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LG pays tribute to Army jawans

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 11: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to the three Army personnel who died after slipping into a gorge during patrolling along the Line of Control in Kupwara district.
"I salute the resolute courage of our braveheart Army personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty in the Machhil sector, Kupwara. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families of martyrs. Their sacrifice and selfless service to the nation will always be remembered," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Rs 57 lakh cash recovered

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Jan 11: A person was apprehended by police for carrying Rs 57 lakh cash concealed in a geyser in Handwara area in Kupwara district.
Police said one Syed Irfan Abdullah, son of Mohd Abdullah, resident of Laribal, Handwara was apprehended carrying cash concealed in a geyser, during a naka checking at Braripora Handwara.
The recovered cash was counted in presence of the Magistrate, and the total amount came to the tune of Rs 57,43,800.
A case (FIR number 6/2023) has been registered under relevant Sections for further investigations.

Cabinet reshuffle buzz gains ground

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:
As the BJP is set for its national executive meeting and prepares for upcoming polls, the possibility of a reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers this month has gained ground with the performance of Ministers and the ruling party's political imperatives likely to drive changes.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rejigged his team only once, in July 2021, in his second term, unlike in his first stint, when he reshuffled and expanded his council three times.

ACB nabs Patwari, driver for graft

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 11: The ACB today trapped and arrested Darbinder Singh, Patwari, Halqa Rasli Gandhera, Basantgarh, Udhampur for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 30,000 for issuance of Fard.
The ACB received a complaint alleging that he wanted to sell his piece of land and the concerned Patwari, Halqa Rasli Gandheran, Udhampur named Darbinder Singh is demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 for issuance of Fard.
On receipt of the complaint, (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

CBI raids at 50 locations, DGM arrested

NEW DELHI, Jan 11:
The CBI today launched 'Operation Kanak' on alleged corruption in the Food Corporation of India, conducting searches at 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi after arresting a DGM-rank officer from Chandigarh, officials said.
The CBI booked a total of 74 accused in the FIR, including FCI Executive Director Sudeep Singh after a six-month-long undercover operation to identify suspects in the syndicate of officials, rice mill owners

3 soldiers including JCO die at LoC in Kupwara

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Jan 11: Three soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), died after they slipped into a deep gorge during patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of North Kashmir today.
An Army official said the JCO and two other rank soldiers were on a routine patrol in Machhil sector when the trio slipped into the gorge yesterday.
Detailing out the incident, a spokesperson in a statement said: "Three soldiers, part of a regular operational task in Machhil Sector, Kupwara, slipped into a deep gorge and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."
"A routine operational task was undertaken on 10 Jan 2023 at about 5:30 pm in Machhil Sector, along a narrow winter track. While moving towards the forward post, snow along the narrow track broke, leading to slipping of one JCO and two Jawaans into a deep gorge", read the statement.
"A search and rescue operation was immediately launched with troops from the nearest post. In spite of adverse weather condition and rough terrain, sustained efforts of the search party led to the recovery of mortal remains of the three brave soldiers today morning between 04:15 to 04:45 am," the statement read.
"Late Nsb Sub Parshotam Kumar was 43 years old and had joined Army in 1996. He belonged to Village Majua Uttami, Post Raika, Tehsil, Bishnah, District Jammu in J&K. The braveheart is survived by his wife and two children." (Contd on page 15 Col 1)

Santosh, Chug ask party men to strengthen organization from grassroots level

Assembly poll likely to be held in April-May: BJP

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Jan 11: Quick on the heels of party leaders' meeting with Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in New Delhi recently, BJP in its Core Group meeting today gave a clarion call to party men to gear up for the Assembly elections likely to be held in April-May this year.

