

Farooq joins 31 Oppn MPs to meet Prez

Excelsior Correspondent
 NEW DELHI, Aug 2: National Conference president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah today met President Droupadi Murmu, along with 31 Opposition MPs to seek her intervention in Manipur and Haryana.
 He also emphasized the urgency of addressing the (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

FIR registered in 'anti-national' slogans

Excelsior Correspondent
 POONCH, Aug 2: Police today registered an FIR against several unidentified persons for allegedly raising "anti-national" slogans during a rally in Poonch town on Tuesday.
 Official sources said that the slogans were incidentally raised at a rally by Gujjars and Bakerwals on Tuesday in Poonch town, against the Bill introduced in the Parliament last week for the grant of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

HC guidelines for trial courts to expedite cases

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Aug 2: The High Court has issued guidelines to the trial court across Jammu and Kashmir for speedy trial of criminal cases pending before these courts.
 These guidelines have been issued by the Division Bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohan Lal in a case whereunder the bench has (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Arrest warrant against Rath

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Aug 2: A local Court in Srinagar today issued a bailable arrest warrant against senior police officer Basant Rath in a case of criminal intimidation.
 The case was registered against the IPS officer in 2020 in Police Station Saddar Srinagar under FIR no. 222/2020 under section 506 of IPC.
 The 2nd Additional Munisif (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Appointment order missing: H&ME orders inquiry

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Aug 2: In an unusual case, the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK), has reported that the initial appointment order of a Dental Surgeon, who is now seeking regularization of her services, cannot be located. The appointment was made on an ad hoc basis back in 1995, now prompting authorities to initiate (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

2 hybrid militants arrested

Excelsior Correspondent
 SRINAGAR, Aug 2: Police today arrested two Hybrid militants during a naka in Baramulla district of North Kashmir.
 Police said that on a specific information regarding movement of militants in Baramulla who are likely to carry out militant activities in the town in view of forthcoming Independence day, joint forces of Baramulla Police, 53 Bn (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Over 3000 perform darshan

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Aug 2: Over 3,000 pilgrims drawn from different parts of country performed darshan at 3880 metre high Himalayan cave in South Kashmir district of Anantnag today.
 Officials said that 3,758 pilgrims from twin tracks of Baltal (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

SC bench's posers to lead counsel

How Art 370, specifically mentioned as temporary provision, became permanent?

NEW DELHI, Aug 2:

Who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no Constituent Assembly (CA) exists there? The Supreme Court today put this question to the petitioners who have challenged the abrogation of the Constitutional provision that bestowed special status on the erstwhile State.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud today commenced hearing a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, a move that had come in for vicious attack by some major opposition parties but earned fulsome praise from those supporting the BJP.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, the lead counsel for the petitioners, as to how can a provision (Article 370), which was specifically mentioned as a temporary

***Who can recommend abrogation in absence of CA?**

provision in the Constitution, become permanent after tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end in 1957.

The top court referred to proviso 3 of Article 370 which says, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by

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public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

The CJJ asked Sibal, "What happens when the tenure of constituent assembly comes to an end? No constituent assembly can have an

indefinite life. The proviso to clause (3) of Article 370 refers to the recommendation of the constituent assembly of the state, and it says before the President issues notification the recommendation of constituent assembly is required. But the question is what would happen when the constituent assembly ceases to exist?"

Sibal responded, saying it was precisely their point and their whole case is about whether the president cannot issue any notification revoking Article 370 without the recommendation of the constituent assembly.

Justice Gavai interjected and asked the senior lawyer whether the argument being made is that nothing could have been done about Article 370 after 1957, when the tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end.

Sibal said the court is currently interpreting a constitutional provision and it is not here

to legitimise the process which is unknown to the Constitution. "Through a political act Article 370 was tossed out of the window. This was not a constitutional act. Parliament took upon itself the role of constituent assembly and revoked Article 370 saying it is exercising the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Can such a power be exercised?" said Sibal contesting the way Article 370 was repealed.

He added nobody can deny that people of Jammu and Kashmir are an integral part of India but there is a special relationship which is a unique and drafted in Article 370 itself.

"You can't jettison that relationship except by following a process ordained by law," he said, adding, "You can change the boundary of a state, you can bifurcate boundaries of a large state to make smaller states. But never in the history of this country has a state been converted into two union territories."

"So, you move away from representative democracy," (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

3500 MW potential tapped in 70 yrs, 3000 MW revived in few years

Union Govt's unstinted support leads to transformation of J&K on all fronts: MHA

***Rs 58,477 cr PMDP projects picked up pace after Aug 2019**

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 2: Union Home Ministry today informed the Parliament that Government of India's unstinted support in accelerating the pace of development in Jammu & Kashmir has resulted in transformation of the Union Territory on all the fronts. Moreover, Rs 58,477 crore worth Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) announced on November 7, 2015 picked up implementation only after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

In 26-pages reply to the

questions regarding measures taken for the development of newly formed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha that Government of India is fully committed to the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir and has taken several initiatives in this regard.

