

Sitting MP, CEC win; Independents hold key

NC, Cong in neck-to-neck fight for LAHDC Kargil

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 28: Alliance partners—National Conference and Congress were locked in a neck-to-neck battle having won 12 and 11 seats respectively while the Independent candidates secured three other seats in the keenly contested election for 26 seats Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil after the counting was completed tonight.

Two main Opposition parties, PDP and BJP, who had contested majority of seats for third election to LAHDC Kargil, drew a blank like the outgoing body in which National Conference had 18 seats and Congress 8.

Lok Sabha member from Ladakh Parliamentary constituency, Ghulam Hassan Khan won as Councilor from Silmoo seat on National Conference mandate while sitting Chief Executive Councilor Kachoo Ahmad Ali Khan won as Independent candidate, backed by National Conference, from Youbalok seat with impressive margins. Former CEC Asgar Ali Karblaie won on

Congress mandate from Pashkum.

Of 26 elected seats in LAHDC Kargil, election was held for 24 seats on August 22 as two Independent candidates had already been elected unopposed.

Official sources told the Excelsior that out of 24 seats, the counting for which was taken up this morning and completed late tonight, Congress won 10 seats and National Conference 8. Six Independent candidates emerged victorious, three of whom had been supported by National Conference and one by the Congress.

Out of two Independent candidates elected unopposed earlier, one of them was supported by NC.

The final tally of NC stood at 12 (eight candidates who won on party mandate and four Independents, who captured the seats with the party support, three of them by elections and one unopposed) while the tally of Congress stood at 11 (10 of its own plus one Independent supported by the party). Three neutral Independents were elected to

the Council (two by election while another had already been declared winner as uncontested).

The LAHDC Kargil has strength of 30. Twenty-six of them are elected while the Government had the powers to nominate four members of different categories to the Council. However, the nominated members didn't have the voting right.

Sources said both NC and Congress would require support of the Independent candidates to secure simple majority of 14 in the Council. While NC with 12 seats would require support of two neutral Independent candidates, Congress with 11 seats would need support of all three neutral Independents to take majority.

According to sources, sitting MP from Ladakh seat Ghulam Hassan Khan, who had won Lok Sabha election as an Independent candidate but later affiliated with NC, was in the race for the post of the CEC along with sitting CEC Kachoo Ahmad Ali Khan from National Conference while Asgar Ali Karblaie and others were in

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Army, Civil Admn, ITBP get work on irrigation canal resumed within hrs

China again adopts aggressive posture in Demchok, threatens labourers

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 28: Notwithstanding China agreeing to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh region during the official-level talks held last month, the People Liberation Army (PLA) again adopted aggressive posture in Demchok area and forced suspension of work on irrigation canal being constructed by the Leh district administration. However, the Army, Civil Administration and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) got the work resumed within hours by assuring adequate security to the work force.

Sources in the ITBP told EXCELSIOR that on August 25 a group of Chinese Army personnel appeared on the other side of the stream flowing in Demchok area and threatened the labourers engaged in the construction of irrigation canal against continuing work by showing them banners.

Due to the aggressive posture adopted by the People's Liberation Army, the workers immediately suspended work on the canal and left the area under

fear, sources said, adding they immediately brought the matter to the notice of Army, Civil Administration and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

The incident took place within few hours after the ITBP column returning from the Demchok after carrying out patrolling in the area in order to maintain sense of security among the labourers and the people residing in the belt along the Line of Actual Control, they said. "It seems that the PLA got irritated over the patrolling by ITBP jawans and its aggressive posture was aimed at ensuring that people of the belt and the labourers carrying out work on the irrigation canal remain gripped by the fear psychosis", sources added.

Soon after getting information about the incident, the Army, Civil Administration and the ITBP swung into action and got the work on irrigation canal resumed on the very same day by assuring adequate assistance to the labourers from security point of view, they said.

"The immediate resumption of work was imperative because abandoning the ongoing project and leaving the area was fraught

with the danger of Chinese Army making undue advantage of isolation of the area besides depriving the people of the benefit of the project", sources further said.

