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Army capable to foil infiltration bids: GOC

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The overall defence preparedness of the Indian Army has received a "huge impetus" in the 20 months since the ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, says Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen ADS Aujla, describing the situation at the LoC as very much under control.

However, whenever the opportunity comes, "attempts

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Vivek, Kohli among 4 get HM's medal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Four officers/officials of J&K Police



Chandan Kohli, SSP Sachit Sharma DySP

were among 63 officers/officials who have been awarded the Union Home Minister's

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

New school timings in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) today ordered a change in the school timing with effect from November 1 in the Valley.

An order issued by the DSEK said that the class work in all the Government as well recognized private schools of Kashmir division shall be from 10 am to 3 pm within the Municipal limits of Srinagar.

The class work in schools

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Winter session in old building

NEW DELHI, Oct 31:

The winter session of Parliament could be held in the old building as some construction work of the new building may stretch beyond the stipulated completion time, sources said today.

The Government had aimed to complete the new Parliament building before the winter session which usually starts from the third week of November.

The building is a once in a lifetime and complex project

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Bridge collapse death toll rises to 134

MORBI, Oct 31:

Police today arrested nine persons, including four from the Oreva group that was managing the Morbi suspension bridge, and filed a case against firms tasked with maintenance and operation of the British era structure which collapsed, killing 134 people.

Video footage emerged of the moments before Sunday evening's deadly collapse, showing the bridge snapping in a few seconds, taking down

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

As militants spell doom for them, 16 KP families demand registration as migrants

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Oct 31: Sixteen Kashmiri Pandit families, who migrated from twin villages in South Kashmir's Shopian district amid 'targeted' killings of members of their community, since August this year demanded that the administration register them as "migrants".

Of the 13 families comprising 43 members, 10 had left Choudharygund village in Shopian district and reached Jammu on October 26. The remaining three had reached the city earlier while the three KP families from adjoining Choutigam village had migrated in August this year after two brothers were attacked by militants in this tiny village on

Rs 1000.77 cr transferred to beneficiaries under DBT Union Home Secy to review implementation of various flagship schemes in J&K UT today

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Oct 31: Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla will review implementation of flagship schemes of the Government of India in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow in a meeting to be attended by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments.

The schemes whose status will be ascertained by the Union Home Secretary are PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), One Nation One Ration Card, Aadhar Saturation, Direct Benefit Transfer, privatization of power distribution and roll out of smart metering, Kissan Credit Card Scheme, PM Kissan Samman Nidhi, Digital Payment for Purchase of Fertilizer (One Nation One Fertilizer), Developing Districts as Export Hubs, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), PM Formulation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and Pradhan

1.15 lakh Smart Meters installed, process for 6 lakh more on

Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

As per the information available with EXCELSIOR, under PMGKAY, J&K Government was allocated 219928.83 metric tons of food grains between April 2022 and October 2022 and against this 205092.23 metric tons has been distributed as such there is an achievement of 93.25%.

Similarly, One Nation One Ration Card scheme has been fully implemented with automation of sales depot, installation of POS devices, digitization of ration cards, Aadhar seeding of ration cards and beneficiaries. Moreover, the J&K Government achieved the distinction of having 91.04% Aadhar seeded beneficiaries. Under Direct Benefit Transfer, an amount of Rs 1000.77 crore has been transferred to the accounts of 39,36,008 beneficiaries.

As far as privatization of power distribution and roll out of Smart Metering is concerned, the Government of India has deputed consultant to J&K UT as after detailed analysis of report of Transaction Advisor as part of Stage-1 consultancy assignment, the J&K Government requested the Union Power Ministry for more elaborate and detailed discussion.

About 1.15 lakh smart meters have already been installed and process is on for installation of 6 lakh more meters. Further, project proposal for remaining 14.95 lakh meters (consumer and DT meters) has already been approved under RDSS scheme.

As against 13,67,748 farmers eligible under Kissan Credit Card Scheme, 12,84,058 have already received Kissan Credit Cards as such there is an

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

'Will build corruption-free J&K'

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI/ JAMMU, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today virtually attended the UT-level inaugural function of Vigilance Awareness Week.

Leading the crusade against corruption, Sinha administered the integrity pledge to Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Heads of Departments, senior officers and officials to mark the beginning of the Vigilance Awareness Week across J&K.

"It's our resolve to build corruption-free J&K and no one indulging in corrupt practices will be spared", said the Lt Governor.

Observing that the most powerful weapon against corruption is active citizenry, the Lt

Governor urged all to join hands and pledge to root this menace out of the system.

