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CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY
announces batches for
IAS/KAS
Batch for One year
25th October 2022
Batch for 2yrs and 3yrs
(College Going Students)
25th October 2022
7303763829
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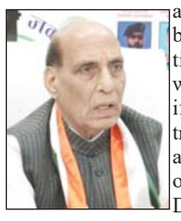
Strict vigil on borders: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, Oct 16:



India has never tried to hurt any country, but a befitting reply will be given if anyone tries to cast an evil eye on it, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said today, amid a lingering border row with China in Eastern Ladakh.

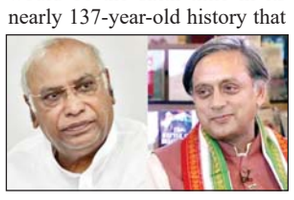
In his address at a virtual event, the Defence Minister emphasised that strict vigil is being maintained at the borders and that the country is ready to

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Cong gears up for 6th election contest

NEW DELHI, Oct 16:

With the Congress set to vote to elect its new chief, it would be the sixth time in its nearly 137-year-old history that



an electoral contest would decide who would take up the mantle of the party's president.

Also, with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra not in the running for the party president's post, a non-Gandhi would be at the

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

NGT directs JK Admn to pay Rs 35 cr compensation

SRINAGAR, Oct 16:

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to pay a compensation of Rs 35 crore for discharge of untreated sewage into Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kull streams.

It said there are "serious lapses" on the part of the administration in waste management as well as in failing to control illegal mining.

"…There are serious lapses on the part of the administration in waste management and in failing to control illegal mining which has resulted in huge dam-

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Xi presents work report to ruling party

BEIJING, Oct 16:

Chinese President Xi Jinping said today that the Chinese military headed by him will intensify troop training and combat preparedness to "fight and win" besides creating a strong system of "strategic deterrence."

Xi said this while presenting his work report to the once-in-a-five-year Congress of the ruling Communist Party which began its week-long session here today.

"We will intensify troop training and enhance combat preparedness across the board to see that our people's armed

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Will further strengthen economy: MoS Bharati Pravin

PM inaugurates 75 DBUs including 2 in J&K, says phone banking replaced with digital banking

■ *Loans will also be available digitally: Subhas Sarkar*

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dedicated to the nation 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) including two in Jammu and Kashmir and attributed India's sustained economic growth to the efforts of the BJP Government to replace pre-2014 'phone banking' with 'digital banking'.

Observing that the country has shifted from the pre-2014 'phone banking' system to digital banking in the last eight years, Modi said "as a result, India's economy is moving forward with a continuum."

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

Addressing during inaugural ceremony of DBUs through video conferencing, the Prime Minister said before 2014, the banks used to get phone calls to decide their functioning, and added "phone banking politics had made the banks unsafe and made the country's economy insecure by sowing the seeds of thousands of crores of scams."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking during inauguration of 75 DBUs via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Sunday. Another pic on page 4.

Two DBUs of Jammu and Kashmir Bank--one at Channi Rama in Jammu and another at Lal Chowk in Srinagar--were among the 75 DBUs inaugurated by the Prime Minister today.

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Lok Sabha MP from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP UT chief Ravinder Raina and Jammu and Kashmir Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash were present at Channi Rama DBU during inaugural function while the similar function at Lal Chowk DBU was attended among others by Union Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar and Lok Sabha member from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah.

Speaking to reporters after inauguration of Channi Rama DBU, Dr Bharti Pravin said the DBUs will further strengthen ease of doing business and provide more facilities and security

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

A potter busy making earthen lamps ahead of Diwali at his workshop in Srinagar on Sunday. — Excelsior/Shakeel

Anti-Pak slogans raised at crematorium

Body of slain KP consigned to flames, no big leader join to offer wood

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 16: In a gloomy atmosphere, the body of Puran Krishan Bhat, who was gunned down by militants in Shopian area of Kashmir yesterday, was consigned to flames after his daughter Shriya, 12, and son Shanu, 11, jointly lit the funeral pyre at a crematorium in Bantalab area here this morning.

Puran Bhat was gunned down by militants near his residence in Chowdhary Gund area of Shopian district in Kashmir last afternoon.

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

Sloganeering against Pakistan and terrorism sponsored by it along with the slogans demanding suspension of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir filled the air at the place of last rites.

