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Cong J&K Incharge Rajni Patil to get RS berth

MUMBAI, Sept 22:

Senior Congress party leader Rajni Patil and BJP's Sanjay Upadhya today filed nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha by-election in Vidhan Bhavan here.

The election in Maharashtra will be held due to the death of sitting MP Rajiv Satav.

Ms Patil, a former Rajya Sabha member and in-charge of Jammu & Kashmir of the party,

(Contd on page 9 Col 2)

HC directs for Policy on adhoc employees

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 22: High Court today directed the Government to formulate a policy for regularizing services of those who have been appointed against the sanctioned posts on adhoc basis for more than 10 years ago.

Justice Sanjay Dhar also directed that till the exercise of formulating the policy is undertaken by the officials, the petitioners

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

CBI searches in Sainik School

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 22: The Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) today conducted searches at Sainik School Nagrota on reports of certain irregularities in tendering process and allotment of works.

Sources told the Excelsior that the CBI teams searched record pertaining to issuance and allotment of tenders for works by the Sainik School Nagrota.

During raids, certain docu-

(Contd on page 9 Col 8)

NDMA for Rs 50,000 ex gratia to kin of COVID victims

NEW DELHI, Sept 22:

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has recommended that Rs 50,000 be given to the kin of those who died of COVID-19, the Centre informed the Supreme Court today.

It said that ex-gratia assistance will also be given to the kin of those who died of the virus due to involvement in

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Sentry kills cop in Handwara

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 22: A policeman was killed after a Sentry opened fire when he allegedly tried to forcefully

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enter the temple in the midnight in Handwara area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A sentry after assuming an attack opened fire last night,

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Soldier's body recovered after 13 months

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 22: The endless wait of the desperate father of abducted soldier Shakir Manzoor was finally over when his body was recovered after 13 months from Kulgam district today.

Locals this morning spotted a decomposed body near Bank tower in Mohammad Pora Kulgam after which police was

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

159 test +ve in Kashmir, 45 in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR/JAMMU/LEH, Sept 22: Kashmir today reported 159 fresh cases of COVID-19 while Jammu region recorded 45 new cases.

The UT of Ladakh registered six fresh cases.

Those who tested positive in Kashmir include 80 from Srinagar, 14 from Baramulla, 28 from Budgam, 7 from

(Contd on page 9 Col 6)

None enforced, shopkeepers keep shutters down voluntarily

Complete, peaceful bandh in Jammu on host of issues raised by traders

Admn invites Chamber for talks on all demands

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 22: A shutdown was observed in majority parts of the Jammu region today on a call given by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and endorsed by most of the political parties except the BJP in protest against a number of issues, the latest being opening of Reliance Retail Stores.

The bandh was peaceful with no untoward incident reported from any part of the region as shopkeepers voluntarily downed

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their shutters and organizers had to make no effort to enforce the strike.

Large number of people told the Excelsior that strong resentment was brewing against the administration in different parts of the region with none to listen to their grievances leave aside addressing them in the absence of political dispensation which also contributed to complete bandh.

"The gap between administration and people is widening. There is none to listen to people's and businessmen's issues and address them. The orders that the Administrative Secretaries and the Deputy Commissioners will meet public every week is nothing but a big joke," the people lamented while extending their support to the bandh.

A view of deserted Narwal Mandi in Jammu on Wednesday. — Excelsior/Rakesh

Shutdown was complete in entire Jammu city with all major markets remaining closed right from the morning. Bandh organizers, mainly the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, had to make no efforts to ensure bandh as the strike was voluntarily and nowhere even a single shop was seen open. Big business establishments also remained shut.

Even in the lanes and bylanes, the shopkeepers refused to open their shutters and stayed away from the markets.

Same was the position in all major towns of Jammu district which too wore deserted look with shopkeepers downing their shutters.

Sabzi Mandi and Fruit Mandi at Narwal, the supply chains of all vegetable and fruit shops and rehris in the entire region, too went with the bandh call and didn't open.

Work in courts was paralyzed as the Bar Association president Mohinder Bhardwaj had also supported the bandh call.

Bhardwaj said work across all courts in the Jammu region was disrupted due to strike call given by the Bar Association.

