

4 earthquakes jolt J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Four earthquakes jolted Jammu and Kashmir in less than eight hours today. No loss of life or damage to property was reported, officials said.

The epicenter of the quake, which occurred at 2.20 am, was 61 km east of Katra area in Jammu region, they said.

The officials said the quake hit at latitude 33.07 degrees north and longitude 75.58

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Three officers shifted, posted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: The Government today ordered transfer and postings of three JKAS officers.

Mufti-M-Farid-ud-Din awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department was posted as Secretary, Royal Spring Golf Course, relieving Bakshi Javid Humayun of the additional charge of the post.

Khurshid Ahmad Shah, (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

HC dismisses Wattali's bail plea

NEW DELHI, Aug 23:

The Delhi High Court today dismissed a plea by Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Shah Wattali, arrested by the NIA in connection with a terror funding case, seeking bail on the ground of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wattali had approached the High Court challenging a trial court's order which had denied him bail in the case last year but had taken note of his medical

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Accidental firing of Brahmos: 3 IAF officers sacked

NEW DELHI, Aug 23:

The Defence Ministry today terminated the services of three officials of the Indian Air Force after a high-level probe held them responsible for the March 9 accidental firing of a Brahmos missile that landed in Pakistan.

The Court of Inquiry (CoA) into the incident found that deviation from the SOP by three officers led to the accidental fir-

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23 DySPs adjusted, 5 shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today ordered adjustment of 23 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) Telecom and transfer and postings of 5 others.

According to the order, Lekh Raj has been adjusted as DySP Telecom Jammu, Neeraj Sama as DySP Telecom PTTI

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J&K adds 269 cases, Ladakh 7

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 269 COVID positives cases while Ladakh added seven positives.

Kashmir accounted for 218 cases and Jammu division for 51.

In Jammu region, 31 cases were registered in Jammu district, eight in Ramban, six in Kishtwar, two each in Doda and Kathua districts and one each in Udhampur and Poonch districts.

Jammu and Kashmir now

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J&K approves 7.1 pc interest on GFP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today approved 7.1 percent interest on the General Provident Fund (GPF) for second quarter of the financial year 2022-23 i.e. from July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

An order to this effect was issued by Vivek Bhardwaj, Financial Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance Department).

'Govt has succeeded in breaking back of terrorism'

There were 32,000 outside voters in J&K during Parl polls, not even 100 increased after that: LG

Militants hitting soft targets to derail peace process

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that during last Parliament elections when Article 370 was intact, there were 32,000 outside voters in Jammu and Kashmir and the number hasn't increased even by 100 after scrapping of special status of erstwhile State.

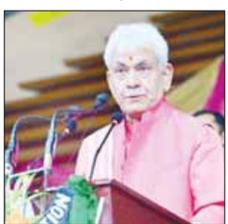
In an interview to a national newspaper, Sinha said there were 32,000 outside voters registered in Jammu and Kashmir when last

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

Parliament elections were held and Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted special status to erstwhile State, was intact.

"You can check the electoral rolls. After all these years, not even 100 outside voters have

enrolled themselves. There is just propaganda about change in demographic character. How it can be changed when additional registered outsider votes have not increased beyond 100?" he



asked.

The Government as well as Election Commission officials have issued series of clarifications on this issue. However, an All Party Meeting was yesterday held in Kashmir despite Government clarifications which was chaired by National

Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on the issue of "outside voters". Besides Government, the BJP has also strongly countered the propaganda.

Asserting that the Government has been successful in breaking back of terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor said between January and August this year, 136 terrorists have been killed in Kashmir.

"Such a statistic has not been seen. Now, we are attacking entire ecosystem. There was a time when schools, colleges and shops would remain shut. Children couldn't study. But now this is a thing of the past. There is no stone-pelting; colleges and schools are open and business is being done smoothly," Sinha said.

However, he added that many don't like this but there is no need to fall into their trap. The Lieutenant Governor

described attacks on Kashmiri Pandits as a conspiracy by the elements who don't like the fact that 11.6 million tourists have visited Kashmir and massive infrastructural development is going on.

"Also, new projects are being set up both by the Government as well as private sector. To derail this process, the militants are identifying soft targets and attacking them," he said.

On conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said the Election Commission of India is in the process of revision of electoral rolls.

"The Election Commission has to conduct the elections. Once electoral rolls are updated, dates for the elections will be announced by the ECI at an appropriate time," he added.

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A view of spring at Verinag Park.

— Excelsior / Sajad Dar

Major infiltration attempt foiled

Army kills two Pak militants on LoC in Nowshera sector

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Two Pakistani militants were killed as the Army foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district last night.

The infiltration attempt took place in forward area of Lam in Nowshera sector on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, a Defence spokesman said.