About 3000 people were present to offer wood to the pyre of the deceased KP and there was resentment against the absence of any big leader at the cremation ground to console the bereaved relatives of the deceased.

Relatives and people perform last rites of Puran Krishan at Jammu on Sunday. — Excelsior/Rakesh

"We were expecting BJP J&K president, Ravinder Raina on this occasion to share our grief but to our dismay no big leader visited us in our hour of grief," Vikram Koul, who was present at the cremation ground, said.

He along with many others flayed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for issuing orders of biometric attendance for PM package employees serving in Kashmir.

"Some school Headmasters have also issued orders to PM package teachers to join their duties within seven days else their salaries will be stopped," Vikram Koul said adding that all these developments are mentally harassing KPs as none is safe in Kashmir.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Expresses concern over shrinking wetland area

LG mentions restoration of Khushal Sar, Gilsar in 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' broadcast

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Oct 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today made a mention of the conservation and restoration of Khushal Sar and Gilsar in the heart of Srinagar city while urging the people to come together for the protection of the wetlands.

In his address to the people of J&K during the 19th Episode of the 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' radio broadcast, Sinha also expressed concerns over the shrinking area of the wetlands and called for joint efforts for the prevention of the same.

He said that a few days back, a report from the Central Government came to the fore in which concerns have been expressed regarding the wetlands. "As per the report, in the last 10 years, J&K has witnessed a decrease in the wetland area of 120 hectares," he said.

Sinha said that it is a matter of concern for the natural assets of J&K and in this regard, the administration, for ecological conservation, has formed an integrated action plan, and to restore the ecological heritage, the amount of nearly Rs 47 crores is being spent.

LG Manoj Sinha addressing during 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' radio broadcast on Sunday.

"But in this campaign, the support of every individual is a must. I urge all the citizens that if they find any encroachment on the wetlands anywhere, the same should be brought to the notice of the concerned district administration so that the future of the new generation is safeguarded," the LG said.

He further noted that with the partnership of people, last month, the encroachments in and around the Khushal Sar lake were cleared and after nearly 30 years, the traditional navigation route of Khushal Sar has been restored while the necessary arrangements have been made for the movement of Shikara to Gilkadal

(Contd on page 4 Col 4)

Directives issued for estimating AT&C loss level

Action Plan sought from JPDCL, KPDCL within two months for 100% consumer metering

■ *Utilities asked to meet Renewable Purchase Obligation targets*

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Oct 16: Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh has directed the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to submit Action Plan for 100% consumer metering within a period of two months.

Moreover, the Commission has asked the utilities to conduct feeder-wise energy audit and consumer indexing for estimating the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss level and subsequently developing holistic loss reduction plan.

As per the official document available with EXCELSIOR, the JERC has observed that in JPDCL and KPDCL areas, unmetered consumers are present in domestic, commercial and public lighting categories. As far as domestic category is concerned, almost 80% and 40% consumers are still unmetered in KPDCL and JPDCL areas respectively.

"As the licensees have informed that they are in the process of implementing smart pre-paid meters in their areas under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the same should be targeted to be implemented in unmetered consumer categories on priority basis", the Commission has directed, adding "there are few consumers in public street lighting category who are still un-metered as such the licensees should install meters in public street lighting category and convert them into metered category".

The JERC has directed both JPDCL and KPDCL to submit Action Plan/Roadmap for 100% consumer metering within two months. Further, the Commission has directed the JPDCL and KPDCL to prepare a roadmap for installation of pre-paid smart meters and the details under RDSS should be submitted before the Commission in a time bound manner.

About feeder-wise account of losses and performance of Sub-

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

We will try to work out strong front to provide good governance in J&K: Azad

'DAP to struggle for Statehood; job, land rights to locals'

Gopal Sharma

KATHUA, Oct 16: While reiterating his party's resolve to wage decisive struggle for restoration of Statehood to J&K and protection of rights of land and jobs to the locals, former J&K Chief Minister and Democratic Azad Party, chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that he will try to work out a `strong front' to provide good governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing a large public rally at Kathua today, Azad said restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be on the top of his party's agenda. He said the erstwhile historic State of Jammu and Kashmir has been degraded to the status of two Union Territories, which is not acceptable to the people of J&K. And moreover, it was never a demand of the people from Kashmir or Jammu region.

