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Budget has something for all: PM

NEW DELHI, Feb 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the recent Union Budget has something for every section of the society and asserted that the interests of the poor have been at the centre of every budget presented by his Government.

Addressing the first BJP Parliamentary Party Meeting after the budget was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, Modi said no one is calling it a "chunavi budget" (budget influence) (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Revisit Accreditation guidelines: PCJ to Govt

Excelsior Correspondent
 JAMMU, Feb 7: The Press Club of Jammu Management Committee has appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir Government particularly the Information Department to cut short a long list of formalities sought for Accreditation of journalists/video journalists/freelance journalists/photographers and all others categories.

In its meeting held today under the chairmanship of Press Club of Jammu president Sanjeev Pargal and attended by entire Management Committee including Dinesh Manhotra, Secretary (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Protests in PoJK's G-B area for power supply

GILGIT-BALTISTAN [PoJK], Feb 7:

People in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, are compelled to live under severe circumstances, including a shortage of power supply amid a massive economic crisis that has gripped Pakistan.

According to Pakistan's vernacular media, people in many areas in Gilgit City are forced to live in darkness for the past one week due to no electricity. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

JEE Main: 20 candidates score perfect 100

NEW DELHI, Feb 7:

Twenty candidates have scored perfect 100 in engineering entrance exam JEE-Main's January edition, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced today.

All the candidates with 100 NTA score in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main are males. The 20 toppers include 14 from the general category, four from the OBC category and one each from gen-EWS and SC (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

India hits out at Pak for raking up Kashmir

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 7:

India has slammed Pakistan for raking up the Kashmir issue in the United Nations, saying Islamabad harbours a deep sense of insecurity and orchestrated hatred for its neighbouring country and its secular credentials.

Responding to Pakistan's raising of the Kashmir issue during a UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting, Counselor (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Quake, subsidence prone areas yet to be identified in J&K

Bivek Mathur

JAMMU, Feb 7: Even after recurring instances of earthquakes, landslides and subsidence in parts of Jammu and Kashmir like other Himalayan States, the UT Government is yet to prepare

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Rs 15,000 cr scheme to benefit migrate communities

Centre to implement PM's PVTGs Development Mission in J&K

Sanjeev Pargal

Housing, telecom, education, health facilities among the benefits

JAMMU, Feb 7: The Central Government has decided to implement the Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) Development Mission in Jammu and Kashmir which would largely benefit the communities which migrate including Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gaddis and Sippis among others.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Central Government has allocated a fund of Rs 15,000 crore for the country for next three years for socio-economic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group and will be launched as part of 'Reaching the Last Mile', one of the seven 'Saptrishi priorities' enlisted by the Government of India.

In Jammu and Kashmir, sources said, there will be huge funding for the PVTGs for their socio-economic development. The beneficiaries mostly include Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gaddis and Sippis who are listed as migrates but there can be some more communities if they are found in

the same category. "The Jammu and Kashmir administration will shortly start its task for clear identification of PVTGs so that none of the communities is left out of the Group. Concerned Ministries of the Central Government will also be consulted in the issue to ensure that benefits of the PVTGs reached to all those who deserve," sources said.

"The PVTGs Mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to provide basic facilities like housing, water, road, telecom, education and health in PVTG areas.

The scheme follows strategic approach of Banbandhu Kalyan Yojana, which is need-based and strives to optimize utilization of resources available under various programmes and aims to specific outcomes," they added.

The Ministries which will be responsible for implementation of the PM-PVTG Mission include the Rural Development, Water Resources, Education, Health and Woman and Child

Development, as per the sources.

They said there are certain tribal communities who have declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. They generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support. These groups are among the most vulnerable section of our society as they are few in numbers and have not attained any significant level of social and economic development. Seventy five such groups have been identified and categorized as PVTGs," sources said.

As per them, the features of such a group include pre-agricultural system of existence, practice of hunting and gathering, zero or negative population growth, extremely low level of literacy in comparison with other tribal groups. The Groups that satisfied any one of the criterion were considered as PVTGs.

