

PM appointed chairman of Somnath Temple Trust
 AHMEDABAD, Jan 18:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was today appointed the new chairman of the trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district.

Modi, one of the trustees of the Shree Somnath Trust, was named to the top post unanimously, a senior official of the shrine management body said.

The post of the Somnath Trust's chairman fell vacant after the death of the incumbent, former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel, in (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Army Major found dead

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 18: Body of an Army Major was found under mysterious circumstances in Teetwal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara today.

A 29-year-old Army officer who was posted with 6 JAK Rifles as Company Commander was found dead at Jogi Post where he was on-duty.

The body was taken to Chamkot after the local police were informed.

The officials said that there was a visible injury mark on the lower part of his chin. In this regard, a case has been filed under 174 CrPc to ascertain the cause of his death.

5 AEs promoted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: Power Development Department (PDD) has ordered promotion of 5 Assistant Engineers (AEs) as Incharge Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs).

The promotees are Gowhar Aziz Tak, Ayaz Ahmad Wani, Nusrat Gul, Ram Manohar Kalgotra and Ghulam Rasool Bhat.

IAF ferries 81 stranded passengers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: The Indian Air Force (IAF) today ferried 81 stranded people between the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, a week after airlifting 286 passengers, an official said.

"Eighty-one passengers were airlifted by AN-32, locally known as Kargil Courier. While 53 passengers were airlifted from Kargil to Jammu, 28 others were ferried from Jammu to Kargil," Aamir Ali, Chief Coordinator, Kargil Courier Service, said.

Tractor rally law & order matter: SC

NEW DELHI, Jan 18:

The Supreme Court told the Centre today that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers protesting against the new farm laws is a "law and order" matter and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the national capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, while hearing the Centre's application seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor or trolley march or any other kind of protest which seeks to disrupt the gathering and celebrations on January 26, said that police (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Irrigation Deptt gets Rs 34 cr electricity bill

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 18: In a shock to the Mechanical Irrigation Department Shadipora Division in Bandipora district, the Power Development Department (PDD) has billed it with over Rs 34.50 crore for October 2020.

The bill that has been sent to the department by the PDD addressed to Baba Jangi Flood and Irrigation Pump Station which is located in Shilvat Sumbal amounts Rs 34,63,42,184 cr precisely.

While the PDD itself seems to be in a dilemma about the veracity of the bill that has been (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

LG, top bureaucrats likely to join Govt plans mega roadshows across major cities to attract investment

Sanjeev Pargal

***Many Corporate Houses in touch with Govt**

JAMMU, Jan 18: Following announcement of Rs 28,400 crore worth Industrial Policy for Jammu and Kashmir, the Government planned to again hold mega roadshows in major cities of the country to attract investments in the Union Territory though it has already received encouraging response from many big industrial houses, who are ready with proposals for investments.

"The Industrial Policy of Jammu and Kashmir which was recently cleared by the Central Government has drawn encouraging response from many big industrial houses. While some of the industrialists are already in touch with the UT Government, others have established contact. However, to further attract the investments, the Government proposed to hold mega roadshows across the country to inter-act with more Corporate houses about large-scale incentives being offered under the

new Industrial Policy," official sources told the Excelsior.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and senior bureaucrats are likely to join the roadshows across the country. The major cities where the roadshows will be held are being finalized but they could include Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Lucknow etc, sources said, adding the detailed schedule of roadshows will be finalized within the next few days including names of the senior officers who will tour the cities.

The Industrial Houses, according to sources, are also being briefed about the new Industrial Policy of Jammu and Kashmir under which series of incentives have been offered to them for investments in the Union Territory. The response, they said, has been encouraging but some of the industrialists

have sought time of month or so, so that Coronavirus vaccine drive, which will further reduce the infections and create conducive atmosphere for investment purposes, settles down. "Many leading Industrial Houses have shown keen interest in investments in Jammu and Kashmir. Some of them have raised queries which are being replied. Others have certain issues which are being addressed. Ultimately, many groups will start visiting and there are bright prospectus of investments," sources said.

As far as Investment Summit is concerned, which was proposed for last April but had to be deferred due to spread of Coronavirus pandemic, could be held once the things settle down fully as it will be a big event. Moreover, the Government first wants Phase-I of COVID vaccination to complete before devoting time for the Summit.

The Government, it may be mentioned, had planned two days Investors Summit in April 2020—one day in Jammu and another in Srinagar—and it was proposed to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah but had to be deferred due to the pandemic and couldn't be held since then.

On initial response from the foreign countries, sources said some of the Groups want to invest in Jammu and Kashmir but they are waiting for pandemic situation to further improve.

Sources, however, declined to name the big industrial houses which have shown keen interest for investments in Jammu and Kashmir saying the names will be revealed once the proposals mature or reach advanced stage of finalization.

Only few days back, Lieutenant Governor Manoj

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Jaish operatives travelled from Valley to take consignment

Weapons dropped from drone on IB in Samba seized, 2 militants held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 18: After suspected infiltration from tunnels dug on the International Border, police have come across a plot of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit who had picked up consignment of arms, ammunition and explosives which was dropped through drone in Vijaypur sector of Samba district from Pakistan and was being taken to the Kashmir valley by two militants of the outfit.

Both the militants have been arrested between Batote and Ramban stretch of the National Highway.

A police spokesman identified the arrested militants as

Umar Ahmed Malik son of Abdul Ahmed Malik and Suhail Ahmed Malik son of Mohammad Yaseen Malik, both residents of village Semthan in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district, affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit.



