

From page 1

7 workers from Udhampur, Ramban die as building collapses in UP

The bodies will be brought from Meerut tomorrow. The District Administration was in touch with Meerut Administration and all possible assistance will be provided to these families, he added.

Meanwhile, reports from Uttar Pradesh said that at least seven persons were killed and 30 others injured when an under-construction roof of a cold storage collapsed at Daurala in Meerut today.

Senior officials from District Administration Meerut and Police officials along with a team of the National Disaster Response Force rushed to the spot. At least 27 people have been rescued from under the rubble and efforts were on to find others.

DB seeks details of doctors attached in Jammu city, action taken to fill vacancies

vacancies, with a copy in advance to PSC counsel Advocate F A Natnoo, who shall also furnish status with regard to the posts referred by the Health and Medical Education Department to the Commission by or before the next date of hearing.

Deputy Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma sought some more time to do the needful in terms of order dated 20.12.2022 whereby the Division Bench had implied Union Territory of Ladakh as party respondent in the PIL and had sought availability of doctors there.

As per the latest status report, the copy of which is available with EXCELSIOR, in majority of the districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir about half of the sanctioned posts are lying vacant and the situation is worst in the hilly and accident prone districts.

In Doda district the sanctioned strength of Medical Officers/Dental Surgeons is 142 but at present 87 posts are lying vacant while as in Kathua district against 193 sanctioned posts 100 posts are lying vacant.

Likewise, in Kishtwar district against sanctioned strength of 94, 54 posts are lying vacant and in Poonch district 93 posts are lying vacant against sanctioned strength of 162.

In Rajouri district, 85 posts are lying vacant against sanctioned strength of 175. On the other side, in Jammu district against sanctioned strength of 370 doctors only 95 posts are lying vacant.

Temp rises amid dry weather

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against minus 3.8°C the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal for skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 0.2°C against 0.3°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 8.8°C and 12.8°C respectively. A Meteorological Department has forecast mainly clear weather at mainly clear to partly cloudy weather at most places in next 24 hours.

On February 26, he said, weather was likely to be generally cloudy with possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places. On February 27-28, he said, the weather was likely to be partly cloudy and on March 1-2, he said it is expected to be cloudy with possibility of light rain and snow-fall at scattered places.

While Chillai-Kalan, the 40-day long harsh winter period that started on December 21 and a 20-day-long period called 'Chillai-Khurd' that followed it have ended, Kashmir is under grip of 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bacha' (baby cold) which ends on Feb 28.

Edited, Printed, Published by Kamal Rohmetra and owned by Daily Excelsior. Executive Editor Neeraj Rohmetra. Printed at Daily Excelsior and Excelsior Printer Pvt Ltd, Janipura, Jammu and published from EXCELSIOR HOUSE, Janipura, Jammu 180007 (J&K). Phone: 0191-2537055, 2537901, 2539178. Fax: 0191-2537831 and 2530272 Editor's Residence: 0191-2431830, 2433288. E-mail: editor@dailyexcelsior.com. Advertisement Manager Ajay Mengi 9419187959. For Advertisement queries: advt@dailyexcelsior.com (M) 9419111428. Residence Nos: Jammu Bureau Chief: Sanjeev Parag (94191-80969), Special Correspondents: Mohinder Verma (9419185803), Gopal Sharma (9419180803), Avtar Bhat (9419142184), Nishikant Khajuria (9419143132), Srinagar Office: 2 Pratap Park Srinagar. Phone: (O) 0194-2450213, New Delhi Bureau Chief (Advt): C.S. Paul 9810068545, 9910997733 (M), 011-23327188 (O), 3/15, INS Building, Rafi Marg, Mumbai Advertisement Office Incharge: K.S. Nitin 9322509953 (M) 022-22883904, 22821859 (O) 22845484 (Fax) C/o S. J. Business Centre, Islam Building Room No. 17/18, 1st Floor, 46 Veer Nariman Road.

To subscribe Excelsior Internet Edition, send-e-mail at: subscription@dailyexcelsior.com For complaints regarding newspaper delivery or Advertisement Production. Contact: 9419187956, 9419111428

No headway in appointment of chairperson, members of J&K Commission for Women

and member secretary would be completed soon. But till date, the Social Welfare Department has made no progress on this subject.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, who had to complete the process of appointments in the J&K Commission for Women, told the Excelsior, "until date, the process has not been initiated".

