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Modi celebrates Diwali with Army jawans in Kargil India taking tough stand against enemies, always considered war as last option: PM

Country fighting decisive war against corruption

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Oct 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that peace is impossible to attain without power even as

on the occasion of Diwali festival yesterday.

The Prime Minister has made it a routine to spend Diwali with Army jawans

Modi said, adding: "We are in the favour of world peace".

Addressing jawans as the "family", the Prime Minister said he couldn't have celebrated



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with soldiers in Kargil on the occasion of Diwali. (UNI)

he asserted that his Government always considered war as the last option.

He was addressing Army soldiers at Kargil along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan in the Union Territory of Ladakh

deployed along the borders with Pakistan and China since 2014.

"We have always considered war as the last option. Whether it took place in Lanka or Kurukshetra. Till the end, every effort was made to prevent it,"

Meets Major after 21 years

It was an emotional reunion of a kind in Kargil when a young Army officer presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a 2001 picture of him with the then Gujarat Chief Minister during his visit to the Sainik School where he studied.

Major Amit, officials said, had met Modi at the Sainik School in Balachadi in Gujarat. Modi had visited the school soon after taking

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

a better Diwali without them.

Praising bravery of the soldiers, he said there has been no

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Govt releases over Rs 180 cr under NHM, NAM for J&K as Central share

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: The Government has released over Rs 180 crores for J&K under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the favour of National Health Mission (NHM) and the National Ayush Mission (NAM).

In this regard, as per details, funds amounting to Rs 164 cr have been released as 1st installment of Central share as grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India under Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Health Programme and Urban Health Mission under National Health Mission which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Further, over Rs 16 cr have also been released as the 1st installment of Central Share, as Grant-in-Aid released by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Ayush Mission (NAM) in J&K and the same has been kept at the disposal of Director Ayush, J&K.

The details revealed that the advance drawl of 16475.00 Lakhs has been approved in favor of Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K for crediting the funds into the Single Nodal Account (SNA) of NHM Scheme for its utilization during the current financial year 2022-23.

Concerning the NAM, an advance drawl of Rs. 1631.696 lakhs has been approved for the Director Ayush, J&K for e-transfer of funds into the Single Nodal Account (SNA) of NAM Scheme of J&K Ayush Society for utilization of funds during the current financial year 2022-23.

As per the conditions laid down, the H&ME has underlined that the expenditure shall be made strictly, according to the classification under which funds have been authorized by the Finance Department, while the Treasury Officers have been directed not to entertain bills without complete classification under which funds have been authorized by the Finance Department apart from not allowing parking or drawl of funds in the Civil

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Psychiatric Hospital Jammu bags 1st position NHM J&K releases ranking of Public Health facilities

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Oct 25: Psychiatric Disease Hospital Jammu and District Hospital Samba have won top position in the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, respectively as National Health Mission Jammu & Kashmir has released ranking of Public Health facilities for the month of September on the basis of JK e-Sahaj (Hospital Management System of J&K) portal.

Official sources told Excelsior that the ranking to the Government hospitals has been

assigned in different categories i.e. Associated Hospitals (AHs) of Government Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs. They said the ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record) and Patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e-Sahaj for the month of September 2022, on real time basis.

Sources said the first rank in the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, has been clinched by Psychiatric Disease Hospital Jammu followed by Chest Disease Hospital Jammu,

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Steps taken to reconnect youth to roots Govt working to preserve, revive culture, folk traditions: LG

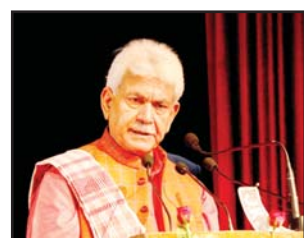
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated "Jashn-e-Kashmir"- New Kashmir New Hope, a three-week long cultural festival celebrating tradition, culture and heritage, at Srinagar.

The Cultural Festival is www.excelsiornews.com

being organized by All J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, and the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Congratulating everyone associated with the cultural festival, the Lt Governor said, "Our unique diversity is our pride and our biggest strength. Such festivals will encourage artistes, arti-



sans and craftsmen to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

He said that the Government is working out a roadmap for

preserving and reviving the culture and folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"After a long pause, we are witnessing cultural revival in J&K. Several schemes for promoting folk arts, literature and visual arts have been prepared to give a new impetus to art and culture," Sinha said.

"We have taken steps to reconnect youth to their roots and provide an environment and a forum to folk artists, visual artistes and authors to showcase our shared goals and values," he observed.

Schemes like 'Guru Shishya Parampara' to pass on the valued traditions of Jammu Kashmir to the

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Bilal Lone likely to leave HC, to join mainstream

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Separatist leader and Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Independent Movement Bilal Lone is likely to switch to mainstream politics.

Lone is the son of veteran separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone who was killed at Eidgah in Srinagar and elder brother of chairman of Peoples

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

DB upholds attachment, eviction of property

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: The Division Bench of High Court upheld the writ court judgement whereby it had held the attachment and auction of property under Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) Act as reasoned and lucid.

