

Terrorist to be treated like terrorist: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Mar 26: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that a majority of youth in Kashmir are part of the mainstream development journey of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and they do not wish to be deprived of the enormous opportunities being availed by their counterparts and peers across the country.

At the same time, he said, a keen endeavour is continuously going on to bring back into mainstream, a few of the youth

Resolve issue of Nowshera: Azad

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 26: Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said today that Jammu and Kashmir

Government should sit with the protesters of Nowshera, who are agitating in support of their demand for district status to Nowshera, and resolve the issue.

In a brief chat with media persons, Azad, who was here to console the demise of party leader Anil Chopra and mother of another

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9 officers shifted

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Mar 26: The Government today ordered transfer and postings of four IAS and five KAS officers.

Doifode Sagar Dattatray, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Uri, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, against an available vacancy.

Rahul Yadav, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar, was transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, against an available vacancy.

Baseer-ul-Haq, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dudu, was transferred and posted as Sub Divisional Magistrate, Uri,

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Police foils bank robbery

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 26: Police today foiled a bid by the militants to loot a bank in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Militants appeared at the Bugam Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Kulgam and tried to loot the money.

However, the alert security personnel on duty foiled the attempt and forced robbers to flee from the spot.

Security forces have launched manhunt to nab the perpetrators.

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'Avoid collateral damage, HR violations' Army chief for neutralizing terrorists in clean operations

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Mar 26: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Bipin Rawat today called for neutralizing terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir through clean and people friendly operations and stressed for maintaining human rights for which the Indian Army is known at all costs and circumstances.

Gen Rawat was in Nagrota, the headquarters of 16 Corps to address eleventh biennial conference of the Rashtriya Rifles, an event which he chaired himself and was attended among others by Northern Command chief Lt Gen D Anbu, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 16 Corps Lt Gen Saranjeet Singh and GOC Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt Gen AK Bhatt. Director General Rashtriya Rifles was also present. All GOCs of counter-insurgency forces are attending the conference.

"The Army chief outlined the present and future focus of oper-

ations aimed towards neutralized the terrorists through clean and people friendly operations in Jammu and Kashmir, where the troops have launched 'Operation All Out' and had eliminated all-time high over 200 militants last year and this year also they have achieved good successes by killing good number of ultras including some top commanders," sources said.

Gen Rawat emphasized the need for avoiding collateral damage during the anti-militancy operations and ensuring dignity and human rights of the people at all the times.

His statement on human rights assumed significance as Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has repeatedly been calling upon the security personnel to avoid collateral damage during the operation against militants in Kashmir and maintain human rights violations.

In his address, the Chief of Army Staff lauded the stellar role being played by the Rashtriya Rifles in restoring

and preserving peace in Jammu and Kashmir and extolled its contribution towards inclusive development of the State and in nation building.

The Rashtriya Rifles has been deployed in various militancy-infested areas of Jammu and Kashmir, where it was in forefront in leading the operations against militants and eliminating number of them. The Rashtriya Rifles has been playing major role in anti-militancy operations in the State for quite a long time now.

The Rashtriya Rifles was not only involved in anti-militancy operations but has also assisted the locals from inaccessible and far flung areas of the State by providing assistance in diverse fields and has given an impetus to development, growth, education, women empowerment, skill development and communal harmony through its multifarious enabling civil action programmes.

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Militants attack Army patrol

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Mar 26: Militants today attacked an Army's patrol party in Kachdoora village of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

A group of militants opened fire on the Army's 34 RR near BSNL Tower in Kachdoora area of Shopian.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

The soldiers retaliated. However, there were no casualties on either side. Massive searches were launched in the area to nab the militants but, no one was arrested.

Security forces today detained a youth during a cordon-and-search-operation (CASO) in Bonikhan Mohalla of Hajin in North Kashmir's Baniptora district.

Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Bonikhan Mohalla, was detained for questioning after night-long CASO ended this morning.

Army's 13 RR, Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police and 45 Battalion CRPF had launched the search operation after inputs

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Woman work in her field on the outskirts of Jammu.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Security situation discussed at high-level Home Secy reviews PMDP, calls for sticking to deadlines

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 26: Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba today held review of developmental works under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) at a high-level meeting with top brass of civil administration of Jammu and Kashmir and called for sticking to timeline of the projects and declared that funds were no constraints to expedite the works.

