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Follow us: Daily Excelsior JAMMU, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022 REGD. NO. JK-71/21-23 Vol No. 58 RNI No. 28547/65 No. 322 14 Pages ₹ 6.00

Justice Tashi appointed as EC J&K LSA

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 21: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, has been appointed as Executive Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

A notification in this regard has been issued by the Department of Law, Justice and

SC dismisses appeal on NTs appointments

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Nov 21: The Supreme Court has dismissed the plea seeking benefit of the verdict of High Court with regard to appointment of candidates as Naib Tehsildars (NTs) in 2016.

The bench of Justice M R Shah and Hima Kohli dismissed the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by one Zahoor Ahmad Bhat seeking benefit of judgments of a single bench of High Court whereby the

162 dead in Java earthquake

CIANJUR (INDONESIA), Nov 21: A powerful earthquake killed at least 162 people and injured hundreds on Indonesia's main island today. Terrified residents fled into the street, some covered in blood and debris.

Many of the dead were public-school students who had finished their classes for the day and were taking extra lessons at several Islamic schools when they collapsed, West Java

NIA nabs ultra from airport

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a most-wanted terrorist, carrying a reward of Rs five lakhs, from the Delhi airport here three years after he was declared an absconder and the Interpol issued a Red Corner Notice against him.

Kulwinderjit Singh alias "Khanpuri", who had been associated with terrorist outfits such as the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), was arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday soon after he arrived from

27 promoted as Tehsildars

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 21: Pursuant to the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee and J&K Public Service Commission, Government today ordered regularization of Incharge Tehsildars and promotion of Naib Tehsildars as Tehsildars.

As per the order, a total of 27 officers have been promoted as Tehsildars in J&K Revenue (Gazetted) Service in the Pay Band-2 of Rs 9300-34800 with Grade pay of Rs 4800 (pre-revised) revised to Pay Level 8(47600-151100).

Govt discontinues Air Suvudha forms

JAMMU, Nov 21: The Ministry of Civil Aviation today discontinued the filling of mandatory Air Suvudha forms for international passengers. The Air Suvudha is basically a self declaration to be mandatorily filled by all the international passengers arriving in India wherein they needed to disclose their current health status, recent travel details and

Migrated from Punjab in 50s, were denied reservation After ST status to Paharis, others; Govt to include Valmikis in SC list

Sanjeev Pargal
Social Justice Ministry sends proposal to NCSC

JAMMU, Nov 21: After Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for Pahari Ethnic Tribe, Paddari tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahman, the Government has decided to include Valmikis in the Scheduled Caste list of Jammu and Kashmir who were residing here since 1957-58 after shifting from Punjab but were denied genuine rights and reservation by the previous Governments on the grounds of Article 370 of the Constitution of India.

The Union Ministry of Social Justice today approved the proposal of Jammu and Kashmir Government to include Valmikis in the list of Scheduled Castes in the Union Territory, official sources told the Excelsior.

Following approval by the Social Justice Ministry of the Government of India, the proposal has been forwarded to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for its opinion.

After nod by the National

Commission, which is expected shortly, the proposal will go to the Cabinet and later it has to be approved by both Houses of the Parliament.

The Valmikis/Balmikis enjoyed reservation under Scheduled Caste category across the country but this section which migrated from Punjab in 1957-58 and settled here was denied State Subject rights as well as reservation by all previous Governments in the erstwhile State.

The Valmikis were sent here by then Punjab Chief Minister Partap Singh Kairon on request of then head of the State of Jammu and Kashmir due to strike by the safai karamcharis. However, they didn't return to Punjab and settled here but were neither granted State Subject rights nor included in the SC reservation list causing enormous hardships to them as they couldn't get the State Government jobs.

"It is largely this group that forms part of the community with spelling variations that is

being sought to be included in the Scheduled Castes list," the sources said.

They added that Valmikis/Balmikis enjoyed reservation across the country as well as States as they have been a known Dalit community but many of them remained omitted in Jammu and Kashmir because of special status of erstwhile State.

Sources said inclusion of all castes/communities in the lists of SCs and STs in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to be taken up by the Cabinet after Gujarat elections and bill to this effect could be introduced in the Parliament during Winter Session starting December 7.

As already reported, based on recommendations of Justice G D Sharma Committee report, the Government has also added Pahari Ethnic Tribe, Paddari Tribe and Koli & Gadda Brahman for accord of Scheduled Tribes (ST) status. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has already

cleared the proposal. Gujjars and Bakerwals in Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed ST status and the Government has clarified that their rights will not be diluted.

Paddari tribe is settled mostly in Paddar area of Kishtwar district which is one of the remotest areas in erstwhile Doda district. However, Koli & Gadda Brahmans are spread in different areas. Paharis are mostly based in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region and Baramulla and Kupwara in Kashmir division.

Nine seats in 90-member Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir have been reserved for the STs. Five seats are reserved for STs in Jammu division and four in Kashmir.

