

Govt declares Oct 23-24 snowfall, hailstorm as 'Natural Disaster'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir today declared the spell of heavy rainfall/ snowfall/ hailstorm on October 23-24, 2021 as 'State Specific Natural Disaster' under SDRF norms.

Secretary to Govt, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Nazim Zai Khan issued an order

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Admn reopens NH for traffic, Ops enter 21st day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: The authorities reopened a stretch of the Jammu-Rajouri National Highway for traffic this morning, more than two weeks after it was shut in view of an ongoing counter-insurgency operation in Bhatta Durrian dense forest belt.

The operation to track down a group of hiding militants, who are responsible for the martyrdom of nine soldiers, in Bhatta

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Kala detained in

Wazir murder case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Crime Branch Cell of Delhi Police today detained Surinder Singh alias Kala, president Narwal Mandi, and took him to New Delhi for questioning in connection with Tarlochan Singh Wazir murder case.

A five-member team of the Crime Branch Cell reached here this morning and detained Kala after informing local police.

He was later taken to New Delhi for questioning in connection

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Punjab to give Rs 50 lakh to martyr's family

CHANDIGARH, Oct 31:

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi today announced an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh and a Government job to the next of kin of Sepoy Manjit Singh, who died in a landmine explosion during patrolling near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Extending his sympathies, Channi said Singh's utmost dedication to defend the country's unity and integrity by sacrificing his life would ever inspire

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J&K reports 95 COVID cases, Ladakh 10

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Oct 31: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 95 COVID positive cases while Ladakh registered 10 new cases of the virus.

Eighty nine new cases were recorded in Kashmir division and six in Jammu region.

Jammu district reported three cases, Doda two and Ramban one while rest seven districts in the region didn't

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

'Situation in Kashmir under control'

Pens, books should replace guns, stones: DGP

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR Oct 31: Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, today said that guns and stones should be dropped and replaced with pens and books as nobody in Kashmir wants violence.

The DGP, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of J&K Police Marathon event in

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Srinagar, said that the security forces specially the armed forces always try to organize these events for people mainly for children and youth in order to boost their confidence.

Singh said that the situation

Govt to revise SRO-43 guidelines on service

Kin of martyrs to get job; in rest all cases, well off dependents won't get it

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 31: In a significant decision, the Government is in the process of revising SRO-43 guidelines by excluding mandatory Government job for the kin of officers/officials who die during service and civilians who are killed in militancy related incidents or cross-border shelling except the cases where families are economically very weak and unable to sustain without service. However, kin of martyrs from Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Jammu and Kashmir Police will be exempted from the new Policy and they will continue to get the jobs under SRO-43.

"Fresh guidelines are in the final stage and likely to be implemented soon. They are also in lines with the Central Government wherein family conditions of the deceased official are assessed before taking a call on whether to give job to the next of his/her kin or not," official sources told the Excelsior.

Admn to assess economic condition of deceased's family

They said as per the new guidelines of the Jammu and Kashmir Government which are likely to be released soon, the Government job will be mandatorily given to next of kin of martyrs of Army, para-military forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police. There will be no condition of examining family background in the case of martyrs and one of their family members will continue to get the Government job, they added.

However, as far as the Union Territory Government officers/officials are concerned, the Government is likely to make grant of job to one of their kin in case they die in service as "exceptional" and not "mandatory".

"The Government will assess economic condition of family of the deceased which include whether any other family members is in service, land and house owned by them, agriculture land and other sources of their liveli-

hood like business on their names. Only after assessing economic condition of the family, the Government will decide whether to give or reject job to next of kin of deceased," sources said.

The amount being paid to the family of the deceased officer/official after his death will also be taken into account, they said.

Same yardsticks will apply on the civilians killed in militancy related incidents including blasts, cross-firing as well as border shelling. While the family members of such deceased civilians will continue to get cash relief to which they are entitled, grant of the Government job to their next of kin will also depend on economic condition of the family.

"Presently, kin of the Government officers/officials who die during the service and civilians killed in militancy related incidents and cross-bor-

der shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) as well as International Border (IB) are entitled to the Government jobs. However, a large number of such cases have piled up in the Government departments," sources pointed out.

They said the Government is of the view that mandatory Government job to kin of certain Government officers/officials who die during their service or civilians killed in militancy related and border firing incidents deprive other persons of the Government jobs as their families are well off and have many other sources of livelihood.

In such cases only where the families of deceased are economically sound, the Government jobs will be denied while the families will continue to get ex-gratia relief etc as per the Government rules.

New guidelines, as per the sources, were necessitated as the Government continues to receive large number of files for jobs under SRO-43 cases leading to piling up

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

NIA arrests 25 in plot to attack cities

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today said that they have arrested 25 persons so far in a case relating to conspiracy by various militant outfits to carry out attacks in major cities of the country.

The NIA in a statement said that they had registered the case as (RC 29/2021/NIA/DLI dated 10.10.2021) early this month and during investigations raids were carried out at various locations and 25 accused have been arrested so far.

It said that yesterday (30.0.2021), NIA arrested two more accused persons Ishfaq Ahmed Wani of Srinagar and Umar Bhat of Sopore in RC-29/2021/NIA/DLI.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

SC sets aside HC order quashing criminal proceedings

NEW DELHI, Oct 31:

The Supreme Court has set aside the Jammu and Kashmir High Court verdict which had quashed criminal proceedings in a case lodged in connection with alleged misappropriation of Government funds in purchase of sub-standard medical kits under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

The apex court said the FIR and criminal proceedings in the case, registered for the alleged offences under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Ranbir Penal Code, are to be investigated and proceeded further by the autho-

ritised officer expeditiously.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said the High Court had committed a "grave error" in quashing the entire criminal proceedings holding that authorisation in favour of an inspector to investigate the FIR for the alleged offences under the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006 was "bad in law".