"On account of Article 370 and other constitutional ambiguities, the people of this region were denied full rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and other benefits of various Central Laws that were being enjoyed by other

citizens in the country. After Constitutional changes, all Central laws have been applied in UT of J&K, 205 State laws were repealed and 130 State laws have been modified and applied", the Minister said.

He further said that first time in the history of the Jammu and Kashmir, duly elected 3-tier Panchayati Raj System has been established and both the Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies have been empowered by transfer of Funds, Functions and Functionaries as prescribed under the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution.

'No merriment in killing youth taking up terrorism'

Pak still radicalising youngsters to kill innocent people: DGP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: The Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh today accused Pakistan and its agencies of radicalising the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to kill innocent people.

"Pakistan and its agencies have been luring our youth into different forms of militancy and radicalising them to kill innocent people but our mission is to put an end to their conspiracies and uproot all anti-national elements from J&K," said the DGP while flagging off the "Peace and Stability Teams" formed under the Operational Capabilities Augmentation of

Stations of Valley for ensuring peace and strengthening law and order in their respective areas in the first phase of the OCAPS program. In the second phase, around 22 more Police Stations would be strengthened by such teams.

Speaking on the occasion, Dilbag said that Police Stations are the initial point of contact whether there is an issue of crime, verification, law and order, security or civic action. "As such, the role of Peace and Stability Teams is crucial in strengthening the Police Stations by ensuring peace and law and order in the respective areas," said the DGP.

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Amarnath yatra continues with Jammu emerging as 'Mini-India'

***Visiting pilgrims laud arrangements, role of Army**

Sanjeev Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 2: Attired in different dresses, speaking different languages and displaying different cultures and looks, the visiting Amarnath pilgrims of the ongoing annual pilgrimage have thronged Jammu from across the country and their stay here has turned many parts of the city into "mini-India".

"I have seen a rare glimpse of whole of India at this place as pilgrims from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha and many other parts of the country are staying with us here and are preparing for their onwards journey to Kashmir for the pilgrimage,"

said Devnath, 47, from Chhattisgarh, who was performing Amarnath pilgrimage for the first time and was staying at Bhagwati Nagar based base camp of the pilgrimage.

He further said that right from the day he entered J&K for the pilgrimage, nowhere he felt anything like terrorism so far.

Similar were the views of Durgesh Dhuve, 35, a businessman from Nagpur who was preparing for the pilgrimage for the second time along with his wife.

Some more pilgrims lauded the arrangements put in place for them and praised the Army for cooperation.

They said: "Our undeterred

faith on Lord Shiva strengthens us to face all odds like inclement weather etc during the pilgrimage."

Though unable to go for the pilgrimage, yet Liliben, 67, from Morbi in Gujarat along with her sister Lavuben, 69, had all praises for "excellent" arrangement put in place for the visiting pilgrims at Guru Ravi Dass Temple in Krishna Nagar, where they were staying for the last three days.

Both the sisters were only familiar with Gujarati language and were unable to converse in Hindi but Liliben's son accompanying them helped them in this regard.

"My son accompanying us

Will have world-class facilities, resemble like airports
PM to lay foundation stone for re-development of 500 Rly Stns including Jammu, Udhampur

Sanjeev Pargal
***Rs 20,000 cr provision kept by Railways Ministry**

JAMMU, Aug 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay foundation stone for re-development of 500 Railway Stations across the country at the cost of Rs 20,000 crore including Udhampur and Jammu in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, virtually, on August 6.

"All these Railway Stations will be developed as world-class stations with State-of-the-Art facilities and will be no less than the Airports," official sources told the Excelsior.

While the Prime Minister will lay foundation stone of Railway Stations virtually from New Delhi, the ceremony will be attended at Udhampur by Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, Lok Sabha member at Jammu besides senior officers of the Railways.

The redeveloped Railway Stations will have State-of-the-Art facilities like multiple entrance gates, platforms, Escalators, lifts, facilities for

specially abled persons, connectivity with most of the States/Union Territories, restaurants, cyber cafes, Wi-Fi, help centres for senior citizens etc.

"A total provision of Rs 20,000 crore has been kept for re-development of 500 Railway Stations," the sources said, adding a fixed amount has been earmarked for the Railway Stations which will be made world-class stations in the coming years.

Jammu and Udhampur receive large number of trains from different States/Union Territories carrying large number of pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji cave shrine besides Kashmir-bound tourists as the Valley is yet to be connected by the train.