On the occasion, he also extended his greetings to the people on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and paid tribute to Bharat Ratna



LG Manoj Sinha addressing the Vigilance Awareness Week function on Monday.

'Admn, Hill Councils, PRIs working for people' Ladakh can now implement plans for overall development: Mathur

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 31: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, today attended the celebrations of the Foundation Day of UT Ladakh as the chief guest at Eco-Cultural Park. He flagged off the Run for Unity on the occasion of National Unity Day.

He inaugurated the food stalls of various self-help groups (SHGs) in the Leh main market and also the departmental exhibition stalls, including digital van, at Eco Park. He virtually laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects in Ladakh.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson; Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan; Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillors from LAHDC Leh and Kargil;

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Need to stand firm against enemies: PM

KEVADIA (Gujarat), Oct 31:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that enemies were trying to break India's unity and the country should stand firm against such attempts.

After paying tribute to India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat, Modi remembered those who died in Sunday's Morbi bridge collapse incident.

"I am in Kevadia, but my heart goes out to those who died in the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy," the PM said as he got emotional.

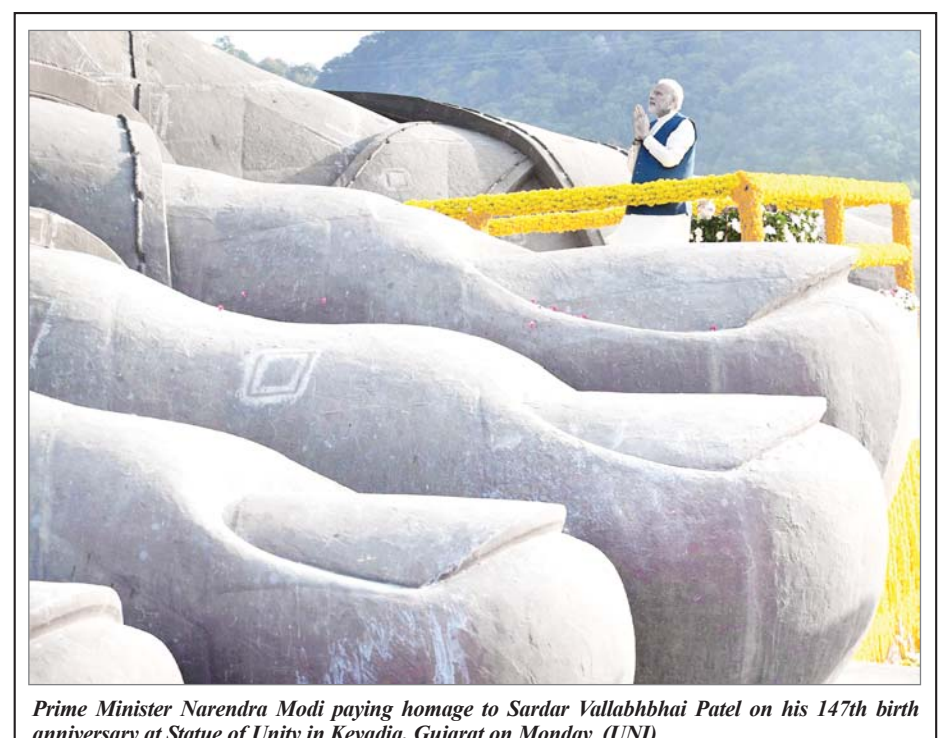
Troupes from across country had come to Kevadia to perform traditional dances, but the programme was cancelled due to the present circumstances, he said.

At least 134 people were killed after the suspension bridge on the Machchhu river in Gujarat's Morbi city collapsed on Sunday evening.

The Prime Minister assured the Government was standing shoulder to shoulder with the families of the victims.

The State Government has

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 147th birth anniversary at Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat on Monday. (UNI)

Govt works out detailed mechanism to address issues raised during B2V4

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Government is working on a mechanism to ensure that issues and demands raised by the people during ongoing Back to Village 4 (B2V4) programme are categorized and sent to the concerned department for addressing them. The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) will be taken into confidence and kept informed about the issues which can be addressed and which not.

"After B2V4 ends on November 3, the Government officers who toured various villages will prepare detailed notes of the issues raised by the people during their field visits and stay in the rural areas. Based on the reports, Rural Development Department and the Planning Department (PDMD) will make out detailed analysis of the demands and issues projected by the people in different rural areas," official sources told the Excelsior.