The division bench of Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed the appeal filed by Syed

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Ladakh Admn to process DRWs' cases

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 25: The Government of Union Territory of Ladakh has directed all the Administrative Secretaries of various Departments to examine and process the pending eligible cases of the Daily Rated Workers (DRWs) and Work Charged employees, engaged before March 31, 1994, in a time bound manner for placing them before the competent authority for regularization.

A spokesman of the GAD (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Weather not people helped in reducing RSPM

For 1st time in last 5 yrs, decline noticed in Jammu's air pollution on Diwali Day

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Oct 25: For the first time during the past five years, there was decline in air pollution of Jammu on Diwali Day. However, there was no contribution of people in reduced Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) as situation remained moderate mainly because of rainfall of few days back, which settled the dust in the air up to large extent.

As per the data of Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, Jammu's Air Quality Index (AQI) level on Diwali Day in 2018 was 158 while as the same on Diwali Day in 2019 was 130. However, the AQI increased to 186 on Diwali

Noise pollution increased by over 10 decibel

Day in 2020.

In 2021, the Air Quality Index on Diwali Day in Jammu was 173 but this year the AQI level on Diwali Day was 123, which is considered as major decline as compared to previous four years.

As per the data, the copy of which is available with EXCELSIOR, mean average of RSPM, which as per standard limits should be 100 microgram per cubic meter, was 134 in Jammu city while as PM 2.5 was 38.3, which as per standard limits should be 60 microgram per cubic meter. Similarly, SO2 was 4.63 and NO2 was 24.66 micro-

gram per cubic meter. Similarly, the PM 2.5 was 43.35 microgram per cubic meter at Narwal, 26.22 at MA Stadium and 45.22 at Bikram Chowk. Likewise, SO2 was 4.3

microgram per cubic meter at Narwal, 3.0 at MAM Stadium and 6.6 at Bikram Chowk.

The RSPMs are more dangerous to health because they are much smaller than Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), the scientists of Pollution Control Committee said, adding "the RSPM are finer particles which when inhaled can cause damage to lungs and exposure to these can irritate lungs and can cause lung constriction, shortness of breath and cough and it aggravates asthma and other respiratory problems".

However, people don't deserve any credit for decline in air pollution on Diwali Day this

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Indo-Pak troops exchange sweets on Diwali

CDS visits forward posts in Rajouri, calls for operational preparedness

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 25: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan yesterday visited forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan in Rajouri sector and asked the soldiers deployed in the region to maintain operational preparedness of the "highest order".

This was first visit of Gen Chauhan to Jammu and Kashmir after being appointed as the CDS.

Gen Chauhan also celebrated Diwali with the troops.

The Field Commanders in the Rajouri sector briefed the CDS on the security situation along the LoC, the Army said in a statement.



Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan visits forward posts in Rajouri sector. Another pic on page 6. (UNI)

Gen Chauhan also reviewed the development of defence infrastructure and operational preparedness undertaken despite

challenging terrain and weather conditions in the region.

"The Chief of Defence Staff, while addressing the troops, exhorted them to inculcate professionalism and carry forward the rich tradition of courage and valour of the Indian Army," it said.

"He also emphasised the need for operational preparedness of the highest order. The visit by the CDS on the occasion of Diwali acted as a great morale booster for troops deployed on the frontlines in challenging conditions," the Army said.

Meanwhile, the Indo-Pak troops exchanged sweets along the LoC as well as International Border on the

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)



A view of solar eclipse in Jammu with a helicopter flying in background on Tuesday.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Transfer of employees, termination without inquiry proposed J&K Universities Bill envisages appointments through PSC & SSB, nomination of Registrar

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, Oct 25: Even as the Jammu and Kashmir Public Universities Bill 2022 has proposed that the appointment to any post in all universities in the Union Territory would be filled by Public Service Commission and Service Selection Recruitment Board, promotions under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of teachers, officer cadre and equivalent positions shall continue to be dealt with by the University.

This has been made clear in the Bill, according to which: "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the promotions under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of teachers, officer cadre, and equivalent positions shall be dealt with by the University."

Pertinent to mention that J&K Public Universities Bill 2022, which proposes that the appointment to any post in all universities would be filled by JKPS and SSRB, has raised many eyebrows and some student organizations have even lodged their resentment against the same.

Before the formulation of the Bill, which was recently

approved by the J&K Administrative Council, all the appointments were being done at the university level with no interference from the Government bodies.

According to the Bill, a draft copy of which lies with the Excelsior, no university which receives any financial support from the Government shall without the prior approval and written consent of the Government create any post in any category, including temporary, revise the pay, grant any special pay, allowance, divert any earmarked funds or take any decision regarding affiliated colleges that has the potential to result in increased financial liability.

However, such approval shall not be refused in case of the universities, which generate at least one half of their budget without any Government or quasi-Governmental support provided the proposed additional expenditure is met out of the university's own resources without any liability to Government.

Other key points proposed in the Bill, include dismissal of any employee of the university without an enquiry in the interest of the security of the State, nomination of university Registrar by the Government on deputation basis, appointment of a Finance Officer by the Government, transfer of any employee from one university to another university and constitution of J&K Higher Education Council, which shall act as advisory body for higher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

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