Asked about a timeline to complete the same, the senior bureaucrat said, "let us see what happens next".

However, the National Commission for Women has also constituted a "J&K and Ladakh Cell" to look into the complaints of women from the newly created UTs, and to coordinate all activities for addressing the issues concerning women including special problems/challenges, to take initiatives for their development and empowerment, conduct workshops, seminars, research studies, legal awareness programmes besides holding meetings with various stakeholders to discuss the challenges faced by the women in these regions but the victims complaint, "approaching 'J&K and Ladakh Cell' is not possible for all the victim women as it requires knowledge of gadgets and the subject (approaching the cell) itself".

One of the victims said, "the cell is at NCW; it may not be difficult to approach them through e-mail for women like us who are tech-savvy but what about the majority of the women who cannot even handle a smart phone correctly".

"Moreover, the cell forwards a complaint to the DGP, who further forwards it to the concerned SSP and then the SSP to his subordinates in the hierarchy. There is no place where parties can come for hearings together. It is just a hogwash and only for the

One of the victims said, "the cell is at NCW; it may not be difficult to approach them through e-mail for women like us who are tech-savvy but what about the majority of the women who cannot even handle a smart phone correctly".

"Moreover, the cell forwards a complaint to the DGP, who further forwards it to the concerned SSP and then the SSP to his subordinates in the hierarchy. There is no place where parties can come for hearings together. It is just a hogwash and only for the

"Moreover, the cell forwards a complaint to the DGP, who further forwards it to the concerned SSP and then the SSP to his subordinates in the hierarchy. There is no place where parties can come for hearings together. It is just a hogwash and only for the

Eyewitness identifies Malik in Rubaiya kidnapping case

near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar on December 8, 1989. She was freed five days later after the then V P Singh Government, supported by the BJP, at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange.

Now living in Tamil Nadu, Rubaiya is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990. Malik, 56, is lodged in Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in May last year. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror financing case registered by the NIA.

Malik had observed a 10-day hunger strike in July last year after the Centre did not respond to his plea to physically appear in the Jammu court hearing the abduction case.

HC seeks personal appearance of KU officials

to explain as to why the order of January 27 has not been implemented. The court had directed the KU authorities to allow the petitioner-Mohammad Ali to appear in the examination of 6th Semester of BA LLB course which was scheduled to be held on February 4. The University counsel after passing of the said direction had assured that the said order will be implemented in letter and spirit. He had submitted that the petitioner-Ali would be allowed to appear in the examinations.

Since the KU-authorities defied the court direction by not allowing the petitioner to appear in the exams which compelled the petitioner to institute the contempt proceedings against the erring officials of the Varsity.

"The respondents are again directed to comply with the order of this Court dated 27.01.2023 in letter and spirit, as assured by their counsel, by the next date of hearing. In the meantime, Respondent Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 7 shall appear in person before this Court on the next date of hearing positively showing cause as to why the order of this Court is not being implemented", Justice Lal directed.

The matter in view of the urgency is listed before the court weekly. "In view of the controversy involved in the question, it would be apt to list the case for final adjudication as the career of the student is involved", read the court order.

The University counsel on February 10 produced a communication issued by the Joint Registrar, Legal Cell, University of Kashmir, by virtue of which, the petitioner has been allowed to submit the examination form in order to appear in the B.A. LLB. 6th Semester examination at his own risk and responsibility.

"With a view to clinch the controversy in question, it would be apt to direct the senior counsel appearing for the University to file reply to the main petition with advance copy to learned counsel for the petitioner. He may do so on or before the next date of hearing", read the order.

The Court has kept the main matter for final disposal on February 28 while the contempt petition would be heard by the court on February 27.

India abstains on Ukraine resolution in UNGA

adopted the resolution 'Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, put forward by Ukraine and its supporters.

The non-binding resolution, which received 141 votes in favour and seven against, underscored the "need to reach, as soon as possible, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Before the UNGA vote, many countries, including the US, Germany and Ukraine, reached out to India seeking its support for the resolution that calls for Russia to end hostilities in Ukraine and demands the withdrawal of its forces.

