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HC directs Cabinet Secy to form Committee to resolve Centaur issue

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: The High Court today directed the Government of India to constitute a committee to settle the issue of Centaur Lake view Hotel and directed for maintaining of status quo on the leased land till decision is taken.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar has disposed of the petition filed by Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) which is under lease occupation of hotel

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

SRTC employees not entitled to retiral benefits: DB

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: The Division Bench of High Court set aside the writ court judgment granting retiral benefits to the employees of State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) at par with the employees of earlier Government Transport Undertaking (GTU) and left it to the Government to take note of the communication of the Corporation in this regard and convey its decision as it finds

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Ex-ZEO murdered, accused held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: An ex-Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) was murdered while two others were left injured by a man who attacked them with a sharp edged weapon in Khour area of Jammu today.

According to Police sources, the ex-ZEO identified as Babu Ram son of Sita Ram, resident of Narayana village in Khour tehsil, was attacked with a sharp edged weapon (Parthi) by a person namedly Ashok Kumar son of

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Centre moves SC on release of 6

Rajiv killing convicts

NEW DELHI, Nov 17:

Facing criticism from the Congress, the Government today moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of its order for premature release of six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

The Centre said the order granting remission to the convicts, who had assassinated the former Prime Minister, was passed without affording it adequate opportunity for hearing

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Temps plummet across Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather for next 24 hours and light rain and snowfall on weekend, mercury plummeted in Kashmir and Mughal Road that remained closed for 4 days due to snowfall re-opened for traffic today.

Authorities today reopened the historic Mughal Road, connecting twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with Shopian, for traffic.

The vehicles were permitted

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Several weapons, licenses seized

Rajouri man, others held in Hyderabad in fake gun license racket

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Hyderabad Police have busted a fake gun license racket which had its origin in Rajouri district of Jammu region by arresting a native of the border district and others and recovered fake licenses and weapons.

The racket has been busted with the arrest of seven persons including the mastermind from Rajouri district who has been identified as Altaf Hussain.

Real weapons were being procured by using fake licenses prepared by the accused, official reports said.

A Task Force of Hyderabad Police has seized 30 single bore weapons, three double bore

'Farmers income raised, brought at par with developed States'
J&K marching towards prosperity; soon we will see it the way PM, people want: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Nov 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said that Jammu and Kashmir is definitely moving ahead towards prosperity and shortly we will see J&K which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and people want to see.

Addressing the gathering of farmers and agriculturists from around the country at Baba Jitto auditorium of SKUAST Jammu, Sinha said under guidance of the Prime Minister, the agricultural reforms have solved many problems of the farmers.

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

"Income of the farmers has increased," he added.

He said the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought at par with other developed States.

"Some hurdles were there in development process which have been cleared under guidance of the Prime Minister," Sinha said.

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is definitely moving

***Modi assured all support, cooperation for projects**



LG Manoj Sinha at Kisan Mela in Jammu on Thursday.

ahead towards prosperity, the Lieutenant Governor said shortly everyone will see J&K becoming what the Prime Minister and the people want to see.

He added that during last 2-3 years, many efforts were made to understand issues of farmers.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured all possible cooperation and support from the Central Government in imple-

menting recommendations and projects proposed by the Apex Committee," Sinha said.

An official handout said: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Kisan Mela organised by SKUAST Jammu.

He observed that the five-day Assembly of farmers, industry, entrepreneurs, experts will help in developing linkages between various stakeholders to benefit the

farming community.

Underscoring that Agriculture and farmers remain the top priority of the Government, the Lt Governor said, in last two years, an enabling environment has been created for transforming J&K's Agri & Allied Sectors in order to increase farmer income, ensure food security and accelerate UT's economic growth.

Kisan Mela will showcase and deliberate upon the theme of diversification in agriculture which is not only important for assured income to our farming community but also in making agriculture systems more sustainable in the future, he said.

