

PM to interact with students today

NEW DELHI, Jan 19:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students, teachers and parents tomorrow and share "valuable tips" with them to ensure they take the upcoming board and entrance exams in a relaxed manner.

The third edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha is being organised at Talkatora Indoor Stadium in Delhi. A total of 2,000 students and teachers will attend the event, of which 1,050 students have been selected through an essay competition.

"We will once again have extensive discussions and insightful conversations on a wide range of subjects relating (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Nadda set to succeed Shah

NEW DELHI, Jan 19:

The BJP is set to get its new national president in place of Amit Shah tomorrow, with its working president J P Nadda expected to be elected to the post unopposed.

Top party leaders, including Union Ministers and those from States, are likely to arrive at the BJP headquarters to file nominations in support of Nadda, who has long been seen as the choice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah for the job.

Nadda's decades-long experience in the organisation, starting from student politics, proximity to the RSS and clean image are seen as his strengths. Shah held a meeting with (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

India may miss tax target

NEW DELHI, Jan 19:

The Government's tax collection is likely to fall short of its estimate by Rs 2.5 lakh crore or 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2019-20, former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said today while calling for scrapping of dividend distribution tax.

Garg in a blog said that from the tax revenues perspective, 2019-20 is proving to be a dysfunctional year.

"Tax revenues to see shortfall of Rs 2.5 trillion (1.2 per cent of GDP). Time to junk DDT and reform personal income tax," he said.

The Government had budgeted gross tax revenues of Rs (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Earthquake hits Chamba

SHIMLA, Jan 19:

A moderate-intensity earthquake shook Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district today evening.

No loss of life or property was reported.

Shimla Meteorological Centre Director Manmohan Singh said a 3.6M quake hit the district at 4:14 pm. The epicentre was at a depth of 10 km northeast of Chamba, he said, adding mild tremors were also felt in adjoining areas.

Most parts of Himachal, including Chamba, fall in a high-seismic zone and are often hit by mild quakes. (PTI)

Singh says work will start on Ratle, Kiru projects soon

New industrial policy shortly, Kashmir to be linked with rail in 2021: Goyal

***Reasi to have textile unit: Irani**

***5 trillion economy by 2025: Thakur**

Sanjeev Pargal
 JAMMU, Jan 19: On second day of Narendra Modi Government's public outreach programme, nine Union Ministers today visited different parts of Jammu and

linked by rail with rest of the country in December 2021, Power Minister RK Singh declared that work on Ratle and Kiru power projects over river Chenab in the erstwhile Doda district will start soon. Textiles Minister Smriti Irani

Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur said it was only the country like India where people from minorities have risen to the ranks of President, Prime Minister, Army chief and Captains of various teams including cricket.

Jitendra Singh, RK Singh, Anurag Thakur, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ashwani Choubey, V Muraleedharan and Mahendra Nath Pandey.

Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a "jewel" of the country, Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the Centre would come out with an industrial package for the Union Territory soon and expressed

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

hope that it would attract large amounts of investment to the valley.

He announced that Kashmir would be linked with the rest of the country by train by December next year.

Asserting that development work has gathered pace in Jammu and Kashmir, especially after June 18, 2018 when the erstwhile State came under Governor's rule, Goyal, while (Contd on page 9 Col 1)



Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Smriti Irani, R K Singh and Anurag Thakur addressing programmes at different places in Jammu on Sunday.

Kashmir and made the people aware about developmental projects. While Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced that industrial package for J&K is in the offing and Kashmir will be

said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concept that it should be the administration which would go to the door-step of people instead of people knocking doors of the authorities while Minister of State for

Block Development Council (BDC) representatives and briefing them about the Central projects and welfare schemes for the people.

The Ministers included Piyush Goyal, Smriti Irani, Dr

'Ensure that no official overstays on a particular post'

Govt directs all depts to rotate staff from sensitive to non-sensitive posts

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 19: In a development aimed at reducing the chances of corrupt practices, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has directed all the departments to rotate staff from sensitive to non-sensitive positions and ensure that no official overstays on a particular post without any compelling circumstances. Moreover, thrust has been laid on strict adherence to the important provisions of the Transfer Policy which was laid down way back in 2010.

