

An year of remembrance

Today is 5th of July. An year ago, on this day, Daily Excelsior was bereaved of its visionary founder and Editor-in-Chief, our late father Shri S.D Rohmetra, the doyen of journalism. His sudden and untimely demise last year put an enormous weight of responsibilities and commitments on the entire Excelsior fraternity. Destiny had thrown a formidable challenge of carrying forward his legacy and task.



With cool perseverance and dedication to the cause of service to the society, the staff and extended family of Daily Excelsior rose to the occasion and continued to discharge their duty to the best of their ability. Uninterrupted publication of the newspaper became possible owing to the roadmap which our departed team leader had carefully drawn in the course of over five decades of his distinguished contribution in the field of journalism. He valued objectivity, fair play and neutrality in the profession of journalism, and this endeared the paper to a vast readership not only in the state and the country but also outside the country. Ever increasing number of readers testifies to the standard and popularity of the Daily Excelsior.

Besides being the ace journalist of the State, our father had laboriously built enviable profile of the paper in official and non-official circles within the State and at the Centre. The calm and infallibility with which he bore himself as a professional during two decades of turmoil and turbulence in the State won him exceptional credibility with the civil society.

More than being the founder Editor, he was a guide, a mentor, a path finder and a role-model for the Daily Excelsior staff in particular and people from various sections of society in general. He educated and trained all of us in the profession and infused the urge for improvement and excellence. Unlike other patrons, he inducted an element of humanism into the treatment of his subordinates. The shining legacy which he left behind reflects in the culture of team work among the entire Daily Excelsior family.

During the past one year, traditions, principles and guidelines left behind by Shri Rohmetra made it possible for us to fulfill our commitments to civil society and discharge our responsibility with a sense of relief. We are also thankful to our colleagues for their unflinching support to the mission of our father.

We are beholden to our readers and custodians of the conscience of civil society for their unstinted cooperation and much needed advice in upgrading the standard of Daily Excelsior.

Coming years may unfold more challenges to us. We are aware of that. Therefore, we are resolved to serve the community with renewed dedication and sense of purpose. While striving for further improvement in Daily Excelsior in terms of thematic quality, technical improvisation and overall get up as well as in meting out fair deal to the EXCELSIOR family, we shall feel proud to invoke the spirit of our late father for advice and guidance.

-Kamal & Neeraj

CM displeased with Gulmarg pony-wallas

J&K aims to become power surplus: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

TANGMARG, July 4: Equating self-reliance in power production with financial autonomy, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the state's future lies in optimum use of water resources for power generation.

"My target is to make Jammu and Kashmir a power surplus State and strengthen its economy to such a level from where it need not plead for Central assistance time and again for every development work," Abdullah said after inaugurating the Drungi Micro Hydro Power Project on Ferozpur Nallah here, 45 km from Srinagar.

The project, launched by a local company, was completed at a cost of Rs 90 crore and was financed by Jammu and Kashmir Bank. It will provide electricity to areas in Tangmarg and Gulmarg.

The Chief Minister said vari-

ous projects with a combined generation capacity of 9,000 MW are under implementation. Abdullah said after he persuaded the Union Government, the Centre allotted a 130 million tonne coal block for Jammu and Kashmir, which would enable the State to generate 1,000 MW of power for 25 to 30 years.

"I may not be in a position to sell this achievement during the 2014 elections as work on establishing a thermal power project may take some time," the Chief Minister said.

However, the State Government has made a "remarkable dent" in the power generation sector to bring welfare and financial autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir has sustained constant and irrevocable losses due to the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan on sharing river

water. "All the three rivers of Jammu and Kashmir were given to Pakistan without having any care for the future of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Production of energy from water resources is not only one of the cheapest forms of power generation, it is also environment friendly, said Abdullah, adding that holistic development of the State and the welfare of its people lies in power development.

The Government has flagged power as one of the important sectors in the state's policy planning, he said.

Developing the power sector and taking care of production, distribution and transmission are key focus areas for the State Government, the CM added.

The CM said hydel power projects with 9,000 MW of capacity have been targeted

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HC for investigation into polythene entry at Lakhanpur

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 4: Jammu and Kashmir High Court today observed that investigations should be conducted to find out why large quantity of polythene is being allowed to enter the State through Lakhanpur check post.

The Division Bench of Jammu and Kashmir High Court comprising Chief Justice, MM Kumar and Justice Mansoor Ahmad passed the order during the proceedings of the Dal lake case titled, Syed Tahir Iqbal Geelani versus State and others.