Appreciating the Apex Committee for formulating a future strategy for small and medium-sized farms to ensure access to more profitable markets with reduced cost of farm inputs, Sinha said the holistic development is aimed at IT interventions, infusion of capital, value addition, processing, branding & marketing of agricultural produce supported by agri-business innovations to create

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Omar likely to be new party chief

Farooq steps down as NC president, elections on Dec 5

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is all set to have a new president as Dr Farooq Abdullah has stepped down as the party chief and elections are slated to be held next month.

The vice president of the party and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to be the new president. However, it will be decided in the elections to be held on December 5.

The chief spokesman of the party, Tanvir Sadiq told Excelsior that Abdullah has stepped down as president of the NC and elections will be held at the mausoleum of the party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah at Hazratbal.

Earlier, Abdullah during the meeting of In-charge Segments, district presidents and other provincial office bearers of the party headquarters at Nawa-e-Subha in Srinagar, announced about his stepping down as the



NC leaders Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah at the party meeting in Srinagar on Thursday.

party president. He will, however, continue as the president till the elections are held.

In an emotional speech at the party headquarters with tears in his eyes, Dr Abdullah announced his decision and asked the party leaders to take the reigns of the party in their hands. He said that his health doesn't permit him to head the party anymore.

Abdullah told the party leaders in the meeting to strengthen the party and reach out to the people in

their respective constituencies.

The meeting discussed the party affairs and prevailing situation in the Valley. The party functionaries also informed the party president about the ongoing party activities in their segments.

Abdullah pointed out the challenges being faced by the people and asked them to work closely with the people on ground.

"Our ground cadre has to act as a bridge between administration and the people. While we are

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

4 journos, 2 Govt employees in touch with Baba

Mukhtar Baba mastermind behind threatening scribes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: After resignations by five Kashmiri journalists over the anonymous online threats to over a dozen of them, security agencies have found journalist Mukhtar Baba as the mastermind behind putting out the list of journos accusing them of being informers for security forces.

According to police, a First Information Report, under anti-terrorism law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has been registered and investigations have been launched after the emergence of the list of over a dozen Kashmiri journalists who were accused of

being "collaborators".

An intelligence assessment based on inputs from Central Intelligence Agencies suggest that Baba, visits Pakistan frequently from Turkey and is behind propagating false narrative, grooming youngsters in the Valley for terrorism under the banner of The Resistance Front (TRF), which is an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

It said that Sajjad Gul who is originally from Srinagar is one of the main operatives of the TRF and is also involved in issuing threats. The agency has identified six persons who are in touch with Baba and are providing information to him.

The agencies have identified more than six persons including four journalists and two government employees on the basis of objective evidence. They have recommended a mission-based approach to expansively identify these elements, collect evidence by way of mapping their properties, their telecommunication usage, and their travel within the country and abroad to provide an effective response to the challenge.

Baba, originally a resident of Srinagar, shifted to Nowgam before escaping to Ankara, Turkey. He has built a network of informers from within journalists on the basis of whose inputs he has prepared the current hit list.

"He remained affiliated with terror outfit Hizbullah in the 1990s and was shunted out from the outfit after he was found involved in selling 40 AK series rifles belonging to Hizbullah to another terrorist organization," a dossier about Baba read.

"Thereafter, he remained associated with Masrat Alam-led Muslim League and is notorious for his coercive means to compel journalists and media outlets in the Valley to toe Pakistani and terrorist line in reporting and opinions," it read further.

Sources stated that he has always been close to Pakistani agencies while being active in

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Elections to be held at right time'

Kashmiris suffered lot; need love, relief: Rijiju

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju today said that people of Kashmir were kept in dark for 70 years and they have suffered



Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju in Anantnag on Thursday.

—Excelsior/Sajad Dar

a lot but now they want love and relief.

Talking to reporters after his visit to Ashmuqam at Anantnag, the Minister said that history cannot be changed but people of Kashmir were kept in the dark for

70 years.

