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SEC to formally release list of reserved DDCs

Govt issues Rules: women may get 6 reserved DDCs; STs 3, SCs 2

Sanjeev Pargal

**Elections to be held within 20 days*

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today formally issued Reservation Rules for the posts of Chairpersons of the District Development Councils (DDCs) according 33 percent reservation to women while Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) will get reservation based on their population.

For reservation to women, the districts will be arranged alphabetically and every third district will be reserved for them, the Reservation Rules issued today by Secretary Rural Development Department Sheetal Nanda said.

Allocation of seats of the Chairpersons to be reserved for women shall be made on a three point roster system after arranging them alphabetically, Nanda said.

This means the districts falling alphabetically at Nos. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 will be reserved for women.

"After framing of Reservation Rules, the State Election Commission (SEC) will formally issue the list of districts reserved for Women, SCs and STs," official sources told the Excelsior.

They said election for the posts of Chairpersons of the DDCs will be held within 20 days from the date the order for reservation of Chairpersons is issued by the Election Authority.

Going by the population, sources said, two districts are likely to be reserved for SCs in Jammu region and three for STs including two in Kashmir division and one in Jammu.

However, there will be no reservation for SCs and STs within the 33 percent districts reserved for Women in the DDCs as has been the case in the territorial constituencies.

The Rules will be called the Jammu and Kashmir District Development Council (Reservation of Offices of Chairpersons) Rules, 2021.

As per the Reservation Rules: "the offices of Chairpersons of the DDCs shall be reserved for SCs and STs and shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the DDCs as the population of SCs and STs in the Union Territory by applying the principles of mathematic round off with part fraction of 0.5 and above being rounded off to one and part fraction below 0.5 being ignored for each DDC separately".

However, the seats reserved for one term of the DDCs for five years will not be reserved for the next term.

"The offices of Chairpersons of the DDCs shall be rotated in such a manner that as far as may be practicable, the territorial constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in the previous elections shall not be reserved for them in the subsequent elections," the Rural Development Department order read.

It said the number of seats of Chairpersons to be reserved for SCs and STs shall be allotted to different DDCs on the basis of

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

IAF chief visits landing sites

CDS in Ladakh to review situation amid border standoff

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat is on a visit to Ladakh to review the country's overall military preparedness as thousands of Indian and Chinese troops remained deployed in a high state of combat readiness in various mountainous locations in the region amid the eight-month-long border standoff.

Official sources said today that Gen Rawat will be briefed by Lt Gen PGK Menon, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, popularly known as Fire and Fury Corps, and other senior military officials on the dynamic security matrix in eastern Ladakh.

The visit of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to Ladakh comes days after he toured several key installations including "forward most air maintained" posts in Dibang Valley, Lohit sector and Subansiri Valley near the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh.

"The CDS will review the overall security scenario in the eastern Ladakh region," said a source.

Gen Rawat is also expected to travel to Kashmir from Ladakh tomorrow.

The Army and the Indian Air Force(IAF) have been maintaining a high state of operational readiness along the nearly 3,500-km LAC with China in view of the military standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

Nearly 50,000 troops of the Indian Army are deployed in various locations in Eastern Ladakh as multiple rounds of military and diplomatic talks between the two sides have not yielded any concrete outcome to resolve the faceoff. China has also deployed an equal number of troops, according to officials.

The eighth and last round of military talks had taken place on November 6 during which India and China broadly discussed disengagement of troops from specific friction points.

The CDS has been part of the top military brass framing strategies to enhance India's military prowess in view of the Sino-India standoff.

Last month, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane had

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

'Politicians shouldn't be part of initial exercise'

Centre to bear expenses of first round of vaccination: PM

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced today that the Central Government will bear the expenses of vaccinating nearly three crore healthcare and frontline workers in the first round and suggested that public representatives, a reference to politicians, should not be part of this initial exercise.

Interacting with State Chief Ministers, Modi underscored the enormity of what he described as the world's biggest vaccination exercise, which begins from January 16, saying over 30 crore citizens will get the jabs in the next few months in India against only 2.5 crore people vaccinated so far in over 50 countries in around a month.