"The reconnaissance of the general area of the attempted infiltration site is in progress. In reconnaissance by quadcopter, two bodies of infiltrators have been observed," the spokesman said.

He said the area is being scanned further.

According to officials, a group of suspected militants tried to sneak into Pukharni village of Lam in Nowshera sector under the cover of darkness from across the border.

One of the militants stepped over a landmine causing an explosion around 10 pm on Monday, they said.

Army troops, who were observing the movement of the militants, laid a cordon and started a search of the area on Tuesday morning.

Sources said bodies of slain militants couldn't be recovered as they were lying in mined area. However, all efforts are being made to recover the bodies.

Sources don't rule out the possibility of one or two more militants following the infiltra-

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

tors and returning to PoJK after their colleagues were eliminated by the troops.

Both militants visibly seem to be Pakistanis and were in possession of arms, explosives and ammunition. They were planning to infiltrate into the Indian territory with a view to carry out fideyean attacks either on security personnel or crowded areas.

"A major terror plot has been foiled with the killing of infiltrators," they said.

The latest infiltration bid in Nowshera sector comes close on the heels of the arrest of a Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) guide,

who also worked for an intelligence unit of the Pakistani army, in an injured condition on Sunday.

Tabarak Hussain (32), a resident of Sabzokt village of Kotli in Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK), was arrested for the second time in the past six years while trying to infiltrate into this side from across the border.

On August 11, two fideyean had targeted an Army camp at village Parghal in Rajouri district in which five Army personnel were martyred. In retaliatory action, Army gunned down both the fideyean, who too were believed to be Pakistanis.

This was after a long time that fideyean attack took place in the border district of Rajouri.

Sources said the militants were trying to make infiltration attempts in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch on the Line of Control but alert troops have foiled majority of such bids successfully.

There were also reports that the militants from South

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'Existing policy illegal, irrational, without any logical basis'

DB deprecates practice of importing officers from other depts to RTC

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 23: Division Bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal has deprecated the practice of importing officers from other departments to the Road Transport Corporation (RTC) for being in contravention of the Rules, illegal, irrational and without any logical basis. Moreover, it has set-aside the direction passed by the Single Judge regarding promotion to the post of Deputy General Manager (Maintenance) and General Manager in the Corporation.

The Single Judge by virtue of judgment and order dated April

Direction passed by Single Judge for promotion set-aside

28, 2022 passed in petition titled Syed Arshid Tramboob Versus State of J&K and Others had held the petitioner entitled to the promotion as Deputy General Manager (Maintenance) in the Corporation with effect from February 11, 2013 and as General Manager with effect from February 11, 2018 with all consequential service benefits.

Further, the Single Judge had directed the Corporation to consider the case of petitioner in the light of the observations made in the judgment and pass appropriate orders of substantive promotion of the petitioner.

The case of the petitioner before the Writ Court was that

while he was representing for his confirmation in the post of DGM and consequent promotion to the post of General Manager, the Corporation vide communication dated November 26, 2015 requested the Administrative Department for appointment of Abdul Hamid Wani, Drilling Engineer in the Geology and Mining Department as General Manager on deputation.

The judgment and order of the Single Judge was challenged by the Corporation before the Division Bench on the ground that the findings were recorded by the Single Judge without taking into consideration the availability of the post of GM, which

post otherwise in terms of the Rules was required to be filled up by selection amongst other eligible candidates and thus the direction by the Writ Court, which is based on presumptions and assumptions, cannot sustain the test of law and is liable to be set-aside.

After hearing both the sides, the Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed, "The Corporation is empowered to lay down criteria for promotion and all the promotions shall be made on the ground of merit, ability, performance, besides good report and the

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Patil, Wani, Bhalla meet Rahul; apprise him of J&K situation

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 23: Newly appointed JKPC president Vikar Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla accompanied by Member Parliament and Incharge J&K affairs of the party, Rajni Patil, today called on AICC vice president, Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi and apprised him of the political situation in J&K.

The delegation apprised the senior AICC leader about political scenario and ongoing organizational activities of the party. The leaders put forth their suggestions for strengthening the party in J&K.

Gandhi gave patient hearing to the leaders and assured them that he will discuss the matter as earlier with concerned Ministries. The delegation discussed the problem of unem-

ployment in the wake of inadequate job opportunities in J&K, while highlighting agony of frus-



JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani along with Rajni Patil (MP) and working president Raman Bhalla at a meeting with AICC vice president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday.

trated youth. They said that Jammu and Kashmir was "under the direct assault" from New Delhi and the Government of India should restore full

Statehood to J&K and conduct the elections in a free and fair manner.

