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Fresh production warrant for JKLF chief

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: A special court here today issued a fresh production warrant for physical appearance of jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik for cross-examination.

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**
 tion of witnesses in a case related to the gunning down of IAF personnel by terrorists in 1990. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) informed the court that it has already

Minor girl killed, siblings injured

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: A minor girl was killed while her two siblings sustained serious injuries after they jumped off a railway bridge in Bajalta area of city outskirts today.

■ Pic on page 4

The mishap occurred this morning at about 8:25. According to the reports, three siblings of village Bajalta were walking towards their school through railway track and had reached on a railway bridge when they suddenly noticed a

LG Ladakh appoints 6 members to Haj Committee

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mather today appointed six members to the Ladakh Union Territory Haj Committee. Appointments have been made for a period of three years. The members include Janyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh, Mirza Hussain, Councillor Chuchot constituency, Mohammad Ali Chandan, Councillor Shargole, Mohammad Ali Majaz of Chokkore, Kargil, Zaheer

5 elevated/placed as I/C SEs, 15 I/C X-Ens

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: The Government today elevated/placed five Civil Engineers as I/C Superintending Engineers and 15 I/C Assistant Executive Engineers as I/C Xens in the PW(R&B) department. Those elevated/placed to the next higher post of I/C SEs are Arvind Gupta, Ram Pal Gupta, Davinder Singh, Satbir Singh and Fayaz Ahmed Baba. The Civil Engineers placed to the next higher grade as I/C

Searches along IB in Samba

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police today conducted a search operation in several forward villages of Samba district along the International Border (IB) here, an official said. The SOG was assisted by the Central Reserve Police Force and the nearly three-hour-long combing operation was carried out as part of border area domination following the recent infiltration attempts from across the border, a police offi-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
 Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 24.4 Degree C
 Min: 9.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 78.0 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 73.0 per cent
 Sunset on Thursday: 05:27 p.m.
 Sunrise on Friday: 07:09 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
 Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 14.0 Degree C
 Min: -0.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 83.0 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 71.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 5.0 Degree C
 Min: -9.6 Degree C

Move to overcome shortage of teaching staff LG announces increase in retirement age of Universities' faculty from 62 to 65 years

Sanjeev Pargal
 JAMMU, Nov 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today made a major announcement pertaining to faculty of all Universities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that their retirement age will be increased by three years from 62 to 65.

He made the announcement fulfilling long pending demand of the faculty of Universities during his address after inaugurating Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal-2022' at the University of Kashmir in Srinagar.

"The Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University has raised the issue of infrastructure and faculty shortage. Earlier also, I have discussed the issue about shortage of faculty in the Universities. As an immediate solution, retirement age of the faculty is being raised from 62 years to 65 years," Sinha said.

The orders to this effect will be issued shortly, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said shortage of faculty is being felt in the entire country and

***Process for selection will go on**



LG Manoj Sinha addressing Annual Youth Festival at University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

increase in their retirement age is immediate solution. However, he said, the selection process of faculty will go on.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated the Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal-2022' at the University of Kashmir.

AC approves advance payment for FPS dealers

Excelsior Correspondent
 Government has further empowered the Panchayati Raj Institutions financially. Sequel to this decision the Gram Panchayats have been vested with an authority to accord administrative approval to works from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, the Block Samitis have been delegated powers to accord administrative approval to works ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 20 lakh and the Zila Parishad now has the powers to accord administrative approval upto Rs. 1 crore.

The PRIs will be able to incur expenditure as per General Financial Rules and guidelines related to AA, TS, and e-tendering. The decision comes as a significant step towards empower-

ing PRIs as it shall enable them to set their own priorities and help them in timely execution of works out of own resources of the panchayats. In the backdrop of its mission to enhance inclusive growth of rural areas in the Union Territory, the Government through this decision aims to promote self reliance in financial matters.

Meanwhile, the Administrative Council also approved the proposal for advance payments in favour of FPS dealers on account of their margin on monthly basis under NFSA scheme.

