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Justice Chandrachud is new CJI

NEW DELHI, Oct 17: Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, was today appointed the 50th Chief Justice of India and he will take oath on November 9.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju announced the appointment of Justice Chandrachud, who will serve as the CJI for two years.

CJ for early disposal of old cases

JAMMU, Oct 17:- Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has emphasized that the Constitution of India recognizes the need and right to speedy justice, which can only be achieved by quick disposal and weeding out of the old cases from the courts.

"The faith in the judiciary is essential for administration of justice which can be achieved by speedy disposal of cases and

DHSK attaches CMO Budgam

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: The Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK) has attached the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Budgam pending an inquiry which has been ordered after several complaints were received against the official over time.

In this regard, a detailed order issued by the authorities stated that a complaint against Dr. Tajamul Hussain, Incharge Chief Medical Officer Budgam,

KU posts to be re-advertised

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has asked the Kashmir University to issue a fresh advertisement for the appointment of Assistant Registrars (AR), Assistant Controllers of Examinations and Junior Assistants (JA).

Registrar of the Kashmir University, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir told Excelsior that they had been asked by the LG to re-advertise the posts.

Man arrested with arms

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Security forces today arrested a man along with arms and ammunition in Karnah area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A police official said that in a joint action by Kupwara Police and Army arrested a man along with arms and ammunition

LG's rule not enough for ensuring better development in J&K: Azad

JAMMU, Oct 17: Former J&K Chief Minister and Chairman of Democratic Azad Party (DAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad today said the Lt Governor's rule is not enough for ensuring better development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Governor's rule alone is not enough to make progress in Jammu and Kashmir. It is very important to have an Assembly too. We have got feedback from the people as well," Azad said while addressing a large meeting of DAP in Marh area of Jammu today.

He said people will take part in the polls in a good number if

Several posts vacant, others holding addl charge
13 SSPs likely to be promoted as DIGs to overcome shortage of officers

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 17: In view of shortage of DIGs in Jammu and Kashmir with 20 vacancies in sanctioned posts of 29, the Government has reportedly decided to promote 13 SSPs as officiating DIGs without completion of their mandatory service of 14 years as IPS officer to fill up the posts and overcome shortage of officers in this category.

Three IPS officers of 2009 batch and 10 from 2010 batch are likely to be promoted as officiating DIGs. However, only 10 of them will be available for posting in Jammu and Kashmir as three others are on Central deputation, official sources told the Excelsior.

Earlier also, the Government had promoted SSPs as officiating DIGs to fill up the vacancies.

Sanctioned strength of DIGs in Jammu and Kashmir is 29 and out of them only nine are posted and there are 20 vacancies. Three IPS officers in the rank of DIG are on Central deputation including Amit Kumar, Tejinder Singh and Abdul Jabbar.

Ten IPS officers of 2010

Promotions to lead to reshuffle in Police Deptt

batch, who are likely to be promoted as DIGs, include Rayees Mohammad Bhat, SSP Baramulla, Pandey Rajiv Omprakash, SSP NIA Jammu, Sridhar Patil, AIG Technical Headquarters, Dr Ajeet Singh, SSP CID Cell New Delhi, Altaf Ahmed Khan, SSP CID CI Kashmir, Haseeb-ur-Rehman, Commandant SDRF 1st battalion, Vikas Gupta, Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) to Prisons Department, Abdul Qayoom, Commandant Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police (JKAP), Nisha Nathyal, Commandant SDRF 2nd battalion and Javid Iqbal Matoo, AIG Building Police Headquarters.

First three officers of 2010 batch are Regular Recruits while seven others have been inducted into IPS from JKPS.

Three IPS officers of 2009 batch, who are set to be promoted as DIGs, include Imtiaz Ismail Parray, Commandant IRP 8th battalion, Shailendra Mishra and Rahul Malik.

Five IPS officers of 2009 batch, who were inducted from JKPS, have already been promoted as DIGs. They are Shakti Kumar Pathak, Director SSF, Dr Mohammad Haseeb Mughal, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Javid Ahmed Koul, DIG Traffic Kashmir, Sheikh Junaid Mehmoood, on deputation to Ladakh and Shahid Mehraj Rather, DIG Armed Kashmir.

Generally, the IPS officers become eligible for promotion as DIGs after 14 years of services. However, in view of shortage of officers in this rank in J&K, the 2009 batch is being promoted after 13 years of services and 2010 batch after 12 years of services, sources said but added that they will be promoted as officiating DIGs and will be confirmed as DIGs after they complete 14 years of services.

