

George passes away

NEW DELHI, Jan 29: George Fernandes, a life-long socialist despite his political adventurism that included Cabinet posts in two ideological opposite Governments where he ousted Coca-Cola in 1977 and oversaw the Kargil war in 1999, died today. He was 88.

Fernandes was suffering from Alzheimer's disease, which had forced him out of the public eye for several years, and

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Vaidya to meet BJP leaders today

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Jan 29: Top RSS functionary Manmohan Vaidya is arriving here tomorrow for taking feedback about the political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of elections.

According to the reliable sources in Sangh Parivar, Mr Vaidya will take a close door meeting with selected group of senior RSS functionaries and top BJP leaders in Jammu Kashmir.

The scheduled meeting at RSS headquarters will begin at 10.30 am, during which detailed feedback will be taken

Dheeraj posted as PS H&UDD

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Jan 29: Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government has been posted as Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department.

Pak delegation inspects Pakal Dul

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Jan 29: A three-member delegation from Pakistan led by Pakistan's Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah with their Indian counterpart delegation today inspected

* Pic on page 9.
 Video on www.excelsiornews.com

Pakal Dul Hydro Electricity Project in Kishtwar district

The Indo-Pak Indus Water Treaty Delegation is on a three day visit here for inspection of the Chenab river basin.

The delegation arrived in Kishtwar yesterday evening.

Indian Indus Commissioner (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Hold Assembly polls on time: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Jan 29: Asserting that holding Assembly elections on time is a test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah today said that any delay in the polls would mean that the Centre has deteriorated the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hitting out at the PM, he said the Election Commission had to postpone its scheduled visit to Jammu and Kashmir, due to the upcoming visit of

Inquiry against ex-SHO, HC

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Jan 29: DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua range has ordered a departmental inquiry against former SHO Janipura police station, Sub Inspector Bimal Indu and Head Constable Muzamil Hussain for delaying registration of FIR on the complaint of a citizen Sandeep Singh of Ambedkar Nagar, Paloura in an assault case.

The departmental inquiry will be conducted by the Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) North Jammu, police sources said.

Modi to sound poll bugle from Vijaypur
5 Union Ministers, 3 top BJP leaders to join PM on JK visit

Centre to release huge funds under PMDP

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 29: At least five Union Ministers and three top BJP leaders from New Delhi will accompany Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his high-profile day-long visit to all three regions of Jammu and Kashmir as Modi will sound election bugle for Parliamentary elections in the State by addressing mammoth BJP rally in Vijaypur on February 3.

Significantly, out of Rs 44,000 crore worth projects, which will be either inaugurated or whose foundation stone will be laid by the Prime Minister in the State, Rs 35,000 crore worth projects belonged to Jammu region, the core constituency of the BJP, which had given the party both Lok Sabha seats and 25 out of 37 Assembly seats in 2014 elections.

Sources told the Excelsior that Union Health and Medical

Education Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar, Road and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Power Minister RK Singh and Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Dr Jitendra Singh would accompany the Prime Minister from New Delhi during his day long visit.

BJP general secretary (Organizations) Ram Lal, party's pointman on Jammu and Kashmir and another general secretary, Incharge Jammu and Kashmir, Ram Madhav and Avinash Rai Khanna would join the Prime Minister at his Vijaypur rally. They were expected to reach Jammu a day ahead of the arrival of Modi.

However, sources said, Ram Lal might miss the rally if he is not fully well by that time.

"Four Union Ministers would join the rally as projects to be inaugurated by the Prime

Minister or whose foundation stone is being laid by him, belonged to their Ministries while fifth Union Minister (Dr Jitendra Singh) would join Modi as majority of projects fall in his Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur, in Samba district, whose foundation stone will be laid by the Prime Minister, belonged to the Health and Medical Education Ministry of Jagat Prakash Nadda though it will be constructed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMPD). Rattle power project in Kishtwar, whose foundation stone will also be laid, belonged to the Power Ministry of RK Singh. IIT and IIM fall under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, headed by Prakash Javadekar while Jammu-Akhnoor-Rajouri-

Poonch National Highway, Sudh Mahadev-Pul Doda Highway and Indri-Pattan-Pargwal bridge, fall under the purview of Road and Surface Transport Ministry of Nitin Gadkari.

Majority of projects, whose foundation stone will be laid by the Prime Minister, including Shahpur Kandi, Ujh, Devika Rejuvenation Plan, Rattle power project and Sudh Mahadev-Kishtwar National Highway fall under the Parliamentary constituency of Dr Jitendra Singh.