This was disclosed by senior party leaders in the meeting this evening which followed the party's office bearers and senior leaders meeting held during the day at Purmandal road in Bari Brahmana tehsil of Samba district. The Core Group meeting, which was presided over by Party's national general secretary (Org), B L Santosh, national general secretary in charge J&K, was attended by Tarun Chug, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, party co incharge J&K Ashish Sood, BJP J&K State president, Ravinder Raina, party general secretary (Org), JK UT, Ashok Koul, former deputy CMs, Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, MP, Jugal

Kishore Sharma and party general secretaries, Dr D K Manyal, Sunil Sharma and Vibodh Gupta, former Minister, Sat Sharma, chairperson Wakf Board, Dr Darakshan Andrabhi, enough hints that Assembly elections are likely to be held in April-May this year asked the party leaders to gear up the cadre from grassroots level for the same. They said Assembly



Senior BJP leaders' during party meeting at Purmandal Morh on Wednesday.

ex-MLA, Devender Rana and party chief spokesperson, Sunil Sethi.
MP (RS) Ghulam Ali Khatana, national secretary, Dr Narender Singh, party vice president, Shakti Parihar and its spokesperson, Girdhari Lal (Ajay Bharti) who are out of UT could not attend the meeting.

During the Core Group meeting, according to party sources, both B L Santosh and Tarun Chug while dropping poll will be followed by local body elections which can be held ending this year and Lok Sabha elections to be held next year.
Sources said that national leaders asked the Core Group members that the Assembly elections this time will be crucial for the UT and party cadre has to ensure the victory of over 50 seats to form the next Government in the UT on its own as these elections will

be held first time after the abrogation of controversial Article 370 and 35 -A.

Earlier, addressing the general meeting of BJP office bearers, senior leaders, former Ministers and legislators, Prabhakar, newly constituted Committees of Assembly and Lok Sabha segments, Vistarks, district presidents and incharges, the BJP leaders said that the dates of elections can be declared any time by the Election Commission and party has to start its ground work from today. They urged its activists to fan out in length and breadth of the UT to take Modi Government's achievements and public welfare programmes to masses.

Party national general secretary (Org), B L Santosh, while addressing the meeting stressed on strengthening party from booth level. He, while discussing niceties of organizational work stressed on strengthening the party right from grassroots level with much focus on campaigning among the masses by taking party programmes and policies among them and high-

(Contd on page 15 Col 1)

CRPF to replace RR gradually, BSF may also be sent to some areas

MHA, MoD to jointly take call on structural changes in paramilitary deployment in J&K

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Union Ministries for Home and Defence will be making structural changes in consultations with stakeholders to overhaul deployment of paramilitary forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

"A detailed proposal has been drafted and could be approved shortly in a joint meeting of the top officials of MHA and MoD," sources told the Excelsior.

Meanwhile, anti-drone teams of the National Security Guards (NSG) have reportedly been deputed to Jammu by the Union Home Ministry to check drone activities along the International Border in Jammu region amid reports that militants based in

*NSG anti-drone teams in Jammu to counter threat

Pakistan with the help of Rangers and ISI could step up drone activities in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts to send arms, explosives and narcotics to this side.

The NSG has some technology to counter drone activities while other paramilitary forces and police are yet to get fool-proof technology to spot drones though they have shot down a number of flying machines after observing their movement at different places along the International Border in Jammu region and neighbouring Punjab.

"There has been dense fog along the International Border in all three districts of the Jammu region including Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts and there are reports that the militants and Pakistani Rangers could exploit harsh weather conditions to send drones to this side," sources said but added that the BSF has been maintaining very high alert along the border and has foiled majority of attempts to smuggle weapons and narcotics through drones.
Sources hinted that along with CRPF, the BSF could also be deployed in some of the sensitive areas of Jammu for protection of the minorities. However, a final decision will be taken shortly.
While 20 additional companies of CRPF have already reached twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, more companies of paramilitary forces

will be deployed in other sensitive areas inhibited by the minorities in other parts of the Jammu region.
"Police officers in all districts have been asked to identify villages which need creation of more pickets and deployment of paramilitary forces," sources said.

