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Follow us: Daily Excelsior JAMMU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 REGD. NO. JK-71/21-23 RNI No. 28547/65 Vol No. 58 No. 285 16 Pages ₹ 6.00

## Kumar quits as Advisor to MHA

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: K Vijay Kumar, Senior Security Advisor (SSA) to the Ministry of Home Affairs, has expressed his unwillingness to continue in the post due to personal reasons.

Confirming the development, Kumar said that he had left for Chennai and officially communicated his decision to the Home Ministry. Sources also confirmed that the hunt for a new advisor has begun. Kumar had also served as

## Justice Mithal takes over as Rajasthan CJ

JAIPUR, Oct 14: Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Pankaj Mithal as the new Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court during a brief ceremony at Raj Bhavan here today.

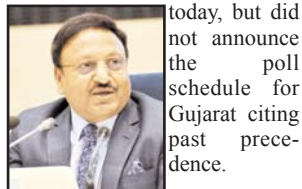
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria, Ministers and Judges of the High Court were present on the occasion.

Justice Mithal was the

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

## Himachal polls on Nov 12

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: Himachal Pradesh will go to polls on November 12, the Election Commission said today, but did not announce the poll schedule for Gujarat citing past precedences.



Addressing a press conference here, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## Night temps plummet in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 14: After snowfall in the hills, night temperatures plummeted in Kashmir and recorded below normal except Srinagar.

Meteorological Department official here said that mainly dry weather was expected to continue till October 17.

"Light to moderate rain/snowfall (over higher

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## RATS to counter terror threats

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: The Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation today decide on joint measures by member countries to counter threats posed by international terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the council of RATS that was hosted by India in the national capital.

The meeting was attended

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

## People's unity crucial for building India: Farooq

MUMBAI, Oct 14: National Conference president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah has asked people to stand up against the divisive forces that are trying to weaken the country from within.

Dr Farooq said, "Our country is diverse, there is diversity of faiths, cultures and climates. What unites us is our faith. Religion doesn't divide people, it unites. We all together can build India by living with camaraderie," he said.

There are no external threats to the country, there are divisive forces within the country that are weakening it, he said adding, "We should stop seeing ourselves as Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. I'm an Indian Muslim. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we have to unite this country, and that can only be achieved by living in friendship."

Meanwhile, Dr Farooq

# Both sides agree to continue discussions

## No breakthrough at India, China diplomatic dialogue on Ladakh

NEW DELHI, Oct 14:

India and China agreed today to hold the next round of military-level talks at an early date to resolve the remaining issues in Eastern Ladakh and create conditions for the restoration of normalcy in the bilateral ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It was the only decision taken at a meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on the India-China Border Affairs as there was no breakthrough to resolve the issues at the key friction points of Demchok and Depsang.

The MEA said the two sides agreed to continue discussions through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the remaining issues "at the earliest" so as to create conditions for the restoration of normalcy in the bilateral relations.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

## \* Demchok, Depsang remain key friction points

"To achieve the objective of resolution of remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols, they agreed to hold the next (17th) round of the Senior Commanders meeting at an early date," the MEA said in a statement.

Though the two sides disengaged from Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15) last month, there has been no progress on resolving the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions.

The MEA said the two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas.

Eastern Ladakh is officially referred to as the Western Sector.

India and China held a

high-level military dialogue on July 17 that lasted for nearly 12 hours and a half.

In line with a decision taken at the meeting, the two sides carried out disengagement from Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area last month.

"Recalling the developments since the last meeting of WMCC in May, they welcomed the disengagement in the area of Gogra-Hot Springs (PP-15) that was carried out in a phased, coordinated and verified manner between September 8-12," the MEA said.

"They noted that these steps reflected the understandings between External Affairs Minister and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, including at their recent meeting in Bali in July," it added.

