

Transformation of Indian armed forces prerequisite to stay relevant: Bipin Rawat

HYDERABAD, Mar 4:

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat today said transformation of Indian Armed Forces has become a prerequisite to stay relevant in the fast changing geopolitical environment.

In his address to a webinar on Transformation: Imperatives for the Indian Armed Forces, he emphasised India was facing a complex and challenging security environment which calls for enhancement of military capabilities and requires addressing voids in national War-fighting ability.

"He outlined that transformation for Indian armed forces has become a prerequisite to stay relevant in the fast changing geopolitical environment and highlighted that a key strategic management competency is the ability to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to change," a Defence release said here.

The two-day webinar is being organised by the College of Defence Management (CDM) at Secunderabad here from today.

He also stressed the significance of evolving doctrine, force structures, technology and sustenance to create a future-ready military.

The first day of the webinar included two major sessions on Organisational Imperatives and Structural Imperatives which were addressed by senior serving and veteran officers from the three Services, the release said.

As part of "Organisational Imperatives" for transformation, the speakers focused on the desired changes being sought in the Armed Forces, through promotion of jointness in training, staffing and procurement, it said.

The importance of restructuring of military commands

into Joint Theatre Commands was also highlighted to achieve desired level of jointness in operations.

Various models of transformation were discussed to derive key concepts as applicable in Indian context, it said.

The afternoon session focused on issues pertaining to Structural Imperatives highlighting a conceptual framework on Theatrisation, for building a future-ready force.

The day's proceedings concluded with deliberations on a suggested model for Oceanic Theatre Command (OTC), the release added. (PTI)

SC directs private hospitals to give priority in admissions to elderly amid pandemic

NEW DELHI, Mar 4:

The Supreme Court today directed that elderly people be given priority in admissions at private hospitals besides at Government medical institutions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and R S Reddy modified its earlier order of August 4, 2020, by which it had directed only Government hospitals to give priority in admission and treatment of elderly people looking at their vulnerability to coronavirus.

"We direct that the priority with reference to admission con-

templated in order dated August 4, 2020 to the elderly people should also be given in the private hospitals. List the matter after four weeks," the bench said in its order.

During the hearing, senior advocate Ashwani Kumar, petitioner in-person, told the bench that in order dated August 4, last year this Court had directed that priority with reference to admission be given to the elderly people in the Government hospital only.

He said that priority in admission to the elderly people should be given in all private hospitals as well since it is mostly private hospitals which cater most of the population in the country.

The bench took note of submissions made by Kumar that except Odisha and Punjab no other state has given details about the steps taken in pursuance of the earlier directions issued by

the top court on his plea.

The top court granted three weeks' time to all the States to respond to the fresh suggestions made by Kumar to provide relief to the elderly people.

Kumar submitted that the states need to issue fresh Memorandum of Procedures (MoPs) in pursuance to the directions issued by the court.

He submitted that all the State Governments be directed to issue necessary procedures incorporating the directions issued by this Court regarding two Departments that is Health Department and Social Welfare Department.

He said that incorporating the directions in the MoP shall serve greater public interest and purpose.

Kumar, who is a former union minister, has sought directions with regard to elderly people saying they need more care and protection amid the pandemic. (PTI)



BJYM activists during Youth Jodo Sankalp Abhiyan in Reasi on Thursday.

BJYM's Yuva Jodo Sankalp Abhiyan reaches Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Mar 4: Ongoing membership drive of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) received a shot in the arm when hundreds of youth hailing from different parts of Reasi district joined the organization under the leadership of Arun Prabhat Singh its JKUT president during its "Yuva Jodo Sankalp Abhiyaan" at a function held at Bus Stand here, today.

They were welcomed into the party-fold by Arun Prabhat Singh, Ex-MLA Reasi, Ajay Nanda, district president, BJP Reasi, Sheel Magotra, Chairman Shashi Puri, Akhil Prashar, vice president and Prabhati Reasi district, Prabhat Singh district president, BJYM Reasi, Vijay Proch State secretary BJYM JKUT, Atul Sharma co-media secretary BJYM JKUT and other leaders of the Morcha.