They said the proposal to deploy more paramilitary forces to gradually replace Rashtriya Rifles in Jammu and Kashmir is also in the advanced stage and if everything goes well, CRPF could replace RR in Ganderbal and Budgam districts of the Kashmir Valley.
The proposal, as per the sources, is being given final touch (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Div Coms, DCs to submit daily progress reports

Govt directs 100% removal of encroachments from State, Roshni, Kahcharai land by Jan 31

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 11: In a significant development, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has issued directions to all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure 100% removal of encroachments from State land including Roshni and Kahcharai by the end of current month and submit compliance report.

Pointing towards instructions issued from time to time, the Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Department of Revenue Vijay Kumar Bidhuri has directed all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that all encroachments on State land including Roshni and Kahcharai land are removed to the extent of 100% by January 31, 2023.

For effective monitoring of the anti-encroachment drive, the Commissioner Secretary Revenue has further directed the Deputy Commissioners to draw up a daily anti-encroachment drive plan and also nominate Additional Deputy Commissioners as District Nodal Officers for coordination

and affective implementation of the drive.

"Deputy Commissioners should constitute teams of Revenue officers for removal of the encroachments and personally monitor the drive and both the Divisional Commissioners should also monitor the drive on regular basis", said a circular issued in this regard.

The Government has also sought daily progress report through the respective Divisional Commissioners for which concerned Assistant Commissioner (Central) will be the Nodal Officer. Moreover, the Deputy Commissioners will submit the daily reports by 4 pm and Divisional Commissioners will furnish the compiled reports through Financial Commissioner Revenue by 5 pm to the Administrative Department Revenue in the devised format.

As far as State land including Roshni and Kahcharai is concerned, the Deputy Commissioners are required to furnish details about total encroached land on the day, encroachment removed day wise and balance so that Government

gets clear picture about the progress made on each and every day till January 31, 2023, which is the last date for completion of exercise.

"Though there is nothing specific in the instructions of the Government yet the Deputy Commissioners have been told indirectly to target the big-wigs as far as encroachments on the State land including Roshni and Kahcharai are concerned as they were the major beneficiaries of the orders passed by the successive Governments from time to time", sources told EXCELSIOR.

Few days back, EXCELSIOR had exclusively reported that Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, while chairing a high-level meeting, passed on directions for removal of encroachments from the State land in a time bound manner.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir headed by the then Chief Justice Gita Mittal, while dealing with the PIL No.19/2011 and other connected matters, had taken away the benefits of (Contd on page 15 Col 1)

Fresh snowfall at Gulmarg, Natha Top; rain in J&K

4 flights cancelled; 13 trains arrive late, 2 re-scheduled as fog hits region

Gopal Sharma/ Fayaz Bukhari

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Jan 11: Entire Jammu and Kashmir experienced rain and snowfall, mostly on the higher reaches while severe cold and dense fog has thrown normal life out of gear in the region.

The hills of Kashmir including Gulmarg received fresh snowfall today while Valley was lashed by rains with minimum temperature settling above freezing point at most of the places in the region. It has been snowing on the hills of Kashmir and parts of Jammu since last night.
*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com
Four flights were cancelled and at least half a dozen delayed due to fog and poor visibility at

Jammu airport today. However, with the improvement in the weather condition after 1 pm, rest of the flights operated normally, Director AAI, SK Garg said.



Higher reaches of Poonch witness fresh snowfall on Wednesday. Another pic on page 4. - Excelsior/Waseem

The helicopter service at Katra Mata Vaishnodevi was suspended in the afternoon due

to rain and bad weather, but the pilgrimage continued smoothly. At least 13 trains arrived late by one to six hours at Jammu station while the timings of two trains were re-scheduled as the

train services continued to hit badly due to dense fog in the (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Investigate role of successive Education Ministers, Secys'

Anti-Corruption Court directs further investigation in ETT scam

*Says CB simply collected heap of papers in hush-hush manner

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 11: Passing strictures against the Crime Branch for incomplete, shoddy and selective investigation in the much publicized Elementary Teacher Training (ETT) Institutes scam, Special Judge Anti Corruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina has issued directions for further investigation in the case to ascertain how large number of sham institutions got opened in the nook and corner of the State after 2002 without the approval of the Government and what was the role of successive Education Ministers and also that of

