

From page 1

India loses access to 26 of 65 PPs in Eastern Ladakh

known as 'Salami slicing,' it said. It further added that during an interaction with a senior officer whose unit is based in forward area, he shared with the SP that if by retreating 400 meters back can buy peace with PLA for 4 years then 'it's worth it', the report said.

The Government hasn't yet commented on the report. However, Defence sources told a news channel in New Delhi that there is no loss of territory due to disengagement in friction areas.

"Certain areas have been restricted for patrolling for both sides pending diplomatic resolution of disputes. No pasture lands have been lost. In disengaged areas, we have many cameras and technical means as the PLA and hence we dominate the areas as much, if not more," these sources said.

As per the report, the PLA has taken advantage of buffer areas in the de-escalation talks by placing their best cameras on the highest peaks which helps them monitor movement of our security forces.

"The Army has placed restrictions on the movement of civilians and grazers near the forward areas on the Indian side," the research paper said.

The Leh SP's report also said that marking areas out of bounds and keeping them barren affects troop morale as well.

"Till September 2021, senior officers of district administration and

Govt forms Terror Monitoring Group

(SSP), the officials said. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of 20 posts in different categories for establishment of Terror Monitoring Group in police," Raj Kumar Goyal said in an order issued here.

The group will have one SSP, six Deputy Superintendents of police, six Inspectors, six Head Constables and one Follower, the order said.

Parikshit is BOSE Chairman

Governor J&K, a notification in this regard was issued today by the School Education Department, according to which, Dr Parikshit Singh Manhas has been appointed as Chairman of JKBOSE on deputa-

security forces would easily patrol till Karakoram Pass (35 km from Daulat Beg Oldie) in the DBO sector. However, restrictions in the form of check posts were placed by Army since December 2021 at DBO," it said.

It added that the unfenced borders have been serving as pastures for the nomadic community of Changthang region (Rebos) and given the scarcity of rich pastures, they would traditionally venture into the areas close to the PPs but enhanced restrictions has caused some resentment against them.

"The soldiers are especially deployed in disguise to stop the movement of Rebos to the higher reaches that could be objected by the PLA and similarly the development works in the border villages like Demchok, Koyul which are under direct electronic surveillance of the PLA suffers, as they raise objections promptly," the report said.

Over the years, the report said, this has resulted in the loss of livelihood and change in lifestyle patterns of border villages, which has led to migration and also fighting within communities.

The senior police officer also said in the report that the harsh climate, difficult terrain and remoteness of the region affect the morale and motivation of the jawans and officers on ground.

Govt forms Terror Monitoring Group

today recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including two AK rifles, during a search operation in Poonch district.

A search operation was launched by Army troops and assisted by police and CRPF in Kalai Top, Shinderra, Ratta Jabbar and adjoining areas.

During the search operation, recovered two AK rifles, three magazines and 35 rounds of ammunition.

Parikshit is BOSE Chairman

Governor J&K, a notification in this regard was issued today by the School Education Department, according to which, Dr Parikshit Singh Manhas has been appointed as Chairman of JKBOSE on deputa-

38 police personnel from J&K get Prez medals

(JKPMMMS) while 168 police personnel, including 6 Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), 3 Superintendents of Police (SPs) have also been awarded with the Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry (JKPMG) by the Lieutenant Governor's administration on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023.

While Danesh Rana, ADGP (Coordination), PHQ, Jammu and Kashmir, and Vijay Kumar, ADGP, Kashmir Zone, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, have been awarded with the prestigious President's Police Medal (PPM) for Distinguished Services, Amarjit Singh, SSP, SO to

Anzar Shah, Vaseem Mehmood, Zafar Mahdi, Gazenfer Syed, Rashid Younis, and Ajaz Ahmed.