"The bandh should act on an eye opener for the UT administration as it reflects deep hurt in minds of people of Jammu region," Bhardwaj said and complimented all sections of society for making bandh successful and keeping it peaceful.

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Mesmerizing view of Pangong lake in Leh along the Indo-China border.

Govt money is like 'Gau-Mass' for me

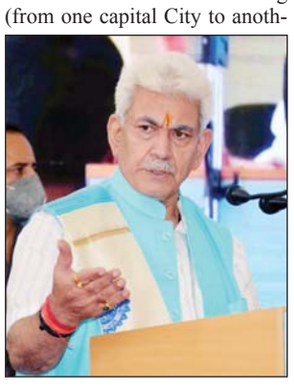
Big racket wanted Darbar Move to sustain; J&K won't run on whims and fancies of some persons: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 22: In a significant statement, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that there was a big racket which wanted the Darbar Move to go on and declared the question doesn't arise that the Government will work as per whims and fancies of some persons though it was committed to welfare of common man and small traders.

Addressing a function after inauguration of 'Jammu Haat' along with Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh, Sinha said the Government money for him is like 'Gau-Mass' and he will use every penny for benefit and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Some say Darbar Move will hit economy. I came here on August 7 last year and I saw 200 trucks loaded with files moving (from one capital City to another after every six months). It consumed lot of time, And when a file was called for some work, it was found misplaced," Sinha said, adding that it was a big racket which some persons wanted to sustain.



However, he declared that now e-office is fully functional

Asserting that both Central and Jammu and Kashmir Governments were committed to do everything for welfare of the people and development of the Union Territory, the Lieutenant Governor said the question doesn't arise that the Government will work at whims and fancies of certain elements.

"For common man and traders, we will do everything that is required. All steps will be taken for welfare and development of the people. But those who think that Jammu and Kashmir will run the way they want, I think they are badly mistaken," Sinha declared.

He said the time has gone when some corrupt elements used to create problems but now there is complete transparency in working of the Government.

He stated that for him the government money is like 'Gau Mass' and he will ensure that each penny is used for J&K's benefit.

"The Government money is for welfare of the people. Some people became rich with this money earlier but that time is

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

'Investment in J&K will not hit local employment'

Govt's ultimate aim to promote business with ease: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Sept 22: Allaying fears of the traders and other people, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced that industrial investment in Jammu and Kashmir will not hit the local employment.

The Union Minister was speaking at a function held in connection with inauguration of Jammu Haat, a hub of export promotion here, today along with Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha. Dr Jitendra Singh, while giving all assurance to traders that their interests will always remain intact said, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is opening up new avenues for livelihood of

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

people in J&K as he is concerned for the people of the UT most.

He said the ultimate objective of this Government is to promote business with ease of doing business. He said whatever are the grievances and of the traders or people we have to redress them."We have to ensure that single businessman should not feel unattended", he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh, while referring to resentment shown by traders said "Whatever will be the merit of their concern will be

addressed", saying "We all have to address their grievances".

The Union Minister said that with the announcement of new industrial policy new vistas will be opened for the people in industrial sector in the UT of J&K but people have to be ready for the competition also.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the traders delegation can come to Delhi and he will arrange their meeting with the concerned Ministries. Earlier they had approached but due to COVID it could not materialize. He, however, said the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries visited and their meeting was arranged.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that on May 26, 2014 when Prime Minister, Narendra Modi took oath of office his Government's one of the objective since then remained to bring those people in the main stream who had gone astray and in this regard lot of work was done in North East and J&K. "We did this with commitment and not keeping the vote bank in consideration", he added.

The Union Minister said to bring peace and prosperity in North Eastern Region where situation was much worst than J&K the Modi Government started Mission North East and in this entire region there is a sea change at present. He said during Monsoons earlier roads used to be blocked for days together but at present there are A Class roads in this entire region. Besides, three airports were constructed there as Modi Government worked with commitment and without any consideration as it has only people's welfare in its mind.