"We are of the opinion that in the facts and circumstances of the case and considering the authorisation read with the second proviso to section 3 (of the Act), authorisation cannot be said to be illegal and/or invalid," the bench said in its verdict delivered on October 29.

The top court allowed the plea filed by Jammu and Kashmir and others challenging the May 2018 judgement of the high court which had quashed the criminal proceedings in the FIR.

The FIR had alleged that during 2010-11, the accused had misappropriated huge amount of Government money by way of effecting purchases of sub-standard medical kits under the NRHM at highly exorbitant rates and in violation of the conditions of supply orders placed by the department.

The High Court had also quashed the November 2012 entrustment order passed by the senior superintendent of police

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2 former NC MLAs among dozen join BJP

Farooq, Mehbooba misleading people: Chug

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Oct 31: Strongly criticising National Conference (NC) chief, Dr Farooq Abdullah and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti for spilling venom, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary, incharge J&K and Ladakh UTs, Tarun Chug today said they were misleading the people with their provocative statements.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function organised by BJP at its headquarters, Trikuta Nagar here in connection with joining of some prominent leaders from NC, PDP and Apni Party into BJP, Chug said that with the annulling of controversial Articles 370 and 35 A, the UT was limping to peace fast but some people are not digesting it and hence they indulge in

misleading propaganda to hoodwink the public opinion.

The BJP leader, while turning tables on NC and PDP leaders said that when the Government announced that action will be taken against those who shouted pro-Pakistani slogans after the recent victory

* Pic on page 6
 Video on www.excelsionews.com

of Pakistan in T -20 match against India they opposed the decision and termed the students indulging in slogan shouting as innocents. "They suspect the Government action and thus are misleading the public opinion", he added.

He said the BJP Government led by Narendra Modi is working hard for the development of two UTs, restoration of peace and welfare of the people by

weeding out militants from the soil of J&K but the leaders of PDP and NC continue to mislead the masses with their provocative statements which will not be tolerated now.

"Instead of giving the account to the masses of J&K about the tonnes of money brought by their Governments from Centre during last seven decades and where this money was spent, they continue to hoodwink the people by their statements to divert the attention from real issues", Chug said.

"The injustice which was going on for decades ended when the BJP Government annulled the discriminatory Article 370 in August 2019 and bestowed Jammu and Kashmir with real freedom," Chugh said.

He said the gates of BJP are open for all those who want to serve the people and strive hard

to strengthen the nationalist forces and the country.

He said for the 70 years some sections of people like Gujjars, women, refugees and Valmiki faced discrimination through the hands of successive Governments but after the annulling of Article 370, the Prime Minister has assured deliverance of justice to every community. "Our Government has taken every possible step to ensure development of every community and every region", he added.

Nearly a dozen prominent political workers, including two former National Conference legislators, joined the BJP on the occasion, with UT president of the party, Ravinder Raina exuding confidence of forming the next Government on its own in the J&K.

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People buy crackers ahead of Diwali festival in Jammu.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Kathua, Kishtwar, Reasi among 5 distts yet to furnish lists

35 picturesque areas identified for transformation as Tourist Villages

Step to facilitate inclusive development of rural circuits

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Oct 31: In a major development, 35 picturesque areas in five districts of Jammu division have been identified for transformation as Tourist Villages in order to promote rural tourism optimally and exhibit unparalleled historical, cultural and spiritual values. However, the Deputy Commissioners of remaining districts—Kathua, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi and Ramban.

As far as Jammu district is concerned, Daskal Ambrain, Gharana, Jhajar Kotli, Mathuar and Surinsar have been identified for development as Tourist Village while as in Doda district such areas are Batote, Dhara, Khellani, Lanchar, Mounda, Noorihanga and Thanala.

Similarly, Arai, Behramgala, Dogrian, Loran, Mendhar, Nangali, Rajpura, Sakhimaidan/Chajila and Sallonia/Sawjian in Poonch district have been identified for development as Tourist Villages while as such areas in Samba are Chamliyal, Ghagwal, Mahoregarh, Nud, Purmandal and Utterbehni. In Udhampur,

As per the official informa-

tion available with EXCELSIOR, lists of 32 areas for transformation as Tourist Villages have been submitted to the concerned authorities by the Deputy Commissioners of five districts of Jammu region. However, not even a single area has been identified for the purpose by the Deputy Commissioners of remaining

five districts—Kathua, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi and Ramban.

On September 3, 2021, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched J&K Tourist Village Network under Mission Youth with the aim to transform villages of the Union Territory known for historical, picturesque beauty and cultural significance into Tourist Villages.

"The youth-led sustainable tourism initiative will strengthen rural economy and community entrepreneurship, empowering youth and women by providing direct and indirect employment opportunities", he had stated at the event.

such areas are Basantgarh, Chulna, Dudu, Lehar and Inch, Mantalai and Pachound.

The Tourist Villages concept under Mission Youth initiative is aimed at developing villages having distinction in terms of scenic beauty, adventurous terrain, art & cultural, history & archaeology by providing basic amenities.

Broadly, the objectives of the programme are to develop new tourism destinations to the world standard; integrate social, cultural and spiritual characteristics with economic contours; provide all infrastructure facilities required by the tourists within such selected villages in an integrated holistic manner; converge resources and expertise through coordinated action with all stakeholders and to introduce new concept of rural development based on integrated area development approach.

The activities to be covered under the programme are promotion of local hospitality,

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