According to sources, majority of major projects, whose foundation stone is being laid by Modi or which will be inaugurated, fall in Jammu region and their cost was estimated around Rs 35,000 crore out of a total of Rs 44,000 crore projects, which will be started during the Prime Minister's visit on February 3.

In Leh, Modi is expected to lay foundation stone of Ladakh (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

DM to visit Samba in Feb

SAMBA, Jan 29: Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will inaugurate the strategically important 331-metre-long Bein bridge here in mid-February, an officer said today.

The bridge is considered to be most strategic for the movement of armed forces and the BSF along the Indo-Pak border, Commanding Officer Col Aditya Shahi said.

It will usher in a new revolution in the connectivity of roads and bridges in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. "Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman will inaugurate 331.20-metre-long Bein bridge in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir and dedicate it to the nation (in the middle of next month)," Col Shahi said.

The Bein bridge has been (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

DB directive to Traffic Police

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Jan 29: Division Bench of State High Court comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Tashi Rabstan today directed Traffic Police to strictly ensure that all the roads leading to the court as well as the circulation areas within the court complex are kept free from any obstruction, permanent or temporary, which would include unauthorized and illegal parking by any person or authority.

The direction was passed in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Sumit Nayyar regarding security of High Court as well as District Court Jammu.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocate Sumit Nayyar for the PIL, the DB observed, "a consolidated status report dated

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Framing of Distt Level Task Force Cell fails to yield positive results

Tightening noose around mining mafia remains least priority for majority of DCs

Mohinder Verma

Neither illegalities identified, nor cases referred for action

JAMMU, Jan 29: Tightening noose around those indulging in illegal mining and causing damage to ecology and environment has remained least priority for majority of the Deputy Commissioners despite explicit directions in this regard from the General Administration Department. Due to this, neither illegal acts of the mafia could be identified nor action taken against them as per the law.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that on the request of the Industries and Commerce Department, the General Administration Department vide Government Order No.1569 dated October 22, 2018 constituted Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force Cell in the Geology and Mining Department.

The Deputy Commissioner (concerned) was made Chairman of the District Level Task Force Cell with

Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer concerned of Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Divisional Forest Officer and Mineral Officer, Geology and Mining Department as its members. District Mineral Officer (concerned) was made Member Secretary of the Task Force Cell.

The mandate of the Task Force Cell was to identify sites located beyond the boundaries of leaseholds and agencies involved in illegal mining activities and quantify material extracted on account of illegal mining and imposition of penalties including cost material, royalty and its recovery.

Moreover, the Task Force was required to refer such illegal mining activities to the Director, Geology and Mining Department empowered for such purpose in accordance with rules

for necessary action.

Being Chairman of the Task Force, the Deputy Commissioners were also required to ensure inspection of mining belts with respect to title of the land, status of mining pits/benches with regard to existence of flora and fauna including forestation etc and examining the cases related to safety besides safeguarding ecology and geo-environment and highlighting the area of immediate concern and remedial measures.

However, majority of the Deputy Commissioners have yet not completed the basic work although they were authorized to constitute sub-committee if it is found necessary to enforce the Terms of Reference in more effective manner, sources said while disclosing that Geology and (Contd on page 9 Col 1)

HC directs CBI probe into death of police Insp's wife

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 29: High Court today handed over the investigation of the death of a Police officer's wife to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and observed that Police has attempted to shield her husband.

The Court observed since Vivek Bhasin was Inspector in the security wing of the Chief Minister when his wife Neha Kumari died of a bullet from the service rifle of her husband, the officer influencing the investigation can't be ruled out.

Neha Kumari wife of Inspector Vivek Bhasin of Ustad Mohalla, Jammu, received a gun shot fired from her husband's revolver at her house on February 26 last year and later succumbed to her injuries.

Hearing a petition filed by the father of the deceased, who sought that investigation of the case be handed over to an inde-

pendent agency like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or to any other specially constituted investigation team in regard to the murder of his daughter, the writ court while observing that there appeared to be a definite attempt to shield the accused police officer and handed over the investigation of the case to CBI.

"Since the accused is a police officer, there appeared to be a definite attempt to shield the accused by fellow police officers which is amply reflected in the manner in which investigation has been conducted. A ground has been made out for transferring the case for investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation", read the judgment.

Court directed the CBI to forthwith investigate the circumstances leading to the death of deceased and determine whether the case was suicidal or homici-

dal. As the case is registered only in terms of Sections 498-A/304-B RPC read with Section 30 of the Arms Act, depending upon the investigation so conducted, Court left it open to the CBI to book the accused under such offences as the CBI determines during the course of the investigation.

