

**Punjab submits report, MHA Panel visits Ferozpur**

CHANDIGARH/  
FEROZPUR, Jan 7:  
A Central team probing the "serious lapses" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security during his Ferozpur tour visited the town today and interacted with senior officials, while the Punjab Government submitted a report to the Centre saying an FIR has been registered in the matter.

The three-member committee (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

**CBI nabs AGE, JE taking graft**

JAMMU, Jan 7: The Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) today arrested two Engineers posted in Military Engineering Services (MES) at Sattari Cantonment while taking corruption of Rs 20,000 red handed from a contractor.

They have been identified as Assistant Garrison Engineer (AGE) Mohammad Imranullah posted in Buildings and Roads Division-I and Junior Engineer Mahesh Chander Gangwar.

(Contd on page 9 Col 2)

**SMVDSB, Rajouri Panchayat bag Water Awards**

JAMMU, Jan 7: Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today announced 3rd National Water Awards.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) got the first rank in 'Best Institutions/RWA/Religious Organization for Campus usage while village Jamola in Rajouri district got 2nd rank on 'Best Village Panchayat' in North Zone.

**2 OGWs held in Doda**

JAMMU, Jan 7: Doda Police today arrested two Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of militants who were planning to kill a surrendered militant and instigating youth to take up militant ranks in the district.

SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom told the Excelsior that Doda Police acted on a tip off after developing inputs that two OGWs were exploiting Social Media to lure youth into militancy.

**7-day quarantine for Intl passengers**

NEW DELHI, Jan 7:  
With COVID-19 infection rising rapidly, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) today issued additional preventive measures requiring all international passengers coming to the country to home quarantine for seven days.

"All travellers (including those 2 percent selected for random testing on arrival and were found negative) will undergo home quarantine for seven days (Contd on page 9 Col 7)

**Mehbooba asks people to unite against Govt move of providing land to outsiders**

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti today asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to join hands against the Government move to provide land of the place to outsiders, otherwise, there will be no land left for the local youth.

Speaking to reporters at the grave of her father at Bijbehara on his death anniversary, she said: "Kashmiris, Dogras, Bakerwalas and all others must get united at this stage and if they won't unite now, local youth will find it difficult to step out as no land will be left for them," she said, adding that there is need not to lose hope but to fight.

**Vaishnodevi shrine, Patnitop, Baderwah receive snowfall Jammu-Sgr NH again closed, 3000 vehicles stranded**

MeT forecasts heavy snowfall in Kashmir, red alert sounded

Gopal Sharma/  
Fayaz Bukhari

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Jan 7: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was again closed for vehicular traffic after fresh landslides in Ramban sector today while many areas across J&K including Trikuta hills of Mata Vaishnodevi and tourist resorts of Baderwah and Patnitop in Jammu region experienced season's first snowfall.

As most parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall today, the Weatherman has forecast very heavy snowfall and issued a Red alert for Kashmir with authorities saying that they are geared up to meet the challenge.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, told Excelsior that in view of the forecast of heavy snowfall, adequate measures have been taken for snow clearance and providing timely services to the people.

"We have established control rooms at every district for dealing with exigencies and essential services. Men and machinery for snow clearance have been placed across Kashmir in a state of readiness. The first preference will be given to hospitals, fire stations and other essential services so that they are able to provide timely services to people. Transformers have already been sent to forward and other areas case of damage to water supply schemes. "We have sufficient stock of petrol, diesel and LPG besides ration", he added.

Kashmir received fresh snowfall today with intensity of the snow increasing in the evening. Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and hills witnessed fresh snowfall since morning while it started snowing in the Valley in the evening.

The Meteorological Department has issued an advisory for Red alert till January 8 evening, saying that J&K would receive heavy to very heavy snowfall in the next two days following which there is possibility of gradual improvement in the weather conditions from January 9 morning.

The MeT in the advisory said that the surface and air traffic may get affected due to the prevalent weather conditions, adding that the landslides and avalanche may occur at vulnerable spots as well.

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

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Mata Vaishnodevi shrine on Trikuta hills experiences season's first snowfall on Friday. Another pic on page 9.

— Excelsior/Romesh Mengi

so that damaged transformers are replaced immediately", he said. He said that pipes and other material have been kept ready in

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

**Survey being conducted for strengthening wireless network All units of Ladakh Police connected with POLNET for better communication**

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 7: Keeping in view the strategic importance of the cold desert region, all the units of the Ladakh Police in Leh and Kargil districts have been connected with POLNET for better communication while as survey is being conducted for strengthening of wireless network. Moreover, possibility is being explored for Ham Radio mediums as options of communication during any emergency situation.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Ladakh Police was facing acute communication challenges owing to the mountainous terrain, which prevents the line of sight, and accordingly

the issue was discussed in numerous meetings chaired by Advisor Umang Narula, who is also Administrative Secretary of the Home Department of the Union Territory. Few months back it was decided that POLNET, which is a satellite based wide area network for the modernization of Police Telecommunication, would be used for better communication among the police units of the Ladakh Police.

"Now, the work on the project has been completed after hectic efforts and almost all the units have the facility of POLNET for communication with each other", sources informed, adding "POLNET is an amalgamation of different latest VSAT technologies and has overcome the communication constraints of Ladakh Police up to large extent".

They further informed that even efforts are being made to strengthen and upgrade the existing wireless network of Ladakh Police and that would be an added advantage for all the units in both the districts of the cold desert region.

"Even the shadow villages which don't have communication facility at all will be integrated with the wireless network as bet-

ter communication links with the civilians particularly in the villages situated along the Line of Control with Pakistan and Line of Actual Control with China would be of immense help for security forces in maintaining vigil", sources said.

