

## DM expected to attend North Tech Symposium Rajnath likely to visit Jammu on Sept 12, 13 to inaugurate several projects

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 26: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to undertake a two-day visit to Jammu on September 12 and 13 during which he will inaugurate nearly 74 projects, physically as well as virtually, attend a North Tech Symposium and undertake a visit to forward areas on the Line of Control (LoC) to review security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Defence Minister is expected to meet top Army Commanders to take stock of infiltration attempts on the LoC and security scenario in the Kashmir valley as well as twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch where Pakistan and militant outfits are trying to revive militancy.

While exact dates and schedule of Rajnath Singh's visit to Jammu are being worked out, official sources told the Excelsior that tentative dates for the visit include September 12 and 13 though an official confirmation from the Ministry of

### \*Will tour forward areas on LoC in Rajouri, Poonch

Defence is awaited. The Defence Minister will inaugurate Devak bridge physically in Samba district, most likely on September 12. And from the spot, he will virtually inaugurate a total of 74 projects in northern and western frontiers.

Senior officers of Army and Border Roads Organization (BRO) are likely to accompany Rajnath Singh during project inauguration ceremony.

The projects to be inaugurated by the Defence Minister include airstrips, tunnels and bridges constructed along the northern and western borders. He will physically inaugurate nearly half-a-kilometer-long fully constructed bridge on River Devak that connects areas along the International Border (IB) with the mainland.

Construction of the Devak Bridge in Samba district has been accomplished within two

years under Project Sampark. This bridge, positioned on the Devika River, holds immense importance from both strategic and socio-economic perspective as it enables rapid movement of forces along the border, benefiting the villages of Folpur and Gulpur situated along the International Border.

The Defence Minister is likely to visit North Tech Symposium 2023 being organized by the Ministry of Defence at IIT Jammu from September 11 to 13. He will visit the Symposium on September 12 after inauguration of the projects.

"North Tech Symposium is a technology showcase event which provides an efficacious platform for Army industry participation with intent to interface directly with end user and creating awareness about contemporary technologies and equipment

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Huge cache of arms, ammunition recovered 5 militants including woman arrested in North Kashmir

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Security forces today busted a militant module in Bandipora district with the arrest of two people, including the wife of a slain militant and arrested three more militants from

■ Pic on page 4

Kupwara district.

A police spokesman said that based on specific input about the movement of a hybrid militant, a checkpoint was established in Dardgund area of the district on Friday.

He said a person tried to flee on seeing security personnel at the checkpoint and was subsequently arrested.

"A pistol, a pistol magazine, eight rounds and other incriminating material were recovered from him," the spokesman added. He has been identified as Shafayat Zubair Rishi, a resident of Nesbal Sumbal.

"During his questioning, the accused disclosed that he was on his way to collect a cache of arms and ammunition from a

woman identified as Munira Begum - the wife of slain militant commander Yousuf Choupan. She was also arrested," he said.

The spokesman said that the accused was in touch with Pakistan-based handler Mushtaq Ahmad Mir who "exfiltrated" to the neighbouring country in 1999 and was working for the revival of militancy in the district.

The spokesman said that Rishi was involved in a blast in Kothibagh in 2000 in which 14 people, including 12 police personnel, were killed and had remained associated with the proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen and later on with Al-Badr.

Rishi was also involved in the burning of an Army vehicle in Sumbal in 2009 and is out on bail in the case.

"On the disclosure of Begum, security forces recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including a Krinkov AK-47 rifle, three magazines, 90 rounds and a pen pistol that were to be delivered to Rishi, from a nearby forested area", the

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)  
ISRO eyes Sept 2 for launch of solar mission

BENGALURU, Aug 26: After the successful moon lander venture, ISRO is now gearing up for the launch of a solar mission in a week's time, likely on September 2, to study the Sun.

Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed for providing remote observations of the solar corona and in situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Aug 23 to be celebrated as National Space Day Chandrayaan-3 landing spot to be named as Shiv Shakti point: PM

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, Aug 26:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced that Chandrayaan-3's landing spot on the Moon would be named as Shiv Shakti point and August 23 celebrated as 'National Space Day'.

Modi, who flew down to Bengaluru this morning directly from the Greek capital of Athens after summit talks, made the announcement while congratulating and interacting with scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) after the successful touchdown of the Vikram lander on the unexplored lunar south pole on August 23.