The other police officers who were awarded with the Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry are Majid Hassan Khan, Inspector; Sheikh Adil Bashir, SI; Habibullah Lone, HC; Rouf-al-Sadat, Constable; Ayaz Ahmed Khan, HC; Karan Singh, SgCT; Sheeraz Ahmad Ganai, Constable; Intiaz Ahmad Bhat, HC; Tanveer Ahmad Khan, Inspector; Tanvir Ahmad Bhat, SgCT; Shameem Ahmad Khan, SgCT; Amit Bhat, SgCT; Zaffar Iqbal Dar, SgCT; Farooq Ahmad Dar, ASI; Vikram Kumar Raina, ASI; Inspector; Ashwani Thusoo, HC; Mohammad Maqbool Lone, SgCT; Yasir Rashid Bhat, Inspector; Tanveer Ahmad Babzoda, HC; Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh, SgCT; Tariq Ahmad Wani, SgCT; Basharat Hussain Mangral, SgCT; Rashad Rashid, SgCT; Nazir Ahmad Taplo, Constable; Ajay Kunal, ASI; Jaswinder Singh, ASI; Mohammad Mubarak Wani, SgCT; Mehraj-uddin-Khan, follower; Aijaz Ahmad Lone, SgCT; Farooq Ahmad, SI; Yash Paul, HC; Parveen Ahmad Paray, HC; Anchal Singh, SI; Naseer Ahmad Taha, HC; Mazafar Hussain Shah, HC; Tariq Ahmad Wagay, HC; Mohammad Reyaz, follower;



Iffkhar Talib SP, Mohan Sharma DySP, Sheezan Bhat DySP, Gazanfur Syed DySP, H M Bhat DySP, Faizan Ali DySP, Deshveer Singh Inspector, Gulzar Ahmed Inspector, Reyaz Ahmad SI, Special DG Crime, Jammu and Kashmir; Mohammad Younis, SP, Awantipora; Syed Ali Tahir Gilani, SP, West Zone Srinagar; Ajaz Ahmed Zargar, SP; Mohammad Sued Shah, SP (S), PHQ; Sanjay Kumar Sharma, SP Rural, Jammu; Pushpajeet Singh, Inspector SKPA Udhampur; Sanjeev Bakshi, Inspector, Police Hospital; Gulzar Ahmad Malik, Inspector, ACB; Bagwan Singh Bandra, SI (M), PHQ and Abdul Gaffar Hajam, Head Constable, SDRFI Battalion, Baghat Barzulla, Srinagar, have been awarded with the Police Medal (PM) for Meritorious Service.

Among the 25 police personnel who have been awarded with the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023 are one Senior Superintendent of Police, one Superintendent of Police and 23 other officers. They are: GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi, SSP, AIG (CIV), Police Headquarters, with the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023 are one Senior Superintendent of Police, one Superintendent of Police and 23 other officers. They are: GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi, SSP, AIG (CIV), Police Headquarters, with the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023 are one Senior Superintendent of Police, one Superintendent of Police and 23 other officers.

The other police personnel who have been awarded with the 1st BAR to PMG, 2nd BAR to PMG, 3rd BAR to PMG and 4th BAR to PMG are: Furqan Qadir, SDO; Abdul Rashid, ASI; Harpal Singh, HC; Tariq Ahmad Ganie, Constable; Amjad Hussain Choudhary, DIG U-R Range, SSPs Samir Rehki, Zahid Naseem Manhas, DySP Vishal Manhas, and Inspector Deshbir Singh have been awarded with the Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Meritorious Service (JKPMMMS) on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023.

Among the 168 police personnel who have been awarded with the Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry are six SSPs and 3 SPs. They are: Dr Vinod Kumar, SSP Udhampur; Rakesh Balwal, SSP Srinagar (awarded with JKPMG and 1st Bar JKPMG); GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi, SSP, AIG (CIV), Police Headquarters; Noyal Kumar, SSP Kupwara; Shabir Nawab, SSP Sopore; Ghulam Jeelani Wani, SSP Pulwama; SPs-Iffkhar Talib (awarded with 2nd and 3rd BAR JKPMG), Tanushree, and Naresh Singh-Additional SP, Mohammad Majid Malik, Pardeep Singh (awarded with JKPMG 1st BAR JKPMG and 2nd BAR JKPMG), Tanveer Ahmad Dar, and Feroz Ahmad; DySPs, Surinder Singh, Mohan Lal (awarded with 1st and 2nd BAR JKPMG), Mohammad Usman (awarded with 1st BAR JKPMG, 2nd BAR JKPMG), Mohammad Aslam Wani, Isha Gupta, Sumit Kumar Sharma, Khalid Ashraf, Syed Peerzada Mujahid-ul-Haq, Sarfaraz Bashir Ganai (awarded with 1st BAR JKPMG and JKPMG), Rohit Kumar, Salim Jahangir Lone, Himayun Muzammil, Faizan Ali,