The irrigation canal is coming up in Demchok area under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Union Ministry of Water Resources at a cost of around Rs 3 crore. The project was sanctioned in 2010-11 and till date 50 per cent work has been completed. The project will benefit the populace of Demchok area by providing them irrigation water facilities.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Simrandeep Singh confirmed that Chinese Army attempted to get the work on irrigation canal stopped by showing aggressive posture. He, however, said that within hours the work was resumed. Mr Singh refused to divulge any detail about the incident and the frequency of patrolling by the ITBP in the area.

The recent aggressive posture by the Chinese Army is notwithstanding the neighboring country agreeing during the official level

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9 Spl Scale KAS officers being promoted

Cabinet to give nod to summoning of State Legislature from Sept 23

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 28: State Cabinet, which is meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah on August 30 at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, will give nod to the summoning of State Legislature on September 23. It will also accord approval to the promotion of nine Special Scale KAS officers to the Super Time Scale and appointment of three Functional Managers to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service.

Sources in General Administration Department told EXCELSIOR that Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is placing a proposal before the Cabinet regarding summoning of State Legislature on September 23. The Legislative Assembly will meet at 10 am and Legislative Council at 11 am.

The two Houses of the State Legislature were last summoned by the Governor to meet at Jammu on February 28, 2013 and on completion of business, the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were adjourned sine-die by their respective Presiding Officers on April 5, 2013 and April 6, 2013 respectively. Both the Houses were thereafter prorogued by the Governor on April 24, 2013.

Under Section 53 of the Constitution of J&K, six months shall not intervene between the last sitting in one session and the date fixed for its first sitting in the next session as such summoning of Legislature on September 23 has become constitutional requirement.

Sources said that Cabinet will also accord sanction to the promotion of nine Special Scale KAS officers to the Super Time Scale of the J&K Administrative Service

respectively. These officers are Manesha Devi Sharma, Salma Hamid, Mubarak Singh, Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, Farooq Ahmed Shah, Manzoor Ahmed Lone, Showkat Ahmad Zargar, Tsering Muroop and Jaipal Singh.

Three Super Time Scale KAS officers working in the Civil Secretariat can be posted as Secretaries in the respective departments and as of now only one officer namely Dev Lata, Special Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, is holding the Super Time Scale of KAS.

As such she will be designated as Secretary in the CM's Secretariat, sources said, adding from among the nine officers recommended by the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee for promotion to the Super Time Scale of KAS Tsering Muroop, Special

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Proposal again taken up with Centre

J&K seeks MHA nod for 5 new IRP bns

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 28: The State Government has once again taken up with Government of India the demand for raising of five Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalions in Jammu and Kashmir as a part of measure to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir Police, reduce footprints of security forces and para-military personnel and generate employment for the local youths.

The Home Department of the State Government has taken up the issue with Union Ministry of Home Affairs for sanctioning five IRP battalions at the earliest, an issue that has been hanging fire for the past quite some time after it was first raised by

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Incharge Home Ministry in J&K with the Union Home Minister.

"The Home Ministry has assured us that the issue was under active consideration of the Union Government. We are now confident of an early nod from the Government of India on raising five new IRP battalions for the State," official sources told the Excelsior.

They said the process for raising the battalions would start as soon as a green signal is received from the Union Government.

The State Government had taken up the matter for raising of five IRP battalions with the Centre with full funding from the Union Government on the ground that the new battalions would replace para-military and

security forces for tactful handling of law and order situation in the State especially in the Kashmir Valley.

"The new battalions would reduce footprints of security and para-military forces, supplement the role of para-military forces, generate about 5000 jobs for the local youths and help in tackling the rioters in case of trouble effectively," sources said.

They added that entire expenditure on raising the battalions including salary of the fresh recruits had to be born by the Government of India for a specific period. The new IRP battalions would also compensate the shortage of the State police force was facing.

Authorities had to call para-military forces, or in extreme

difficult circumstances, the Army to maintain law and order situation due to shortage of police personnel. Recently Army had to be called and kept stand by in almost entire Jammu region in the aftermath of Kishwar violence.

"Raising of five new battalions could go a long way in maintenance of law and order situation on its own, at least in small incidents of trouble, where the police had to call para-military CRPF immediately," sources said.