Administrative Council approved Advance Payments of 75% Central share on account of FPS Dealers margin, on monthly

'People should come forward against non-local killings' Militancy in South Kashmir lowest ever: DGP

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Nov 23 : Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today said that the number of active militants in South Kashmir is as less as it was never before while as the number of foreigners as well as locals across the UT has been confined to two digits only.

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

Speaking to the reporters after reviewing the security situation in Southern districts of Kashmir along with the Army officials, the DGP said that security situation across South Kashmir has largely improved and there was a significant dip in the crime related incidents as

well. "As far as the number of active militants in South Kashmir is concerned, it is as less as it was never before. There is no complaint of people from anywhere in South Kashmir about the conduct of

forces," the DGP said. About the killing of non-locals and minority community members, the DGP said that these acts are highly condemnable and barbaric in nature. "Those involved in the innocent

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

members, the DGP said that these acts are highly condemnable and barbaric in nature. "Those involved in the innocent

individual growth, independent thinking and opportunity to discover their own hidden treasure that will contribute in nation building, he added.

Observing that young students are multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, Sinha entrusted upon the educational institutions to discharge their responsibility to ensure freedom, creativity and engagement for them to become multi-achievers, and acquire knowledge & skills to thrive and shape their future.

Creative pursuits are a great medium for the young students to develop leadership skills, human values, willingness to take risks, understanding the power of new ideas, competency to face future challenges and to nurture personality traits, he said.

"Our focus on ensuring choice, collaboration, curiosity, communication, critical thinking, creativity, research & enhanced engagement in education system can create better education goals and equip students with the necessary skills, knowledge & values, he added.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Govt enhances financial powers of PRIs

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Nov 23: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said today that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been given powers to investigate cases of narco finance also as proceeds from the narco trade are being used for terror funding even as he asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is now happily and peacefully marching towards democracy.

"We have zero tolerance policy for any danger towards national security. We have strengthened laws. Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) has been amended. The NIA investigation ambit has been expanded to foreign nationals. The NIA can now designate even an individual as a terrorist. Narco financing has also been brought under the ambit of NIA," he said in an interview to Republic TV.

The NIA has set up its offices in nine more States and by 2024, it will have offices in all States of the country, Shah said.

Causing obstruction in dissemination of information under RTI Act CIC imposes Rs 15,000 penalty on BDO; issues show cause notices to CEO, 3 others

Mohinder Verma

***FAAs asked to ensure lapses don't recur in future**

JAMMU, Nov 23: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has imposed penalty of Rs 15,000 on a Block Development Officer (BDO) of the Rural Development Department and issued show cause notices to two other BDOs, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Municipal Committee and Executive Engineer of Public Works Department for causing obstruction in the dissemination of information and violation of Right to Information Act.

As per the orders of the Commission, the copies of which are available with EXCELSIOR, Chief Information Commissioner Y K

Sinha, while dealing with the Second Appeal exposing violation of provisions of RTI Act and non-implementation of directions of First Appellate Authority (FAA), had directed the PIO/BDO, Rajgarh, Ramban Rajesh Sharma to submit an explanation as to why penalty should not be imposed on him for willful violation of the provisions of the RTI Act.

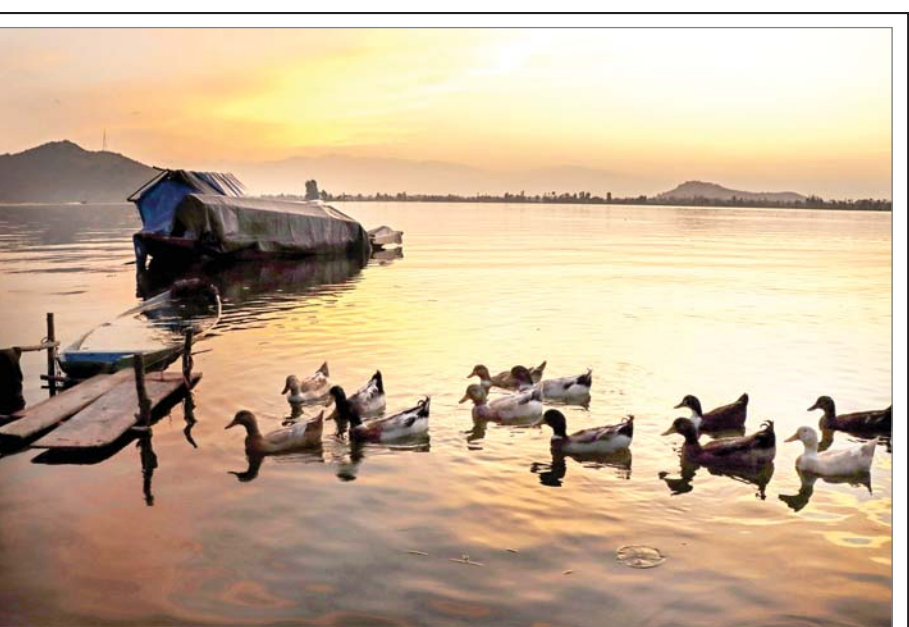
When the case was taken up few days back, the Commission observed, "a written submission has been received from the BDO, Rajgarh in the form of an undated letter which does not bear the name of the signatory", adding "upon examination of the facts it is noted that the response