"A detailed follow-up action will start the very next day of conclusion of B2V4 and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) including District

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Top brass of Admn to analyze reports

Development Councils (DDCs), Block Development Councils (BDCs) and Panchayats will be kept fully informed," they said.

This time, they added, the priorities are very clear. Whatever has to be delivered in the rural areas by different departments has been prioritized. Jan Abhiyan was undertaken before start of the B2V4. The administration is fully sensitive to the people's demands, they said.

Sources said as soon as the B2V4 concludes on November 3, the Planning Development and Monitoring Department which is receiving data from the Government officers/officials visiting rural areas as part of the programme will compile a detailed report of eight days long programme. Simultaneously, the Rural Development Department will also come into action.

The report will be analyzed by top brass of the civil administration.

"There will be certain issues and demands raised by the people which may be impossible to

be considered while all other demands will be forwarded to concerned departments for time-bound action and reporting to the concerned Panchayati Raj Institutions who will keep the people informed," the sources said, adding that action will be time-bound.

The people must feel that the issues raised by them during B2V4 before the visiting officers have been adequately discussed by the administration and follow-up action has been initiated.

"It will be endeavour of the administration that most of the issues raised by the villagers during visit of the officers/officials are addressed. However, there may be certain demands and issues which the administration may find it difficult to address," the sources said.

They added that some demands may pertain to Central Government, others to UT Government, Panchayati Raj Institutions like DDCs, BDCs, Panchayats, District Development Commissioners

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Srinagar gets Gold, Ramban Silver Award for excellence in e-Governance

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 31: The Srinagar district has achieved a major milestone by getting selected for National e-Governance Gold Award for Project/Initiative 'Gaash', while district Ramban bagged Silver Award under the category of "Excellence in District Level Initiative in e-Governance" of the National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2021-2022.

The 'Gaash' project is an e-Learning initiative of District Administration Srinagar with special emphasis on gamified learning in the age group of 12-18. With the introduction of the project, a number of students as well as teachers showed

enhanced interest in the project resulting in overall improvement in academic performance.

Through the project 'Gaash', the students were able to understand basic concepts in Science and Mathematics very easily in comparison to normal classroom transactions.

Speaking about the project 'Gaash', Deputy Commissioner,

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Management. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in his Tweet has congratulated the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad and his team for getting selected for the project 'Gaash' for National e-Governance Gold Award under the category "Excellence in District Level Initiative in e-Governance."



Mohd Aijaz Asad DC Srinagar Mussarat Islam DC Ramban

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In his tweet, the Lieutenant Governor said, "A well-deserved Gold for Team @Srinagaradmin in e-Governance." The tweet further added, "Congratulations and best wishes for outstanding work @asadamajaz and officials for translating the grand vision of digitally empowered society into reality."

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

DGP accuses Pak of smuggling weapons, drugs through drones

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh today accused Pakistan of being fully behind smuggling of weapons and drugs using drones along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border.

"The Pakistani authorities are fully behind this, and their Rangers are posted near the bases where these drones are launched. These terrorist acts would not be possible without the Pakistani army, and they have their support," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a National Unity Day function here.

The DGP said that they are working to counter smuggling of weapons and narcotics from

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

4 militant associates arrested in South Kashmir Infiltration bid foiled in Kupwara; militant killed

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: Security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara killing an infiltrating militant while four militant associates were arrested in South Kashmir today.

A Defence spokesman said here today that one militant was killed when he was trying to infiltrate into the Jugamund area of Kupwara early today.

The spokesman said that based on specific input of Jammu and Kashmir and further corroborated by other intelligence agencies, a joint operation was launched in the general area of Jugamund area of Kupwara

by Army and police.

He said that taking advantage of bad weather and visibility conditions, a militant was seen trying to infiltrate onto own side of the LoC. He said that the alert troops kept the militant under strict surveillance.

The spokesman said that when he reached closer to the ambush party, he was challenged. "Sensing danger, the terrorist fired on the party and tried to flee," he said.

The militant was, however, neutralized after effective fire was brought down on him. "Search of the area resulted in recovery of an AK series rifle and other war like stores," he said.

A police spokesman said that

security forces arrested two militant associates of proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Pulwama.

He said that police in Pulwama along with 55 RR of Army and CRPF arrested two militant associates JeM, identified as Adnan Shafi Bhat son of Mohd Shafi Bhat resident of Ashminder and Yawar Rashid Sheikh son of Abdul Rashid Sheikh, resident of Karimabad.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one pistol along with one magazine and 12 rounds were recovered from their possession. During investigation, two grenades were also recovered upon their disclosure. The

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)