

Will intensify agitation with protests in Jammu, Delhi

LAB, KDA announce boycott of MHA Panel; want their 4-point agenda included in talks

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 7: In a significant decision, the twin bodies of Ladakh, representing Leh and Kargil, today decided to boycott the High Powered Committee (HPC) constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai till their four-point agenda is included for discussion.

**Say names given by them for Committee changed*



LAB and KDA members during a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

The Lehigh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), whose leadership met in Jammu today, said the members suggested by them for inclusion in the Home Ministry's Panel have also been changed.

Constitutional safeguards under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, recruitment and job reservation for the youth of UT Ladakh and creation of two separate Parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil.

Agenda released by the MHA along with setting up of the HPC few days back include discussion on measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance, ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh, discuss measures for inclusive development and employment generation and meas-

HM militant from Baramulla declared as terrorist

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs today declared Dr Asif Maqbool, a resident of Baramulla district in Kashmir, who is based in Saudi Arabia, as terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention Act).

LG visits GMC Jammu, inquires condition of injured civilians

**Meets family members, assures all help*

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited GMC Jammu today to inquire about the health of civilians, who were injured in Rajouri terror attack.

He directed the hospital administration for ensuring the best possible medical care and assistance for their speedy recovery.

Number of detained suspects goes up to 20 Militants entered Rajouri few days prior to attack

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Number of suspects detained by the police in connection with January 1 terror strikes at Upper Dhangri in Rajouri district which killed six civilians and left over a dozen injured, has gone up to 20 amid reports that two militants, who executed the attack, had sneaked into the area few days back and were being helped by a local guide.

"Nearly 20 suspects have been detained for questioning," sources said.

They added that evidence is pouring in about movement of two militants few days prior to the attack along with one local guide. They had approached some locals for food as well as activating their mobile telephone hotspot to talk to their mentors on WhatsApp call in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the recent terror attack in Dhangri village not only created a fear psychosis among the people particularly the minority community, but also opened the wounds of Bal Jarallan massacre that had taken place over two decades ago.

Bal Jarallan is a village four kms ahead of Dhangri, the scene of deadly militants firing on January 1.

The Bal Jarallan massacre had taken place on February 19, 1999 when militants had entered a marriage hall and sprayed bullets on the guests waiting for 'Bharat'.

Dalip Singh, a resident of Dhangri, said the latest incident had opened the old wounds and caused a scare among the local populace.

BJP for separate distt for Billawar-Basohli

Previous PDP-Cong Govt created new distts on political considerations: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

KATHUA, Jan 7 : Accusing the then Congress-People's Democratic Party (PDP) coalition Government of doing reorganisation of new districts purely on political considerations, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that the BJP has always stood for a separate hilly district for Billawar-Basohli besides carving out of hilly districts of Ramban and Kishtwar out of erstwhile Doda district and grant of district status to Reasi.

Launches Aspirational Block Programme PM asks Chief Secys to end 'mindless compliances'

NEW DELHI, Jan 7:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched the Aspirational Block Programme on the lines of a similar exercise aimed at developing backward districts and asserted that India is focusing on the four pillars of

global supply chain and asked them to take steps for making the MSME sector "global champions" and a part of the global value chain. He said the country can take full advantage of this only if States take lead by maintaining focus on quality and making decisions with an "India-first" approach, accord-

tion and mindless restrictions, he tweeted. Modi said the States should focus on pro-development governance, ease of doing business, ease of living and provision of robust infrastructure. "We should move towards self-certification, deemed approvals and standardisation of forms," he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Chief Secretaries in New Delhi.

infrastructure, investment, innovation and inclusion to be a developed country. Chairing the second national conference on Chief Secretaries from States on its third and last day, Modi said the entire world is looking to India to bring stability to the

ing to a statement. The Prime Minister also called upon the Chief Secretaries to focus on ending "mindless compliances" and outdated laws and rules. At a time when India is initiating unparalleled reforms, there is no scope for overregula-

tion, according to a statement. The Prime Minister also spoke about the development of both physical and social infrastructure along with a focus on the enhancement of cyber security. He also tweeted, "With the

Govt directive on property returns

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: The Government today again directed the employees working under the UT Government to file their property returns for the year 2022, from January 1-31 on PRS Portal.

People living in atmosphere of fear in Kashmir: Azad

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that people in Kashmir live in an atmosphere of fear and no one raises voice against it.



DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a function in Srinagar on Saturday.