People purchase i-phones, use data, spend on video games; then why hue & cry over tax: LG

tion is also promoting entrepreneurship in the sheep and goat sector and encouraging the farmers to adopt millet crops.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to safeguard interests of the people.

An official handout said:- In a significant move towards welfare of the farmers, the Government has extended Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to the farmers of all 20 districts of UT of J&K.

Speaking at the launching event of the extension of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana at SKUAUT Jammu, the Lt Governor said that the scheme will provide comprehensive coverage against crop losses arising out of natural calamities and unseasonal rains.

"The initiative will stabilize the income of farmers, encourage them to adopt innovative practices with sufficient insurance protection from climatic catastrophe. I urge all the farmers to avail the benefits of PM Fasal Bima Yojna," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that PMFBY launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to secure hardworking farmers from the vagaries of nature was earlier available to only four districts of farmers.

The Lt Governor noted that the implementation of PMFBY across the UT will have a positive impact on the agricultural scenario in Jammu Kashmir and also complement the efforts of UT administration in creating a progressive environment.

"Progressive farmers also shared their views on interventions of the Government aiming at growth of Agriculture & Allied Sectors in J&K.

On the occasion, Agriculture Production Department signed an MoU with National Seeds Corporation to provide good quality certified seeds to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.

The occasion also witnessed the release of the Milestone Report & Logo of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan and a Coffee table book "Vihari" on 29 projects under HADP by the Lt Governor.

Irrigation schedule 2023-24 for both Jammu and Kashmir divisions was released, besides sanction letters were handed over to beneficiary entrepreneurs under National Livestock Mission.

A dedicated YouTube channel of the Agriculture Production department for awareness of farmers and promoting their success stories was also launched.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Prof. Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAUT-Jammu; HoDs; senior officials, members of the Kissan Advisory Board and farmers in large numbers were present on the occasion.

India slams Pak for raking up J&K in UNGA

"Pakistan has only to look at itself and its own track record as a state that harbours and provides safe havens to terrorists and does so with impunity. Such uncalculated provocation is particularly regrettable and certainly misplaced at a time when after two days of intense discussions, we have all agreed that the path of peace can be the only path forward to resolve conflict and discord," Mathur said. (PTI)

Mathur exercised India's Right of Reply on Thursday after Pakistan's envoy at the UN Muneer Akram referred to Jammu and Kashmir while delivering the explanation of vote on the UN General Assembly resolution on Ukraine during the Emergency Special Session.

plight, had told police that Amritpal Singh's associates had abducted him from Ajnala and took him to an unknown place where he was brutally thrashed.

The case was registered against the accused under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code including Sections 365 (kidnapping), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 148 (rioting) and 149 (unlawful assembly).

Six policemen were hurt during the Thursday's clash, officials said.

Amritpal Singh told reporters that police had used force against some of his supporters on Thursday without any provocation.

He further said, "Yesterday's situation could have been averted had police listened to us. The consequences which arose were not created by me. The administration had sought time earlier, we gave them time till Wednesday. We came to Thursday here," he said referring to the demand for Lovepreet Singh's release.

"We have given enough evidence pertaining to Lovepreet Singh and our innocence (in the case)," Amritpal Singh said. (PTI)

Earlier, after the court issued its order, Amritpal Singh told reporters that the release of his aide was "Victory of the Panth".

"He was put in jail in a false case," alleged Amritpal Singh.

Dubai-returned Amritpal Singh, who heads an organisation called 'Waris Punjab De', on Thursday talked to reporters at the police station, issuing an "ultimatum" for the release of Lovepreet Singh.

In its order, the court said, "Since the accused is no more required by the investigating officer for judicial custody, accordingly, accused Lovepreet Singh is discharged from the custody only and be released."

"It is made clear that the accused Lovepreet Singh..Is discharged from custody. A direction is issued to the SHO concerned to conduct investigation in the case and submit its report. Necessary intimation be sent to Superintendent of Jail, Amritsar, in this regard," Manpreet Kaur, Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ajnala, said in her order.