Former J&K CM and DAP chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing public rally at Kathua on Sunday. —Excelsior/ Pardeep

Azad said DAP has three point agenda for the betterment of J&K, which is to reserve the rights of purchasing lands for J&K people only, reserve the rights of jobs in J&K only for J&K youth and restoration of Statehood.

The DAP Chairman said that Maharaja Hari Singh gave the rights of land and job to the locals only by introducing State Subject in 1927 on the demand of J&K people to protect the rights of State residents.

"I had strongly raised voice in the Parliament but the leadership of the ruling party here is silent over the local issues, which is matter of concern," he added.

"We will try to work out a strong front to provide good governance to the people. If I get the opportunity to serve people of J&K, I promise you, no innocent will be killed, all living here irre-

**Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com*

spective of religion will be safe, Statehood will be restored, job and land rights to people of J&K and two crore tourists will come to Kashmir and everyone will get employment," Azad added.

Former Union Minister said in Jammu, people are worried over the delay in restoring Statehood. After delimitation of Assembly seats, Statehood must be restored," he said.

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WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.4 Degree C
Min: 18.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 80.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 50.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 05.58 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 06.38 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 27.3 Degree C
Min: 7.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 75.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 49.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 14.0 Degree C
Min: 0.8 Degree C

Rajinder nominated for post of Mayor, Baldev for Dy Mayor

Candidates of BJP, Cong, Independents to file nominations today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 16: After announcing its candidates for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today, the J&K BJP has pulled its sleeves to file nomination papers for the same tomorrow while Independents Councillors are also preparing for the same and the Congress will only contest for the post of Mayor as none of its candidate has agreed to contest for the post of Deputy Mayor.

"Councillor of Ward number 16, Rajinder Sharma has been nominated as candidate for the post of Mayor while Councillor of Ward number 56, Baldev Singh Bilowria has been selected for the post of Deputy Mayor with consent of all," informed Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP president adding that both these candidates will file their nominations tomorrow.

"All BJP Councillors are asked to reach the Trikuta Nagar BJP Headquarter by 12 noon and from there they along with senior BJP leaders will leave at 1 pm to file nomination papers for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor," he further said adding that the nomination form will be submitted before 2:25 pm.

The candidates for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor were announced by senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta in a meeting chaired by BJP national general secretary and incharge J&K, Tarun Chugh.

Meanwhile, the Independent Councillors have nominated Councillor, Anu Bali of Ward 24 as candidate for the post of Mayor and Amit Gupta, Councillor of Ward 19 for the post of Deputy Mayor while Congress chief whip Dwarka Chowdhary will contest for the post of Mayor.

Though two Councillors-one from BJP and another Independent have died now while some including Independents have joined either BJP or Congress, the BJP still has 44 members in a House of 75 ensuring easy victory to its candidates while number of

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

DGP's killer attempted suicide before fleeing

Accused acted in fit of rage as job expectation not fulfilled

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Oct 16:

The domestic help accused of murdering Jammu and Kashmir Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia had made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide before fleeing from the spot after the killing, officials said today.

The 23-year-old domestic help hailing from the Ramban area of Jammu region, Yasir Lohar, was thoroughly interrogated by a team of police along with psychologists to ascertain his mental condition. The case has since been handed over to the Crime Branch.

Lohia, a 1992-batch IPS officer, was found murdered with his throat slit at his friend's house in Udaiwala on the outskirts of Jammu city on October 3 shortly after having dinner.

Examining the scene of crime with forensic experts, the officials said a torn belt was seen hanging from the ceiling and the explanation Lohar gave was that he had attempted suicide after killing Lohia with the help of broken glass bottle of ketchup.

They said Lohar was subjected to psychological examination as he seemed to have acted in a fit of rage after his expectation of a government job was not fulfilled.

Lohar emerged as the key suspect in the murder as he was found missing from the scene of the crime and later CCTV footage showed him running away from the house using the backdoor.

The accused also attempted to burn the body of the officer by throwing a burning pillow, attracting the attention of the family and his guards who rushed and broke open the door.

The accused attempted suicide after killing the officer but the belt which he had tied around his neck snapped under his weight. Afterwards, he escaped through the backdoor as others rushed in, officials said.

Marks of the belt were found on his neck as well.

Mapping activities of Lohar, a school dropout, for the last two years when he had fled from his

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)