Dr Jitendra Singh said with that vigour and commitment Modi Government is working in J&K also and after converting

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Centuries old shrine of Purmandal badly neglected

Dilapidated road, bridges lead to temple

Sanjeev K. Sharma

PURMANDAL, Sept 22: While those at the helm remain eloquent on developments, situation on ground at the most revered and world famed shrine of Purmandal has a different tale to tell as the ancient temples have not been even whitewashed for the last about four years while a dusty un-blacktopped bus stand is there to facilitate pilgrims and words really fail to express the poor state of affairs of the road stretch linking the bridge, in worse condition, at the bus stand with the main entrance of the shrine.

Moreover, the shrine complex, right from the stairs at its entrance to the sanctum sanctorum has decades old flooring which has turned dull with time and tile or marble work is have turned ruins which openly expose poorest of the poor maintenance in the shrine complex.

Apart from all this, there are number of inns, in the vicinity of the centuries old shrine of Shiva, with many from the times of monarchy in J&K, and all these

Bridge in bad shape connected with dilapidated road leading towards Purmandal shrine (left) and ancient inns turned ruins (right).

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Cop in DM's Escort duty was HM militant

Range Officer, teachers among 6 more employees sacked for militancy links

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Sept 22: Government today sacked six employees from their services for their links with the militants, taking the tally of sacked employees to 17 so far.

The termination order of the Government states that the activities of these employees are such as to warrant their dismissal for their services.

The order stated that the Lt Governor was satisfied under sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold enquiry in their cases and accordingly, LG dismissed these employees from their service

Forest official used Pak SIM card

with immediate effect.

The employees who have been sacked include Abdul Hamid Wani of Anantnag, was working as Teacher in the Education department, Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar, was

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

working as Constable in Jammu and Kashmir Police, Mohammad Rafi Butt of Kishtwar, was working as Junior Assistant in Road and Buildings department, Liyaqat Ali Kakroo of Baramulla, was working as Teacher in the Education Department, Tariq Mehmood Kohli of Poonch, was working as Range Officer in the Forest Department and Showkat Ahmad Khan of Budgam, was working as Constable in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the police dossier, Abdul Hamid Wani alias Roufu-Islam hailing form Dupatyar Bijbehara, Anantnag was a former militant of Allah Tigers. "He had a prolonged history of having carried practically and actively the ideology of secessionism and separatism in his area".

The dossier said that as Government Teacher, he became district commander Allah Tigers. "During his active role as militant commander, he was closely associated with another former militant turned businessman and member of Jamat-e-Islami (JeI) Abdul Aziz Bhat of Arder Anantnag. Wani and his associates extorted a lot of money on gun point from local public for themselves and also to carryout terrorist activities in the area", read the dossier.

"Abdul Hamid Wani, who had association with Jamat-e-Islami manipulated his appointment order in his favour in 1988-89 as teacher", the dossier said.

"Disregarding his service mandate, Wani propagated his ideology of separatism and secessionism openly while participating in Friday sermons in local mosques, at the time of funerals of killed militants and dur-

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Class 11 candidates get mass promotion

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education today ordered mass promotion of all the candidates appearing in Class 11th Annual (Pvt)/Bi-annual 2020-21 Examination of Kashmir Division, scheduled to be held from tomorrow.

The same policy shall be adopted in the forthcoming Class 11th Annual (Pvt)/Bi-Annual examination 2021, Summer Zone of Jammu Division as well.

A formal notification in this regard was issued today by the JKBOSE, according to which these candidates shall be promoted to next higher class (Class 12th) on the analogy of previous year's result, declared during Covid 19.

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

J&K has over 78,000 ration cards with duplicate member entries

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Sept 22: There are over 78, 000 ration cards registered across Jammu and Kashmir that are having the entries of member(s) registered at two different places, prompting the authorities to initiate the process of blocking such ration cards to rectify the details of the family members.

As per figures accessed by Excelsior, there are 78,272 such ration cards across J&K with Jammu Rural having the highest number of such ration cards that are having the entries of the family members at two different places.

In the Kashmir division, there are over 15000 such ration cards with district Srinagar having the highest numbers and Kulgam having the lowest. As per figures available, district Anantnag is having 598 such ration cards that have been identified, Bandipora 249, Baramulla 2869, Budgam 108, Ganderbal 129, Kulgam 76, Kupwara 4003, Pulwama 393, Shopian 111 and Srinagar 7349.