The STs enjoyed reservation in jobs, education etc, but they were denied political reservations in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time though such a reservation existed in Lok Sabha and Assemblies across the country. This was, however, after abroga-

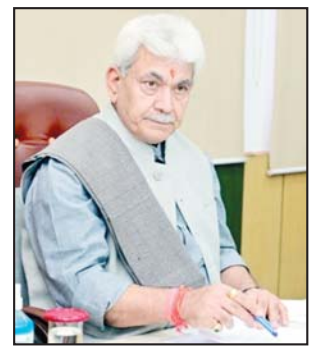
Calls for transparency in system Take action for removal of encroachments: LG to officers

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the working of Revenue Department at the Civil Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor was briefed by the officials on progress made by the Revenue Department on the directions passed in the previous meetings to streamline the delivery of revenue related services and other achievements.

He asked the department to adopt multidimensional approach in its endeavour for bringing transparency in the sys-

tem. "Directions passed in previous meetings should be implemented in time-bound manner to ensure ease of living to citizens. It is the prime duty of the administration to empower people,



make the system and process transparent," Sinha said.

On the steps taken to evict encroachers from State land, he issued directions to take appropriate action as per the law for removal of encroachments and planning for its land use.

Close liaison should be maintained by the Revenue Department with civil administration and police authorities to detect any attempt to encroach upon the State land and safeguard it from unauthorized construction. Officials on the ground must ensure that the poor should not be harassed, said the Lt Governor.

He was also briefed on the implementation of Digital India Land Records Modernization

J&K Bank share price rises to 52-week high

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Nov 21: In a significant spike today, J&K Bank share touched its 52 week-high price at Rs 45.45 on NSE & BSE.

The scrip eventually settled at Rs 44.25 on BSE and Rs 44.20 on NSE registering over 5% growth while witnessing total trading of over 30 million shares during the day. Notably, the share has registered a return in excess of 40% since the declaration of Sep'2022 quarterly / half-yearly results outperforming the sectoral and broader indices.

Celebrating the price-rise at the Bank's corporate headquarters, the MD & CEO Baldev Prakash called it a big moment for the Bank and thanked all the stakeholders especially governments of twin UTs (J&K and Ladakh) for their continued support, Bank's Board of Directors

for their valued guidance and above all Bank's valuable customers and clients for their unflinching trust and loyalty. All the Bank's Vertical Heads, Divisional Heads, GMs, DGMS, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads attended the brief celebratory



function through video-conferencing on the occasion.

While addressing the Bank's staff on the occasion, the MD & CEO said, "Our share has touched the 52-week high price

with Bank's market capitalization crossing the milestone of Rs 4000 crore to make it a memorable day for all of us. I believe, it is the fructification of individual efforts that each one of you are putting in everyday to achieve the business goals of the Bank that includes improving the asset quality by reducing NPAs and managing SMAs", adding, "Riding on the back of healthier financial numbers, planned organisational transformation and improving work-culture; our market perception is on a rising curve with the value proposition being acknowledged by the market players. We must ensure that the scrip maintains the upward trend by delivering improved results on a sustained basis."

"And I assure all the stakeholders that we won't allow anything to impede our journey," he said.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

NC committed to steer J&K to peace, development India can use G-20 presidency to engage Pak over Kashmir issue: Farooq

Gopal Sharma
 JAMMU, Nov 21: Former J&K Chief Minister and top National Conference leader, Dr Farooq Abdullah today said that India can use G-20 presidency to engage Pakistan to address Kashmir issue and also help the world to end the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"I am tired of advocating dialogue with Pakistan that is dubbed as 'anti-national'. I'm happy that we (India) are assuming the presidency of G-20 next month and I hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be successful in ending the Russia-Ukraine war that had badly hit the economy of the world,"



Farooq said at the sidelines of a joining function here.

The National Conference leader said it would be better for the global population if India is able to defuse the crisis.

"Secondly, we have a problem with our neighbouring country, Pakistan over Kashmir.

There can be a possibility to seek a solution to the issue to end our hardships," Abdullah said.

Pertinent to mention here that India will assume the G-20 presidency for a year on December 1, 2022 and chair over 200 meetings that aim to secure global economic growth and prosperity. Together, the G-20 countries represent more than 80% of the world's GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and 60 per cent of the world's population.

Asked whether he favours dialogue with Pakistan, Abdullah said, "When I bat for dialogue with Pakistan,

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Rijiju, Karan Singh discuss J&K, history

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and senior Congress leader Karan Singh met here today and discussed Jammu and Kashmir and history.

The meeting between the two came days after Rijiju had attacked Singh over the events preceding Kashmir's accession. Rijiju has been critical of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru over the Kashmir issue.

"I had a worthwhile discussion with former Regent, Sadar-i-Riyasat and Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Karan Singh.

"At 36, Dr Karan Singh became the youngest Cabinet Minister in 1967," Rijiju tweeted sharing pictures of their meeting.