Out of 13 IPS officers tipped for promotion as DIGs, only 10 will be available for postings as three others are on deputation with the Centre. Those on deputation are Shailendra Mishra with National Investigation Agency (NIA), Rahul Malik,

Mega job fairs to be held in Jammu, Srinagar
Govt to extend Rs 2 lakh insurance cover to entire workforce: LG

Excelsior Correspondent



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting in Srinagar on Monday.

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting of Labour & Employment Department today at the Civil Secretariat.

During the meeting, Sinha issued directions to extend Rs two lakh insurance cover to entire workforce including those in the unorganized sector. The premium of the insurance would be borne by the Department of Labour and Employment.

"The Government is committed for social and economic justice to workforce in the unorganised sector and every effort is being made to protect the interest of labour, their welfare, necessary skill development to improve the capability, the Lt Governor said.

Appraising the function of the department, he stressed that dedicated efforts be made to saturate self employment schemes, and asked the department for organizing a mega job fair each at Jammu & Srinagar.

Enquiring about the steps put in place by the department to ensure there is no bonded labour

& child labour case in J&K, the Lt Governor asked the Department to ensure J&K is free from bonded labour and child labour by regular inspections and conducting surveys. He directed for starting a help line for unorganised workforce.

"Department must ensure there is no case of exploitation of unorganised workers. Proper employment planning and flexibility in labour deployment in the backdrop of changing market conditions should be the priority," Sinha said.

He impressed upon the senior officers of the Labour and Employment Department for the welfare & support of the unorganized workforce and their children.

"Health, safety and social security benefits like financial assistance should be top priority. Department should also ensure

that all possible assistance for children's education and scholarships is extended within a fixed timeline," the Lt Governor directed the officers.

Reviewing the employment Sector of the Department, he emphasized on integrated planning by bringing all departments on a single platform and working in convergence for effective and efficient employment related services.

Facilitate employment opportunities through national job fairs and an IEC campaign should be launched to generate awareness among the target population, said the Lt Governor.

He directed the department for registration of the entire unorganized workforce and transition of all accounts of J&K

AICC president's election
95 pc votes polled in J&K: Yagnik

Karan Singh for early election in UT

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Oct 17: Around 95 percent overall polling was recorded in Jammu and Kashmir in the Congress president's elections, the polling of which was held today, simultaneously, at both places in Srinagar and Jammu.

"Out of total 340, 321 votes were polled in J&K," said Ranjit Ranjan (MP), Returning Officer for J&K.

It comes to around 95 per-

cent, she said. 93 percent polling was recorded in the elections of Congress president here in Jammu.

Disclosing this here today at the close of poll, Assistant Pradesh Returning Officer (APRO) Dr Arcee Yagnik along with another APRO Sukhwant Singh Brar said that 151 votes were polled in Jammu out of which 148 votes were polled from Jammu quota while two voters of Kashmir province were allowed to poll here. Arcee Yagnik also polled her vote here being on elections duty.

Ten delegates of Jammu province were allowed to poll votes in Kashmir or elsewhere in the country as per norms. Hence

158 out of 170 delegates in Jammu province exercised their votes, thus recording 93 percent of total votes.

Ranjit Ranjan cast her vote in Srinagar where JKPC president Vikar Rasool, former PCC president GA Mir and other top leaders of Kashmir also cast their votes.

In Jammu, several former

96 pc turnout in Cong Prez polls

NEW DELHI, Oct 17: More than 9,500 Congress delegates across the country today voted to elect the party's first non-Gandhi president in 24 years, choosing between senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor as successor to Sonia Gandhi.

Of the total 9,915 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates that form the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot, over 9,500 cast their ballot at all PCC offices and the AICC headquarters in Delhi,

(Contd on page 2 Col 7)

Two PoJK women were candidates
SEC to hold re-poll in 2 DDC seats

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: State Election Commissioner (SEC), K K Sharma today held a meeting regarding holding of re-poll in District Development Council (DDC) seats in Kupwara and Bandipora districts two years after they had fallen vacant.

These seats fell vacant after the State Election Commission declared the polls held in December 2020 on Hajin A in Bandipora district and Drugmulla in Kupwara district as null and void.

The two constituencies went to vote along with other DDC constituencies but the counting of votes was stopped at last minute by the SEC as one contestant in each constituency was a Pakistan national.

Shazia Aslam and Soomia Sadaf, the DDC contesting candidates at Hajin-A in Bandipora and Drugmulla in Kupwara belong to Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) and had moved to Kashmir under a Rehabilitation Policy initiated by the Government of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shazia and Soomia are among nearly 400 Pakistani origin Kashmiri wives married to former militants who chose to live and shunned the gun after attaining arms training.

