

Dalit leader Channi is new Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH, Sept 19:

The Congress today picked Charanjit Singh Channi as the next Chief Minister of Punjab making him the first Dalit to hold the post in the State, a day after Amarinder Singh resigned following a bitter power tussle in the party.

Channi, 49, will take oath at 11 am tomorrow. AICC general secretary (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Another accused held in Wazir's murder with pistol

NEW DELHI, Sept 19:

The Delhi Police has arrested a 61-year-old man in connection with the killing of National Conference leader Trilochan Singh Wazir whose highly-decomposed body was found at a flat in west Delhi's Moti Nagar area, officials said today.

Harmeet Singh, a property dealer by profession, and a resident of Nanak Nagar who was on the run, shot Wazir dead, they said, adding that he was nabbed from Jammu.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

168 COVID cases in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Sept 19: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 168 COVID-19 cases while the UT of Ladakh for second consecutive day didn't register any positive cases.

In Kashmir division, 153 persons tested positive for the virus while the number was 15 in Jammu region.

Among 15 cases in the region, six were reported from Doda, five Jammu, three Rajouri and one in Samba district while Udhampur, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Two sisters killed in Zojila mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: Two sisters from Drass were killed and an equal number of men were injured when a car rolled down into a deep gorge along Zojila Pass in Sonamarg area of Ganderbal district this afternoon.

An official said that four persons were injured when an Alto (JK16B-1970) skidded off the road near Zero Point along Zojila Pass and fell into a deep gorge.

A rescue operation was launched and an ambulance sent to the spot to evacuate the injured (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

ACB arrests SHO in bribery case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today arrested a Station House Officer and a Head Constable of Police Station Awantipora in South Kashmir while taking bribe.

A team of ACB personnel trapped SHO Awantipora G M Rather and HC Mohammad Afzal.

As per an official, they accepted taking a bribe of Rs 8000. However the money hasn't been recovered yet.

CB books 2 for selling State land

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: The Crime Branch (CB) Kashmir has produced a charge sheet before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam against two accused persons for illegally grabbing State land and selling it off to innocent people to extract a huge amount of money from them.

In a statement, the CB said that a charge sheet was produced in case FIR No: 33/2017 U/S 420, 120-B, 201-RPC of Police Station CBK against Nazir Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar of Parraypora Bhagat Srinagar, proprietor. M/s Gousia House

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'KPs will get back their property, locals too want them to return'

No 'buy peace formula' now, we will maintain & establish peace in J&K: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 19:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that there was a time when there was "buy peace formula" but now the time has changed and so is the Government policy with major aim being to maintain and establish peace in Kashmir and declared that Kashmiri Pandits, who were driven away from Kashmir by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in 1989-90 leaving behind their homes and hearths, will get back their property within a time limit. He said the common man in Kashmir also wants the migrants back.

Without naming the previous regimes in Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said there was a time when attempt was made to buy peace but with change in the situation there has been a shift in the policy as well.

"That time is now gone. Now the administration is trying to maintain and establish peace in Kashmir. This is the major shift in the policy along with change in the

***Milestones, roads to be named after martyrs from Sept 30**



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at an event 'Pedal for Peace' organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar.

Sinha declared that all those involved in anti-national activities or trying to create hurdles in peace will be strictly dealt with.

"No one will be allowed to harm unity and sovereignty of

the country. We won't hesitate in dealing sternly with those involved in anti-national activities and the elements creating hurdles in the path of peace in Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

He said that the Government wants peace and brotherhood to be maintained in the UT.

Lauding the Jammu and Kashmir Police for its sacrifices, Sinha said 'important milestones,

institutions or roads in the UT will be named after those personnel of police or other forces who have laid down their lives for the nation.

"The Committee concerned has made a decision and the process will start from September 30. There cannot be a much better way to honour the

sacrifices of the martyrs who gave their blood for saving Jammu and Kashmir and the nation," Sinha said, adding that many people have sacrificed their lives and "I assure that the Government will take care of the health, education and basic facilities of their families and children".