Arun Prabhat Singh during his address lambasted on Opposition parties for their anti-youth policies in J&K and alleged that before 2014 Congress and others Opposition parties deceived the people of Jammu and Kashmir and deprived them of their basic rights. They always made policies for anti-national people who are working against the country. "But this trend change after PM Modi came into power

KU VC reviews ongoing academic, research activities

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Prof Talat Ahmad today chaired a meeting of Heads of Teaching Departments to review the ongoing academic and research activities in the varsity.

Prof Talat reviewed the status of offline/online classes as well as examinations conducted by the Teaching Departments recently. He directed Heads of Departments to submit to-date semester-wise status of examinations/classes to the Dean of Academic Affairs for a considerate decision on resumption of offline teaching for other semesters in accordance with the SOPs related to COVID-19.

Asserting that teachers have to become more active in the university's march towards academic excellence, Prof Talat said the university has recently secured a grant of Rs 10 crore-for the first time ever-under the Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST),

Government of India.

The VC also directed timely implementation of key provisions of the National Education Policy-2020, which lays a great emphasis on interdisciplinary and integrated approaches to education and research.

In his introductory remarks, Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Shabir Ahmad Bhat said the Heads of Departments will have to work with greater zeal to implement the provisions of the flagship policy. "It is our collective desire to see our institution attain greater heights. So we all have to work jointly to implement new education policy and contribute to the academic excellence that it aims to achieve in the country's higher education arena," he said.

Dean of Research, Prof Shakil A Romshoo underlined various new initiatives being taken in the university to promote research in a big way in line with the university's commitment to help address a host of societal and environmental challenges within and beyond the J&K UT.

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: Employees of Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal today protested in support of their demands and accused the authorities of deliberately delaying the settlement of long pending issues of the employees.

The protestors with banners and placards in their hands were demanding release of their pending

authorities to release the wages of the workers they are at the verge of starvation and warned to intensify the agitation in case the demands were not met immediately.

The protestors said that they are without wages for last one year and were sitting on fast since yesterday but no officer either from administration or the Department came to them to know about their problems' which shows that the administra-



Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal employees protesting on Thursday.

wages and regularisation of the daily wagers who have completed their seven years service in the department.

They accused the officers of not submitting their papers regarding their regularization to higher authorities due to which the issue is pending for years tighter. They alleged that the authorities forced them to come to streets. The protestors alleged that due to failure of the

tion is totally apathetic towards them.

Meanwhile, Pensioners Welfare Organization and Senior Citizens Forum J&K have extended full support to the demands of the PDD employees. In a statement its chairman, Mir Ghulam Rasool Batwani urged the Government to settle the genuine demands of the employees without any further delay.

HC reserves verdict on appointment of Principal SKIMS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: High Court has reserved its verdict on the appointment of Principal Medical College Sher-e-Kashmir Medical Sciences which is vacant due to the restraint order of court.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey after hearing the senior counsel RA Jan with advocate Syed Musab and Advocate General for the SKIMS authorities reserved the judgment on the issue of appointment of post in question.

They have already participated in-terms of advertisement notice as such they cannot challenge the advertisement notice itself. The AG submitted before the court that it is the policy decision of the

Government to make the Principal post of Medical College at tenure post wherein even superannuated candidates can be made eligible for holding the post in question as such can't be made subject of the petition.

However the counsel appearing for the aggrieved doctors in rebuttal of the submissions made by the AG, informed the court that in terms of the Supreme Court ruling the aggrieved candidate even after participating in terms of advertisement notice, can approach the court for his grievances.

They have also contended before the court that the Principals of all other Medical Colleges in the UT of J&K retire at the age of 62 years and exception cannot be made for SKIMS Medical College.



Chairman OBC Department of JKPC, Suresh Kumar Dogra after a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

Column for OBCs in Census 2021 demanded

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Demanding a separate column in the upcoming census, Chairman OBC Department of JKPC, Suresh Kumar Dogra claimed that enumeration of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Census 2021 is very compulsory to know the strength of these people.

