

'Fine line has been drawn, none will be permitted beyond it'

Anyone indulging in separatist activities will not be spared: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that a fine line has been drawn and none will be permitted to cross this and all those indulging in separatist activities will not be spared. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been taking special interest in the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing gathering after releasing book of prominent journalist Bashir Assad in New Delhi today, Sinha said he was told on August 5 that there was a plan to enforce bandh and journalists had

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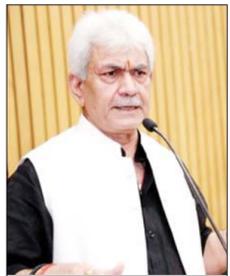
also reached Kashmir to cover it.

"But there was traffic on the roads, people were shopping. Some said you have enforced this forcibly with the use of stick. I said this isn't possible with the use of lathi but if you say I accept this, Pakistan also used to enforce strike in Kashmir at gun point. If I used lathi there is nothing wrong

*J&K marching ahead on path of peace, development, jobs generation

in it," he said.

Asserting that this is the fine line and none will be permitted beyond this till he is in Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor made it clear that there will be no



compromise on this stand.

He said August 5 was not in his mind and he had called the District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons for meeting. While some of them turned up (for

the meeting), others didn't. Someone told me that there was a plan to enforce strike. I launched New Film Policy and Football League on that day, he recalled.

It may be mentioned here that it was on August 5, 2019 when the Central Government had abrogated special status of Jammu and Kashmir (Articles 370 and 35-A) and bifurcated it into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

"A narrative was created at the international level by self styled experts that Kashmir can't be run without them. I think they should come out of this narrative now and accept what people want. They want development and jobs," he said.

Maintaining that Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards peace and development, Sinha said he is quite confident that with the grace of God they will succeed in their mission.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Security forces ready to deal with Taliban in Kashmir: IGP

3 JeM militants including killer of BJP leader shot dead in Tral

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 Three militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) including Wakeel Shah who was involved in the killing of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Rakesh Pandita earlier this year were killed in an



IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar and GOC Victor Force Rashim Bali briefing media at Awantipora on Saturday.

encounter in Tral area of South Kashmir today.

Acting on a specific input by police regarding presence of a group of JeM militants in the upper

reaches of forest area of Nagabaran Dhoka area of Tral in Pulwama district, a joint operation was launched by Police and 42-RR of Army.

The militants when trapped fired on the troops leading to a gun battle in which all the three militants of the JeM were killed.

Kashmir and the list was recently issued by police. The other two have been identified as Abdul Hamid Chopan and Illyas Najar of Khellan Pulwama.

The GOC Victor Force Major General Rashim Bali along with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar while addressing a press conference at Victor Force headquarters in Awantipora said today that yesterday, Army along with police

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

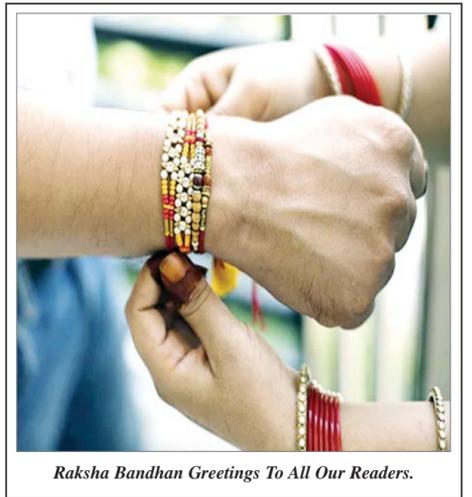
launched a search operation in Tarsar-Marsar area of Tral in Pulwama district.

"Today morning, a contact was established and three militants were killed in a close battle. The trio were active for a long time in South Kashmir," he said.

He said that two AK-47 rifles, one SLR, magazines and a UBGL were recovered from the slain militants.

"Militants who are taking refuge in woods will be tracked down and killed," he said.

The IGP identified one militant as Wakil Shah of Jaish-e- (Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Raksha Bandhan Greetings To All Our Readers.

Govt land transferred to SASB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered grant of 25 Kanal land at Srinagar in favour of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) for the construction of office and Yatri Niwas.

The land has been granted on lease basis for a period of 40 years from the date of taking over the possession on payment of nominal ground rent of Rs 10 per Kanal per annum without charge of any premium, subject to the condition that it shall be used only for the purpose for which it is granted.