The two already approved made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines are more cost-effective than any other in the world and have been developed as per the country's needs, he said at the meeting held over video conference to discuss the COVID-19 situation and the vaccination roll-out.

Besides the two vaccines — Covishield developed by Oxford and British-Swedish company AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India, and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, four others are in the pipeline, Modi said, asserting that India's fight

against the pandemic will enter a decisive stage with the vaccination roll-out.

More vaccines may be available when the exercise moves into the second round, he added.

The Prime Minister also sought to dispel concerns expressed by some opposition leaders and experts over the approval given to Covaxin without the availability of efficacy data, asserting that scientists have taken all precautions to provide citizens with effective vaccines.

The Prime Minister said he has been maintaining from the beginning that the scientific community will have the final word on the issue.

India's drug regulator has given nod to Covishield and Covaxin for the emergency use authorisation.

It is a matter of pride that both the vaccines are 'made in India', he said, adding that it can be imagined how much hardship India would have faced if it had to depend on foreign vaccines.

Noting that the first round of vaccination is meant for healthcare and frontline workers, he said, "This is my personal suggestion and no one should take it otherwise. We public representatives are not part of it."

In some countries, including the US and Israel, leading public figures have taken the jabs while top functionaries in a few others have chosen to follow the standard protocol and wait for their turn.

Talking about the COVID-19 situation in India, Modi said the country is in a much better place than many others

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

SC raps Centre on farm laws

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:

The Supreme Court today rapped the Centre over the prolonged impasse with the protesting farmers demanding the repeal of the three new farm laws, saying it was "extremely disappointed" with the negotiation process, and also expressed its inclination to stay the implementation of the acts.

After some tough talk that the Centre has been given a "long rope" and "failed" to break the deadlock and not been "effective" in handling the stir,

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

2 JeM OGWs arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: Security forces today arrested two Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant outfit accused of providing logistic support to militants.

Police in Awantipora along with 42 RR of Army and 130 Battalion of CRPF arrested OGWs of Jaish-e-Mohammad from Awantipora area who were involved in providing shelter, support, logistics, as well as in transporting of arms and ammu-

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Minister injured; wife, aide dead

PANAJI, Jan 11:

Union Minister Shripad Naik was injured while his wife and an aide died in a road accident in Karnataka today, an official said.

Naik's wife Vijaya and the aide were travelling with the minister when the vehicle met with an accident near Ankola in Uttar Kannada district, while he was returning to Goa from Dharmasthala in Karnataka.

Naik is being brought to Goa Medical College for further treatment, the official said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Boy injured in Pak shelling

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 11: A 14-year-old boy was seriously injured today in Pakistani shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

Mohammad Jehangir was hit by splinters when a mortar shell exploded near his house in Shahpur sector during intense shelling by Pakistan army, the officials said.

The injured boy has been shifted to hospital, the officials said.

The Shahpur sector witnessed heavy mortar shelling by the Pakistan side twice during

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

After 30 yrs, TADA Court orders framing of charges against Yaseen Malik, 9 others

Excelsior Correspondent

Rubiya Sayeed kidnapping case

JAMMU, Jan 11: Thirty years after registration of FIR in the Rubiya Sayeed kidnapping case, Special Judge TADA Jammu Sunit Gupta today ordered framing of charges against Yasin Malik, JKLF supremo, Ali Mohd Mir, Mohd Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandroo, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohd Rafiq Pahloo, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

After hearing Public Prosecutor CBI Vijay Kumar Dogra whereas Senior Advocate MA Goni and Advocate Yogesh Bakshi for the accused persons, the court observed, "during the pendency of charge sheet the accused persons namely Javed Ahmed Mir alias Nalka and Nanaji alias Salim alias Rafi Pahloo were apprehended and put to trial before this court. Rest of the accused persons namely Halima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohd Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmed Bhat, Khursheed Ahmed Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, Manzoor Ahmed, Gulam Mohd.Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmed Bhat remained absconded and ultimately proceeded under Section 512 CrPC vide order dated 17-09-1991".