In a meeting here today Dogra said many organizations brought demands of OBCs into the notice of Government but none listened to the grievances of these people.

Dogra claimed that the then Home Minister of India Raj Nath Singh in 2014 had declared sepa-

rate column for OBC people in Census 2021 and all OBC people voted in favour of BJP trusting the words of Singh but the next Union Home Minister Amit Shah "broke the faith of OBCs" by saying: "There will be no separate column for OBCs in Census 2021."

The OBC Chairman of JKPC said that Government should not compel OBC people to come on roads to seek their rights.

Som Nath Verma, Jagdish Raj Kashyap, Sat Pal Kashyap, Sunil Bedi, Sumant, Sanjay Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Raj Kumar and Surjit Kumar were also present in the meeting.

Shiv Sena announces Kathua body

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 4: Shiv Sena JK announced the Kathua body here, today.

The body was announced by Ashwani Gupta State president, Nath Paul working president, Raj Singh, general secretary, Ramesh Gupta, senior vice-president and Raju Salaria, vice president-cum-spokesperson at a

press conference.

These leaders appointed Rajesh Sharma as district president, Kathua. They appealed the people of Samba to join the Navratra yatra in Samba Chowk.

The speakers said that the natural flow of justice in favour of OBCs was deliberately blocked by BJP through Serial No. 7 of page 42 of the Bill passed for the abrogation of Art 370.

The Union members

Work with Sewa Dharma: Ashok Kaul to party men

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: BJP general secretary, (Org) of UTs of J&K and Ladakh today asked party men to work with "Sewa Dharma" while serving the society. He was addressing a party meeting in Leh today. The meeting was organised to honour the newly appointed BJP district president, Tashi Gualtsan Khachu along with the newly nominated district office bearers and district Working Committee for the Leh.

Senior partly leadership allocated different responsibilities newly nominated members from all over the Leh district in the meeting.

Ashok Kaul termed the first ever meeting of the Leh district team as highly crucial for the future party programmes. He

asked the party men to work in unison with all the old team members and other senior leaders of the region. He termed the BJP district team as the most important working structure of the party which ensures the implementation of party policies at the ground level through Mandals, Wards and booths. He also asked them to work with utmost zeal and dedication.

Later, the party leaders discussed the organizational issues with the senior party leadership.

BJP Ladakh State vice-president, Gyal Wangyal, State vice-president, Nawang Samstan, president of district, Mahila Morcha, Rinchen Dolkar, district president, Yuva Morcha, Lobzang Larjay and other senior leaders of the party participated in the meeting.

Theft case solved, accused arrested

Excelstior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Gujjar Nagar Police solved a theft case with the arrest of the accused along with stolen car.

As per police sources, a complaint was lodged at Police Post Gujjar Nagar by a person namely Sanjay Kumar, son of Des Raj of Prem Nagar stating that some unknown thieves had stolen his Santro car bearing registration number JK02S-9942.

Acting over the complaint, a case under FIR Number 9/2021 under Section 379 IPC was reg-

istered at Police Station Peer Mitha and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a team from Police Post Gujjar Nagar led by SI Ayub Khan did strenuous efforts and finally with the help of technical assistance and CCTV camera footages of the area arrested the thief, who was identified as Suresh Kumar Koul alias Raju, son of Jai Lal Koul of Muthi, District Jammu.

On his disclosure, stolen vehicle was recovered.

Further investigation is going on to ascertain his involvement in other such cases.

AIBCU demands 27 pc reservation for OBCs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: All India Backward Classes Union (AIBCU) today demanded due share of 27% reservation for OBCs in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The issue was discussed threadbare during a meeting of the Union held today under the presidentship of Abdul Majid Malik. The speakers said that the natural flow of justice in favour of OBCs was deliberately blocked by BJP through Serial No. 7 of page 42 of the Bill passed for the abrogation of Art 370.

The Union members

resolved to write to Prime Minister and Home Minister for the erasing of Serial No. 7 of page 42 of the Bill of abrogation of Art 370, which is the only solution to allow the natural flow of justice for J&K OBCs under one nation and one law so that J&K UT may come at par with rest of the UTs of the country.