In the Jammu division, the number of such ration cards is higher as there have been so far over 62,000 ration cards detected with duplicate entries of the family member(s) and two different places.

As per figures, in the Jammu division, Doda has 3809 such ration cards, Jammu Circle-1 has 2209, Jammu Circle-2 is having 4266 such ration cards, Jammu Circle-3 3153, Jammu Rural 16253, Kathua 4313, Kishtwar 3556, Poonch 10164, Rajouri 7171, Ramban 285, Reasi 1918, Samba 731 and Udhampur 4577 ration cards.

As per officials, these many ration cards have been detected to have duplicate entries of their family member(s) at two places while the process of blocking such cards has been started and is currently ongoing.

"The process of rectifying the details of the ration cards is carried out in a way that both the cards where a particular family member has been registered are blocked, and then the consumer is directed to state the facts and it is made sure that entry of a

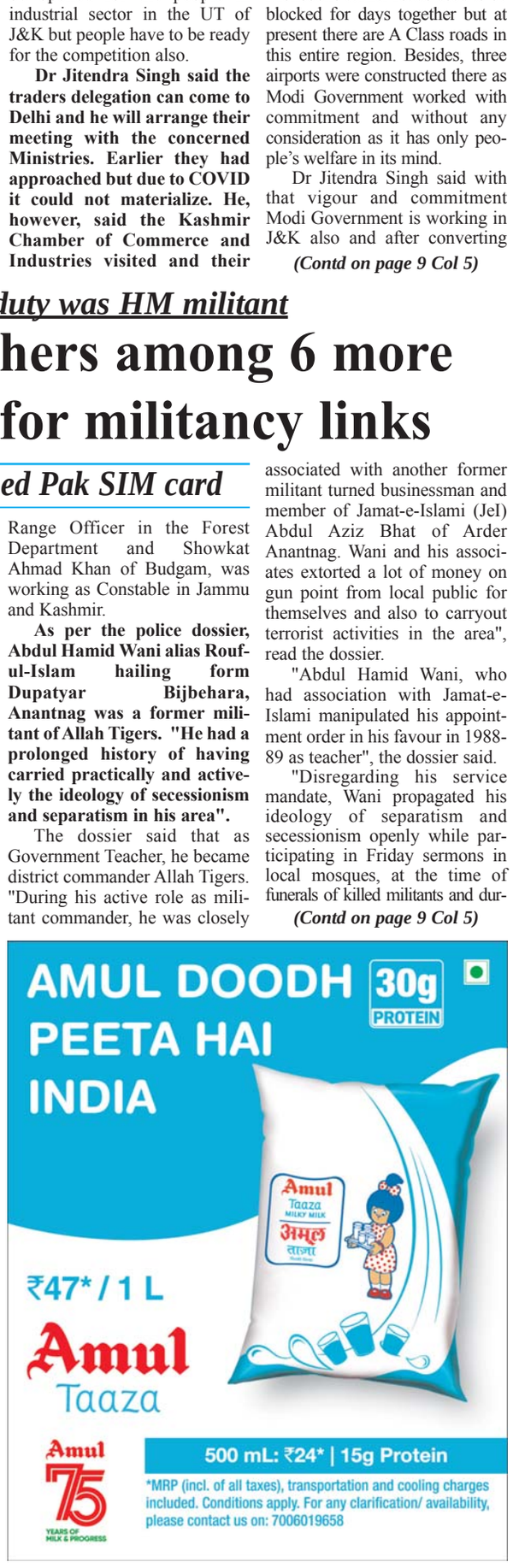
(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

3 killed as Sumo skids in Mendhar

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, Sept 22: Three persons were killed while two others injured when a Tata Sumo vehicle fell down into a deep gorge in Mendhar area of district Poonch this evening.

A police spokesman said that incident took place at around 6.45 pm when the ill-fated vehicle No. HR-1939 was on way from Mendhar to Chhunga village. The vehicle was nearing its destination when the driver lost control and it rolled down about 200 ft into the deep gorge.

While three persons were killed on the spot, two others injured seriously, were rushed to Mendhar Sub District Hospital. The deceased were identified as Khadam Hussain, son of Mohd Din; Mohd Zahir

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)