A number of trains from different States and UTs have also been reaching directly to Katra, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji shrine. However, Katra already has latest facilities required for a Railway Station.

Most of the Railway Stations constructed/or being constructed on Katra-Baramulla Railway Line are already modern Stations, the sources said, adding the Central Government is quite confident that train will reach Kashmir valley either by the end of this year or start of next year.

"In any case, the train will reach Kashmir before March next," they said, adding the Railways Ministry has already started preparations like deployment of staff and working out lists of trains which will reach the Valley from different parts of the country.

Some of the trains are likely to be extended to Baramulla from Jammu, Udhampur and Katra Railway Stations while others will be altogether new trains including one exclusive Vande Bharat from New Delhi to Baramulla.

"Efforts will be to connect Kashmir with Kanyakumari," the sources said.

'Make in India fertile ground for young minds'

India on move; emerging as technology, services hub powered by knowledge economy: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the students of the joining batch of 2023 of IIT Jammu at the inaugural session of the Foundation Program at Jagti Campus, today.

In his address on the occasion, Sinha congratulated and extended his best wishes to the students embarking on a new journey. The world-class faculty here at IIT Jammu will nurture your talents to transform your dreams into reality, he added.

"India's future offers immense opportunities for engineering careers. As the nation continues to invest in research and development, infrastructure

and technological advancement, a plethora of opportunities await engineers," the Lt Governor said.

He said under the guidance of Prime Minister, India is on the move and is emerging as a



technology and services hub powered by knowledge economy.

The 'Make in India' and

'Digital India' initiatives coupled with a burgeoning startup ecosystem, presents a fertile ground for young minds to make their mark and carve a successful career in engineering, he added.

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He advised the students to explore new paths and keep re-inventing themselves to keep pace with the change happening around the world.

"We need engineers who will not be confined to the mundane, but who will think beyond textbooks and question the status quo and embrace challenges as opportunities. The expertise of the young engineers' expertise (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Work on main bridge to start after rainy season: Dr Jitendra

As transporters, commuters face problems; NHAI starts work on causeway at Tarnah

Avtar Bhat

KATHUA, Aug 2: The diversion of traffic on National Highway 44 due to caving in of Tarnah bridge in last month's flash floods has brought in its wake a plethora of problems to the people and transporters who don't see an immediate end to the same.

Since the diversion of the traffic on NH 44 after the damage of the bridge about 12 days back, the trucks carrying essential commodities from other parts of the country for UTs of J&K and Ladakh face a tough time in reaching to their destinations as they get trapped in traf-

fic jam for hours together on Dhar road and border road where from traffic has been diverted by the authorities after damage to the bridge.

Though the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) manning the NH 44, has started the construction of old and damaged causeway and road at Tarnah river adjoining the bridge to restore the traffic on the Highway few days back but the inclement weather and rainfall with increasing water level in the river is creating impediments in the construction work.

The diversion of traffic has led to enormous problems to the transporters and the Jammu-Kathua Bus Union which plies



A machine on the job at Tarnah river to construct causeway for restoration of traffic on NH.

-Excelsior/Pardeep Singh who represents the Kathua Doda Lok Sabha constituency said that he is himself monitoring the situation and

Union Minister, Dr Jitendra (Contd on page 13 Col 5)

Restructuring of PW(R&B) Deptt

Staff of 15 Engg wings asked to join DCW office by Aug 16

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 2: As a part of Government move to reorganize/re-structure Public Works (R&B) Department in UT of J&K, entire engineering and non-engineering staff of the subsumed engineering wings of at least 15 various departments, has been directed to join in the office of Development Commissioner Works (Engineer-in-Chief, J&K) by August 16, 2023.

While issuing an order in this connection today, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department (J&K UT), Shailendra Kumar said that all

the engineering/ non-engineering employees of the subsumed (merged/incorporated) engineering wings of other departments shall be deemed to have been relieved from their respective departments by August 14, 2023.

These staff members of various Engineering wings/departments shall join the office of Development Commissioner Works (Engineer-in-Chief, J&K), on next working day viz, August 16, 2023. The Engineer-in-Chief, J&K shall submit the report of the staff having joined in his office, to the Administrative Department, Public Works (R&B) Department by 4 pm on the

same day, he added. Meanwhile, the Govt order No. 319-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 2-08-2023, further elaborated that all the measurement books of all works with all the merged engineering units, shall be closed by August 10, and accordingly all the records pertaining to all the on going works, shall be digitized by August 10, 2023 and the copy of the same be shared with the present

Administrative Department PW(R&B) and also with the respective Chief Engineers, R&B Kashmir and Jammu by the respective subsumed engineering unit head.

It has been further clarified (Contd on page 13 Col 5)