"We spent some quality time having tête-à-tête about his life,

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Planning Deptt, RDD to come out with framework shortly For first time, Panchayat Development Index being prepared in J&K UT

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Nov 21: For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, Panchayat Development Index is being prepared on the lines of District Good Governance Index and the task has been assigned to the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department and Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that after ascertaining the success of development of District Good Governance Index, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to come out with

Panchayat Development Index in the next few months so as to ascertain impact of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) at the grass-root level.

The issue of preparation of Panchayat Development Index was discussed in numerous high-level meetings and latest deliberations were held few days back in a meeting of the Administrative Secretaries chaired by the Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta.

Accordingly, the Chief Secretary has directed that the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department shall develop a framework of Panchayat Development Index

in consultation with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj within a period of one month, sources informed.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary has directed that few officers should be designated to assist in developing this index. "On the lines of District Good Governance Index, some sectors, indicators and data points will be identified for the Panchayats and Panchayat Development Index shall evaluate a base score of each Panchayat and keep stakeholders--- District Officers, PRI functionaries, frontline workers etc motivated towards improv-

ing index through a real time monitoring feature", sources further informed.

Panchayat Development Index (PDI) will be a vital statistical tool to capture movement in development at grass root level and to witness impact of Centrally Sponsored Schemes at Panchayat level, sources said while disclosing that an exercise in this regard has already been set into motion by both the departments which have been assigned the task and after identification of sectors, indicators and data points necessary consultation with the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Dr Jitendra to inaugurate, Sinha to head valedictory session First of its kind e-Governance conference in northern India at Katra on Nov 26-27

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Nov 21: Amid J&K administration's thrust on effective service delivery system, a national conference on e-Governance - first of its kind in northern India, is going to be held here on November 26-27.

The highly significant two-day national conference at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra is all set to provide a platform for discussion on some of the digital innovations and technologies that will play an important part in the next decade for governance to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Union Minister Dr Jitendra

Singh will inaugurate the conference on November 26 whereas Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the valedictory session on November 27.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will also be attending the valedictory session which will witness the significant launch of Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Security Policy and signing of various MoUs.

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Government is organizing this 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG), which is

first of its kind in entire northern India.

Theme of this conference is "Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government Closer" and the discussions will be held on ten sub themes in the Plenary Sessions. These sub-themes include 'Digital Governance across the Whole-of-the-Government'; 'Digital economy, strengthening start-up ecosystem and employment generation'; 'Modern laws to promote national growth and to secure citizen's rights'; 'Transparent and Real-time Grievance Management System'; '21st Century Digital Infrastructure for next-generation services and security in

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Tourists enjoy boating at Surinsar lake. —Excelsior/Rakesh

'Cong didn't remove 370 for several years' Modi Govt knows how to give befitting reply to Pak: Shah

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: Targeting the Congress for not removing Article 370 from Jammu Kashmir while being in power for several years, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said it was the BJP Government which integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union through the abrogation of Article 370.

He said this while addressing a series of elections rallies in Gujarat.

"When the Modi Government removed Article 370, the Congress said there will be rivers of blood. But leave aside rivers of blood, no one dared to throw even a single stone," Shah said.

He said the Modi Government knows how to give a befitting reply to Pakistan or any other country, which dares to cast an evil eye on India and threaten national security.

"During previous Congress Governments, any Tom, Dick and Harry would cross over from Pakistan into India and

run away after beheading our soldiers. Even after Narendra Modi was elected PM, there were terror attacks in Pulwama and Uri.

"However, what Pakistan didn't know was that this wasn't a Government of Manmohan Singh. Within 10 days, our forces entered Pakistan, striking terror havens on their own soil," Shah said.

Gujarat will poll in two phases on December 1 and 5 and the counting of votes will take place on December 8.

Shah said the tribal communities in the country stand firmly with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Union Home Minister said, "Previous Congress Governments did not work nearly as much in decades as Narendra Modi for the empowerment of our tribal communities. This is why our tribal brothers and sisters today stand firmly with the BJP," Shah said.

In a separate rally in the Tapi district of the poll-bound State, Shah took aim at the Congress for 'misleading' the

people. "There is a BJP Government in Gujarat since 1990 and the Congress is saying that the work of the Congress speaks for itself. What work is it talking about when it has not been in power in the state since 1990?"

"The Congress misleads people. A party, which has not been in power for ages, has no work to boast of. It should be ashamed. Ever since, the BJP came to power in Gujarat, the State has seen development in every field," the Union Home Minister said.

Shah said the Modi Government honoured the tribal communities by making a tribal woman as the country's President.

"During the Congress rule, a budgetary allocation of Rs 1,000 crores was made for tribal welfare. However, the BJP Government increased the outlay for tribals to Rs 1 lakh crores. The Congress has nothing to talk about in Gujarat, which is why Rahul-baba is not coming to campaign in the state and is visiting other places, instead," the Home Minister said.