Patil while speaking on the occasion claimed that people want change, as BJP has failed on all fronts of governance, especially unchecked price rise,

record unemployment besides other anti-employees, anti-trade, anti-poor politics in J&K. She said that people of all sections are completely fed up with the BJP's performance in the Government and its policies, as there is uncontrolled price rise, record unemployment in J&K. She said that Congress has been on forefront to oppose the anti-people policies being imposed on the people through back door by the "bureaucrats Government," as there is no elected Government in J&K for three and half years, now the people of different sections are being forced to swallow the bitter pills, as they have no representation or forum to raise their voice against the "anti people policies of the BJP through bureaucratic system."

Having failed to give employ-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Hybrid militant, OGW arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: Security forces today arrested a hybrid militant and an Over Ground Worker (OGW) of Lashkar-e-Toiba in Sopore area of North Kashmir.

An official said that on the basis of specific information regarding movement of 2 suspected militants, joint parties of Police Component Rafiabad, 22 Rashtriya Rifles and 92 CRPF were conducting nakas/checking on multiple simultaneous MVCP Grid at Nowpora Six Way Junction, MRF Chowk, Bahrapora Bridge Sonawani Bridge and at Behrapora Seeloo Bridge.

He said that during the checking of vehicles this evening, the naka party at Behrapora Seeloo bridge observed a suspicious movement of a vehicle towards Seeloo

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Govt can recover losses from pension: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 23: The High Court in a well celebrated judgment today held that the Government can recover the losses to the public exchequer by the retired or in-service employee from his pension.

Challenging the order issued in May last year by the Government, whereby the petitioner-Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat has been served with Article of Charges and statement of imputation in support of each charge and has been asked to submit his written statement of defence and his post-retiral benefits - monthly pension, gratuity and leave salary has been stopped till then.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar while deciding his plea has held that the Government is well within its right to conduct departmental proceedings against a

Government Officer or Government employee (serving or retired) to find out and determine the amount of loss caused to the Government by negligence or fraud of such employee and recover the same from his pension.

Such departmental enquiry, Court added, shall be restricted only to the determination of financial loss caused to the Government by the delinquent government employee and would not be applied or made use of for the purposes of imposing the punishment prescribed under Rule 30 of the Rules of 1956.

Court said the impugned order of May, 2021 issued in respect of the petitioner may be proceeded only for the purposes of determining the amount on account of loss, if any, caused by

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Pahalgal accident: another ITBP jawan dies; death toll 8

NEW DELHI, Aug 23:

The death toll in the bus accident that took place Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgal last week has risen to eight after another ITBP personnel succumbed to injuries, officials said today.

Seven personnel were killed in the accident while 32 others, including two Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, were injured when their bus fell into a gorge near Pahalgal on August 16.

They were returning to their base after completing the Amarnath Yatra duty.

Critically injured Assistant Sub Inspector Nandan Singh succumbed around 11:30 pm on Monday at the SKIMS hospital in Srinagar, an officer of the border force said.

A total of eight Indo-Tibetan

Border Police (ITBP) personnel have been killed in this accident, he said.

the AIIMS trauma centre in Delhi for specialised treatment. Union Home Minister Amit



Senior ITBP officers paying rich tribute to ASI Nandan Singh in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Three critically injured personnel were recently flown in from Srinagar and admitted to

Shah had visited them at the trauma centre last week and taken (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Adani firms offer to buy 26 pc stake in NDTV

NEW DELHI, Aug 23:

Adani group firms today made an open offer worth Rs 493 crore for buying an additional 26 per cent stake in NDTV Ltd, following the acquisition of nearly 30 per cent shareholding in the company by way of conversion of warrants.

If the open offer is successful, the Adani group will become the majority shareholder in the broadcaster with over 55 per cent stake.

Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AMG Media Networks Ltd, has exercised its warrants in RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd (RRPR) following which it has a 29.18 per cent stake in the broadcaster.

RRPR is a promoter group company of NDTV.

Bailable warrant against Rubaiya

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 23: Special Judge TADA Court Ashwani Sharma today issued a bailable warrant against Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, after she did not appear for cross-examination in a case related to her abduction by the JKLF in 1989.

Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, one of the accused in the case, appeared before the court from Delhi's Tihar Jail via video conference.

He once again insisted on his physical appearance while turning down the court's offer of legal aid or amicus, standing counsel for the CBI Monika Kohli said.

On July 15, Rubaiya had identified Malik and three others as the ones who took her captive. Rubaiya was abducted near

Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989 when her father was the Union Home Minister and freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh Government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released five terrorists in exchange.

Rubaiya, who stays in Tamil Nadu, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over investigation into the case in early 1990.

"Rubaiya had to appear before the court for cross-examination (on Tuesday) but she remained absent. The court has issued a bailable warrant against her to appear before the court on the next date of hearing on September 21," the CBI counsel said.

Kohli said Malik once again pressed for physical appearance so that he could cross-question the witnesses in the case even as the court offered him legal aid or amicus which he declined to accept. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)