The SEC at that time had said that they had mentioned wrong information on Form-6 and not reported that they were Pakistani nationals.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, PK Pole; Deputy Inspector General of Police,

North Kashmir Range, Deputy Commissioners of Bandipora, Kupwara, Udhampur, Secretary State Election Commission, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Migrants, SSPs of Kupwara, Bandipora, Managing Director JKRTC, Joint Director Information Jammu, Deputy DEO Jammu and other senior officers attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

The meeting discussed in detail the measures to be taken for smooth conduct of re-poll in these vacant DDC seats for which the election was cancelled due to the non-eligibility of some contesting candidates in two constituencies.

The meeting held deliberations over the transport plan,

Petition regarding dearth of staff in HC
DB directs Law Secy, FC Finance to file affidavit or appear in person

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 17: In a petition filed by Joginder Singh, Bench Secretary of the High Court regarding dearth of staff at various levels in the High Court and District Courts, pay anomaly in respect of officers and staff and promotional avenues to Law Graduate Readers, Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Sindhu Sharma has directed the Financial Commissioner Finance to file affidavit within a period of three weeks.

The DB has further directed that the affidavit shall explain the delay caused in according concurrence to the proposal sent

by the Law Department to the Finance Department with regard to creation of 334 posts in Phase-1 and the affidavit shall also indicate the steps taken for according concurrence by the Finance Department for creation of 24 posts of personal staff of Judges on priority basis in view of urgency pointed out by the Registrar General in its communication dated 29.09.2022 sent to the Law Department.

The DB has also directed that the affidavit along with concurrence shall be positively filed by the next date of hearing, failing which, Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as well as Financial Commissioner Finance shall appear in person to explain their inaction.

The DB observed, "in terms of order dated 22.09.2022, a status report dated 07.10.2022 has been filed by the Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs", adding "Secretary Law, no doubt, in his status report has referred to the communication of the Registrar General dated 29.09.2022, but, only to build a case as the High Court wants the Government to take immediate steps for creation of 24 posts only on priority basis to cater the need of additional judges".

"However, Secretary Law has failed to appreciate that the com-

Situation worsening after Art 370 abrogation: Farooq

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Oct 17: Hitting out at ruling BJP over its claims of normalcy post abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah today said that killings would never stop till 'justice' was delivered.

"Had the situation been improved on the ground, another innocent Kashmiri Pandit would not have been killed. It (killings) will never stop as long as there is no justice," he told the reporters at Reasi where he was asked about his reaction to the latest target killing of Purn Krishna Bhat - a Kashmiri Pandit, by militants in Shopian.

Though the former Chief Minister did not elaborate what

had only seen worsening of the situation after abrogation of Article 370.

"It (J&K) continues to witness political vacuum, unemployment, development deficit and misgovernance. They (BJP) claim situation has improved after abrogation of Article 370 but in reality situation has worsened more," he said.

Farooq Abdullah further alleged that BJP Government snatched jobs and lands of the locals and offered contracts of various development projects to the outsiders, causing severe setback to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Allotment of mining contracts, liquor contracts to outsiders will rob local youth of job opportunities and affect livelihoods of thousands of families. Most of the development projects

'BJP robbed local youth of jobs'

NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah talking to media persons at Reasi on Monday.

"justice" he was talking about, he was apparently referring to the restoration of Article 370, which was abrogated by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

"They were making noises that this (terrorism) was the result of Article 370. Today, there is no Article 370 but why such killings are then taking place and who is responsible for the same?" Farooq said and added that he did not see any improvement in the situation.

The NC president claimed that rather than inching towards promised normalcy and development, Jammu and Kashmir

H&ME begins implementation of PM Gati Shakti, designates Nodal Officer

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Oct 17: The Health & Medical Education Department has kick-started implementing the Prime Minister Gati Shakti initiative in Jammu and Kashmir.

In this regard, the Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K has been designated as the Nodal Officer for implementation of the same, who has been given a number of tasks to accomplish.

The H&ME has directed the Nodal Officer to ensure seamless onboarding of all health facilities on the designated portal of PM Gati Shakti and upload requisite data in both Excel and KML (Keyhole Markup Language) format for all health facilities in a phased manner.

The Nodal Officer will also keep the data about the important fields, encompassing facilities available like bed capacity, manpower, equipment, utilities, etc available in the requisite format and will update the same on a regular basis.

Further, the designated officer will also coordinate with all the HoDs of the Health & Medical Education Department, Remote Sensing Department, Industries and Commerce Department, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, and other Departments/Offices concerned.

It is to be noted here that Prime Minister in October last year launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16

Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects.

The initiative has six basic pillars, including comprehensiveness, which will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. The same, officials said, will pave a way for every Department to have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & comprehensively executing projects.

Under the second pillar, prioritization, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions,

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