Gauba, who reached Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, this morning chaired a meeting of top bureaucrats of the State including Administrative Secretaries of all Departments connected with the PMDP projects, and reviewed progress of all works undertaken in hands in the State sector.

Sources told the Excelsior that Gauba, who had held similar review of the PMDP in New Delhi with senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir in the Union capital on November 30, called upon the bureaucrats to ensure that the projects under the PMDP didn't miss deadline

as this had the potential of further escalating cost of the projects, which has already jumped from Rs 80,068 crores when it was announced on November 7, 2015 to Rs one lakh crore approximately by the end of last year i.e. in just two years.

Sources said progress on the issues of Kashmiri Pandit migrants including their rehabilitation package, disbursement of compensation to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) refugees, problems of West Pakistani refugees and issues of border dwellers, who were facing the brunt of Pakistan shelling and firing also figured at the high-level review meetings.

The Union Home Secretary held separate review of security situation in Jammu and Kashmir with top officers of all security agencies operating in Jammu and Kashmir including Army, BSF, CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Intelligence agencies etc and discussed with them the steps required to be taken for peaceful summer and Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage this year and increased flow of

tourists to the State. As the Union Cabinet had recently decided to extend the PMDP for five years, sources said the Union Home Secretary said the State Government should ensure that the projects didn't jump the timelines as that will further escalate cost of the projects.

Sources said majority of 63 projects of the PMDP, which were under execution, came up for review during the meeting. Asserting that the State Government officials have pointed out some difficulties in meeting deadlines for some of the projects in view of "limited working season" in major parts of Jammu and Kashmir, reluctance of some major companies to take up work due to "disturbed conditions" etc, sources, however, said the State officials assured the MHA that they were regularly monitoring pace of the projects and would ensure that they meet the deadlines.

According to sources, the MHA, which monitors PMDP, disclosed in the meeting that

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CM for rehabilitation of street vendors, creating green spaces

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 26: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today sought proper rehabilitation of street vendors in the Jammu city and adjoining areas while carrying out their relocation to ease traffic movement in the winter capital.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Chairing a meeting to review the beautification of Jammu city here today, the Chief Minister directed identification of appropriate spots where the street vendors could be shifted so that their livelihood is not affected while clearing roads or pavements.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh also attended the meeting.

Mehbooba asked the district administration, Municipal authorities and JDA to jointly work out a mechanism whereby these street vendors could be properly rehabilitated. She fixed a deadline of one month during which she asked these Departments to ensure availability of facilities like drinking water, electricity, sanitation and rest rooms so that these new spots become a market attraction where the street vendors could operate without any hassle.

The Chief Minister, on the occasion, was informed that at present 2015 street vendors are registered with the

Jammu Municipal Corporation and two flying squads have been constituted to clear footpaths in the city from encroachments whose performance is being moni-



tored on daily basis.

Mehbooba directed the civic authorities to identify open

spaces in the winter capital which could be developed into green spaces to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the winter capital. She also directed creating parking slots at more spots so that people don't have to park their vehicles on roads and traffic movement in the city is eased.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Hemant Sharma; IGP Jammu zone, Dr. SDS Jamwal; IGP, Traffic, Basant Rath; Secretary, Transport, Saugat Biswas; Chief Engineer, R&B, Sudhir Kumar Shah; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar; and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Lok Adalats are conciliatory, can't pass orders: HC

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 26: The High Court today said that Lok Adalats have conciliatory role and when they are not able to arrive at a settlement or compromise, they can't hear cases or pass orders as Courts do.

"When the Lok Adalat is not able to arrive at a settlement or compromise, no award is made and the case record is returned to the Court from which the reference was received, for disposal in accordance with law. No Lok Adalat has the power to "hear" parties to adjudicate cases as a Court does. It discusses the subject-matter with the parties and persuades them to arrive at a just settlement. In their conciliatory role, the Lok Adalats are guided by principles of justice, equity,

fair play", read the judgment.

Justice Hanjura today, in a significant judgment, held the orders passed by the Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (CJM) in Lok Adalat without giving opportunity to Petitioner-Chief Engineer R&B and others who have challenged the award given in a Lok Adalat is against the tenets of law.

It is by the medium of the writ petition, the petitioner-CE through his counsel Q R Shamas along with others have assailed the orders dated 29-03-2017 & 25-05-2017 passed by the Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Handwara, on the grounds that although the parties did not arrive at any settlement, yet the Chairman Legal Services Authority, without any jurisdiction, determined the issue by

assuming unto himself the powers of a Civil Court.