The said piece of land, situated at villages Panthachowk in Srinagar district, comes under Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and has transferred the same to Revenue Department in exchange of land of equivalent value.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Kalyan Singh passes away

LUCKNOW, Aug 21:

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief



Minister and BJP veteran Kalyan Singh, who was ailing for some time, breathed

his last tonight at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Anurag hits out at Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 21: Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports, Anurag Thakur today lashed out at former Chief Minister of J&K and president People's Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti for her statement.

In a tweet, the Union Minister said "It is her (Mehbooba Mufti's) old habit (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Get restoration of 370 demand endorsed: Sajad

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone today said leaders from Jammu and Kashmir should either get the national opposition endorse the demand for the restoration of Article 370 of the Constitution or just keep out of the united platform.

Lone's remarks came a day after a virtual meeting of the leaders (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

144 +ve cases in J&K, 3 in Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Aug 21: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 144 COVID positive cases while Ladakh recorded three new infections.

Jammu region registered 47 cases including 13 each in Jammu and Doda districts, 10 Kishtwar, six Rajouri, four Reasi and one in Poonch district.

Udhampur, Kathua, Samba and Ramban districts didn't report (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

MES AGE, JE arrested while taking bribe

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 21: An Assistant Garrison Engineer (AGE) and a Junior Engineer (JE) of the Military Engineering Service (MES) were arrested by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sleuths at Sunderbani in district Rajouri today.

Official sources said that (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Thousands stranded as over 44 trains cancelled due to farmers' protest in Punjab

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 21: Thousands of passengers have been stranded in Jammu, Udhampur, Katra Mata Vaishnodevi and Kathua areas of Jammu division as the Northern Railway authorities have cancelled over 44 trains since Friday evening due to protest and blockade of train track by farmers in Punjab.

Official sources told the Excelsior that a large number of farmers on Friday launched an indefinite agitation in Jalandhar area and blocked train movement on the Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana-Amritsar and the Ambala-Ludhiana-Jammu-Udhampur-Katra railway routes. They are demanding increase in the prices

of sugarcane and clear pending dues of the farmers.

As hundreds of farmers sat on



Stranded passengers sitting on footpath outside Jammu Railway Station as all trains were cancelled on Saturday.

dharna on Rail track at Jalandhar and Phagwara, the movement of passenger and goods trains was

badly hit. The fuel supplies to J&K will also be hit due to ongoing agitation of the farmers. They said earlier, they had been sitting only at Jalandhar but now they have also appeared at two more places between Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

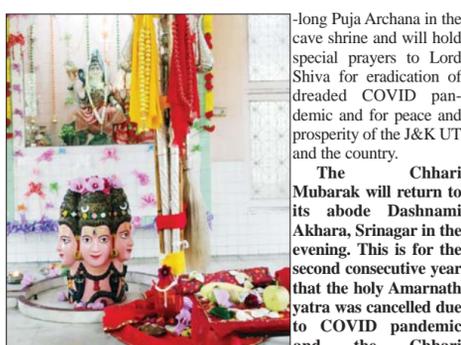
Not only routine passengers, thousands of people travelling on Raksha Bandhan festival have also been stuck at various places due to blockade of rail track in Punjab. The Punjab Government has badly failed to remove blockade and clear the train track from the protesters indulging in unlawful activity, harassing thousands of passengers and obstructing free movement of troops in trains towards J&K and vice versa. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Chhari Mubarak to leave for darshan of Shri Amarnath today

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Chhari Mubarak of Shri Amarnath Ji will leave for the darshan of holy cave situated at an altitude of 3300 meters in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag early tomorrow morning on Shraavan Purnima coinciding with Raksha Bandhan festival from its abode Amreshwar temple, Mahadev Gir, Dashnami Akhara, Srinagar.

The holy mace will be led by its custodian Mahant Deependra Giri Ji and a group of Sadhus in a special chopper via traditional Pahalgam Chandanwari aerial route to holy cave where it will perform Pujan in a traditional way and also pay obeisance to naturally



Holy mace kept for darshan of devotees at Amreshwar temple Dashnami through the aerial route Akhara, Srinagar before it leaves for instead of traditional track of Pahalgam - Chandanwari.