India has been consistently

maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC are key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

The Eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong lake area took place in February last year, while the withdrawal of troops and equipment from Patrolling Point 17(A) in Gogra took place in August last year. (PTI)

## 'Many officials serving one deptt for years together'

### Major reform: N-G employees to be shifted from one deptt to another in Civil Sectt

\*Profile will be uploaded on portal for transparency

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 14: A new transfer policy is in the offing for non-Gazetted employees of the Civil Secretariat which will ensure that such employees don't stay in single department for years together, as is the case presently, and they will be shifted from one department to another, just like other Government employees.

"An exercise in this regard has been undertaken by the Government department dealing with the issue. Shortly, the department will come out with a policy followed by the transfers of non-Gazetted staff in the Civil Secretariat," reliable sources told the Excelsior.

However, the transfers will be confined within the Civil Secretariat but departments of the officials will be changed.

"The transfers of non-Gazetted staff will become a regular feature after two or three years. The tenure will, however, be prescribed in the new transfer policy for the Civil Secretariat staff," the sources said.

Upcoming transfer policy is the outcome of an exercise undertaken by the Government department in which it was found that all Gazetted officers in the Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Government, are transferred after some time—be they the IAS, JKAS or others. However, the non-Gazetted employees, in some cases,

remained posted in the same departments for years together, which developed vested interest.

"The department carefully studied the proposal and found that the policy was required to be changed. After series of discussions, a new policy has been proposed and it will be released shortly," they said.

Describing the step as major reform to ensure transparent working in the Civil Secretariat, sources said it will be good for the staff also as they will gain experience of working in different departments. Moreover, they said, the similar policy exists for all Government officials working outside the Civil Secretariat

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## Increase energy generation as per design approved for plants'

### JERC directs for execution of Power Purchase Agreements of all Hydroelectric Projects

\*Issue of plants located in Ladakh to be discussed with LPDD

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Oct 14: Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh has directed the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited to execute Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) in respect of all the hydroelectric projects and submit the same for approval.

Moreover, the Commission

has instructed for increasing energy generation from the hydroelectric projects strictly as per the design energy approved for the respective plants and sought a detailed report in this regard from the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDC).

As per the official document available with EXCELSIOR, the Commission has observed that Power Purchase Agreements of most of the hydroelectric projects have expired and some agreements have not been executed at all.

Accordingly, the JERC has directed the JKPDC to execute Power Purchase Agreements and submit the same before the Commission for approval. "The Corporation should complete the exercise and submit the compliance report", the JERC has mentioned in the directives.

The JERC has further noticed that the actual generation reported by the JKPDC for all hydroelectric projects is substantially lower than the design

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

## Suspect breaks mobile phone used for calls to Pakistan

### NIA raids house of Pak-returnee who developed links across LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today raided residence of a suspect at village Dhanna Chak Gagrian in Mandi area of Poonch district in connection with a ter-

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

ror funding case and recovered some documents and mobile telephones.

However, there was no official word on the raids from the investigation agency.

As per the local officials and eyewitnesses, the NIA sleuths conducted raid at the residence of Mohammad Zaman son of Ghulam Ahmed



The NIA team near the house of suspect in Mandi, Poonch on Friday. -Excelsior/Wasim

terror funding, they said. There were reports that Mohammad Zamaan had established contacts in Pakistan after visiting there on regular visa through Wagah border in Amritsar district of Punjab some time back. His sister is also settled in Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK).

After his return from Pakistan, he was under radar of the NIA as well as State

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## Likely to accommodate around 2000 pilgrims

### New accommodation at Bhawan to come up by November-end

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: New accommodation is coming up for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji pilgrims at the Bhawan.

Durga Bhawan's construction is targeted to be completed by November-end which will increase accommodation and other facilities for the pilgrims.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also MP from Kathua-Udhampur-Doda constituency, has tweeted four photographs of the speedy construction work going on at Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Bhawan.

"With the aim to provide better facilities to pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji



An under construction facility at Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Bhawan.

shrine, an additional infrastructure facility is under construction which will provide accommodation to around 1600 to 1700 persons at the Bhawan," Dr Jitendra Singh tweeted.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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