Worthwhile to mention here that the State Government had mooted the proposal for raising five more IRP battalions with the Union Home Ministry more than a year ago. The MHA had assured the State that it would

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Sandhu tipped to be new CIC

NEW DELHI, Aug 28:

Former media advisor to Prime Dr Manmohan Singh, Deepak Sandhu, is likely to be appointed as next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) to succeed Satyanand Mishra who retires early next month.

Sandhu's appointment is understood to have been cleared at a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the file recommending her name has been sent to the President's office for his approval, official sources said today.

The Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee led by the Prime Minister and including the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM.

Sandhu, a retired Indian Information Service (IIS) officer of 1971 batch, has already been serving in Central Information

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Arms, ammunition haul in Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 28: In a major breakthrough, troops of Rashtriya Rifles and police today busted a major hideout of the militants at Deolmarg forests in village Bagga in Mahore sub division at Pir Panjal mountains of Reasi district and recovered a large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosive material.

Official sources said a joint team of Rashtriya Rifles battalion located at Bagga under the aegis of Counter Insurgency Force based at Reasi launched a search operation with local police in Deolmarg forests on the upper reaches of Pir Panjal mountains this morning after developing an information about a dump of arms and ammunition inside a natural cave.

After several hours of searches, the troops came across a natural cave, which was two feet wide and four feet deep inside thick

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Sharma PDP candidate for Jammu seat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 28: People's Democratic Party (PDP) today announced veteran leader and Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Yash Pal Sharma as party candidate for Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat. Decision in this regard was taken in a meeting which was held under the leadership of PDP patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in which all senior leaders of the party were present.

During the deliberations, consensus emerged on the choice of Yash Pal Sharma, a refugee leader of Poonch, who is known for his secular credentials and commitment. Sharma is popular among all sections of the society due to his secular credentials. It was all due to his mass following and credibility that PDP had nominated Yash Pal Sharma as Member of the Legislative Council recently.

Yash Pal Sharma, a native of Poonch district, is a known figure in entire Jammu province. He has been active in the politics for the last 50 years and has played a very important role in various agitations launched, from time to time, in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

BSF jawan washed away

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 28: A jawan of Border Security Force (BSF) got washed away in a nallah at Mandi in district Poonch today.

An official spokesman said that BSF Constable, Jagdish Singh of 112 battalion (D Company) who was recently deployed at Mandi, went to the nearby nallah for taking bath in the morning. There was heavy rain at the higher reaches and he got washed away in the flash flood. Later, the other jawans who came to know about it, started search for him. The local police was also informed. During 2-3 hour long search his body could be traced near Baila village, about 4 kms downstream.

The police and BSF jawans shifted the body of the deceased to Mandi hospital and after conducting postmortem and performing other legal formalities, sent it to the hometown of the jawan. The police has launched inquest proceedings under Section 174 CrPC in this connection.

DC Prashant passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 28: Former Rajya Sabha member, veteran journalist and the last surviving Dogri Sanstha's founder, D C Prashant, passed away at his residence in Jullaha Mohalla locality this morning.

His last rites were performed in the evening and people from all walks of life participated in the funeral procession.

Prashant was 96 and is survived by three sons and four daughters.

A veteran journalist, Prashant joined journalism in 1946 from Lahore and remained associated with Associated Press of India

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Additional pension above 80 yrs old

NEW DELHI, Aug 28:

Retired All India Services (IAS, IPS and IFOs) officials will get 20 per cent of additional pension after completing 80 years of age, according to new rules notified by the Central Government.

According to the amended rules, this extra pension will also be increased after every five years and retired bureaucrats will get 100 per cent of such additional benefits, other than the regular pension drawn by them, after they complete 100 years of age.

Such retired Government officials will get 20 per cent of additional pension after they complete 80 years of age, 30 per cent of after completing 85 years, 40 per cent after crossing 90 years of age, 50 per cent after reaching 95 years and 100 per cent of additional pension after completing 100 years of age, says the amended All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.

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	Min: 19.0 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 75.0 per cent
	Lowest: 71.0 per cent



NO ONE WILL GO TO BED HUNGRY

The Food Security Bill will ensure 81 crore people will get Rice - ₹3 per kg, Wheat - ₹2 per kg, Coarse grains (Sorghum, Pearl Millets, Finger Millets) - ₹1 per kg.

Antyodaya Ann Yojana families are getting 35 kg grains per month







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