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Accident raises questions over performance of several agencies

Father, 2 daughters among 22 killed; 14 injured as overloaded mini-bus plunges into gorge

IAF, State choppers pressed into service to airlift critically injured

Ajay Raina

RAMBAN, Oct 6: Failure of the concerned authorities to check overloading in the passenger vehicles has led to one more tragic accident, this time on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district where a mini-bus plunged into deep gorge killing 22 persons including a father along with his two daughters and leaving 14 others critically injured.

Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

The ill-fated vehicle bearing registration number JK19-1593 was on its way to Ramban from Banihal when the driver lost control over the vehicle due to overloading coupled with snag in the steering. The vehicle fell into around 250 feet deep gorge near Kela Morh area under the jurisdiction of Ramban Police Station.

On getting information about the mishap, police personnel led by Additional SP Ramban Sanjay Parihar and SHO Ramban Inspector Vijay Kotwal rushed to the spot and with the help of locals, Red Cross volunteers and Army personnel started rescue operation.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Showkat Aijaz and SSP Ramban Anita Sharma reached the spot to personally supervise the rescue operation.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Divisional Commissioner Jammu Sanjeev Verma closely monitored the rescue operation.

All the 16 injured persons were brought out of the gorge after hectic efforts and shifted to District Hospital Ramban from where 12 injured persons were later airlifted to Army Hospital Udhampur for advanced treatment in four helicopters of State Government and Indian Air Force. One injured was shifted to Bone and Joint Hospital Srinagar, while three injured persons are under treatment at District Hospital Ramban.

Fifteen persons died on-the-spot, while seven others suc-

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)

Volunteers shifting an injured person to District Hospital Ramban. —*Excelsior/Parvaiz*

PM announces compensation

NEW DELHI, Oct 6:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh compensation each for the kin of those who died in accident in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister also announced Rs 50,000 each for the seriously injured in the accident, a tweet by the PMO said.

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■ Expenditure of crores of rupees turns out to be unfruitful

Constructed for trauma patients, Ramban Trauma Care Centre crying for Govt's care

Mohinder Verma

Fails to treat even single accident victim during past 6 yrs

JAMMU, Oct 6: Unbelievable it may sound but it is a fact that Trauma Care Centre at Ramban, which was constructed with the sole objective of providing timely care to the victims of road accidents on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, is itself crying for the care of Government during the past six years.

Due to this, the hospital has failed to treat even single trauma patient and entire expenditure in the shape of raising of structure and installation of medical equipments has turned out to be unfruitful.

Had this health institution been made operational lives of several victims of tragic road accident took place today could have been saved and hassle of airlifting or transporting the injured to other hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar avoided.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that keeping in view spurt in the road traffic accidents particularly in the hilly areas and subsequent requirement of specialized resources to save the lives of people, the Union Government several years back sanctioned some Trauma Care Centres for J&K.

One such centre was sanctioned for Ramban and its structure was raised near the building of District Hospital at a cost of Rs 1.84 crore and thereafter several vital medical equipments were installed with much hype particularly by those who were at the helm of affairs in the Health Department of the State.

Being Level-II Trauma Care Centre, it was supposed to provide round the clock services of General Surgeons and Specialists of Orthopaedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Anaesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Radiology and Critical Care.

However, during the past six years the Trauma Care Centre has failed to treat even a single patient as no seriousness has been shown till date to sanction and deploy required manpower to make this health institution functional, sources said, adding "the building of the Trauma Care Centre is the testimony of how shabbily the health sector was treated by the successive Governments".

The absolute non-serious

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Polls in 5 States in Nov-Dec

NEW DELHI, Oct 6:

Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will be held between November 12 and December 7 in what may be a virtual semi-final to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Counting of votes will be taken up together in all the five States on December 11, the Election Commission announced today.

While Chhattisgarh will go to the polls in two phases on November 12 and 20, elections in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram will be held on November 28.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

250 militants ready to sneak: GOC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lt General A K Bhatt today said that over 250 militants are on launch pads ready to infiltrate but Army is on alert to foil their designs.

Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Speaking at closing ceremony of 15 day-long Public Mela at Keran in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, the GOC said

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Abducted shopkeeper killed

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: A shopkeeper who was abducted by militants three days back was found dead in an orchard in North Kashmir's Sopore area this morning.

Tawseef Ahmad Ganie, 30, son of Mohammad Afzal Ganai, resident of Tujjer Sopore, was abducted by militants from his shop at Unisoo village of Handwara on Wednesday afternoon.

The body of the abducted shopkeeper was recovered from orchards at Harwan village this morning.