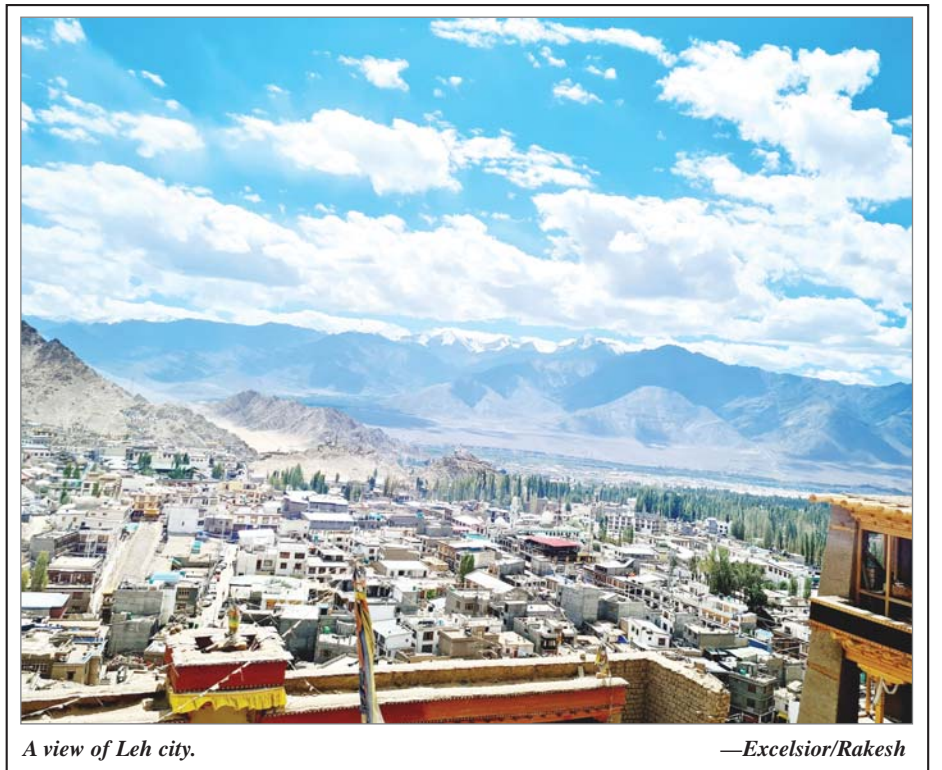
At his monthly 'Awaam Ki Awaaz Address', Sinha said the Kashmiri Pandits, who migrated to different parts of the country after outbreak of militancy, supported by neighbouring country, in late

1989 and 1990, are being encouraged to return and a number of measures have already been announced for the purpose.

"To restore the rich cultural fabric of the society, the Government has taken a path-breaking decision to undo the injustice of decades and restore the former glory of the land that was always the repository of brotherhood," he said.

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

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)



A view of Leh city.

—Excelsior/Rakesh

Technology developed by CSIR will be implemented in UT: LG

J&K has to adopt new tech for its future economy: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

SRINAGAR, Sept 19:

Maintaining that J&K's future economy depends on ability to adopt new technology, Union Minister in PMO with independent charge of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Science and Technology is the priority sector of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under whose dynamic leadership there is a visible change for the past many years in this field.

Inaugurating a one day workshop on Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) initiatives for Science & Technology led development in J&K at SKICC here, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Modi accords high priority to J&K due to which its pristine glory is being restored.

He said Science & Technology is also priority sector of the Prime Minister, and under his dynamic leadership there is a visible change for the past many years in this field.

"Indians have had a strong scientific temper for ages and we have talent in abundance and with this India is bound to be the world leader in the technological



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh addressing inaugural session of CSIR workshop at Srinagar on Sunday. —Excelsior/Shakeel

While complimenting the organizers of the workshop, Dr Jitendra Singh said that such workshops are the need of the hour as awareness is a must for optimum outcomes as the dependency of several sectors on technology is increasing day-by-day.

He underscored that there is a need to commit ourselves to technological tools as there is no other option to compete without it.

"Indians have had a strong scientific temper for ages and we have talent in abundance and with this India is bound to be the world leader in the technological

(Contd on page 8 Col 1)

Presence in border areas to be significantly increased

Ladakh Police will have full-fledged infrastructure in next 2-3 yrs: ADGP

Mohinder Verma

LEH, Sept 19: After establishing almost all the wings with the available manpower and resources in a short span of two years, Ladakh Police is aiming to have full-fledged infrastructure like police force of any other Union Territory in the country within next 2-3 years.

Moreover, an exhaustive proposal has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for creation of new Police Sub-Divisions, Police Stations and Police Posts and up-gradation of existing ones so that new challenges emerged during the recent years are effectively tackled.

Disclosing this to EXCEL-



SIOR in an exclusive interview, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Ladakh S S Khandare said, "it was really a daunting task for us to perform the duties as police force of the Union Territory as earlier Leh and Kargil being districts only were not having separate wings

***Proposal submitted to MHA for creation of new establishments**

of Traffic Police, CID, Security and Cyber Crime and requirements, whenever felt, were being met by deploying additional manpower from Kashmir division."

"However, within the shortest possible time we have established all the wings albeit with insufficient manpower. We are in the process of equipping all these wings with latest technology so that these wings can effectively perform their duties," he said in response to a question.

Admitting that sanctioned strength of Ladakh Police is not

adequate at present, the ADGP said, "Rules for the subordinate services have been framed and approved by the Lieutenant Governor and the recruitment process will begin shortly", adding "this step will go a long way in overcoming the problem of manpower crisis at the non-gazetted level".

About the promotion crisis in Ladakh Police, Khandare said, "the matter has been taken up with Jammu and Kashmir Police as apportionment of employees between both the Union

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Night curfew reduced by two hours

Cap on gatherings raised to 50 in banquet halls with conditions

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 19: The UT administration today doubled the cap on gatherings from 25 to 50 subject to certain conditions and also cut night curfew timing in some districts by two hours.

