi - were rejected by the Selection Committee.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

IndiGo plane grounded in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Mar 18:

A New Delhi-bound Indigo plane was today grounded at the airport here after smoke billowed out from one of its engines, forcing the authorities to cancel the flight, officials said here.

An Indigo flight was about to take off when smoke started billowing out of one of its engines, officials said.

There were 150 passengers on board, they said.

The flight was grounded and the passengers off-loaded, the officials said.

A technical team inspected the plane and found hydraulic leakage in one of its engines, they added.

The flight was cancelled and the fault is being rectified, they said. (PTI)

Few youth picking up arms: GOC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: General Officer Commanding (GOC) counter-insurgency Kilo Force, Major General A K Singh today said the majority of the youth in North Kashmir are not influenced to join militancy as they understand that guns and violence is no solution.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in North Kashmir's Handwara area of Kupwara district, the GOC said that small percentage of youth are picking up arms and many youths are making their mark in sports and education. He said that majority of the youth understand that guns cannot solve any problem.

Gen Singh said that Army is providing every possible help for the youth. "Army is providing every possible help to the youth who work hard for the (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

India issues 13th Note Verbale to Pak

NEW DELHI, Mar 18:

India today gave yet another Note Verbale to Pakistan through its High Commission in Islamabad protesting the "intimidation and harassment" of mission officials, the 13th such diplomatic note in less than three months.

Official sources said that in the communication to the Pakistan Foreign Ministry, the Indian High Commission specifically highlighted three cases of harassment, including one in which the second secretary at the mission was aggressively followed today by unidentified people in a car in close proximity in an intimidating manner while he was going to a restaurant.

Videos were made using a mobile phone, the sources said. (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 28.1 Degree C
Min: 11.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 54.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 35.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 06.39 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 06.34 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 18.3 Degree C
Min: 2.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 63.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 27.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 9.3 Degree C
Min: -7.5 Degree C

Village 4 kms inside LoC targeted with long range mortars

5 of family killed, 5 jawans among 7 injured in Pak shelling

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 18: In a gruesome act, Pakistan army today directly targeted civilian population at village Davitta in Dhar Galoon area of Balakote sector in Poonch district killing five members of family including a couple and their three children and injuring two others. Five Army jawans were also injured in the shelling and firing.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Though Pakistani troops have been violating ceasefire on the LoC in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch regularly for past over 10 months, this was a rare incident when they fired long range 120mm mortars to target the civilian houses as some of the shells fell about three to four kilometers in general area from the LoC, leading to civilian casualties, official sources told the Excelsior.

They said the Indian side retaliated very effectively to silence the Pakistani guns.

It was at about 7.45 am when 32 year old Malik Bi wife of Mohammad Ramzan was serving breakfast to her seven-member family in her semi-kucha house at village Davitta in Dhar Galoon area of Balakote sector when Pakistan army started raining heavy mortar shells including 120mm, 82mm and 81mm, targeting the civilian population.

Nearly a dozen mortar shells fell inside the village while two of them exploded in the premises of the house of 35-year old Mohammad Ramzan, who was a small farmer in the village. All seven family members were seriously injured in the shell explosion, five of whom succumbed to their injuries within no time as splinters of 120mm mortar had pierced through their bodies.

Top officers of civil and police administration besides large number of local people rushed to the village Davitta

Targeting civilians' serious issue of concern: Army

immediately after getting report of the casualties despite continued heavy shelling by the Pakistani troops. They evacuated here and admitted in the Government Medical College, Jammu.

The shelling continued till 11.30 am, sources said, adding that the Indian side gave effective reply to ceasefire violation by Pakistan.

"The house of Mohammad... (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

ed the victims to local hospital, where five of them were declared as dead while two injured sisters were referred to the District Hospital, Rajouri. Later, the injured were airlifted



People wail over the bodies of Pakistan shelling victims at village Davitta in Balakote sector on Sunday. Another pic on page 6.