received from the BDO is inadequate and deficient on multiple counts".

The Chief Information Commissioner said, "the Commission had granted time and opportunity to the officer even during the hearing of show cause notice but he has not been able to justify the denial of information by him", adding "in fact the officer has failed to explain his conduct of deliberate and willful obstruction in the dissemination of information and displayed callous attitude".

Accordingly, the Commission, in exercise of powers vested under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005 has imposed penalty of Rs 15,000 on Rajesh Sharma, the then PIO/BDO, Rajgarh, Ramban. Similarly, the non-implementation of RTI Act and non-compliance of directions of First Appellate Authority by the Block Development Officer Mankote in Poonch came to the notice of Commission by way of Second Appeal.

In this case, the CIC observed, "examination of the records of the appeals reveals that the PIO/BDO, Mankote has not sent any submission which indicates that the order dated 23.12.2020 passed by the FAA was complied with".



Beauty of Dal lake caught in the frame around Sunset in Srinagar on Wednesday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

'J&K marching happily, peacefully towards democracy' Abrogation of Art 370 was a thoughtful decision: Shah

***20,000 raised 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogan in Baramulla rally**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 23: Union Home Minister said any ideology which is threat to internal security of the country will not be tolerated and will be crushed strongly.

"It was because of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India that 20,000 people in my rally at Baramulla district in the Kashmir valley raised slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and sang national anthem," Shah said, adding that stone pelting has completely come to an end in the Valley and 30,000 representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are working for the people.

He said post abrogation of Article 370, record number of tourists have visited Kashmir and the Union Territory has received Rs 57,000 crore worth industrial investments. Every house in Kashmir is now receiving tapped water. For the first time, people of Jammu and Kashmir feel they have got all rights, he asserted.

"Abrogation of Article 370 has proved to be a thoughtful decision. A false narrative was built up earlier for Article 370. Our projections have turned out to be true," the Home Minister said. He reiterated that abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir forever integrated the erstwhile State with the country. "It was a promise of the BJP and we fulfilled it by removing both the Articles".

"Abrogation of Article 370 is a matter of the country's unity, sovereignty and integrity. But unfortunately, there was an attempt to give it a different colour. Similarly, Uniform Civil Code is a matter of matching the spirit of the Constitution. Via Article 44, the Constitution makers have given this advice to the country's Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. Likewise, Triple Talaq doesn't exist in many Muslim countries. All these are issues of a progressive State and the country's future," the Home Minister said.

As far as internal and national security is concerned, Shah said, the Central Government will continue with zero tolerance.

Season's first frozen night for Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 23: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather, night temperatures further dipped in Kashmir with mercury settling at sub-zero at most places in the Valley with Srinagar recording first sub-zero temperatures of the season.

A Meteorological Department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against 0.2°C the previous night. While the temperature was 0.9°C below normal during this time of the year, it was the season's coldest night for the city.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus 1.2°C the previous night. The temperature was 1.7°C below normal for the town.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 4.8°C against

3.5°C the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 2.9°C against minus 1.8°C the previous night. It was 2.4°C below normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.8°C against minus

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)