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*BASED ON LAB TEST AND CONSUMERS SURVEY OF DETERGENT POWDER BRANDS UPTO MRP 185/- PER KG BY INDEPENDENT MARKET RESEARCH AGENCY IBC INSIGHTS IN FEBRUARY 2023. ^OFFER VALID ONLY IN J & K AND LADAKH STATES TILL STOCK LAST. PHOTO OF CONTAINER & BUCKET IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSE ONLY, ACTUAL MAY DIFFER.

Shah hails acts of honesty by 2 JKP cops

NEW DELHI, July 10:
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded two Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel today

for their "acts of honour and honesty" after they returned a bag containing Rs 80,000 in cash and other valuables to an Amamath pilgrim, saying it was an "example of integrity".
 "True heroism lies in our

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

10 including Bhat's son arrested in Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 10: Police today said that they have formally arrested 10 persons including the son of former Hurriyat Conference chairman, Abdul Gani Bhat, in a case related to the conspiracy of reviving banned organisation Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hurriyat Conference.

A police spokesman said here that a case FIR No 23/2023

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Intruder killed in Nowshera, Comdr visits LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 10: Army is reported to have foiled an infiltration attempt on the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district killing at least one militant and was conducting searches for others, if

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of GMC Principal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 10: Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina has dismissed the anticipatory bail application of Dr Shashi Sudhan, Principal of Government Medical College Jammu in a case registered by Crime Branch against her for forgery of Date of Birth.
 On filing of the instant

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Two earthquakes hit Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 10: Two moderate earthquakes hit mountainous district of Doda today.
 As per data available with National Center for Seismology (NCS) of Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, tremors of first earthquake were felt at 5.38 am while the second one shook the earth at 5.43 am.

The NCS data stated that the

(Contd on page 4 Col 6)

Court convicts 4 IM operatives

NEW DELHI, July 10:

A Delhi Court today convicted four Indian Mujahedeen (IM) operatives in a 2012 case of hatching a criminal conspiracy to wage war against the Government by carrying out terrorist attacks across the country.
 Special Judge Shailender Malik held the accused - Danish Ansari, Aftab Alam, Imran Khan, and Obaid-Ur-Rehman - under various Sections of the

Unprecedented era of peace, progress in J&K after 370 abrogation: Centre to SC

'Street violence orchestrated by terrorists thing of past'

G20 in May watershed event in history of tourism

NEW DELHI, July 10:
 Defending the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, the Centre today told the Supreme Court that the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an "unprecedented" era of peace, progress and prosperity, with street violence, orchestrated by terrorists and secessionist networks, becoming "a thing of the past".
 Referring to the "characteristic security situation" in the region, the Centre said organized stone pelting incidents connected with terrorism-separatist agenda, which were as high as

1,767 in 2018 has come down to zero in 2023 till date and casualty of security personnel has shown a 65.9 per cent decline in 2022 as compared to 2018.
 The Centre's affidavit will be taken up tomorrow by a five-Judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, which is scheduled to hear a batch of petitions challenging the decision to abrogate Article 370 that had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
 On August 5, 2019, the Centre had decided to strip the erstwhile State of J and K of special status and bifurcate it into two Union Territories.

Several petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, which split J-K into two Union Territories--Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh--were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.
 The Centre contended that the "historic constitutional step" being challenged has brought unprecedented development, progress, security and stability to the region, which was often missing during the old Article 370 regime. It is submitted that the same has been possible due to the policy

of the Union of India of ensuring peace, prosperity and progress in the region, the affidavit said.
 "It is submitted that the hosting of G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Srinagar in the month of May 2023, was a watershed event in the history of Valley tourism and the country proudly displayed its resolute commitment to the world that secessionist terrorist region can be converted into a region where even international dignitaries can be invited and global events can be held."
 The Centre said after the historic changes, the UTs of Jammu

HA&UD Ministry may clear proposal shortly

Rs 10,599 cr worth MetroLite projects for Jammu, Srinagar cities in final phase

Sanjeev Pargal

Series of meetings held between Ministry, JK officials

JAMMU, July 10: The Union Ministry for Housing Affairs and Urban Development is likely to approve shortly the proposals for MetroLite for Jammu and Srinagar cities after reviewing them several times and getting revised plan from the Union Territory administration. The UT officials have held a couple of meetings with their counterparts in the HA&UD Ministry to give final touch to the proposal.
 Official sources told the Excelsior that the Metro line like New Delhi hasn't been found feasible for Jammu and Srinagar

cities because of various factors including congested roads, commercial and residential establishments all along the route where Metro is proposed to be run in twin cities and various other factors.
 "In view of this, the Union Ministry for Housing Affairs and Urban Development is expected to clear MetroLite for Jammu and Srinagar cities in consultations with Jammu and Kashmir Government," they said, adding MetroNeo was also under consideration earlier but MetroLite appears to be feasible after various studies, assessment and sur-

veys undertaken by the experts, Ministry officials and the UT administration on the routes proposed for the Metro service.
 They said the MetroLite will boost public transport system and economic activities and help commuters in safe and early transportation from one part of the City to the other.
 The Jammu and Kashmir administration, as per the sources, has submitted revised proposal to the Union Ministry for Housing Affairs and Urban Development headed by Hardeep Singh Puri.
 During his two visits to