A long cavalcade of vehicles led by Amritpal Singh had headed towards the jail from the Ajnala town to receive Lovepreet Singh. They later went to the Golden Temple to pay obeisance there.

A case was registered in Ajnala on February 16 against Amritpal Singh and his 30 supporters for allegedly kidnapping and thrashing Barinder Singh, a resident of Chamkaur Sahib in Rupnagar district.

Barinder Singh, in his com-

Man shot at in Bijbehara

fied as Asif Ali Ganai, son of Ali Mohammad Ganai of Hassan Pora Tavela.

Meanwhile, the area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers. The officials said that the

No CWC polls: SC authorises Kcharge to nominate members

At its 85th plenary session, the Congress is set to amend its constitution to provide a 50-per cent reservation to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), women, youngsters and minorities at all levels, including in the CWC, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh told a press conference after the steering committee meeting.

A key amendment in the party's constitution proposes to ensure that the members abstain from consuming any psychotropic substances or drugs and propagate against the use of such substances, sources said. Some leaders also want an amendment to the constitution relating to prohibiting consumption of alcohol by the members.

Ramesh said the decision to authorise the party chief to nominate the CWC members was taken by a committee led by Kcharge in view of the country's prevailing political situation and the proposed amendment to give a 50-per cent representation to women, SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and youngsters in the CWC.

"The Congress Steering Committee decided unanimously to empower the Congress president to nominate the members of the CWC. We had a two-and-a-half-hour discussion on the issue and the dominant, overwhelming view was to authorise the party chief to nominate the members, keeping in mind the political challenges facing the country and the party and considering the far-reaching amendments that we are going to bring about in our constitution," the former Union minister told reporters.

He said 16 articles and 32 rules are set to be amended, the most important of which is to provide a 50-per cent reservation to SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, women and youngsters in the working committee.

One of the amendments to be brought in the party constitution says: "Among the 23 members of the Congress Working Committee (other than the president of the Congress and the chairperson of the Congress parliamentary party, the Congress prime ministers/former prime ministers, the leaders of the Congress party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and former presidents of the Congress party), it shall be ensured that 50 per cent reservation is given to SCs/STs/OBCs/minorities/youth and women."

Another proposed amendment said 50 per cent of all the delegates and office-bearers in the mandal, block, city, district and pradesh Congress committees shall be reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities, and half of them shall be SCs and STs.

"Additionally, there shall be 50 per cent reservation for persons below 50 years of age as also women, both in the reserved categories as also in the unreserved category in the remaining 50 per cent," the proposed amendment says.

"There will be discussions on this during the plenary and we are confident that they will (be passed). Amendments are being made in 16 provisions and in 32 rules," Ramesh said.

He said the committee freely discussed the CWC polls and all

He also recalled the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra organised by the party. The Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir foot march has infused fresh energy in the party's rank and file and highlighted the issues of price rise, unemployment and other economic challenges, he added.

"We have to carry forward that enthusiasm," Kcharge said.

He noted that this plenary session of the party is being held in Chhattisgarh ahead of Assembly elections in half-a-dozen States and the 2024 Parliamentary polls.

"There is a big challenge as well as a big opportunity before us," the Congress chief said. (PTI)

SIU Ramban attaches properties of grenade attack accused

Chairman, DySP, Vikar Ahmed Butt under the supervision of ASP, Gaurav Mahajan went to the specific locations under a posse of security men and pasted the notices on the houses amid drum-beat proclamation in the presence of Local Sarpanches, Panches and Chowkidars.

According to the notice, the owners of these persons have been restrained to transfer, lease out, dispose off, change its nature or deal with the said property in any manner without the permission of Jammu and Kashmir Police or the designated Authority.

injured was shifted to 92 base hospital in Srinagar for special-ized treatment.

The injured is the son of slain Head Constable Ali Muhammad Ganai, who was killed last year.

Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Limited Construction Division, Industrial Growth Centre Samba Phone/Fax-01923-220910 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE E-NIT No: 16 of 2022-23. For and on behalf of Managing Director, J&K SIDCO, the tenders are invited in double cover system by E-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors/agencies registered with J&K PWD/CPWD/MES and Railway of the following Civil works:-

SD Executive Engineer DIP/J-5380-P, Dt: 24-02-2023