Based upon the enquiry conducted by the officer concerned and the report of the Ballistic expert from FSL, Jammu as also the postmortem report, it was established by the enquiry officer that deceased, Neha Kumari had died due to a gun shot from the service weapon of her husband, Vivek Bhasin and, therefore, inquest proceedings were converted into a case bearing FIR No. 85 of 2018 under Sections 498-A/304-B RPC read with Section 30 of the Arms Act and investigation initiated by the concerned SHO.

District Admn, ICDS connive to help fraud appointment in Budgam

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 29: The District officials in Budgam have fraudulently issued a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) to a person to get him job in Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) as Health and Nutrition Mobilizer with Deputy Director ICDS allowing him to join the department without getting his character antecedents verified.

The advertisement (Notice No: 02-SMD- of 2016 dated: 23-09-2016) for the post of Health and Nutrition Mobilizer was issued by the State Mission Directorate ICDS for different blocks of the districts of Kashmir three years ago.

Three candidates - Zaheer Abbas son of Showkat Hussain of Sheikhpora Budgam, Shaqeela Rasool daughter of Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Sheikhpora Budgam and Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Rasool Bhat of Sheikhpora Budgam - were called for interview and Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat was selected (vide order No: 231 SMD of 2018 dated: 24-02-2018) and Shaqeela was kept in waiting list in Budgam block.

The non selected candidates made a representation to the Deputy Commissioner alleging that Mukhtar Ahmad who was selected as Health and Nutrition Mobilizer is not domicile of the block and had obtained the PRC fraudulently to get selected in

the ICDS. A probe and enquiry conducted by Tehsildar Budgam (vide letter No: NAZ/THE/BUD/18/496 dated: 18-09-2018) found that Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat is not domicile of village Sheikhpora Fitrat Abad and had obtained the certificate fraudulently.

The Deputy Commissioner Budgam has written (No. DCB/PRC-BUD/2018/375 dated 15-12-2018) to Commissioner/Secretary Revenue Department for cancellation of the PRC of Mukhtar Ahmad on the basis of which he was selected in the ICDS. "...field verification revealed that no such person is residing in the area nor has any such person (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Kashmir mainstream parties have vested interests in militancy: Dr Jitendra

Foundation stone of first Highway Village laid

Nishikant Khajuria

KATHUA, Jan 29: Alleging that Kashmir mainstream political parties have vested interests in continuation of militancy in the State, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said that much hyped Surrender Policy in 2010 was failed by none but the then NC-Congress regime. "Kashmir based mainstream parties have developed vested interests in continuation of the ongoing militancy, which helped



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing public gathering after laying foundation stone of Highway Village in Kathua on Tuesday.

them for surviving and thriving in an atmosphere where no other parties come forward for

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

participation in the democratic process because of ongoing turmoil," he said while talking to

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Staunch supporters of BJP say they were taken for granted
Resentment among people in major portion of Bhaderwah over dismal performance of ex-MLA

Mohinder Verma

BHADERWAH: There is strong resentment among inhabitants of several areas of Bhaderwah Assembly constituency against former MLA Daleep Singh Parihar of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as neither could he do justice with those who had repused blind faith in him during last Assembly elections nor could he win the hearts of those who had preferred to cast votes in the favour of other candidates. Even the staunch supporters of the saffron party that too from Bhaderwah town have gathered an impression that they were



Ex-MLAs' Report Card
 Constituency: Bhaderwah
Daleep Singh Parihar (BJP)
<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/ex-mlas-report-card/>

taken for granted by their elected representative for three years as far as redressal of development related issues is concerned.

People of vast areas of Bhaderwah constituency are of the opinion that it was a golden opportunity for the former MLA to get majority of the issues redressed that too in a shortest possible time-frame keeping in

view the fact that there was Government of his party in the State as well as at Centre. But, name any vital sector the people have a tale of grievances to tell, which put a question mark on the performance of the ex-MLA.

This scenario came to the notice of EXCELSIOR during a random survey conducted in several areas of the Bhaderwah Assembly segment recently. The people were seen facing difficul-

ties due to pitiable condition of roads particularly those leading to the tourist destinations, lack of adequate manpower in health and educational institutions, improper irrigation and drinking water facilities and lack of adequate arrangements for promptly fighting the fire incidents, which generally increase during winter months.

Some of the people went to the extent of mentioning that even those issues which were raised during the 'Public Darbars' conducted by the former MLA have remained un-addressed till date and for them holding of grievances redressal (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

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