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CM urges Ulmas not to preach Jihad in Masjids

Picking up gun won't take anyone to paradise: Mehbooba

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today urged religious leaders to stop preaching Jihad in Masjids and said that there are no shortcuts to paradise.

Mehbooba urged the Imams not to teach the children short route to paradise.

"There are no shortcuts to paradise. Picking up gun won't take anyone to paradise. The paradise lies beneath the feet of parents," she said here while addressing the Imams, religious scholars

and executives of J&K Muslim Wakf Board.

She said Kashmir is a political issue and not a religious one and urged the religious leaders

huge contribution as they are directly interacting with the people on daily basis.

The Chief Minister appealed to religious scholars,

Imams and custodians of shrines to lead the society in getting it out of the difficult issues by showing the right path as they have been ordained.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti addressing religious scholars in Srinagar on Sunday.

Modi Govt mismanaged J&K problem as never before: Manmohan

NEW DELHI, Mar 18:

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today launched an all-out attack on the Modi Government, saying that while it had "messed up" the economy, it was spouting "jumla" (rhetoric) with pipe dreams about generating 2 crore jobs and doubling farm incomes.

Addressing the 84th Congress plenary session here, he also accused the BJP-led Government of having "mismanaged" the dispute in Jammu and Kashmir and said the Government's talk of fighting two and a half wars was "yet another hollow promise".

From foreign policy and defence to the economy, the for-



Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh addressing Congress' plenary session in New Delhi on Sunday.

mer Prime Minister spoke on a range of issues, and was accorded a thunderous applause and a standing ovation by party leaders.

Singh lamented that only about 1.6 per cent of the coun-

try's GDP was spent on defence expenditure, which, he said, could not meet the challenges that the security apparatus posed. He also alleged that there were many issues on the foreign policy front that had been poorly handled by the Modi Government.

"We also must recognise that the Modi Government has mismanaged the Jammu and Kashmir problem as never (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

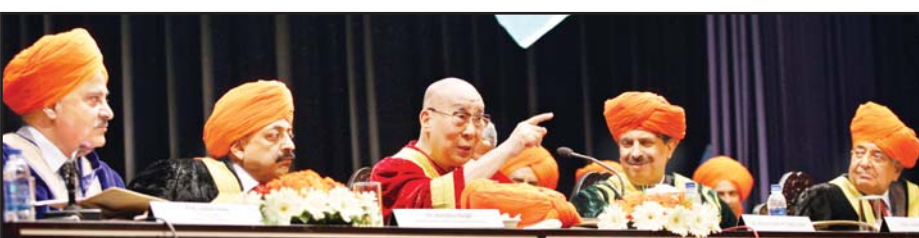
Dalai Lama rejects violence of all sorts, says issues be resolved through dialogue

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Mar 18: Rejecting violence of all sorts, Nobel Peace Prize winner and spiritual leader Dalai Lama today called for making 21st century as the century of peace by resolving all issues through dialogue.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

"The 21st Century must bid for the century of peace and dialogue not through prayers but actions by the young people, who need to play their role through determination and will



Dalai Lama delivering Convocation Address during first Convocation of Central University Jammu on Sunday.

power," he said while addressing the pass-outs and gathering at first Convocation of the Central University Jammu, here today, in the presence of Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, former Chief of Army Staff, General (Retd) N

C Vij and Prof Amitabh Mattoo, Advisor to the J&K Chief Minister.

Maintaining that the difference of opinion was always there but using force to face these differences was not justified, Dalai

Lama stressed, "Once you resort to violence, there will be counter violence and unpredictable consequence."