They further said, "the Ladakh Union Territory administration is also exploring various means of communication suitable for serving the remote areas in case of emergency situations", adding "even Police Department is exploring the options of community and Ham Radio medi-

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

**Terror on last legs in Kashmir, people fed up with violence: LG**

Change in Land Laws was must to boost investments

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that terrorism is on its last legs in Kashmir, people of the Valley were also fed up with violence, they want development like other parts of the world and public support for extremism is ending.

He stated this in an interview to Gulf News during his four-day visit to Dubai in which the Jammu and Kashmir Government signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with top business houses of Dubai for investments in the Union Territory.

To a question that conflict in Kashmir could be a bottleneck in attracting foreign investments, Sinha said going by the data, you will find that terrorism is on its last legs in the Valley.

"Things on ground are not bad as is being propagated by certain vested interests. There are people who want to keep it like that and they are doing this to give negative perception to the world," he added.

Importantly, the Lieutenant Governor said, people of Kashmir are fed up with violence and want development to industries, where they will set up

"If we don't give land to industries, where they will set up

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)



Labourers walk along highway during rains in Jammu on Friday. (UNI)

**'Vested interests giving negative perception to world'**

Change in Land Laws was must to boost investments

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(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

**Crossing 150 cr vaccination shows India's new found confidence: PM**

KOLKATA, Jan 7:

Lauding India's achievement of crossing the milestone of 150 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said it reflected the country's new-found confidence, pride and self-reliance, as he inaugurated the second campus of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute here over video conference from New Delhi.

The Prime Minister said India's feat of reaching the vaccine landmark in the first week of the first month of the year itself meant the country has taken less than a year to administer 150 crore doses. It is a significant achievement and symbol of the will power of the country. It denotes omicron variant, the shield of 150 crore vaccines doses becomes all the more important, the Prime Minister said.

The COVID-19 vaccination started in the country from January 16, 2021

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Union Ministers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Dr Subhas Sarkar, Shantanu Thakur, John Barla and Nisith Pramanik were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, he (Contd on page 9 Col 5)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing during the inauguration of second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata through video conferencing in New Delhi on Friday. (UNI)

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(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

**Chug, Dr Jitendra likely to attend BJP to hold joint Core Group meeting of UT, districts for first time tomorrow**

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Jan 7: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is holding joint Core Group meeting of J&K UT and all its districts for the first time on January 9 at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar here.

Among others, national general secretary of the Party and incharge J&K and Ladakh Union Territories, Tarun Chug, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh who is also the member of J&K Core Group of the party and Seh Prabhari, J&K, Ashish Sood will participate in the meeting which besides, the organizational issues will discuss the prevailing situation in the UT as well as the recent security lapse in Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's security during his visit to Punjab.

According to sources, the party for the first time has decided to hold the Core Group meetings of districts and UT jointly to create a more liaison and understanding among the party men and further strengthen party in the UT. This practice has been evolved by the party all over the country from this year, sources said.

The joint Core Group meeting will be attended by the party's Core Group members of all districts of J&K as well as heads of Party Morchas, sources said, adding the meeting will be chaired by party's J&K UT president, Ravinder Raina, while MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma, party national secretary, Dr Narinder Singh, four general secretaries including Ashok Kaul, Dr D K Manyal, Sunil Sharma and Vibodh Gupta besides former Minister, Sat Sharma and its chief spokesperson, Sunil Sethi will participate in it.

Talking to Excelsior, party national general secretary, Tarun Chug said that the main agenda of the meeting will be further expanding BJP's base and strengthening the party in the J&K UT by bringing more people into party fold. The party will devise strategy during the Core Group meeting in this regard, he added. (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

**Possibility being explored for Ham Radio mediums**

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(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

**3 JeM militants including 2 foreigners killed**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Three Jash-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants including two foreigners were killed and an Army officer was injured in an overnight encounter in Budgam district today.

Based on a specific input generated by police regarding presence of militants in Zolwa

\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

Chadoora area of Budgam, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police and Army's 50RR last evening in the area.

"During the search operation, as the presence of militants was ascertained they fired indiscriminately upon the joint



Security forces stand guard near encounter site at Chadoora in Budgam. Excelsior/Shakeel

search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter. The security forces evacuated the civilians trapped around the encounter site. "To avoid any collateral damage due to darkness, the operation was suspended during night hours", an official said

However, in the wee hours, the operation resumed, resulting in the killing of three militants of JeM. An Army officer (Contd on page 9 Col 3)

**Another IAS officer, 14 yatrias test +ve Ex-MLC dies of COVID, 542 new cases in J&K**

\*GMC-J suspends offline classes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: An ex-MLC today died of COVID-19 while surge in cases continued as Jammu and Kashmir reported 542 fresh cases and Ladakh recorded 21 positives as four more micro-containment zones were declared in Jammu district and GMC Jammu suspended offline classes of all MBBS/BSc/paramedical students with immediate effect.

Fateh Mohammad, former two-time MLC of Congress and ex-Chairman of JAKFED died of ailments in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu today. He was positive for COVID-19. He was a resident of Gandhi Nagar.

Choudhary Hafizullah, Additional SP and son of Fateh Mohammad said the last rites were performed as per the COVID protocol. Meanwhile, another senior IAS officer today tested positive for COVID-19. He was found infected for second time as he had tested positive during first wave of the virus also. Fourteen pilgrims of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji shrine and eight employees of Trends (Contd on page 9 Col 5)

wants us to pick up guns and stones so that they can kill us but Government returns all what was snatched from us along with



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti addressing party workers at Bijbehara in Anantnag on Friday. — Excelsior/Sajjad Dar

we will neither pick up stones nor guns but will continue our peaceful struggle till the interest," she said. She said that they will follow (Contd on page 9 Col 7)