They said that the abrogation of Art 370 in the present form may have any meaning for the BJP and other political parties which are mum over the constitutional rights of OBCs, but it has no sense for OBCs except the sign board change.



NSUI Cluster University Jammu Unit team.

NSUI announces Cluster University Jammu unit

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: The students of Cluster University, Jammu joined National Students Union of India (NSUI) in presence of its State president Jammu and Kashmir, Sunny Parihar and other NSUI leaders who were present on the occasion.

Parihar announced Kanav Sharma from Geology Department as president, Surya Dev Singh and Mohd Arslan Wani as vice presidents, Asma Sadeeqa and Ayesha Mir as general secretaries, while Shikha Kashyap and Numan Bin Taliq as joint secretaries of NSUI unit Cluster University, Jammu.

NSUI State president welcomed the new members and later addressed the students about the current issues which hampered the growth of youth all over the country and specially in Jammu and Kashmir with the continuous rise in unemployment, lack of job policies, hike in fee structures both in government as well as private institutions.

Prominent NSUI activists who were present on the occasion included- Vishu Charak, Sourav Verma, Mohit Singh Sen, Bhavanyu Bhagat, Ghulam Abass, Munish Gupta, Piyush Singh, Kamran Ali, Aniket Malhotra, Ankith Billowria and Inderjeet Singh.

Two die under mysterious circumstances

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Two persons died under mysterious circumstances in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of Janipur Police Station and Belicharana Police Post.

As per police sources, a 25 to

30 year old man probably of labour class was found lying unconscious at Disco Morh area of Janipur. He was immediately shifted to GMCH Jammu, where he died during treatment.

Meanwhile, body of an unidentified man aged around 26 years was found lying at auto stand in Belicharana.

Both the bodies have been shifted to mortuary of GMCH Jammu for identification.

Janipur and Belicharana Police have taken cognizance in this regard.

Drug peddler arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 4: Acting sternly against the drug menace and its propagators, district police Samba has arrested a drug peddler and recovered 42 challis of charas from his possession at Surinsar Morh, Mansar in the jurisdiction of Police Post (PP) Mansar falling under Police Station (PS), Samba.

A police party of PP Mansar while performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area, intercepted a pedestrian who

was moving under suspicious circumstances at Surinsar Morh. During his frisking, 42 challis weighing total 880 grams of charas was recovered from his possession.

The accused person identified as Vikram Kumar son of Kali Dass of Karowa, Jagano, Udhampur has been arrested on the spot and contraband item was also seized. In this regard a case FIR No. 73/2021 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Samba and investigation started.

promotees.

Mohan Lal and Vinay Kumar congratulated all the promotees and advised them to work with more responsibility, dedication, devotion, determination and commitment towards their new assignments, which will be given to them in their future services. They wished bright services carrier of the promotees.

The promotees include Constables Sandeep Magotra, Yash Paul, Sohan Lal, Kuldeep Kumar Sharma and Pawan Kumar.

Among others, K K Sharma, DySP (Q), Tahir

Drug peddler arrested with charas

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: Police today arrested a drug peddler in Awantipora and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police spokesperson said that the officers from Police Post Reshipora at a checkpoint established at Kawani Crossing Awantipora intercepted a suspicious person identified as Ghulam Qadir Malik resident of Tahab Pulwama.

"During checking, officers were able to recover 500gms of Charas from his possession. He

has been arrested and shifted to the police station where he remains in custody," the police said.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 29/2021 under relevant Sections of law stands registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Police said that community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood. Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law.

8 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Bishnah and Miran Sahib Police seized 8 vehicles, which were involved in illegal mining.

As per police sources, SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Ajiaz Wani and Incharge SHO Bishnah Inspector Anil Choudhary under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Shabir

Khan seized 8 tractors trolleys loaded with sand illegally lifted from the beds of river Tawi.

It is pertinent to mention here that Police in Sub Division RS Pura in the year 2020-21 have seized hundreds of vehicles carrying sand illegally.

With the efforts of Police in Sub Division RS Pura, many dumps of illegal sand were also seized in the past.