"It has come to the notice of the Government that in many departments large number of officers/officials are occupying

Lays thrust on strict adherence to Transfer Policy provisions

particular posts for the past quite long time although voices were raised over this practice by other employees of the departments and concern was even conveyed to the respective Heads of the Departments", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

They further said, "no doubt there may be certain cases where continuation of some officers/officials on particular posts for unspecified period was imperative due to compelling circumstances/technical grounds but this practice cannot be allowed to persist as the same amounts to giving sufficient chances for

the development of vested interests of the officials concerned".

"Moreover, allowing certain officials to handle the particular task for prolonged period leads to dependence of the department on such employees and make them indispensable, which further leads to chances of corrupt practices", sources further said, adding "there are numerous instances of blue-eyed officials holding important positions in key departments not only in the field level offices but in the Civil Secretariat also for quite long time".

These aspects came up for

discussion at the highest level in the Government few days back and accordingly it has been decided to do away with this practice so as to further minimize the chances of corrupt practices in the departments, sources said while disclosing that Chief Secretary has issued explicit directions to all the departments to rotate staff from sensitive to non-sensitive positions and ensure that no official overstays on a particular post without any compelling circumstances.

"The departments will shift the officers/officials in their respective departments as have completed their term to ensure that no officer/official overstays (Contd on page 9 Col 3)



Women carry water pots on their heads on a snow covered road at a village in Budgam. — Excelsior/Shakeel

Meghwal, Murlidharan, Pandey visit several areas Dr Jitendra announces Industrial Estate, Bus Stand for Udhampur

Work on AIIMS to begin next month: Choubey

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Jan 19: For its overall development and to boost the economy of Udhampur, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced new Industrial Estate and a new Bus Stand for the district, besides Rs 40 lakh from his MPLAD fund for various farming and water schemes.

The announcement was made by him during his visit to district Udhampur as a part of Central Government's Outreach

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Program. Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed that about 1000 acre (8,000 kanal) land has been identified in Udhampur for the new Industrial Estate.

He said, this will attract investors from within and outside the UT of J&K and promote Udhampur as an industrial hub.

This will in turn generate employment opportunities for the local youth. The significance of this decision is very timely, he said, adding besides the Global Investors Summit is being planned to be held in Jammu and Srinagar in the month of April



Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh, Dr M N Pandey, V Murlidharan, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Ashwani Kumar Choubey during public outreach programme in Udhampur, Jammu, Kathua and Samba districts on Sunday.

progress of Devika River Rejuvenation and Beautification Project worth Rs 190 crore, on the lines of Clean Ganga Project which was sanctioned in the year 2017, but took off only after the LG regime.. He said e Theme Park at the venue of

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the popular demand for a new Bus Stand in Udhampur has been accepted and now the process to finalise the land is going on.

The function was attended by a large gathering, including newly constituted Block Development Council Chairpersons and Sarpanch/ Panch of the area.

During his visit, Dr Jitendra Singh also reviewed the

Devika project will be inaugurated very soon and ultimately this will be a tourist destination. The project of Centrally funded Medical College in Udhampur was also discussed. The project was sanctioned last year, but the land could be acquired only during the last few months.

Various development schemes of the district were also reviewed, which included (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

2 die as landslides hit Bolero in Ramban Valley continues to reel under sub-zero temp, 52 structures damaged

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Jan 19: Kashmir continued to reel under sub-zero night temperatures with a layer of frost developing on roads in the morning while two persons were killed when a Bolero vehicle was hit by landslides near Ramban, disrupting movement of vehicles for about an hour on busy Jammu-Srinagar National Highway this afternoon.

A senior police official said

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

that there was movement of vehicles from Jammu to Kashmir side. The weather was clear and agencies engaged in 4-



Wreckage of Bolero vehicle which was buried under landslides near Ramban on Sunday. — Excelsior/Parvaiz Mir

laning of the highway were on the job. Suddenly, landslides occurred near Kela Morh, about 6 kms away from Ramban towards Banihal and a Bolero

vehicle bearing registration No. JK13C/6300 was buried under the debris at around 3.30 pm. Occupants of two other light motor vehicles including a Tempo Traveller passengers, had narrow escape in the mishap.

The movement of the vehicles came to halt and the two JCBs were rushed to the site for rescue operation. The Police and Traffic Police officials rushed to the site from Ramban. The vehicle had tuned into 'wreckage' as the boulders had pressed it badly. The vehicle driver and his relative had been trapped in the wreckage and were dragged out after hard efforts by police and BRO men.

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

putting the local population to much inconvenience. The residents of all these areas have criticized the administration for not coming up to their expectation.