The decisions were part of the latest COVID containment guidelines issued today by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta in his capacity as the Chairperson of the State Executive Committee (SEC).

While maximum number of people permitted to attend indoor/outdoor gatherings will remain strictly restricted to 25, the banquet halls in the districts where COVID positivity rate is below 0.2 and weekly case load is less

than 250, will be permitted to enhance limit of guests to 50 for vaccinated persons or those with verifiable RT-PCR or RAT report not older than 72 hours.

The District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police will ensure compliance of the order, the SEC said.

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

While night curfew will remain in force in all districts from 8 pm to 7 am, the districts with positivity rate below 0.2 and weekly case load less than 250 will observe curfew restrictions from 10 pm to 6 am, the SEC order read.

Other COVID containment guidelines/relaxations will remain

unchanged.

"The schools, except for relaxations as provided for students of 12th and 10th classes, will continue to remain closed for on-site/in-person teaching," the order said.

"Classes for 12th standard shall be permitted in the educational institutions with limited in-person teaching not exceeding 50 percent on a given day for vaccinated students and staff. However, the school management will have to obtain consent from the parents of all students who are willing to attend the classes," the SEC guidelines reiterated.

Entry to the educational institutions will be subject to proper screening regarding vaccination.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Fruit-laden trucks suffering damage, officials unmoved

Trucks on Sgr-Jmu NH made to halt for days at Qazigund Toll Plaza

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: The drivers including the tourists are facing a tough time as they have to wait for hours to pass through Toll Plaza at Qazigund. They expressed their anguish over the absence of basic facilities at the toll plaza.

The situation for the truck drivers who are mostly carrying stock of apples out of Kashmir is quite difficult as they allege that they are made to halt for days together at the Toll Plaza due to which they are suffering.

"We thought that with the improvement in the condition of the road along with the opening up of the tunnel, the travel would



Trucks stranded at Toll Plaza Qazigund. —Excelsior/Sajad Dar

become easier, but things seem to have deteriorated as it takes days for us to reach Jammu via Srinagar-Jammu National Highway," said Rafiq Ahmad who has been stuck at the toll plaza Qazigund for the last 3 days. The truck drivers stuck at the Toll Plaza said that taking up

(Contd on page 8 Col 1)

'BJP rule only brought destruction'

PDP to contest Assembly polls in J&K: Mehbooba

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Sept 19: While accusing BJP Government of bringing destruction in Jammu and Kashmir, former J&K Chief Minister and PDP president, Mehbooba Mufti today said that her party will contest the upcoming Assembly elections in the UT.

While talking to media-persons on the sidelines of a party function here today, the former Chief Minister claimed that PDP

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will fight coming Assembly elections but ruled out alliance with any political party including its erstwhile coalition partner, BJP.

"PDP will fight the elections. So far, an alliance is concerned, the question is premature but one



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti addressing party workers rally in Jammu on Sunday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

thing is absolutely clear that we will not go with BJP," Mehbooba asserted.

While accusing the BJP of playing politics over the issues of Taliban, Afghanistan and Pakistan to grab votes, she alleged that the seven-year-rule of the BJP has brought misery to the people of the country and 'destruction' in Jammu and

Kashmir.

The former Chief Minister said it is not Hindus but the Indian States come near, the BJP will start cashing on the God-given opportunity of Taliban and Afghanistan and if it would not work, they will bring Pakistan and drones into picture," the PDP president said.

"They will not talk about

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Promotions not carried out despite vacancies, court directives

Mess engulfs ICDS as promotion of AWs as Supervisors becomes bone of contention

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: The promotion of Anganwadi Workers (AWs) as Supervisors has become a bone of contention in North Kashmir's Baramulla as several eligible candidates who have rendered years of service in the department are being deprived of the promotion that should have been, as per rules, granted to them years ago.

It has happened despite clear-cut High Court directions almost two years ago, and despite having the vacancies, the Social Welfare Department has failed in considering graduate AWs who have rendered over 16 years of service to the department for the post of supervisors in the ICDS Project in

Baramulla even as the appointment of Supervisors by the Departmental Selection Committee has become bone of contention.

In this regard, the matter has already been heard by the J&K Court which has directed the concerned department way back in August 2019 to consider the claims that have been made by several such Anganwadi workers who had filed a petition.

As per details, the post of supervisors in ICDS scheme of the Social Welfare Department is to be filled up, 50% by the direct recruitment through Service Selection Recruitment Board, 25% of these posts are to be filled by selection through Departmental Selection Committee amongst Graduate Anganwadi Workers who have ren-

dered 5 years of service and 25% by selection through Departmental Selection Committee from amongst Matriculate Anganwadi Workers with 10 years of service.

The aspirants while being eligible for the post under SRO 16 dated 28-01-2004 have already approached the concerned authority in this regard for grant of promotion to the post of Supervisors. However, the same has not been considered so far as the court directions were not implemented well in time.

As per further details with regard to the vacancies in Matric, Graduate and Direct Quota, there are several vacancies for the post of Supervisors in the ICDS Baramulla.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)