Azad while addressing people at a party function in Jawahar Nagar, here said that he has left everything and came here to raise the voice against it. "Our people are living in an atmosphere of fear. When will someone be arrested, no one knows, when will people's land, building or house be snatched, there is no guarantee. No leader or political party raises a voice against it. So, I left everything to come here," he said.

Azad said he has not come to Jammu and Kashmir relying on leaders, but has come for the people. "I have come here after seeing your miseries, your troubles. I have come back after seeing poverty, unemployment," he added. He said there is no corner of

Thousands protest against rising terrorism in Pak

PESHAWAR, Jan 7:

Thousands of tribesmen in Pakistan's northwest took to the streets to protest against rising incidents of terrorism and kidnapping in the country's tribal districts bordering Afghanistan while demanding immediate restoration of peace in the region.

Majority of them back to work: Div Com

Govt to release salary of KP employees

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 : Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang Kundbaroo today said that the administration is releasing the salary of the Kashmiri Pandit employees as majority of them have resumed their duties in Kashmir.

Pandit employees left Kashmir and protested in Jammu, demanding that they be relocated out of the Valley till the security situation improved here. Though the administration agreed to look into most of the demands of the Pandits, it refused to relocate them out of Kashmir. It further hardened its stand against the protesting employees and stopped salaries of those who did not return to work.

Army opens firing on LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: Army troops this evening opened fire after noticing suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

J&K under grip of severe cold; dense fog hits train, air traffic in region

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Entire Jammu and Kashmir continued to be under the grip of severe cold while dense fog badly affected train and air-traffic, resulting into cancellation of two flights today.

morning flights were delayed due to poor visibility and bad weather. He, however, said afternoon flights operated as per schedule. A Northern Railway spokesman said that at least 32 trains were operating late by one to seven hours at Delhi/ Amritsar Railway Stations. Amritsar-Bilaspur Chhattisgarh Express was late by 7 hours, Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Express by 6 hours, New-Delhi-Barauni Express, Gaya- New Delhi and Mumbai-Amritsar Exp by 3 hours and so on.

At Jammu Railway Station, Hemkund Express arrived late by two hours, Jhelum Express by 6 hours, Humsafar Express by 7 hours, Gajipur Express by 9 hours, Sealdah by 3 hrs 40 minutes, Begumpura Exp by 3 hrs 30 minutes, Amarnath Express by 4 hours, Malwa Exp by 12 hours while Shalimar Express was late by one hour 40 minutes from its scheduled time. Meanwhile, Jammu recorded 9.6 degree Celsius temperature during the day which was about 8.5 deg below normal. The night temperature showed a little improvement and was recorded as 5.0 deg C. Katra Mata Vaishnodevi recorded a minimum temperature of 7.6 deg C and maximum 17.8 deg C, Baderwah minimum 2.8 deg C and maximum 17.0 deg C while Batote minimum 5.1 deg C and

4 ASP/DySPs adjusted, 121 transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 7: The Police Headquarters today ordered adjustment of four ASP/DySPs on completion of their training besides transfer and posting of 121 DySPs.

Bringing more troops to J&K disputes Govt claims of normalcy: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said that bringing more troops to Jammu and Kashmir and arming civil

Pandit employees left Kashmir and protested in Jammu, demanding that they be relocated out of the Valley till the security situation improved here. Though the administration agreed to look into most of the demands of the Pandits, it refused to relocate them out of Kashmir. It further hardened its stand against the protesting employees and stopped salaries of those who did not return to work.

A Pandit employee leader told Excelsior no doubt majority of the employees in Srinagar returned to work but in other districts they have not as they fear for their lives. Under the PM package, 600 Pandits have been provided jobs in the Valley and administration is also constructing 6000 flats for them for their security and safety.

Army man, aide held with heroin

CHANDIGARH, Jan 7:

In a major breakthrough against trans-border narcotic smuggling networks, Punjab Police in a joint operation with Central agencies and BSF arrested an Army man and his aide with 29 packets of heroin weighing 31.02 kg, the State police chief said today.

Western Disturbances have started showing impact on the weather in the region. Light rain and snowfall on the higher reaches at some isolated places has been reported and it will continue for next two days, a MeT official said. A senior official of Airport Authority of India at Jammu said that two Indigo morning flights were canceled at Jammu airport due to dense fog while several



PDP supremo Mehbooba Mufti paying tribute to former Chief Minister and PDP patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on his 7th death anniversary at his grave in Bijbehara on Saturday.(UNI)