

**Hideout busted, OGW arrested**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
SRINAGAR, Jan 10: Awantipora police today busted a hideout of (LeT) Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit at Chandhara area of Pampore town in Pulwama district and arrested one Over Ground Worker of militants. He has been identified as Adil Ahmad Shah son of Mohammad Azad Shah, a resident of Chandhara Pampore. Police said that they along with 50 RR and 110 Bn of CRPF carried out searches in a residential house at Chandhara Pampore. During search, one large hideout was found in the cowshed of the house. The size of the hideout is (Contd on page 9 Col 2)

**Pak shelling on LoC, IB**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
JAMMU, Jan 10: Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked mortar shelling and firing on forward posts and villages in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua districts today. However, there was no immediate report of any damage on the Indian side. "At about 3 pm, Pakistan (army) initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri dis-

tricts today. However, there was no immediate report of any damage on the Indian side. "At about 3 pm, Pakistan (army) initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri dis-

**One dies of Corona in Valley, 56 test +ve in Jammu**

*Excelsior Correspondent*  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU/LEH, Jan 10: Kashmir reported 57 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the total tally of infections in Jammu and Kashmir to 122538 while one person died in Valley taking the death toll in J&K to 1910. A 70-year-old man from Kupwara died today. With this death, the total fatality count has reached 1199 in the Valley. Srinagar district with 451 deaths topped the list followed by Baramulla 172, Budgam 111, Kupwara 94, Pulwama 88, Anantnag 84, Bandipora 61, (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

**WHO's map segregates J&K, Ladakh from India**

NEW DELHI, Jan 10: The World Health Organisation's map using different colours to show Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the rest of India on its website has evoked some angry reactions. ■ **Map on page 9** from the Indian diaspora in Britain. According to the Times of India, the two newly created Union Territories of India have been marked in grey colour, separate from India which appears in navy blue. On the other hand, the disputed border space of Aksai Chin is demar-

**Bhaiya Ji Joshi arriving on 4 days visit today**

*Avtar Bhat*  
JAMMU, Jan 10: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sarkaryavah (national general secretary), Suresh Ji who is popularly known as Bhaiya Ji Joshi is arriving here on four days visit tomorrow. According to sources, the RSS Sarkaryavah who is second in the Sangh hierarchy is likely to discuss the prevailing political and law and order situation with top leaders of J&K BJP and the representatives of Sangh and its sister organizations during his four days tour. The RSS leader will straightaway drive to Sangh headquarters at Kershav Bhawan, Ambphalla after his arrival here tomorrow and during four-day hectic schedule all the BJP and Sangh

**Affected Distts to get rescue vehicles, ambulances**  
**LG declares heavy snowfall as natural calamity under SDRF**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Jan 10: Extending the much needed relief to the people of snow bound areas, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today declared heavy snowfall as state specific natural calamity under SDRF norms.

The Lieutenant Governor was chairing a meeting to take stock of the winter management, particularly, snow clearance efforts of administration, with all DCs and SSPs of Kashmir division, through virtual mode, at the Raj Bhavan here today. Pertinently, heavy snowfall was not figuring in the list of

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

natural calamities under SDRF norms, due to which disbursement of relief and ex-gratia for the damages due to heavy snowfall was not possible for the Districts' Disaster Management Authorities.

Due to declaration of heavy snowfall as a natural calamity, processing of ex-gratia relief under SDRF will become faster, thereby giving a huge relief to the affected public of snow



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewing winter management in Jammu on Sunday.

bound areas. Sinha sought a detailed report on issues and problems faced by the public due to heavy snowfall and future course of action of the administration at all levels to overcome the challenges thereof.

On being apprised about the shortage of small rescue vehicles for the movement of people requiring medical assistance, particularly, in remote areas and areas having narrow lanes, the

requisite measures to minimize the difficulties of common people. "Be visible and take early measures. Need more feet on the ground. Quickly reach out to the people to address their needs and requirements", the Lt Governor asked the Officers. He lauded the efforts of employees working 24x7 on ground in challenging climatic conditions. He directed for rationalizing deployment of machinery and equipment for snow clearance from the roads, besides making necessary emergency facilities available to render critical help in contingent situations. Taking cognizance of media reports, social media posts and grievances received from the public, Sinha asked the administration to identify gaps and take immediate corrective measures to fill the same to redress the concerning issues of the people. The Lt Governor also direct-

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

**AICC leader asks PCC chief to issue notices to leaders who didn't attend official meet**

*Gopal Sharma*

JAMMU, Jan 10: Taking serious notice of 'factionalism' in the Congress party and staying away from the official meeting by some senior Congress leaders at Jammu today, AICC leader and Incharge Jammu and Kashmir affairs of the party, Rajni Patil (ex-MP) today asked PCC president GA Mir to issue notice to such members.