SgCTs-Sameer Ahmad, Showkat Ahmad, Sateinder Paul Singh, Bilal Ahmad, Kifayat Hussain Bhat, Sakandari Ali, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Bilal Ahmad Rather, Zubair Ahmad Rather, Saifullah Majeed Khosa, and Safulalh Qadri (posthumous)-Wasim Raja, Constable; Mohammad Shafi Parryay, HC; Abdul Majid Malikh, Constable; Mir Kazam, Inspector; Head Constables Farooq Ahmad, Raman Kumar, Tajinder Singh, and REYaz Ahmad, Sami-Ullah Shah, Constable; Zahoor Ahmad, ASI; Bilal Ahmad, SgCT; Mulkh Raj, Constable; Firdous Ahmad Bhat, Head Constable; Tariq Ahmad Dar, SgCT; Barkat Ali Dar, SgCT; Tauseef Ahmad Khan, SI; Amit Raina, SI; Sandeep Singh, ASI; Abdul Hamid Gogor, ASI; Sunney Duggal, HC; Javaid Ahmad, SgCT; Zahoor Ahmad, ASI; Ferooz Ahmad Mir, ASI; Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Follower; Musir Asgar, Inspector; Mukhtar Ahmad, SI; Bashir Ahmad Chachi, ASI; Sajad Ahmad Malik, HC; Yash Paul, SgCT; Maajid Afzal Wani, HC; Mehraj-ud-din-Dar, Constable; Bikram Kumar, ASI; Head Constables, Gh Mohi-ud-Din, Mohammad Qasim Gujjar, and Mohammad Amin Mir; Mohammad Mahmood, Follower; Iqbal Ahmad Mir, SgCT; Tauseef Ahmad Khan, SI; Amit Raina, SI; Abdul Hamid Khan, HC; Amir Ahmad Wani, Constable; Shivam Narang, PSI; Javid Ahmad Wagay, HC; Maneer Ahmad, SgCT; Vikram Kunal,

Bharat Jodo Yatra suspended at Ramban, to be resumed from Qazigund on Jan 27

from Ramban to Banihal along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the most challenging due to several problematic stretches, including Panthyal, Mehar, Battery Chashma and Maggarkote. These spots are prone to shooting of stones and boulders from the hillocks overlooking the narrow road.

Traffic on the highway was suspended during early hours on Wednesday after heavy rains triggered shooting of stones at a few places in Ramban sector that left a truck operator dead and two others on board oil tanker injured.

"Due to poor weather conditions and landslides in the area, the afternoon leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Ramban & Banihal has been cancelled."

Tomorrow is a rest day and the Yatra will resume the day after, on January 27th at 8 am," Congress general secretary and in-charge communication Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Earlier in the day, JK Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Jahanzaib Sirval said the Yatra resumed around 9 am from Bathi after an hour-long delay due to heavy rains and completed the first leg on day 131, covering the old alignment road via Maitra in Ramban town. Gandhi, who started the march wearing his trademark white T-shirt, later donned a black raincoat. Enthusiastic Congress workers and supporters carrying the tri-colour turned up in large numbers despite the rains to receive the Gandhi family picnic.

JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani, who hails from Banihal and represented the assembly constituency twice in the past two elections, was seen moving alongside Gandhi and introducing him to various delegations as they covered about five-km stretch.

"We covered about five km in Ramban and were scheduled to restart the Yatra two km ahead of

Banihal town after crossing the landslide prone area in vehicles this afternoon. The district administration, both civil and police officers, advised against moving ahead due to the high risk of rolling stones and therefore, the yatra was suspended for the day," Wani said.

He said Gandhi waited for three hours for the weather to improve and get clearance from authorities but since the road was closed, the Yatis were asked to stay back for the second night halt at Ramban.