As during the proceedings the court was informed by the Advocate General of State, Mohammad Ishaq Qadri that 12,750 kilogrammes of the polythene was seized by various agencies from the entire State, the Chief Justice took serious note of the conduct of the employees of the Lakhanpur toll post.

Chief Justice observed: "It must be looked into as why they

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

3 new CRPF IGs posted in Valley

NEW DELHI, July 4:

Six senior IPS officers in the rank of Inspector General (IG) were tonight shuffled in the country's largest paramilitary of the country- CRPF.

According to the new orders issued late this evening, Rajasthan cadre IPS officer Pankaj Kumar Singh, who was till now heading the Operations charge of the force, will now head provisioning and intelligence departments.

Singh is a veteran of anti-Maoist operations and had completed a stint as IG in Chhattisgarh earlier.

Zulfiqar Hasan, a West Bengal cadre police officer, will be the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

5 SSPs being elevated as DIGs

93 DySPs promoted as SPs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 4: Five SSPs, who were conferred with IPS in 1999, were likely to be promoted as DIGs in next few days even as the Government today ordered promotion of 93 DySPs as Incharge SPs.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Home Ministry has approved promotion of five SSPs, who were part of 1999 batch of IPS, as DIGs. The vacancies for their postings have also been identified.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Don't provoke China: PLA

BEIJING, July 4:

Hours before the arrival of Defence Minister A K Antony here for high-level talks, a hawkish Chinese General today warned India against provoking "new trouble" by increasing its military deployment at the border.

"There is no denying that there are tensions and problems between China and India particularly at the border areas," Major General Luo Yuan, Executive Vice President and Secretary General of China Strategy Culture Promotion Association, said.

"There is still problem of 90,000 sq km of territory still occupied

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Anita Kaul is new Secy Justice

NEW DELHI, July 4:

Anita Kaul has been appointed as the new Secretary, Justice in the Law Ministry, while Sangita Gairola will be the new Secretary of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Defence Ministry.

Kaul, a 1979 batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, will replace D K Sikri on his retirement on July 31.

As Secretary Justice, Kaul, who is presently in her cadre, will look after the appointment, resignation and removal of judges of the Supreme Court and the 24 High Courts.

Gairola, a 1977 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs in the Sports Ministry. She will swap her position with Uttarakhand cadre IAS Rajiv Gupta who is Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Defence Ministry. (PTI)

Pistol 'snatched' from PDP MLA's guard

Excelsior Correspondent

PULWAMA, July 4: Suspected militants today snatched the service pistol of a police man who is brother and security guard of a People's Democratic Party (PDP) Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Pulwama.

DIG South Kashmir, Vijay Kumar told Excelsior that selection grade constable, Abdul Gani Bandh and brother of PDP MLA Pulwama Mohammad Khalil Bandh today reported to the police that he was intercepted by unknown gunmen near Pinglina Pulwama during late last night and his pistol and ammunition were snatched.

The cop reported that a pistol and 70 rounds were snatched from him at gun point when militants who, he said, were two in

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

BSF repatriates Pak youth

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 4: The BSF officials today repatriated a Pakistani youth to his country as he had inadvertently crossed into this side of the International Border (IB) in Samba sector few days back.

Mohammad Asif was handed over to the Pakistani Rangers at a flag meeting by the BSF along the IB at Rajpora Khora border post in Samba district.

Official sources said Asif, who is mentally unfit, was arrested along the IB after he ignorantly crossed over to this side in Samba belt on June 26.

Meanwhile, two land mines were defused by the BSF along the

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17,825 pilgrims perform darshan on Day 7

Clashes at Baltal; CRPF bunker, canteen set afire

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 4: Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) this evening used force to quell a protest demonstration at the Baltal base camp of Amarnath Yatra after a CRPF canteen and makeshift bunker was set afire by a mob.

Sources said that there was an altercation between driver of two local Sumos and Amarnath yatrias over fare. The yatrias reportedly on reaching to the Baltal base camp reported the matter to 115 CRPF at the first check point.

Sources said that CRPF had an altercation with the driver

and they beat up one of the drivers Ghulam Nabi Lone son of Sikandar Lone of Khanan Kangan. He was referred to SKIMS Srinagar for treatment.

The hawkers and Sumo drivers protested against the CRPF and set afire CRPF canteen and one makeshift bunker. They also pelted stones at CRPF and Police resulting in ding dong battles.