Party sources said that the AICC leader, who arrived here today on the directions of the party high command to take review of the party affairs and existing political scenario in J&K besides conducting introspection with regard to the recently held DDC elections and poor performance of the party,

**\* Says factionalism damaging party in J&K**

took exception to the non-participation of some senior party leaders in the meeting. She said it was not a marriage function to have separate invitations to all. The Party had informed all the people concerned about her visit and review meeting with regard to DDC elections and detailed discussion over party affairs and performance. Moreover, this meeting was being convened at the party headquarters and not at the personal residence of any one. Every body should have participated in the meeting, she added.



Patil cautioned the 'dissidents' in the party and said that factionalism has already caused much damage and it will not be acceptable at all. She directed JKPC president, Gulam Ahmed Mir to serve notices to these party leaders and seek their explanation. The AICC leader also announced that Congress would organise a massive protest on January 15 and Gherao Raj Bhawan in Jammu as part of nationwide program to observe the 'Kissan Adhikar Divas' and oppose the unprecedented price hike of petrol and diesel by the BJP Government. She directed all party functionaries and frontal organizations to actively campaign for

the nationwide protest programme of the AICC to expose the BJP's "anti-farmers and anti-people moves" and register strong resentment in this regard. Patil said that the party would monitor the active participation of all the functionaries and leaders to ensure the involvement of all party workers in the programmes to further strengthen the organisation at all levels. She said that party would gear up its activities in the districts and constituency levels to highlight the policies and programmes of the party and expose the "wrong policies" of the BJP Government and its "failures on different fronts." She said that the party would solidly stand with the farmers in

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

**SOP issued for incurring expenditure out of contingencies**  
**Govt admits inaction on CAG's vital Regulation; seeks ATR from all deptts**

*Mohinder Verma*

JAMMU, Jan 10: Admitting that vital Regulation of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has not received due attention of several departments and Corporations, the Government has sought Action Taken Report (ATR) from all the Administrative Secretaries within a week's time. Moreover it has laid stress on extending necessary cooperation to the Principal Accountant General for settlement of audit observations, which otherwise remain unaddressed for considerable period of time. The EXCELSIOR in its edition dated January 4, 2020 had exclusively reported that several Government departments in the

**\*Audit observations continue to remain unaddressed: FC**

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are not paying serious attention towards Regulation 145 of the Regulations on Audit and Accounting 2020 issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in pursuance to Section 23 of the GAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. It was also highlighted that several concerned officers of the Finance Department were completely unaware of the level of compliance by other departments and corporations although they were supposed to track the same after regular intervals.

Regulation 145 read: "Government shall establish audit committees for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring compliance and settlement of pending audit observations. Each committee so established shall comprise of a representative each from the administrative department, Audit and a nominee from the Finance Department besides the Head of the Department of the auditable entity. The minutes of the meetings of the audit committee shall also be recorded". The inaction on Regulation 145 has been admitted by the

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

the spot and the restoration work was launched. It was revealed that highway will be restored by tomorrow as concrete retaining wall has also broken. Meanwhile, several morning flights were delayed at Jammu airport today due to dense fog. The fog has also hit the train and vehicular traffic for the last couple of days in the region. Severe water crisis has gripped a village in Bhadarwah area of Doda district, which is facing the harshest winter in years, freezing water pipelines and

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

**Many Uri, Kupwara area roads still under snow**  
**NH breaches near Ramban, hundreds of vehicles stranded**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Jan 10: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway which was restored after five days, just two days ago, was today again blocked after a portion of highway sunk near Ramban this evening while dense fog continued to engulf many plain areas of Jammu for the last three

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

days thus affecting morning flights.

Official sources told the Excelsior that at around 6.15 pm, a portion of road near Kela Morh, about 4 kms ahead of Ramban, towards Banihal sunk. With this, the movement of traffic on the busy highway came to halt. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded on the highway. The NHAI officials reached

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)



Tourists pose for photograph in traditional attire at Nishat garden in Srinagar. — Excelsior/Shakeel

**Direct funding from Centre, UT through Commission**

**Govt to set up separate Finance Comm for DDCs, BDCs, Panchayats soon**

■ **No diversion of funds, development to get boost**

*Sanjeev Pargal*

JAMMU, Jan 10: Three-tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) including the newly elected District Development Councils (DDC), Block Development Councils (BDCs) and Panchayats will shortly have their own Finance Commission for their funding which will give boost to developmental works especially in the rural areas to be executed by the three bodies.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Government shortly proposed to set up separate Finance Commission for the three tiers of Panchayati Raj System which will help in immediate funding of works identified for execution by the DDCs, BDCs and Panchayats.