What is interesting here is



Unattended snow lying on a link road in Handwara in North Kashmir. — Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

the areas, with subzero temperatures making it difficult for them to venture out of their homes early in the morning.

that, while the administration in Handwara has cleared the snow from the main road, it (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Lack of 'dignified employment' leaves 15000 employees in lurk

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: Nearly 15000 employees who have been appointed under Government's new job policy since its inception in 2015, charged Government with adopting a discriminatory approach towards ensuring them a dignified employment.

The employees held multiple protests and rallies against the job policy, commonly known as SRO-202, but authorities seemed to be unmoved. The employees said they have been protesting against the exploitative terms of employment enshrined in the policy. The SRO is against equal pay for equal work and that is catalyzing the sense of discrimination among them.

The recent recommendations of the Law Commission wherein it termed the policy as draconian and anti-youth have given hope to the employees. Besides this, the Law Commission also asked for the reduction of the probation period of 2 years and amendment in Rule 9 and Rule 10 regarding allowances and increments.

SRO-202 was enacted by the order of the Governor of the then State of Jammu and Kashmir on 30th June 2015 in exercise of the powers conferred by the provision of Section 124 of the Jammu and Kashmir constitution. As per this SRO the employees holding substantive posts that are permanent in nature and after having qualified the multi-tier exams conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Public

Service Commission (JKPSC) and Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) have minimum pay scale (as per 6th Pay Commission). However, after the implementation of Seventh Pay Commission only basic pay is paid to employees.

The SRO was initiated to reduce the staggering unemployment rate by employing maximum number of employees in limited time period. Under the SRO, the appointments were made within a period of three months from the date of reference. However, the employees said that the average completion of recruitment process takes around 1-1.5 years. "The fast track recruitment is still a utopia, on an average comple- (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

No fire safety mechanism in Civil Sectt, Assembly complex

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Jan 19: In case of any fire eventuality, the Civil Secretariat and the Assembly complex in Srinagar are two highly vulnerable buildings of the governance in J&K due to the callousness of the administration.

The administration has utterly failed in putting in place effective fire fighting mechanism up to date with the latest requirements in the two building over the years, sources told Excelsior.

With regard to the Civil Secretariat, though the building is concrete in nature, the wooden panelling over the years in the interiors has rendered the building vulnerable in case of any fire incident. Pertinent to mention here, the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services has installed 20-25 Advanced Fire Technology (AFT) sprays in the building, but the irony is that, these sprays are imported to Jammu soon after the seasonal closing of the Government offices in Kashmir and are brought back to Srinagar during the summer season.

"There are no fire safety measures whatsoever in both the buildings-Civil Secretariat and the Assembly Complex; there is no in built system; rather the AFT sprays have been used which are workable only in case of any minor fire incident," the sources informed.

Moreover, the Government has procured hundreds of fire extinguishers years back to be installed in the Civil Secretariat

building, but the sorry state of affairs is that those extinguishers have not been refilled over the years.

Given the enormity of the building, there is no huge source water to be used in case of any eventuality. The sources said that there is no source of water there; there should have been an underground water reservoir or a tank with required capacity which could have been used in case of any eventuality.

Further, in case of the Assembly complex, even there also, there are no in-built fire safety measures and with the Assembly complex being entirely wooden in nature-in the interiors-the complex is more susceptible to the fire and can turn into ashes within (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Download Mobile Apps of Daily Excelsior for Android and IOS

Download on the Google Play Store | Download on the App Store

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/apps/>

INSIDE

- Z-Morh tunnel on Srinagar - Leh NH ...Page 6
- Oral healthcare in Kashmir
- Protest demonstrations, public meeting, seminars mark observance of 30th Holocaust Day ...Page 3
- Need to preserve Dogra culture: Karan Singh ...Page 3
- J&K people badly hit by governance deficit: Sadhotra ...Page 5
- RSS follows Constitution, does not want to be another power center: Bhagwat ...Page 7
- Rohit, Kohli guide India to series win over Australia ...Page 12

WEATHER

JAMMU:
 Generally cloudy
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 19.3 Degree C
 Min: 5.9 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 88.0 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 51.0 per cent
 Sunset on Monday: 05.53 p.m.
 Sunrise on Tuesday: 07.32 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
 Generally cloudy
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 7.4 Degree C
 Min: -2.8 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 80 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 57 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 0.0 Degree C
 Min: -16.3 Degree C