Police fired over a dozen tearmoke shells and charged batons on the protesting drivers and hawkers in which one Sahil Ahmad was injured.

Tension also gripped Sonmarg, Kangan, Ganderbal, Gangangir as people came out in protest and pelted stones at pass-

ing vehicles and clashed with police. Several vehicles were damaged in stone pelting.

Residents of home village of *Pic on page 6 the driver, Khanan came out in protest against the CRPF as news reached to the village. Police said that the condition of the driver is stable.

A police spokesman said here that in an altercation between a Sumo driver and security force personnel at Baltal, the Sumo driver identified as Ghulam Nabi Lone of Kangan got injured.

"After this incident, some miscreants pelted stones on deployment over there. The situation was brought under control.

The Sumo driver was shifted to hospital where he is stable", the spokesman added.

CEO SASB Navin Choudhary told the Excelsior that the Yatra would proceed from Baltal as per schedule tomorrow. He said condition of the injured driver was stable.

Meanwhile, 17,825 pilgrims performed darshan at holy cave of Swami Amarnath on day seventh of the yatra today. With this total yatrias paying obeisance to Ice Lingam in cave shrine has reached 97,937 since the first day of darshan on June 28. Till yesterday evening 78,112

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Spurt in intrusion bids due to adverse weather

Army pushes back 4 heavily armed ultras

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 4: As troops foiled another infiltration attempt by the militants on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector, authorities said they were anticipating more intrusion bids in the coming days when monsoon rains would make weather adverse and increase growth of vegetation and forest cover.

Official sources said troops observed four militants trying to sneak into the Indian territory from near Durga Post in Digwar sub sector of Poonch district in the wee hours of this morning. Troops immediately opened firing to neutralize the militants

before they could enter into this side.

Within 15 minutes of firing, the troops were able to push back the militants to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) from *Pic on page 6 where they had been launched. All four militants were heavily armed and appeared to be Pakistanis.

They retreated without offering much resistance after finding heavy presence of Army on this side of the LoC.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Rajesh Kumar told the Excelsior that there had been no successful infiltration attempt on the

LoC or International Border (IB) in Jammu sector this year.

Arms, ammunition seized in Kishtwar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 4: Army and police today recovered arms and ammunition from village Cherji in Paddar area of Kishtwar district. On a specific intelligence inputs, a joint team of Rashtriya Rifles and police conducted a search operation in Paddar area

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

"We have been watching the situation completely but so far

Army and BSF haven't allowed any militant to intrude into this side," Mr Kumar said adding though a number of intrusion bids have been made on the LoC in the recent past "all of them have been successfully thwarted".

Troops have been maintaining very high alert on the LoC after the killing of 'human bomb' in Sabjan sub sector of Poonch and two Pakistani militants in Keri sector of Rajouri district during past about one week.

A militant, who had strapped explosives on his body with a view to target a forward Army

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

JKSPDC begins process to register 9 power projects under Kyoto Protocol

*Step to generate crores of rupees through CER trading

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 4: Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) has begun the process to register its upcoming nine hydropower projects under the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to obtain the benefits for checking emission of greenhouse gases during energy generation.

Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that Jammu and

Kashmir State Power Development Corporation has engaged Delhi-based company-ITP Synergy as consultant through formal bidding for carrying out necessary exercise for registration of power projects for Clean Development Mechanism benefits under the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The company will shortly start the process of holding wide-ranging discussions with all the stakeholders of nine hydropower projects identified for registration under Kyoto Protocol as per the schedule prepared by the JKSPDC and com-

plete the exercise by ending current month, sources said. After discussion with the stakeholders on the positive and negative impacts of these power projects, the company will prepare Project Design Document and Project Concept Note.

These nine projects are 1856 Mega Watt Sawalakote, 450 MW Baglihar-II, 930 MW Kirthai-II, 390 MW Kirthai-I, 93 Mega Watt New Ganderbal, 48 MW Lower Kalnai, 37.5 MW Parnai and 9 MW each Dah and Hanu. Of these projects, two are in Ladakh region (Dah and Hanu), one in Kashmir valley

(New Ganderbal) and six in Jammu region. The New Ganderbal power project is coming up on tributary of Jhelum, Dah and Hanu on Indus tributary, Parnai also on Jhelum tributary and rest on River Chenab.

In response to a question, sources said, "at present no power project in Jammu and Kashmir is registered under the Kyoto Protocol as all were established prior to adoption of this regime in India". Though attempt was made to register Baglihar-I under the international treaty on climate change yet it

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