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Why Nehru's scions never used his surname?
Dirt of allegations will help
lotus bloom more: PM

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fresh broadside against the opposition today, saying their "keechad" (dirt) of allegations will only help the lotus bloom more and asserting he alone outweighs all who had to take turns to shout slogans to oppose him.

Thumping his chest, Modi declared that he lives for the country and wants to do something for the country, which has rattled the opposition parties and they are playing political games just to save themselves.

"Desh dekh raha hai, ek akela kitno ko bhari padh raha hai (the country is watching how one person has outweighed so many)," he said as the opposition members kept shouting "Modi-Adani, bhai-bhai".

Unperturbed by the jeering, Modi finished his 90-minute speech in reply to a debate on a motion thanking the President for her address to a joint sitting of Parliament, and listed various achievements of his Government.

With members of the treasury benches chanting "Modi-Modi", he pointed at the opposition MPs who had gathered in the Well of the House in a bid to shout him down and said, "Naare bolne ke liye bhi unko badal karna padhta hai (they

The opposition, he said, is resorting to this to save themselves. Replying to the Congress charge that the BJP was ignoring Jawaharlar Nehru's efforts in nation building after Independence, Modi retorted that if the first Prime Minister was so great, why have his scions never used his surname.

As he rose to speak, opposition MPs, some holding placards, rushed into the Well shouting slogans against the Prime Minister and seeking a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into allegations levelled by the US short-seller Hindenburg Research against tycoon Gautam Adani.

Hitting back, Modi said, "Jitna keechad uchhaloge, kamal utna hee zyada khilega (the more dirt you fling, the bigger the kamal - the

(Contd on page 2 Col 5)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Thursday. (UNI)

J&K figures on global map
Discovered in India for first time,
Lithium reserves found in Reasi

Nishikant Khajuria and electric vehicles. It is also used for things like heart pacemakers, toys and clocks. Currently, India is import-dependent for Lithium.

"This is for the first time that Lithium reserves have been discovered in the country and that too in Jammu and Kashmir," disclosed Union Mines Secretary, Vivek Bhardwaj while speaking at the 62nd Central Geological Programming Board meeting at New Delhi on Thursday.

On the occasion, Vivek Bhardwaj also handed over two Major Blocks Geological Reports of Lithium in Jammu Division and G3 Study (Advanced Study) of Lithium, AI and Titanium in Jammu division, located in Reasi District to Secretary Mining J&K Amit Sharma for taking further necessary action in the matter.

It is expected that J&K will move further to auction two major mineral blocks of Limestone located in Rajouri and

(Contd on page 2 Col 7)



Union Mining Secretary Vivek Bhardwaj handing over Geological reports on Lithium blocks in Reasi to Amit Sharma, Secretary Mining J&K.

J&K has no representation among CJs: Resolution
SC Collegium recommends Justice
Thakur for posting as CJ Manipur HC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: The Supreme Court Collegium today recommended appointment of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, son of the soil, as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.

Presently, he is a Judge of the Bombay High Court since June 10, 2022. However, his parent High Court is Jammu and Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court doesn't have representation amongst Chief Justices of High Court since the retirement of Justice Ali Mohammad Magray," the Supreme Court Collegium resolution said.

Justice Magrey retired last year as the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

It said that having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur is fit and suitable in all respects for being appointed as the Chief Justice of the

Justice Thakur was recommended for appointment as the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court as the post had become vacant on the elevation of Justice PV Sanjay Kumar to the Supreme Court.

It may be mentioned here that Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur is the brother of former Chief Justice of India Tirath Singh Thakur.

Justice Dhiraj Singh was enrolled as an Advocate in October 1989 with the Bar Council of Delhi as well as the Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was designated as Senior Advocate in 2011 and was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in 2013. He was then transferred to Bombay High Court in June 2022.



Manipur High Court.