Counsel appearing on behalf of CE stated that in terms of the section 18(4) of the J&K Legal Services Authorities Act 1997, the jurisdiction of the Lok Adalat is limited to the extent of seeking a settlement or compromise between the parties and not to determine the issue on evidence or merit.

"The Chairman of the Lok Adalat has not recorded any order to state that the matter requires to be referred to the Lok Adalat and no opportunity, as envisaged under Section 19 of the Act, has been given to the petitioners", Justice Hanjura said.

Court said the Trial Judge has

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Sewerage works, health sector projects miss deadlines fixed in meeting Several Jammu DDB decisions fail to become reality despite lapse of one yr

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 26: Making mockery of an important institution, several Government departments have failed to translate into reality many decisions taken by the District Development Board of Jammu in the presence of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh about one year back. This has clearly established that repeated instructions from the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department about constant monitoring of progress on such decisions by the concerned authorities have fallen on deaf ears.

Pacing up of work on Mubarak Mandi remains on papers

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that during the District Development Board meeting of Jammu held on March 10, 2017, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had ordered immediate release of Rs 15 crore to take sewerage project of Jammu city forward by linking septic tanks with the underground pipes. It was assured by the authorities of Housing and Urban Development Department that sewerage project will be completed by ending 2017-18

financial year. "Though the current financial year is all set to end yet the Housing and Urban Development Department has failed to get sewerage project completed as was announced in the main DDB meeting and review meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh on October 31, 2017", sources said, adding "what to talk of completion of entire project even sewer lines have not been laid in

several parts of Jammu and in those areas where the lines have already been laid house connections are yet to be provided as such the DDB decision has remained unimplemented".

The Chief Minister had also directed for conservation and face lifting of historic Raghunath Mandir and adjoining areas, which form a major attraction for tourists. "However, no major work has been carried out in the area during the past one year except installation of music system inside the historic temple by the Tourism Department", sources said.

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WEATHER
JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.4 Degree C
Min: 15.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 65.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 42.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 06.48 p.m.
Sunrise on Wednesday: 06.26 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 24.7 Degree C
Min: 4.3 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 52.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 21.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 15.4 Degree C
Min: -3.0 Degree C

Major WSS incomplete in Anantnag, 60 villages face water shortage

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 26: Water scarcity looms in many areas of Anantnag as four major Water Supply Schemes remained incomplete in Bijbehara division of Anantnag district.

With an aim to provide potable water to over 60 villages of South Kashmir's Bijbehara division, four water supply schemes - Watnar, Tantraypora, Dachnipora and Shangus- were taken up for execution in 2012. The estimated costs were Rs 25.42 crores, Rs 28.48 crores, Rs 18.90 crores and Rs 32.85 crores respectively but the schemes are far from completion even after the passage of five years.



An incomplete Water Supply Scheme in Anantnag.

-Excelsior/Sajad Dar

Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department at Bijbehara, Bashir Ahmad, said lack of funds has dented the projects and for last five years they have received less than Rs one crore for each

project from the Government. "We have received meager funding from the Government and that affected the pace of work," he said, adding the Central Government's categorization has also marred the

35 officers promoted, 25 shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 26: Thirty five officers have been promoted, while 25 others were shifted in the Finance Department today.

According to the orders, Akhter Ali, AO, Directorate of Forest, Ecology and Environment J&K has been transferred and posted as Incharge CAO Codes Section Finance Department, Stanzin Donsal, AO (Treasury Officer) Nobra has been transferred and posted as Incharge CAO District Fund Office Leh and Zafar Iqbal, AO (Treasury Officer) Nowshera has been transferred and posted as Incharge Deputy Director (Central) Accounts and Treasuries.

Sivenay Kumari, AO, J&K

State Power Development Corporation Jammu has been transferred and posted as Incharge CAO District Fund Office Samba, Qamar Rehman, AO (Treasury Officer) Sunderbani has been transferred and posted as Incharge FA&CAO J&K Cements Limited and Mohammad Shafait Rehman, AO, Parnai Hydro Electric Project has been transferred and posted as Incharge CAO Codes Section Finance Department.

Shahnawaz Ahmad, AO Tourism Development Authority Poonch has been transferred and posted as Incharge CAO District Fund Office Doda, Mohammad Ashraf Iqbal, AO, Inspector General of Police (Traffic) J&K has been transferred and posted

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