"During the pendency of the present charge sheet, two of the accused persons namely Mohd Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmed Lone died as such the proceeding against them were abated", the court said, adding "now the accused persons who are at present facing trial in the present case are Yasin Malik, Ali Mohd Mir, Mohd Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmed Gandroo, Javed Ahmed Mir, Rafiq Pahloo alias Nanaji, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-u-Din Sheikh and Shoukat Ahmed Bakshi".

During the investigation, accused Ali Mohammad Mir had voluntarily made the confessional statement under Section 164 CrPC before the Magistrate, whereby, he had admitted his role in the commission of offence as well as disclosed the role played by the other accused persons, the court said, adding "the accused Mohammad Zaman Mir had in the same manner made confessional statement under Section 164 CrPC before the concerned Magistrate and had disclosed his own role and the roles of other accused persons in the commission of the offence".

The accused Iqbal Ahmed Gandroo had also made confessional statement admitting his guilt and role played by him in the whole occurrence. Besides, the accused persons namely Rafiq Pahloo, Wajahat Bashir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi and Showkat Ahmed Bakshi had made their confessional statements before Prakash Mishra SP CBI, which is found to be admissible in evidence under Section 15 of TADA Act, the court said.

"Since the accused persons besides admitting of their own guilt have also narrated about the participation of other accused persons namely Yaseen Malik, Javed Ahmed Malik and Mehraj-U-Din Sheikh, which can also be used against them as one of the piece of evidence", the court said, adding "the investigating agency has also conducted Test Identification Parade of the accused persons Ali Mohd Mir, Mohd Rafiq Dar and

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Misappropriation of funds, providing benefits to undeserving

RDA initiated against then BDO inducted into KAS, 3 Panchayat Inspectors, Secy

Mohinder Verma

**Utter violation of Central Scheme guidelines noticed*

JAMMU, Jan 11: Taking serious note of misappropriation of funds and utter violation of guidelines laid under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has initiated Regular Departmental Action (RDA) against the then Block Development Officer, who has been inducted into Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), three Panchayat Inspectors and one Panchayat Secretary.

The Inquiry Officer has been directed to complete the exercise within a period of 15 days and submit report along with specific recommendations to the Government so that necessary action is initiated against all the involved officials.

The misappropriation of funds meant for the developmental activities by abuse of official position was detected by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (formerly State Vigilance Organization) during the course of joint spot inspection of various works in Bandipora district of Kashmir valley against which there were allegations of drawal of money on the basis of fake bills.

During the inspection conducted in the year 2017, it came to the fore that accused officials provided assistance to several undeserving persons under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) by misuse of their official position and in utter violation of guidelines laid down under the scheme and even withdrawn bills on fake bills.

Accordingly, the Vigilance Organization shared the outcome of the inspection with the General Administration Department, which vide letter dated October 18, 2017 forwarded a copy of Vigilance Organization letter along with allied documents to the Rural Development Department for initiation of Regular Departmental Action against the accused officials for misuse/misappropriation of funds meant for developmental works.

These officials are Abdul Qayoom Sheikh, the then BDO Hajin, who was later inducted into Jammu and

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Big recruitment scam in Handicrafts Deptt Kashmir

3 Training Officers appointed on fake JKSSB Secy's letter, drawing salaries for 3 years

Gopal Sharma

**IG Crime directs SSP to register FIR, probe ordered*

JAMMU, Jan 11: A big recruitment scam in the Handicrafts Department Kashmir on the fake recruitment letter from the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), has raised question mark on the state of affairs in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State as three Assistant Training Officers appointed on the fake letter with 'forged signatures' of Secretary, SSRB continued to draw salaries for the last about three years besides enjoying other service benefits.

Official sources told the Excelsior that this big recruitment fraud was believed to be committed with the active connivance of some insiders in the J&K Services Selection Board and the Handicrafts Department Kashmir, just to accommodate three blue eyed persons including two relatives of influential bureaucrats and another, a family member of a leader from ruling party, about three years ago. Had this case been not exposed, the blue eyed persons appointed on forged documents, were sure to be inducted in KAS cadre after next promotion as Gazetted officer in some years and retire as HoDs, Additional or Special Secretaries in the J&K Government, the sources added.