"Due to their vulnerabil-

ty, PVTGs require greater support and development compared to other tribal groups. The more developed and assertive tribal groups often receive a larger portion of tribal development funds, leaving PVTGs in need of more targeted support. The programme for the welfare of PVTGs began in the 1970s and there is an absence of a proper policy that considers their culture, practices, livelihood and other aspects of their lives for their welfare," the sources said.

On the recommendation of the Dhebar Commission, the Central Government began to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category in 1975, establishing 52 such groups. The list was expanded in 1993, when another 23 groups were added, for a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes spread across 17 States and one Union Territory (UT) in the country (2011 census), they added.

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)

Police arrests 3 LeT associates

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 7: Police today arrested three militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in Srinagar and recovered a cash amount of over Rs 30 lakh and other incriminating materials from their possession.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir, (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

MeT forecasts snowfall

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 7: The Meteorological Department has forecast snowfall at isolated places in Kashmir and the authorities have issued an avalanche warning for the hills.

The Disaster Management Authority today issued a medium avalanche warning for the hills of Ganderbal, Bandipora, (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Police books 3 SMC officials for demolishing booth

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 7: Police have booked three Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) officials for demolishing a traffic booth and assaulting the cops. (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

9 J&K, Ladakh products to get GI tag

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 7: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Jammu, in its initiative of identifying unique products of Jammu and Kashmir and (Contd on page 13 Col 1)

'Pak using narco-terror for proxy war'

Will give appropriate response to any aggression: Army Comdr

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 7: The Army today said it was ready to give a befitting response to any Chinese aggression in Ladakh, maintaining that the integrity of the country was being ensured through physical patrolling and technical means.

Addressing the Northern Command Investiture Ceremony here, General officer Commanding in Chief Lt General Upendra Dwivedi also said that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has brought forth many lessons such as employment of disruptive and dual use technologies.

"On the LAC, our response to Chinese attempts to unilater-

ally change the status quo was a swift, undaunted and synergised action by the Indian Armed Forces. Any adverse aggressive designs or attempts will definitely be met with appropriate posturing of Forces and a strong intent with complete synergy among the three services," he said.

He said measures to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation at diplomatic and operational levels are also simultaneously underway.

"I assure you that the LAC in Eastern Ladakh is being dominated by physical patrolling and through technical means and our territorial integrity is being ensured," he added.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the Northern Command is in a high

state of readiness and morale, to face constantly evolving threats and challenges.

"The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh poses many challenges in terrain and operational dynamics, especially from different adversaries along the Northern and Western borders. We are committed to defending India's sovereignty and territorial integrity while upholding the democratic traditions of the Nation.

"We are maintaining a constant vigil, monitoring all developments and will take all necessary steps to protect our national interests," he said.

The Army Commander noted that cyber and space have emerged as new domains of (Contd on page 13 Col 3)

NOC from DD Employment, DIC GM not needed for joining Govt job

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 7: The UT Government today ordered dispensing with the condition requiring production of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Deputy Director, Employment and General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) for joining the Government service.

All Government orders relating to appointments set out various conditions as a precedent for joining the Government Service and among others required production of certificates from the concerned (Deputy Director, Employment and General Manager, DIC) to the effect that no loan under self employment scheme has been taken by the appointed persons.

"It has been seen that a vast

number of youth do not take up self employment opportunities on offer in the various Government sponsored /Self Employment Schemes under which banks provide credit on easy terms and/or where Government subsidy is also available for setting up the businesses/trade as they believe that they may not be able to liquidate loan liabilities to become eligible for Government employment in case they are subsequently selected," a Government circular issued by General Administration Department (GAD) Secretary Dr Piyush Singla said.

"This has acted as a significant disincentive for them to take up self employment as a

consequently, it said, the matter has been examined in consultation with Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.

"It has emerged that there is no legal bar in dispensing with the condition and substituting it with the (new) condition, which would not only promote self employment activities, but also guard against any possible loan

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

PIL seeking eviction of ex-Ministers, MLAs from official bungalows

DB directs Sr AAG to file latest status of unauthorized occupants

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 7: In a significant order, a Division Bench of High Court of J&K & Ladakh comprising Chief Justice (Acting) Tashi Rabstan and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi has granted two weeks time to Senior AAG Monika Kohli appearing for Government of J&K/Estates Department for filing the latest status regarding the unauthorized occupants of Government accommodations who were issued eviction notices in the year 2018 but despite lapse of more than four years the eviction has not been effected.