Mubarak was taken through the aerial route of Pahalgam - Chandanwari.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Ex-Army chief wants outreach in Kashmir

KOLKATA, Aug 21:

Former Army chief Gen Shankar Roychowdhury said the Government needs to step up outreach in Kashmir and reassure people there that India will continue to be a secular democracy as the Taliban victory in Afghanistan is likely to see a renewed offensive by Pakistan-based militants.

The retired General, who had commanded 16 Corps in Kashmir at the height of militancy in that state in early 1990s, and became Army chief later in the same decade when Taliban last came to rule over Kabul, believes that Pakistan, re-enforced by the recent Taliban victory, "will make a fresh bid on Kashmir" using groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed. He also said that India needs to

reach out to both former Afghan Government forces rallying around Ahmad Massoud, son of the late legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, in Panjshir Valley, as well as to factions within the Taliban which are friendlier to India.

"We have to step up our outreach to Kashmiris, we also have to re-assure them that India will continue to be a secular democracy," General Roychowdhury who currently heads a strategic think tank Research Centre for Eastern and Northeastern Studies, said in an interview.

The Central Government had scrapped Article 370 and turned Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into two separate Union Territories from being a single State, while (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

MP lashes out at Govt on Smart City projects

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Parliamentarian Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, who is part of a visiting Parliamentary Panel, to Jammu and Kashmir today expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of developmental works here under the Smart City project.

"The amount of work that ought to have been done under the Smart City project has not been done. We were shown small toilets and drainage works. Crores of rupees have been spent in other cities under the Smart City project, but why is it not spent here," Jaleel told reporters here during his visit to multi-layer parking facility at Press Enclave in Srinagar here.

Jaleel is part of the Standing Committee on Urban (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Will return to New Delhi today PSC on Home Affairs reviews Disaster Management Plan at Katra, Bhawan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 21: The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Home Affairs headed by veteran Congress leader Anand Sharma today reviewed Disaster Management Plan at Katra and holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

Twelve members of the Panel first visited Katra holy town, the base camp of the shrine and reviewed the Disaster Management Plan.

They were briefed by Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

"The Parliamentary Committee wanted to know in detail the Disaster Management Plan. They were briefed by the SMVDSB

CEO," sources said. However, there was no official statement released either by the Parliamentary Committee or by the Shrine Board.

Later, the Committee members visited holy cave shrine and reviewed the Disaster Management Plan at the Bhawan also. The members paid obeisance to Goddess Vaishno Devi. They were at the Bhawan for more than an hour.

In the afternoon, the Parliamentarians returned to Jammu and met some delegations.

They will return to New Delhi tomorrow morning.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had visited Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh for two days. Later, they were in Kashmir and now in Jammu. At Leh, the Panel met senior

officers of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Union Territory Ladakh administration and representatives of Leh and Kargil Hill Development Councils.

In Kashmir, the Committee interacted with District Development and Block Development Council chairpersons, Chamber president, tour and travel operators, top officers of civil administration etc.

Committee Chairman had also met National Conference leaders and former Chief Ministers Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

In Jammu, the MPs yesterday visited the International Border at Makwal in Tawi area and had detailed interaction with senior BSF officers at their Paloura Headquarters.

'New Delhi lost trust of J&K people' Restore Art 370, resolve Kashmir for peace in sub-continent: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 21 : People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti today said that if New Delhi is really interested in ensuring peace in Jammu and Kashmir and the sub-continent, it must restore Article 370 and resolve Kashmir through dialogue.

Addressing a gathering in Kulgam, Mehbooba said for the everlasting peace in Kashmir, Government of India must restore special status which they snatched illegally on August 5, 2019 and also resolve the Kashmir issue through dialogue.

"The issue of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be resolved through the barrel of a gun.

Reconciliation and dialogue are the only means available towards securing durable peace in the sub-continent. Resorting to suppression and military means has only further alienated people and shrunk the constituency of those advocating democratic and constitutional means," Mehbooba said.

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She said that New Delhi has lost the trust of people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The only way to win over the people of Jammu and Kashmir is to shun suppressive mindset, restore the rights of people and stop assaults on the identity and Muslim majority character of Jammu and Kashmir," she added.

Mehbooba said that in 1947, the then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru entered into accession with the then J&K leadership with a promise that the identity of people would be protected by all means and a special status would

be granted. "Had BJP been in power at that point of time, J&K wouldn't have been part of India today," she said.

She alleged that BJP is misusing its agencies to crush the (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

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