The documents in possession of Excelsior revealed that three persons, namely Mir Sajjad Hussain, son of Gulam Mohideen Mir, resident of Pandrarthan in Srinagar; Ruby Jan, daughter of Gulam

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Galwan Heroes to be honoured on R-Day

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:

Colonel B Santosh Babu and some of the other Indian Army personnel, who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June last year, are expected to be honoured with gallantry awards on Republic Day, sources said today.

Col Babu, the Commanding Officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among 20 Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the fierce hand-to-hand combat on June 15 in the Galwan Valley, an incident that marked one of the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

India returns PLA soldier to China

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:

A Chinese soldier, who was apprehended by the Indian Army in eastern Ladakh three days ago, was handed back to China today, official sources said.

The soldier of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was apprehended at the southern bank of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh on Friday morning after he transgressed across the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The sources said the soldier was handed back to China at the Chushul-Moldo border point in Eastern Ladakh at 10.10 am.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a tense border

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

NH closed as repair work to take 5 days: NHAI Dir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed for normal traffic today after a portion of the road caved in near Ramban and the rapair work would take at least five days.

Official sources said that a portion of road near Kela Morh, about 4 km ahead of the Ramban district headquarters, caved in

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

after a concrete retaining/ protection wall of the bridge collapsed, leading to the sinking of the major portion of the road on Sunday evening. Over 2000 vehicles have been stranded on the highway on both sides. The

Restoration work on war-footing on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Ramban on Monday.

-Excelsior/ Parvaiz Mir

local passengers are moving in the public transport by transship mode after walking through a nallah at the site.

Project Director, National Highway Authority of India, Ramban Sector, PK Phonsa told the Excelsior that the construction company has started

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

One dies of Corona, 113 test +ve

Admn gears up to receive vaccine at Jammu, Srinagar, Leh today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/ LEH, Jan 11: One person died of COVID-19 while 113 persons tested positive and 355 others recovered today in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone Corona casualty was reported from Subash Nagar in Jammu where 85-year-old man suffering from co-morbidities and pathogen died in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu.

Meanwhile, the administration today geared up to receive COVID vaccine in Jammu, Srinagar and Leh from tomorrow.

Around 79,000 doses of vaccine are expected to reach Srinagar, 67,500 in Jammu and 11,500 in Leh by air tomorrow.

All arrangements for receiving the vaccine and its storage have been made.

Only 46 persons today tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu region, 35 of them in Jammu district followed by five in Udhampur, two each Rajouri and Kathua and one each in Kishtwar and Poonch districts. Rest of the districts didn't report any positive case today.

Among 169 persons, who recovered from COVID-19 in Jammu region today, 73 belonged to Jammu district, 35 Samba, 19 Ramban, 13 Udhampur, 12 Rajouri, 11 Kishtwar and six in Kathua district.

Jammu region now has 50813 Corona cases including 868 active and 49233 recoveries while there have been 712 casualties.

The fatalities including 365 in Jammu district, 64 Doda, 57 Udhampur, 55 Rajouri, 50

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Bid to revive militancy foiled: IGP

8 militants, OGWs arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 11: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh today said Army and police are on alert to foil any attempt of infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir by the militants who have assembled at launching pads across the Line of Control.

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

IGP Jammu Mukesh Singh inspecting arms and ammunition seized from militants in Mendhar on Monday.

-Excelsior/ Rahi Kapoor

Singh along with DIG Rajouri-Poonch range Vivek Gupta was on one-day tour of Mendhar in Poonch district during which he reviewed security situation with Army, Intelligence and Police officers including SSP Jammu Ramesh Angral.

Asserting that attempts are being made to revive terrorism in Poonch, a border district of Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said eight militants and Over Ground Workers of terror groups have been arrested in Mendhar in Poonch district during the last few months.

Large quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives have been recovered from their possession.

The Jammu Police chief examined the recoveries made by police and security forces from the possession of arrested militants and OGWs. He also inter-acted with police and

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)