Further, the resolution said, over a period of time, no Judge from Jammu and Kashmir origin has been elevated as Chief Justice of a High Court or as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

"After consultations with Consultee-Judges, as per the Memorandum of Procedure, there was concurrence with the proposal for appointment of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as

Doval meets
Putin

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval called on Russian President Vladimir Putin and agreed to continue work towards implementing the India-Russia strategic partnership, the Indian embassy in Moscow said today.

"NSA Ajit Doval called on HE President Putin. Wide-ranging discussion," Doval said today.

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(Contd on page 2 Col 3)

Will be introduced in Parl after Cabinet nod
Draft reservation bills of J&K finalized
after approval by all concerned Ministries

Sanjeev Pargal administration of Jammu and Kashmir was referred to Registrar General of India (RGI) for comments/views which too furnished observations and supported the proposal of J&K administration.

Further, it said, the proposal of Jammu and Kashmir Government was forwarded to National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) along with comments of RGI. Subsequently, the NCST too conveyed its support to the proposal.

With this, the proposal of Jammu and Kashmir was examined by all concerned Ministries and Commissions etc and approved.

Subsequently, it said, the

(Contd on page 2 Col 1)

***Legislations may be taken up in 2nd half of session**

"All concerned Ministries have submitted their comments and views to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Important recommendations have been given by the Union Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Law & Justice. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which is Nodal Ministry for the Union Territories, had earlier submitted its recommendation to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs," sources revealed.

Subsequent to this, they said, the Competent Authority, has given approval to the draft bills which have been finalized.

All three bills will have to be approved first by the Cabinet before being tabled in the Parliament, sources said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on the basis of Justice (Retired) GD Sharma's recommendations vide their letter No. SWD-BCC/14/2022 had recommended inclusion of Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmins in Scheduled Tribe list of Jammu and Kashmir, the proposal read.

It said as per approved modalities, proposal of the

28 shops constructed in two-storey building
Govt takes over commercial
complex of BJP leader

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Feb 9: Going ahead with anti-encroachment drive, the administration today took possession of a commercial building constructed on the State land in Srigufwara area of Anantnag district belonging to a Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader.

An official said that BJP leader Sofi Yousuf had encroached 25 marlas of State land at Srigufwara, Bijbehara, by raising two commercial buildings adjacent to each other.

"The two-storey commercial buildings comprise 28 shops. There is a coaching centre and a restaurant in the complex," he said.

An official said that for the last many days Tehsildar was trying to seal the building but was facing immense pressure

(Contd on page 2 Col 7)



Commercial building of BJP leader Sofi Yousuf taken over by the administration in Anantnag on Thursday.

—Excelsior/Sajad Dar

HC refuses
to enhance
compensation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 9: The High Court has dismissed and declined to enhance the compensation for Shamlat land by saying that authorities have paid compensation as per law.

(Contd on page 2 Col 1)

Certain Distts to be treated on priority
Union Minister dedicates 6 ATF's
to J&K including 5 in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar today dedicated 25 Addition Treatment Facilities (ATFs) to the country including six in Jammu and Kashmir in the presence of Union Minister of State for Home Nitayanand Rai.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah who was scheduled to dedicate the ATFs couldn't attend the function.

Senior officers of Social Justice Ministry joined the function which was held through virtual mode.

Six ATFs which were dedicated in Jammu and Kashmir are located at Psychiatric Hospital, an Associate Hospital of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura in Kashmir; Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch and Kishtwar District Hospitals, all in Jammu region.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa and SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli besides senior doctors were present.

(Contd on page 2 Col 3)



Union Ministers and senior officers during a programme in New Delhi to dedicate 25 ATF's on Thursday.

Decision taken to avoid loss to exchequer of G&M Deptt
Now, minor mineral block holders to pay
towards District Mineral Foundation

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Feb 9: In order to avoid loss to the exchequer of the Geology and Mining Department, the Government has decided that now onwards the minor mineral block holders will pay from the royalty amount fixed by the Government towards District Mineral Foundation. Moreover, interest at the rate of 12% per annum will be charged in case of delay in making payment.