A senior official in the district administration said that a few inches of snow had accumulated in Lamber area, where Yatra was scheduled to spend the night camping in Banihal. The weather office has forecast heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches and rains in plains during the day.

The march started from Kanyakumari on September 7 and entered Jammu and Kashmir via Punjab on Thursday. The marathon march will culminate with Gandhi unfurling the national flag at the party headquarters in Srinagar and addressing a grand rally at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium on January 30.

Meanwhile, CRPF Deputy Inspector General (Operations), South Kashmir, Alok Avasthi said the force is anyway always on alert. "We are more alert as far as the Bharat Jodo Yatra is concerned."

Otherwise also, we are alert always. Whoever travels on the highway should feel safe, we have taken all security measures," he told reporters at Pulwama.

Asked about the security measures for Republic Day, Avasthi said any intelligence about attempts to vitiate the peace here will be acted upon strongly.

"We are fully alert. If there are intelligence inputs of any element trying to disrupt peace, we will destroy those elements," the CRPF officer said.

LG assures free & fair Assembly elections

opportunities to 7324 youth to become entrepreneurs.

Enterprise of every youth are realized and they are empowered. "The administration is fully committed to youth entrepreneurship and ensuring self-employment opportunities. I salute the hard work of all our youth who have helped build a new Jammu Kashmir. We have been steadfast in our resolve to provide self-employment opportunity to youth and last year PMEGP, J&K was ranked as top performer in the country for setting up maximum units and generating maximum employment opportunities," he said.

Sinha said this while handing over certificates to selected youth who have availed the facility to start their business venture. He said during Block 2 Village-4 and My Town My Pride 2 campaign period launched by the UT Government from October 27 to November 28 respectively, the youth were able to set up business ventures under Manufacturing, Services, Retail and Wholesale Trade, Transport, Allied Agriculture Sectors (like Poultry, Dairy, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries etc) and Agriculture Infra.

He noted that Pulwama district created a new history by providing opportunities to 7324 youth to become entrepreneurs. Number of beneficiaries in other leading districts include 4855 in Anantnag, 4652 in Rajouri, 4165 in Baramulla, 4085 in Poonch and 4004 in Jammu. Aware of its role for upliftment of various socio economic sectors of Jammu and Kashmir and living up to expectations of the UT Government, J&K Bank has been largest contributor in providing credit to unemployed youth including women during the campaign period. J&K Bank set up 2627 counters/camps in backward districts of Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Bandipore, Kupwara and Kulgam. A notable number of women entrepreneurs comprising around 15 percent of total number of persons benefited, were covered during the campaign period.

Major activities for women beneficiaries included Handicrafts, Retail Trading, Artisan activities like crewel/embroidery etc, Allied Agriculture activities, Computerized desktop publishing, Cyber Cafe, beauty Parlour, Boutique/Tailoring, Training Institute and Manufacturing & Services.

"We have taken many steps to create supportive infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up economic development of Jammu Kashmir and to meet the aspirations of our young people. Mission Youth, JKRLM and other government agencies along with J&K Bank is helping thousands of new entrepreneurs to set up businesses. The drive during Back to village and My Town My Pride created a new record enabling 75,000 young entrepreneurs to start a new chapter of their life while celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," the Lt Governor said.

Banks were able to set up around 6600 counters/camps during the campaign period. Camps were held in all district of the Jammu and Kashmir including the backward areas of Doda, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, Kathua, Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora, Kulgam and Anantnag. Through these camps about 60,000 loan cases were sourced by banks under various schemes (indigenous/government sponsored) which culminated in providing employment opportunities to around 75000 beneficiaries.