Secretaries of the School Education Department and Chairmen of J&K Board of School Education (BOSE).
Pointing out several lapses in the investigation, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption observed, "it appears that there was complete mess prevailing in the ETT sector, the successive Governments, just for the sake of formalities and paper exercise, were issuing simply the guidelines, circulars etc without seeking their implementation".
"However, as per the enquiry reports, all such institutions were at all not existing on ground and they simply acted as money minting machines with no check and balance in place by

the Board or Government agencies on the working of these institutes", the court said, adding "it was important for the investigator to know as to who granted NOCs to all these institutes and on what basis when they were found existing no-where as per the enquiry reports. These were the important facts to have been investigated in terms of the reports. But the charge-sheet is silent on all these crucial aspects of the case".

"More important, how these institutions managed such a fraud when the Board authorities were duty bound to ensure proper functioning of the institutes as per the guidelines prescribed. Of course,

such a rank scam would not have sustained without the active support and patronage of the then authorities sitting in the Board and the Administrative Department of the education, which was over all supervising authority of the education sector of the State", the court further said.

The court observed, "another important aspect which has not been sufficiently addressed in the investigation is what prompted the Board and the Government Authorities to open floodgates of ETT schools in J&K which started functioning without any check and balance, policy programme and objective (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

HC declines to quash trial against ex-DM SICOP in DA case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: The High Court has declined to quash FIR, prosecution and charge sheet against the former Divisional Manager SICOP Kashmir for disproportionate assets case and dismissed his plea by observing that the FIR does not call for interference.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul concluded that impugned FIR does not call for any interference and as a consequence of which, dismissed the petition of Mohammad Anwar Mir the then

Divisional Manager SICOP Kashmir by recording that it is without any merit.
Mir sought quashing of the prosecution as well as charge sheet filed against him before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Kashmir FIR No. 19/1997 registered in police station VOK under J&K Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets and other provisions Act on the ground of possessing assets disproportionate to his source of income.

Justice Koul mentioned that Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, preserves the inherent powers of the High Court to prevent an abuse of the process of any court or to secure the ends of justice and the provision does not confer new powers.
"The High Court, while forming an opinion whether a criminal proceeding or complaint or FIR should be quashed in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. must evaluate whether the ends of justice would justify the exercise of the inherent power", read the judgment.
Court has been informed (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Cong invites 21 parties to join BJI in Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 11: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the yatra's message of truth, compassion and non-violence.
In a letter to the presidents of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participation of every like-minded party and on the invitation of (Contd on page 15 Col 1)

KU's North Campus yet to offer basic science, arts courses

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: At Kashmir University's North Campus in Delina, basic science courses are still not offered 14 years after the institution was established, forcing students to travel outside the Valley to study them.
A group of concerned citizens complained to the Excelsior that the facility's slow development had undermined its original goal of bringing education to remote areas. They said the foundation of this campus in 2008, which serves the outlying

regions of North Kashmir, was intended to make higher education more readily available to the youth living in these areas, but it has been growing slowly. "Although this campus would have benefited the residents of rural, densely populated districts like Kupwara, Baramulla and Handwara, it has not been designed to meet their needs," they said.
They demanded that the campus start basic science courses in Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany and Geology, as well as basic social science courses in History and

Geography.
"I am puzzled as to how a University can function without providing a course in Mathematics given that it forms one of the foundations of all modern concepts and knowledge," a retired Professor, who was part of the group, said, adding that they demand that LG Manoj Sinha, Chancellor of the University, take action to begin these courses on campus.
According to the institution's authorities, the University offers business administration, computer science, and English- (Contd on page 15 Col 1)

WEATHER
JAMMU:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 12.5 Degree C
Min: 8.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 97.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 90.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 05.46 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday: 07.35 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Rain/snow
TEMPERATURE
Max: 5.4 Degree C
Min: 3.5 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 87.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 94.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 2.4 Degree C
Min: -7.2 Degree C