The directions were passed in the much publicised Public

Interest Litigation highlighting unauthorized occupation of ministerial bungalows by the ex-ministers/MLAs at Jammu and Srinagar. The PIL seeks directions to the Estates Department to ensure the eviction of the illegal occupants.

When the PIL came up for hearing, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates Supriya Chouhan and Mohd Zulkarnain Choudhary appearing for the petitioner drew the attention of the Division Bench towards a latest RTI information received from Estates Department wherein it was divulged that on December 21, 2018, the Deputy Director Estates, Jammu issued eviction notices to former Deputy CM



Workers make drums, traditional musical instruments also known as 'Dholki' in Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Project completed, final touches being given to all components

PM likely to inaugurate International Yoga Centre at Mantalai in April

Facilities to attract large number of domestic, foreign tourists

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Feb 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate Rs 87 crore worth International Yoga Centre at Mantalai in Udhampur district in the month of April as work on all the components of the project has been completed and at present final touches are being given.

The project was sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Government of India in order to carry forward the Himalayan Yoga and spiritual knowledge besides attracting domestic and foreign tourists and work on all its components has been completed by National Building Construction Corporation through Patel Engineering, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

"At present finishing touches are being given and by the last week of next month project will be ready in all respects for its inauguration", they said, adding "It is likely that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate

this project to the public along with some other vital infrastructure in other parts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir".

The project comprises Tourist Facilitation Centre, Yoga and Meditation Complex, Wellness Spa and Ayurveda Complex, eco-huts with solariums, poly house and drip irrigation system, open area amphitheatre and helipad etc.

The Tourist Facilitation Centre consists of counseling rooms, money exchange point, conference hall and museum while as Yoga Centre is having exhibition space, meditation hall, meditation pods, dining centre and solid waste management plant and it has been conceptualized to practice and propagate Yoga in the lap of nature as many people are running for solace due to their changed/engaged fatigued lifestyle, sources said.

The Wellness Spa and Ayurveda Complex with separate area for traditional Indian Spa Therapies consists

of six floors and other allied infrastructure. "The Wellness and Spa industries are recording a growing trend with each passing year and domestic and international tourists are expected to take advantage of this centre throughout the year", sources said.

There are 14 number of one bedroom eco-log huts, six number of two bedroom huts along with eco parks and herbal garden and these huts will be outsourced for residential purpose of the visiting tourists.

The poly houses at Mantalai are having naturally ventilated climate control for growing of vegetables, floriculture and fruit crop for market and outsourcing of the same will generate huge revenue every year. Moreover, open air amphitheatre with green rooms and tensile roofing, walking and jogging track, mood lighting, children activity zone and fountains have been created as part of the project. Even helipad with hanger has been constructed.

(For the mobility of the (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

30 civilians, 31 securitymen killed 25,450 vacancies filled in Govt deptts in J&K: Rai

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 7: As many as 30 civilians and 31 security personnel were killed and 221 others injured in violence perpetrated by militants in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, Lok Sabha was informed today.

Seven civilians and 23 others were injured in the first month of 2023, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply.

"The Government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

A total of 41 civilians and 42 security personnel were killed and 192 others were injured in 2021, he said.

Meanwhile, Nityanand Rai also informed the Lok Sabha that 25,450 vacancies have been filled in various Government departments in Jammu and Kashmir till December 2022 since it became the UT.

In another written reply, he said the Government of J&K, has carried out several

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Governance reforms, including in the area of recruitments in Government.

"Large scale recruitment drive has been carried out after formation of the Union Territory in the most transparent manner," he said.

Rai added that 33,426 vacancies of Gazetted and non-Gazetted categories have

been identified in Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 25,450 vacancies have been filled till December, 2022, while recruiting agencies have advertised 7,976 vacancies.

He also said that the identification of vacancies in the Government and recruitment is a continuous and on-going process and the same is taken up under Accelerated Recruitment Drive.

"The Government of J&K has taken various initiatives to bring down unemployment by implementing various self employment schemes through different departments by providing subsidized loans for establishment of their own sustainable income generation units," the Union MoS Home said. (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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