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

WEATHER

JAMMU :
Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.0 Degree C
Min: 16.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 72.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 54.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 06.06 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 06.26 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
Max: 21.7 Degree C
Min: 5.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 77.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 47.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 16.0 Degree C
Min: 5.8 Degree C

1283 candidates in fray for Phase-I

12 districts with 30 ULBs go to polls tomorrow amid tight security

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 6: Twelve districts spread across all across three regions of the State would go to polls in first phase of Urban Local Bodies elections on October 8 for which the authorities have made elaborate security and other arrangements. Campaigning for the elections will end at 7 am on Sunday i.e. 24 hours before scheduled timing of voting.

The Municipal elections are being held in the State after gap of more than 13 years.

"A total of 30 Urban Local Bodies including all 75 Wards of Jammu Municipal Corporation and three Wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation will go to polls in Phase-I involving 422 Wards. A total of 1283 candidates are in the fray for first phase while 78 contestants have already been declared elected as unopposed," official sources told the Excelsior.

Besides JMC, seven Municipal bodies in Jammu, five in Rajouri and two in Poonch covering all bodies in three districts of Jammu region, will go to polls in the Phase-I of Jammu region. A Municipal Committee each in Leh and Kargil districts will also have voting on Monday. However, Municipalities of seven districts of Kashmir would go to vote in this phase including Srinagar, Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Kulgam and Anantnag. Local Bodies of seven districts of Kashmir have been segregated to almost all four phases of polling in view of security reasons.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar told the Excelsior that Jammu district has maximum number of seven Urban Local Bodies including Bishnah, Arnia, RS Pura, Ghou Manhasan, Akhnoor, Jourian and Khour, besides the JMC, which will go to elections on October 8.

Kumar said the polling time

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Holiday on voting dates

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: The Government today declared public holiday on the date of voting for the Municipal polls across the State.

The polls are scheduled to begin on October 8, followed by the second phase on October 10, third phase on October 13 and last phase on

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Probe Congress, NC role in settling Rohingyas: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 6: Lauding the Modi Government and the Union Home Ministry for living up to its commitment to deport back Rohingyas, Union Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today, now that the process of deportation has started, BJP will demand a thorough probe into the alleged role of political parties like Congress and National Conference (NC) in facilitating the settlement of Rohingyas in Jammu and its suburbs, in a bid to alter the demography and change the vote composition.

Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Speaking to media persons during the local body election campaign today and later addressing a BJP public meeting here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, on every issue, the Congress and its allies, particularly National Conference, turn "holier than thou" and start questioning the BJP rule of last four years, but we will not let the people forget the sins committed by Congress and its allies over the last 65 years. It is the Congress and its allies, he alleged, who had over the last 15 years, tactically facilitated the settlement of Rohingyas in and around Jammu.

Dr Jitendra Singh called upon the BJP's contesting candidates to go door-to-door to the people of Udhampur and raise the question as to why none of the MPs, MLAs or Councilors in the last six decades had taken up the issue of river Devika cleaning. After all, it was the same Devika, same Udhampur and the same faith of people in the holy River, he quipped and said, now that a mega national project has been cleared, the opposition parties are trying to distract the issue. Similarly, he asked, "why none of the earlier representatives took up the cause of Radio Station at Udhampur even though the demand had persisted since 1965 war, and now when we are getting the Radio Station completed by this year end, the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP public meeting at Udhampur on Saturday. —*Excelsior/Rakesh*

Despite Govt claim of launch on Oct 1; pensioners, journalists not covered under Group Mediclaim Policy

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 6: Despite loud claims of the J&K Government to launch Group Medical Health Insurance Scheme for the State employees, pensioners and the accredited journalists from October 1, 2018, the pensioners and journalists have not yet been covered while employees' trade union leaders described it as a decision taken in haste, without taking stake holders into confidence and `struck deal' with just one company, avoiding transparency in the process.

Taking a dig at the Insurance deal in J&K and making it mandatory for all the State employees, All India Congress Committee president, Rahul Gandhi in his tweet on 'Ambanis' today said, " When your BFF is the PM, you can get the Rs 1,30,000 crore Rafale deal, even without relevant experience. But wait, there is more! Apparently, over 4 lakh J&K Govt employees will also be arm twisted into buying Health Insurance only from your company. Is the Centre favouring Anil Ambani's Reliance Insurance in J&K?"

The official sources said that the contract, that had been left under the wraps for months by former Governor NN Vohra, was approved on August 31, 2018 in the first State Administrative Council (SAC) meeting chaired by Governor, SP Malik. Even as all the major Government tenders are floated on- line on behalf of Governor or President of India, the Group Mediclaim Insurance was advertised by a private broker, M/S Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Ltd, poorly in a couple of selective news papers. IRDA recognised Trinity, was engaged by the J&K Govt to design and implement the Group Mediclaim Insurance Policy for State employees and pensioners. While all the relevant documents are available on the J&K Finance Department's website, the MoU between Trinity and the J&K Govt is `conspicuously missing'.