CBI raids in Punjab, Haryana, Jammu in Rs 8.32 cr PNB loan fraud. The raids that started this morning concluded in the evening and large number of documents pertaining to loan frauds by the businessmen from Haryana and Punjab were recovered. Official sources told the Excelsior that the CBI teams conducted raids at the house of Kush Aggarwal son of Ram Avtar Aggarwal at Adarsh Nagar in Bhiwani district of Haryana and his rented accommodation at Ward No. 13 Sawan Chak in Hatli Morh area of Kathua, house of Onkar Singh at Jaura in Dasuha area of Punjab's Hoshiarpur district and Toplon Industries Private Limited Kathua located at Industrial Area, Hatli Morh in Kathua. Four separate teams of the CBI conducted simultaneous raids at four locations in Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir in connection with Rs 8.32 crore worth scam committed by the businessmen with the Punjab National Bank branch of Kathua. "Initially, the CBI received a complaint from the PNB officials of loan fraud committed by the Directors of M/s Toplon Industries Private Limited Kathua. The CBI investigated the case and prima facie it was found that the fraud has been committed. Based on investigations, the raids were conducted today," they said.

As per the sources, no arrests have been made so far but the businessmen would be called for questioning. "Unknown public servants have also been mentioned in the

First Information Report (FIR) registered by the CBI," sources said, adding the Bank officials would be questioned and depending on their role, if established, they will be booked. Sources said during searches at residential premises of the Directors and the Industry certain vital documents pertaining to loan fraud and electronic gadgets have been recovered. "The seized documents and electronic gadgets will be scrutinized," they said.

Though the Bank officials will be examined and their role will be investigated, sources said, the loan fraud was also first detected by the Bank officials and reported to the Central Bureau of Investigations. The Regular Case (FIR) was registered based on the report of the PNB officials. However, role of the Bank officials at the helm of affairs will come up under extensive scrutiny.

Excise policy 'scam'

ED attaches Rs 76.54 cr worth assets

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: Houses located in upscale localities of Delhi and Mumbai, restaurants, 50 vehicles and bank deposits worth Rs 76.54 crore of various accused, including an AAP functionary, an alleged close associate of deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and an associate of Telangana chief minister's daughter, have been attached in the Delhi excise policy money laundering case, the ED said Wednesday. It said in a statement that the agency has issued a provisional attachment order, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), for freezing the properties. The properties belong to arrested Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communication-in-charge Vijay Nair, Anum Pillai, a Hyderabad-based liquor busi-

WEATHER
JAMMU:
Possibility of rain/thundershower
TEMPERATURE
Max: 14.7 Degree C
Min: 10.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 88.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 87.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 05.59 p.m
Sunrise on Friday: 07.30 a.m
SRINAGAR:
Possibility of rain/snow/thundershower
TEMPERATURE
Max: 3.5 Degree C
Min: 0.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 93.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 94.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: -1.0 Degree C
Min: -11.5 Degree C

DISCLAIMER
"Daily Excelsior" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

CINEMA
APSARA AUDI- 1: KUTTEY (HINDI 2D) - 11.00 AM, 01.15 PM, 03:45 PM, 06:45 PM
HARI THEATRE: MAGIC SHOW - 1:00 PM, 06:30 PM (4.00 PM SHOW ONLY ON SUNDAY).
PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. KUTTEY (HINDI) - 10.00 AM, 2. AKHANDA (HINDI) - 12.35 PM, 3. VARISU (HINDI) - 3.50 PM, 4. DRISHYAM 2 (HINDI) - 7.20 PM, 5. AKHANDA (HINDI) - 10.25 PM
PVR KC AUDI 2: CIRCUS (HINDI) - 10.15 AM, 2. AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (3D HINDI) - 1.20 PM, 3. PUSS IN BOOTS : THE LAST WISH (3D HINDI) (U) - 5.20 PM, 4. KUTTEY (HINDI) - 7.50 PM, 5. AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (3D - HINDI) (U/A) - 10.20 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: GANDHI GODSE - EK YUDH - HINDI (U) - 10.05 AM, 2. PATHAAN (U/A) 12.15 PM, 03.10 PM, 06.05 PM, 9.00 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: PATHAAN (U/A) - 10.30 AM, 1.45 PM, 04:45 PM, 7:45 PM, 10.45 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. PATHAAN (U/A) - 11.00 AM, 2. PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH-3D HIND (U) - 2.00 PM, 3. PATHAAN (U/A) - 4.15 PM, 4. GANDHI GODSE - EK YUDH - HINDI (U) - 7.15 PM 5. PATHAAN (U/A) - 10.00 PM

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). Phones: 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 Pargal (94191-80969), Special Correspondents: Mohinder Verma (94191-85803), 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 932509953 (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

NH closed, one killed

heavy rain and landslides in Ramban area while a truck operator was killed and two others injured when two vehicles were hit by boulders in Maggarkote area last night.