The spiritual leader quoted the example of 'United States' (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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Cong celebrating loss of security deposits: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Hitting out at Congress, Union Minister of State in PMO, with independent charge of North Eastern States, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that the Congress Party under Rahul Gandhi has lost the plot and out of confusion, it has resorted to the pervers practice of celebrating the loss of its security deposits in the Lok Sabha by-polls in Uttar Pradesh, the results of which were declared on March 14.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the Central University convocation here, in which he was conferred an hon-

orary degree of Doctorate, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is perhaps for the first time anywhere in the world that a political party, namely the Congress, is

dancing and singing at the outcome of Uttar Pradesh by-polls, unmindful of the fact that its party candidates have lost the security deposits in these polls.

For Congress party, he said,

it seems no longer important to win an election, because this party derives greater pleasure if BJP loses an election.

"Can the Indian nation live with such a political party which has such pervers mind-set", he asked.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Taking a dig at the Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, why did the Congress party not find fault with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) when they continued to be in UPA Government for 10 years by winning two consecutive Lok Sabha elections.

"What they say now is a tacit admission of their eminent defeat in 2019 Lok Sabha election", he added.

He said they did not object the EVMs when they were on winning spree earlier and also did not object to them when they won elections in Punjab.

In response to a query about Opposition trying to project 2019 Lok Sabha election as "Modi versus All", Dr Jitendra Singh said, the BJP takes it as a compliment. Let someone remind Rahul Gandhi that in early 1970s, the Opposition had made a similar reference to his grandmother by describing it as

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Administrative hiccups continue to create impediments

Planned several yrs back, six Housing Colonies nowhere in sight

J&K Housing Board fails to perform its primary task

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 18: Owing to administrative hiccups and slackness in removal of bottlenecks, six Housing Colonies which were planned several years back to meet housing needs of different sections of society are nowhere in sight. Due to this, the J&K Housing Board has failed to perform its primary task assigned at the time of its establishment.

The Housing Board was established under the provisions of J&K Housing Board Act, 1976 and it was entrusted with the task of providing affordable

shelter to all. The Board is supposed to develop Housing Colonies in urban as well as in rural areas of the State and construct flats under self-financing schemes.

Keeping this mandate in mind, the J&K Housing Board with the due permission from the Government planned to set-up new Housing Colonies at six places in the State. However, none of the Housing Colony is nowhere in sight despite lapse of several years due to administrative hiccups and slackness in removal of bottlenecks, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

These six Housing Colonies were planned to be set-up at Thathar in Jammu, Battal Ballian in Udhampur, Meen Charkan in Samba, village Murgund in Srinagar, Ranbirgarh in Srinagar and village Tullibal in Sopore.

As far as Housing Colony proposed to be set-up over 495 kanals of land at Thathar is concerned, the case for transfer of State land was forward-

ed by the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) J&K to the Administrative Department vide Letter (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

J&K Grameen Bank
Engendering Empowerment
A VERY HAPPY NAVRATRAS 2018
"Avail loans at LOWEST interest rates"

HOME LOAN @ 8.35 % p.a
CAR LOAN @ 8.95% 0% PROCESSING CHARGES
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LOAN @ 9.00% PA
SCHOOL BUS LOAN @ 9.00% p.a
MORTGAGE LOANS @ 10.50% p.a

Special Attractions for Female Borrowers
Contact Nearest Branch

Pride of J&K !! Proud of Aakash
Olympiad Level-II Results - 2017 (Jammu Centres)
INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD (IMO) - 2017

99 1 Vansh Tickoo	Hrishabh Bhandari	Daksh Sharma	Sankarshan Sawhey
Mridul Singh	Tadil Farooq	Animesh Sinha	Ashvayraj

NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (NSO) - 2017

31 1 Vansh Tickoo	Karish Gupta	Daksh Sharma	Animesh Sinha	Surpreet Singh	Prabhakar
Daksh Sharma	Animesh Sinha	Muskaan Tanzeem			

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD (IEO) - 2017

Admission Cum Scholarship Test on 25th March, 2018 (Sunday)
For Class 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Moving students (For Medical & Engineering)

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