Interestingly, the hectic calls of one of the State Government pensioners from a New Delhi Hospital (BLK Super Speciality), which has been shown empanelled by

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

EO, Insp booked for fraud

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 6: Executive Officer (EO) of Municipal Committee Thanamandi along with Khilafwarzi Inspector and some other officials have been booked by Rajouri police for fraudulent appointments of some daily wagers, casual labourers and need base employees.

Official sources said that recently, some persons serving as daily wagers, casual labourers and need base employees in Municipal Committee Thanamandi called upon Senior Superintendent of Police, Yougal Manhas and complained that they were engaged in Municipal Committee Thanamandi prior to 2014 on consolidated honorarium but soon after starting biometric

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)

HC seeks policy decision on grazing land

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: For safeguarding of grazing land, the State High Court, in a significant direction, has sought policy decision under which the State Government is using and utilizing the grazing land for the purpose of small projects.

Hearing an appeal filed by the residents of Kangan Ganderbal, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice D S Thakur observed that the issues raised in the case are of serious nature and sought policy decision of the State Government which allows them to utilize the grazing land for small projects.

"We find that in the affidavit dated 15.03.2018, respondents have, however, failed to disclose

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Dengue starts spreading tentacles in Jammu region, 26 found positive so far

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 6: With Monsoon season coming to end, Dengue fever has started spreading its tentacles in whole Jammu region as a total of 26 persons have been found positive for H1N1 virus so far with maximum of 11 cases reported from Kathua district.

According to official sources as on October 6, a total of 457 patients were tested for Dengue in the entire State (454 in Jammu province and three in Kashmir province) out of which 23 cases were found to be positive and reports of 419 were found negative while result of 15 samples are still awaited.

"Also, three persons belonging to Jammu region have been reported positive from other States. No death has been reported due to Dengue so far from any district of Jammu or Kashmir region", they added.

Elaborating more, sources said that out of 26 Dengue cases, 6 have been reported from Jammu district, seven from Samba and 11 from Kathua and one each from Udhampur and Kishtwar districts. They further revealed that out of these 26 Dengue patients, 16 were males and 10 females.

Microbiology department of GMC Jammu has received 185 samples of suspected Dengue patients so far out of which 178 have been tested. Out of these 178 patients, four have been found positive while 174 has been reported negative for H1N1 virus.

After GMC Jammu, the maximum 111 samples have been received by District Hospital Udhampur but to the satisfaction of the authorities only one of them has been found positive. Similarly, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar (Jammu) and Government Hospital Sarwal have received 33 and 11 samples, respectively out of which 25 and 8 have been tested. Out of 25 samples in Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, three have been reported positive while one has been reported from Government Hospital Sarwal.

The District Hospital Kathua has received about 49 samples of suspected patients and eight of them have been found positive while District Hospital Udhampur has received 111

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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Online Applications are invited from permanent residents of J&K State, fulfilling the eligibility as per the notification for the following posts as per district-wise requirement:

Probationary Officers	250 Posts
Banking Associates	1200 Posts

- Detailed notification will be available from 10th October, 2018 @ https://www.jkbank.com under Careers link.

Date of submission for online applications:
- Probationary Officers : 20.10.2018 to 06.11.2018
- Banking Associates : 24.10.2018 to 10.11.2018

ELIGIBILITY

PROBATIONARY OFFICERS

Educational Qualification

Graduate / Post-graduate with 60% marks and above : Educational qualifications should be from a recognized University/Institute (UGC/AICTE approved) & the result should have been declared on or before 01.10.2018.

Age

General Category : 18-30 years as on 01.01.2018
SC/ST/ Ex-Servicemen : Relaxation of 5 years i.e., 18-35 years as on 01.01.2018.

The general category candidates born before 02.01.1988 & after 01.01.2000 are not eligible to apply.

BANKING ASSOCIATES

Educational Qualification

Graduate / Post-graduate with 55% marks and above: Educational qualifications should be from a recognized University/Institute (UGC/AICTE approved) & the result should have been declared on or before 01.10.2018.

Age

General Category : 18-32 years as on 01.01.2018
SC/ST/ Ex-Servicemen : Relaxation of 3 years i.e., 18-35 years as on 01.01.2018.

The general category candidates born before 02.01.1986 & after 01.01.2000 are not eligible to apply.

HRD-Rectt-2018-1564
Dated: 06th October, 2018

Sd/-
Executive President - HR