Termining the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission as an 'extraordinary moment' in the history of India's space pro-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), in Bengaluru on Saturday. (UNI)

gramme and a "roaring announcement" of the country's scientific accomplishment in the infinite universe, Modi, who turned emotional, said the place where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crash-landed on the Moon's surface in 2019 and left its imprints

would be known as Tiranga point. "There is a scientific tradition of naming the location of a touchdown. India has decided to name the lunar region where our Chandrayaan-3 landed. The

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## Chhari Mubarak leaves for holy cave amid chanting of religious slogans

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: The Chhari Mubarak, the Saffron robed holy mace of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati led by its sole custodian, Swami Deependra Giri Ji Maharaj left for cave shrine of Amarnath Ji in South

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Kashmir district of Anantnag from historical Dashnami Akhara, Srinagar early this morning amid chanting of 'Bum Bum Bhole' by devotees and Sadhus present on the occasion.

Prior to leaving for its final



Mahant Deependra Giri Ji carrying Chhari Mubarak on way to holy cave from Dashnami Akhara Srinagar on Saturday. (Excelsior/Shakeel)

Akhara in a traditional way. Tight security arrangements were made by the authorities on the occasion and the holy mace was also escorted by the jawans of security forces. Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Deependra Giri Ji said that on its course of pilgrimage Puja and other religious rituals were performed by Mahant Deependra Giri Ji and Sadhus at Dashnami

way to holy shrine the Puja will be performed at Someshwar temple Srinagar, Pampore, (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## Sonia arrives in Srinagar; joins Rahul, Wadra

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi today reached Srinagar on a

■ Pic on page 4

personal visit a day after her son Rahul Gandhi arrived here from Kargil.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

## Aakash Bharat new JKYC chief

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Aakash Bharat, a Youth Congress leader from district Kathua has been appointed as president of J&K Youth Congress.

A party spokesman (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## People hold protests, transport remains off the roads Jammu observes near total bandh against Sarore TP, installation of smart meters

Avtar Bhat

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

JAMMU, Aug 26: Peaceful protests held at different places marked the near total Jammu bandh today, the call which was given by Chamber of Commerce and Industries

(CCI) and supported by other organizations demanding removal of Sarore Toll Plaza and against the installation of pre-paid smart meters.



Raghnath Bazaar wearing a deserted look as Jammu observes bandh on Saturday. (Excelsior/Rakesh)

fact that transporters had not extended support to today's bandh. As the transport was off the roads, the attendance in

Admn to take up issues with NHAI team

The Jammu and Kashmir administration will take up the issues of Sarore Toll Plaza and Tarnah bridge with visiting team of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which is touring the UT from August 29-September 1.

As reported by the Excelsior (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Government and public sector offices was also thin. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

## 103 JKPS officers get placement in non-functional grades

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 26: Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered placement of 103 JKPS officers of General Executive Cadre under the Non-Functional Scheme (NFS) in different grades.

As per an order issued by the Home Department of the Jammu and Kashmir Government, the officers of General Executive Cadre who were placed in Non-Functional Selection Grade-I, Level 13 are M Fisel Qureshi, Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Ranjeet Singh Chib, Paramjeet Singh, Nasir Ahmad, Dushyant Sharma, Vinay Kumar, Al-Tahir Geelani, Kulwant Singh, Sanjeev Khajuria, Mohammad Aftab Mir, and Fayaz Hussain.

The other officers who were placed in this grade are Prabhu Dayal Sharma, Muneer Ahmed, Mohan Lal Kaith, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, Master Popsy, Ramnish Gupta, Sajad Ahmad Shah, Azhar Bashir Baba, Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie, Arif Amin Shah, Sajad Khaliq Bhat, Suresh Kumar, Sumir Kotwal, Peerzada Naveed, Mamta Sharma, Shahzad Ahmad Salaria, Dawood Ayoub, Stanzin Losal, Aijaz Ahmad Zargar, Perbeet Singh, Tahir Ashraf Bhatti, Mushtaq Ahmad, Farooq Qesor Malik, Naresh Singh, Surjeet Kumar Bhagat, Aftab Ahmed Sheikh, Raj Kumar, Sheikh Faisal Qayoom, Khalid Amin, Sanjay Kumar Parihar, Mubbasher Hussain, Ifroz Ahmad, Mushim Ahmad, Rajinder Singh, Mohammad

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Calls for restoration of Statehood Delay in Assembly polls shows BJP is scared: Patil

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 26: Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Rajani Patil today said the delay in the conduct of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir implies that the BJP is scared.

Patil, the AICC in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir affairs, was here to attend a event held at the party headquarters ceremony to felicitate the newly-inducted Congress Central Working Committee

members. "On one side, you (BJP) are saying the situation is peaceful,



Congress leaders including Rajani Patil during a felicitation ceremony to felicitate the newly-inducted Congress Central Working Committee (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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