The necessary amendments in this regard have been made in the Jammu and Kashmir District Mineral Foundation (Composition, Contribution, Functioning, Funding and Trust) Rules, 2017 in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 9B, 15 and 15A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The amendments in the Rule 11 of the Rules of 2017 have been notified by the Mining Department and the same have come into effect immediately. The Rule 11 deals with payment of amount by the mineral concessionaires to the District Mineral Foundation.

The un-amended Sub-Rule 2 of Rule 11 read: "Out of the total amount of royalty realized from the holders of the Minor Mineral Concessions, 10% shall be deposited/paid towards the respective Foundation by the Geology and Mining Department".

However, this provision was putting unnecessary financial burden on the exchequer of the Geology and Mining Department as it was contributing to the Foundation from its own revenue and objections in this regard were raised during the audit of the accounts of the department by the J&K Accountant General, official sources told EXCELSIOR.

The new Sub-Rule 2 read: "All holders of minor mineral concessions, shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the respective Trust an amount equivalent to 30% of royalty, if the concession has not been granted through auction and 10% of royalty as fixed by the Government, if the concession has been granted sources told EXCELSIOR.

(Contd on page 2 Col 3)

Class IVth appointment scam in Education Deptt
Anticorruption Court frames
charges against CEO, others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina today framed corruption charges against the then Chief Education Officer (CEO) Tarsem Lal and 37 others in the much publicized Class IVth appointment scam in the Education Department.

As per the prosecution case, some complaints were received by the Vigilance Organization, Jammu (VOJ) mentioning that the select list of Class IVth employees in Education Department, issued by the CEO, Jammu, was not fair and many deserving candidates stood deprived of their right of selec-

tion/appointment on account of the fraud committed by the concerned authorities in the process of selection.

A surprise check was conducted and it came to the fore that out of 90 selected candidates, 15 had not filled their application forms before the concerned Zonal Education Officers as prescribed in the advertisement issued by the office of CEO, Jammu. It was also found that in respect of 13 selected candidates, their academic marks were forged to that of their original marks scored by them, leading to enhancement in their points to ensure their placement in the select list.

Further, six illegal selectees were those who were originally given less marks by Interview

Committee and even some of them who were absent in the interview, their marks were forged and increased to get them selected and some of those who even did not appear in interview also got finally selected.

So, in toto, around 34 candidates out of 90 got illegally and fraudulently selected by the concerned authorities and the selectees stand described in the charge sheet as back door selectees and the accused-beneficiaries. The joint surprise check also revealed that the selection so made against the 90 Class IVth posts in Education Department was unfair, arbitrary and illegal.

(Contd on page 2 Col 5)

Jammu-Sgr NH, Batote-Kishtwar road closed
Rain, snowfall in J&K; Army, IAF airlift
pregnant woman from Nawapachi

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Feb 9: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and Batote-Kishtwar road were closed after landslides while rain and snowfall lashed many parts of Jammu and Kashmir, whereas, braving heavy snowfall, the Army and the Indian Air Force airlifted a pregnant woman in critical condition from remote Nawapachi area of district Kishtwar today.

Responding to a distress call, Army troops rushed to the village in remote Nawapachi area and carried the woman on a stretcher through

***Ahead of Khelo India, Gulmarg receives heavy snowfall**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Feb 9: Ahead of Khelo India, Gulmarg receives heavy snowfall. A view of fresh snowfall in Tangmarg area near ski resort of Gulmarg on Thursday. More pics on page 2. (UNI)

snow-clad track and fields. The IAF flew a MI Helicopter to Nawapachi and airlifted the woman, who was transported to the District Hospital, Kishtwar for specialised treatment, a Defence spokesman said.

"Indian Army in close coordination with the Indian Air Force evacuated a pregnant woman in critical condition from remote and isolated

(Contd on page 2 Col 5)



A view of fresh snowfall in Tangmarg area near ski resort of Gulmarg on Thursday.

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