Several morning flights got delayed at Srinagar Airport today as Kashmir received fresh snowfall disrupting the normal life. It has been snowing since last evening in the hills of Kashmir while there was intermittent rains and snowfall across the Valley. An official of Traffic department said the shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway, the only all-weather road linking

received fresh snowfall while the plains received rainfall.

Meanwhile, the Director Meteorological department said that there is a possibility of a brief snow spell tomorrow while the weather conditions would remain mostly dry on January 27 and 28.

He added that light to moderate snowfall is expected on January 29-30 as a fresh Western Disturbance is affecting J&K on particular date.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a low of 0.0°C against last night's minus 2.3°C. Today's minimum temperature is above normal by 2.3°C for the city.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 0.2°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night and it was 3.7°C above normal for the town.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.6°C against minus 8.8°C on the previous night and it was 4.9°C above normal for the tourist resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.7°C against minus 3.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.9°C above normal for the place.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 4.6°C against minus 9.6°C on the previous night and it was 3.6°C above normal for the skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at minus 0.6°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night and it was normal for the town.

Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 11.5°C and minus 9.5°C respectively, the official said.



Baderwah town experiences heavy snowfall on Wednesday. — Excelsior/Tilak Raj

Kashmir with rest of the country, at several places between Ramban and Banihal forced closure of road.

The shooting stones were triggered by heavy rains at Mehar, Maggarkote, Cafeteria Morh and Panthyal during last night and early hours today. This led to suspension of traffic movement on the road.

The Police said a helper of truck driver was killed and two others injured when a truck No. JK18-A/6968 and an oil tanker No. JK02BL/8177 were hit by rolling boulders at Magarkot during the early hours today. The body of the deceased was shifted to the mortuary of Ramban Hospital while the injured were being travelling in the tanker were evacuated to Ransu hospital, the police said.

The deceased was identified as Muneed Ahmed of Kulgam in Kashmir. The injured were also later shifted to GMC Anantnag.

It was still raining heavily in Ramban sector, while most parts of Banihal and Kashmir valley experienced snowfall this morning. The highway at Panthyal was cleared during mid day and some LRVs were cleared towards Banihal but again the highway was blocked at 2-3 places and it was still blocked when the last reports came in around 10 pm tonight and there was no hope of road restoration till tomorrow morning, an official at Ramban said.

The weather office has forecast heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches and rains in plains for the day.

In view of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the traffic department had issued a detailed advisory to ensure hassle-free vehicular movement on the high-

Nishikant Khajuria among 32 get J&K Govt Award

Footballer Ishan Pandita, Tennis player Anika Raina, Inshah Bashir (Basketball- Wheel Chair player), Ayeera Hassan Chiesti (Wushu), Soham Kamotra (Chess), Rahul Jangral (Mountaineering), Muskan Rana (Gymnastics), Kiritarthi Kotwal (Fencing) and Mannat Choudhary (Volley ball) are among those selected for Award for Outstanding Sports Persons.

Dhian Singh (Writer), Rajeshwar Singh Raju (Hindi/Dogri writer), Dr Neelam Sarin (Hindi/Dogri writer) Ghulam Nabi Haleem (Kashmiri author) and Nisar Rahi (Pahari writer) have been selected for the Award for Achievements in the field of Literature. Pertinent to mention that Rajeshwar Singh Raju also writes for the Excelsior.

Deepak Kumar (Posthumously), son of Rajinder Kumar of Dhanganj, Rajouri and Saroj Bala, wife of Late Rajinder Kumar of Dhanganj, Rajouri have been awarded for Achievements in the field of Bravery.

In the category of Performing Arts, Vidvut Jamwal (Film actor), Aditya Dhar (Director), Mir Sarwar (Film Actor) and Noor Mohammad (Kashmiri Folk Singer) have been selected for the Government Award. Sculptor Ravinder Jamwal has been awarded for Excellence in Arts