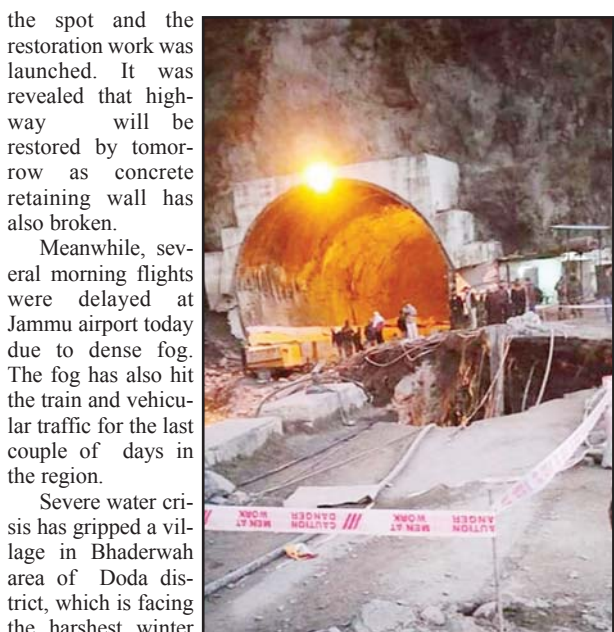
Prior to the elections of the DDCs and by-polls to vacancies of Panchayats including Sarpanchs and Panchs, the Government had set up the State Election Commission (SEC) headed by KK Sharma, former

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor which conducted these elections. "There will be massive flow of grants to the newly elected District Development Councils, Block Development Councils and the Panchayats as 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India has been fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir by present dispensation at the help of affairs which wasn't applicable to the Union Territory for past several years though being implemented in rest of the country," sources said.

Modalities of the Finance Commission for the Panchayati Raj Institutions are being worked out, sources said, adding the Commission would come into force once the District Development Councils are in place. The separate Finance Commission for the DDCs, BDCs and Panchayats will help the elected rural bodies to speed up the developmental works.

The Finance Commission, according to sources, will be a full-fledged independent body. In the absence of Finance Commission, the grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions are routed through the Rural Development Department. "Once the Finance Commission is set up, all grants to the DDCs, BDCs and Panchayats—whether from the Centre or the Union Territory Government—will be routed through the Commission," sources said, and added that biggest advantage of the Commission is that the grants can't be diverted for any other Scheme as the Commission exclusively deals with the Panchayati Raj Institutions. According to sources, setting up of separate Finance Commission for the Panchayati Raj Institutions has also become mandatory for the Union Territory Government after full implementation of the 73rd

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National Highway breaches near Ramban on Sunday. — Excelsior/Parvaiz Mir

forcing residents to travel long distances in search of potable water. Located on the hilly slopes around 25 km from the Bhadarwah town, Sunote village in the middle of a dense cedar forest comprises nearly two dozen houses, including six tribal Gujjar families. Frozen taps and over ground water pipes in the village have forced the residents to travel miles in search of potable water in sub-zero temperature. The women folk of these families, mostly farmers and cattle rearers, have been left with no option but to trek the snow-bound treacherous terrain in groups in search of water. Sometimes they even boil snow to get water for daily use. "For the last couple of months, we have been forced to

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**Powerful IED defused**  
**Another militant module busted in Mendhar, 4 held**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Jan 10: Even as security forces detected and defused powerful 2.4 kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Mendhar which had been planted on road by the militants to target security forces convoy heading towards the Line of Control (LoC), police have achieved major success by arresting four more militants of newly

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

floated Jammu and Kashmir Janbaaz Force, who had planned to spread their network to neighbouring Rajouri

district and intensify militancy in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. ed by police on the basis of disclosures made by three already arrested militants from Mendhar and Balakote areas of Poonch district, taking total arrests in the area to seven. All four newly arrested militants hailed from the areas close to the Line of Control (LoC) and had fallen into the trap of militants on being lured by the militant commanders operating from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Explosive devices including



An Army soldier defuses IED in Mendhar on Sunday. — Excelsior/Rahi Kapoor

Police sources told the Excelsior that four more militants of Jammu and Kashmir Janbaaz Force have been arrested

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