Militants arrested with arms and explosives in police custody at Ramban on Monday. -Excelsior/Pervaiz Mir

Reliable sources told the Excelsior that consignment of the weaponry had been dropped by the Pakistani Rangers using a drone at the International Border somewhere in Vijaypur sector of Samba district. Jaish-e-Mohammed handler Aqib alias Alfa operating in Budgam had asked the two arrested operatives of the outfit to pick up the consignment from the International Border (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Authorities confident of sorting out issue soon Future of 'PM Package JEs' in jeopardy as Govt refuses to consider them for promotions

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Jan 18: The future of hundreds of migrant engineers appointed under PM package way back in 2010 and afterwards is in jeopardy with the authorities in Civil Secretariat totally refusing to include their names in seniority lists for the promotion to the next higher cadre.

The news has come as a rude shock to migrant engineers serving in Kashmir valley under hostile circumstances for over last 10 years after the authorities in Civil Secretariat outrightly turned down inclusion of their names in the seniority lists for promotions to next higher cadre by raising unnecessary queries.

The confusion has been created after the Department of

Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DDMRRR) issued a clarification on September 9 last year stating that Kashmiri migrants appointed under special PM's return and rehabilitation package are governed by J&K Migrant (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules 2009 as notified vide SRO 412 of 2009. Hence these posts are also not borne on the establishment of any Department or Service. As such the SRO 202 of 2015 is not applicable for the said recruitment.

The letter further said on similar analogy, it is understood that since these posts are super-numerary posts, not borne on the establishment of any Department therefore S.O. 192 of 2020 and S.O 194 of 2020

shall not apply to these posts created under PM package for Kashmiri migrants.

Sources said on the basis of the letter from the DDMRRR, the R&B Department did not include the names of the migrant JEs in the seniority list for promotion to higher posts. Sources said the DDMRRR letter has created a lot of confusion with the result the engineers appointed under PM package has to bear the brunt of it.

However, the authorities in Works and DDMRRR are confident of sorting out issue soon. Shailender Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Works told Excelsior that his Department has received a letter (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

2 minors die of cold in Kashmir, Srinagar shivers at -6.4°C

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 18 : Two minors died in Kashmir as cold wave weather conditions continue to persist here with temperatures plummeting to several notches below freezing.

The children belonged to a Bakerly family of Reasi who were camping in Brinal Lammar area of Devsar in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The family was putting up in a tent under open sky in Brinal Lammar area previous night when their 10 year old son Sahil Zubair son of Zubair Ahmad Mandar died of severe cold inside the tent.

Last night, their 6-year-old daughter Shazia Jan also developed some complications due to severe cold weather conditions and the family immediately

shifted her to a nearby healthcare facility. The child died on way to the healthcare facility. Authorities said that they had already asked the family to shift to a nearby school for shelter but they did not listen. He

also said that they had also provided them ration and blankets on Saturday, as they did not shift to the nearby school for shelter. In the meantime, intense cold weather conditions continued in Kashmir even as the

minimum temperatures increased marginally across the Valley.

A Meteorological Department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 6.4 degree Celsius against minus 7.7 degree Celsius previous night. At minus 8.4 degree Celsius, Srinagar witnessed the season's coldest night last week and it was the chilliest night in 3 decades. Last time in 1991, Srinagar witnessed a low of minus 11.8 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures continued far below normal in other parts of the Valley, settling at minus 6.8 degree Celsius in Pahalgam against minus 8.7 degree Celsius on the previous night. Qazigund recorded a low of

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)



People warm themselves near bonfire in Srinagar. -Excelsior/Shakeel

1223 get shot on Day 2, drive begins in Kargil

One dies of COVID, 82 test +ve

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Jan 18: One person died of COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir while 82 others tested positive and 194 recovered from the virus even as vaccination drive resumed today

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after yesterday's break and many health workers got the jabs across the Union Territory.

However, in Kargil district of Ladakh, the vaccination drive, which wasn't launched there on January 16, was inaugurated today by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Chairman-CEC Feroz Khan. Chief Medical Officer



A healthcare worker gets shot on Day one of vaccination in Kargil on Monday. -Excelsior/Basharat Ladakhi

(CMO) Kargil Dr Munawar Hussain Wazir received first shot of COVID vaccine in the district.

Feroz Khan said it is due to relentless dedication of the scientists that the nation has been

able to develop vaccine in the country. He also lauded the Health Department of Kargil for carrying out the drive with proper precautions and precision.

Today, 1223 persons were (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Impressive Nagar Kirtan taken out on Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 18: An impressive Nagar Kirtan was taken out in connection with the Prakash Utsav of 10th Guru of Sikhs, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji here today.

A large number of devotees from the Sikh community thronged Gurdwara, Shri Guru Nanak Dev at Chand Nagar

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

(Gumat) near the Samadi of Bibi Chand Kour in the morning. After offering special prayers, the Sikh community members and others started religious procession from Chand Nagar.

A big vehicle had been high-



Impressive Nagar Kirtan being taken out by Sikh community on the eve of Gurdwarab in Jammu on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

ly decorated with flowers and bunting and virtually converted into a beautiful chariot on which 'Holy Guru Granth Sahib' had been placed. The most popular and revered religious personali-

ties of the J&K UT, Mahant Manjit Singh from Dera Nangali Sahib, Poonch and Sant Tejwant Singh Danna were leading the grand religious procession to mark the Gurdwarab

celebrations. The main function in this connection will be held on January 20 at Chand Nagar Gurdwara, Jammu.

Besides these above personalities, three religious preachers from Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Amritsar had also been invited. They included Bhai Harpreet Singh, Bhai Waryam Singh and Bhai Harpinder Singh besides religious preacher, Bhai Amrik Singh Tadi Jatha, from Pathankote. Chairman, J&K Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Board, T S Wazir (ex-MLC) and president DGPC Jammu, Jagjit Singh were also part of this grand religious celebration.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)