"Truth was concealed for over 70 years but I brought the Parliament record of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru before people as history should be presented in its true form not as per opinion because we can't change history," he said.

"People of Kashmir have suffered a lot of difficulties, suppression and other things but time has now come that they need love, care and relief. The Modi Government is working on it, that is why I visited Harde Kichru village in Anantnag," Rijiju said.

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

"We have made a provision to have special courts for trial of heinous crimes like rape, murder and other such crimes and we brought criminal amendment bill in year 2018," he said.

A roadmap for fast track courts besides fast track special courts under POCSO Act has

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Huge reduction in militant activities in J&K: NIA DG
PM to address 'No Money for Terror' conference today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at the third 'No Money for Terror' (NMF-T) Ministerial conference on counter-terrorism financing in New Delhi tomorrow.

The two day conference scheduled for November 18 and 19, will offer a unique platform for participating nations and organizations to deliberate on effectiveness of the current international regime on counter-terrorism financing as well as steps required to address emerging challenges, an official statement ahead of start of the conference, said.

The conference will build on



DG, NIA

gains and learnings of previous two conferences (held in Paris in April 2018 and in Melbourne in November 2019) and will work towards enhancing global cooperation to deny finances to militants and access to permissive jurisdic-

tions to operate.

It will be attended by about 450 delegates from across the world, including Ministers, Heads of multilateral organizations and Financial Action Task Force (FAITF) Heads of Delegations.

"During the Conference, deliberations will be held in four sessions which will focus on 'Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing', 'Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism', 'Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing' and 'International Cooperation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing', the statement said.

The international ministerial

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

1568 migrant voters in Drugmulla DDC, none in Hajin

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Out of two District Development Councils (DDCs), seats in Bandipora and Kupwara districts of North Kashmir where re-polling is being held on December 5 there are no registered migrant voters in DDC constituency, Hajin -A in Bandipora district while 1568 migrant voters are registered in DDC constituency of Drugmulla in Kupwara district.

The elections will be held on December 5 through ballot and authorities have established two booths one for each constituency at Government Girls High School, Talab Tillo, Jammu and Government Middle School Jagti Nagrota.

This was stated by Dr Riaz Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner,

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Ponds being constructed for water

Army builds infra for 450 tanks, 22,000 troops in Ladakh

NEW DELHI, Nov 17:

Amid reports of Chinese buildup across the Line of Actual Control, the Indian Army has built infrastructure for housing 450 tanks and over 22,000 troops in the Eastern Ladakh sector opposite China.

The sources said that to counter the Chinese aggressive movements in the Pangong Tso lake which is both in India and China, Indian Army's Corps of Engineer has inducted new Landing Crafts in both Eastern Ladakh which has given a huge impetus to the patrolling capabilities and induction in men and material. The assault craft can carry 35 troops.

"Habitat and technical storage to include assets for 22,000 troops

and approximately 450 A vehicles/guns have been constructed in the last two years. Focus has now shifted to undertake the construction of Permanent defences and infrastructure to improve defence preparedness in extant working season apart from completion of ongoing projects," sources said.

Highlighting the infrastructure development being done by the Border Roads Organisation along the China border, sources said that presently nine tunnels which include a 2.535 Km long Sela tunnel, which will be the highest bi-lane tunnel in the world once completed. Eleven more tunnels are also under planning.

Meanwhile, having deployed its troops near the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) to prevent any misadventure from China, the Indian Army is making a large number of ponds to get fresh drinking water for the troops even in freezing winters.

"We are making a big number of ponds to cater to the water requirements of the forces deployed there. In forward locations like the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), in Eastern Ladakh, the troops used fresh water from ponds even in freezing winters this year," sources said.

"The water at the surface level gets frozen in extreme winters but underneath, it remains in liquid form. Our troops used the water from these ponds to meet their requirements," they said. (AGENCIES)



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