Jammu last month, Puri had indicated to the BJP leaders about early approval to Metro rail network in Jammu and Srinagar cities.
 The Union Ministry, as per the sources, plans to introduce a MetroLite system instead of the regular metro rail system that is functional in cities like Delhi.
 The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Jammu and Srinagar Metro rail involved a cost of Rs 10,599 crore including Rs 5,734 crore for Srinagar and Rs 4,825 crore for Jammu.
 As per the project, Jammu

'PM brought grassroots democracy in J&K'

Cong should express gratitude to Modi for scrapping Art 370: Dr Jitendra

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 10: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Congress should express its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling their promise by removing Article 370.
 While speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here in Srinagar, Dr Singh said: "Now that Modi has successfully done

pose behind discussing Article 370. The people who introduced it, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, considered it temporary and even labelled it as such," he said.
 "During a discussion in the constituent Assembly, Dr

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had asked Prime Minister Nehru if there should be a debate on it, to which Panditji responded that it would eventually fade away on its own, but they could not make it happen," the Minister said.
 Dr Singh said that those who question the BJP's commitment to democracy should take a closer look at their own governance failures and how they are killing people. "Furthermore, there is a complete breakdown of law and order, and state-sponsored terrorism is rampant. These instances of political hypocrisy, governance failures and state terrorism are unacceptable in any democracy

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 10: Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has directed all the departments to fast pace implementation of PM Gati-Shakti Scheme as till date no substantial progress has been made although the issue will be deliberated upon in the conference of the Chief Secretaries to be held in October-November this year.
 Official sources told EXCELSIOR that in a high-level meeting held few days back, the implementation of PM Gati-Shakti Scheme came up for dis-

Traffic diverted to Mughal Road

NH still blocked, restoration work goes on at war footing

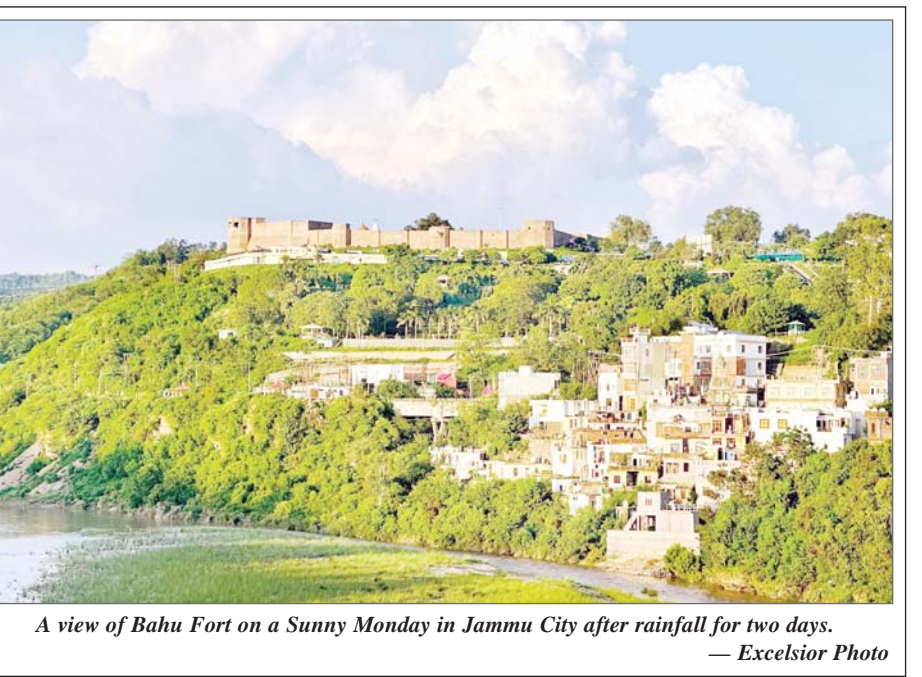
Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 10: While Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the third consecutive day due to washing away of road by river Chenab near Ramban, the authorities diverted traffic to Mughal Road today.
 Official sources said that restoration work was going on at war-footing near Chamba-Seri in Ramban where about 80 meters road stretch has been washed away.
 The highway was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following incessant rains that triggered multiple landslides and also severely damaged a portion of the road near Panthyal Tunnel and Chamba-Seri, Dalwas and

Mehar in Ramban district, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded,worthy," a Traffic department official said.
 "The restoration work will take some time. The stranded vehicles will be cleared on priority once the road is made motorable," the official said.
 However, no fresh traffic will be allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar till the clearance of the stranded vehicles, he added.
 A police spokesman advised people to avoid travelling on the highway till the time confirmation is issued by the administration.
 He said drivers of heavy motor vehicles are advised to take Mughal Road for the journey from Jammu to Srinagar and vice-versa.
 "The administration is making its best possible efforts to ensure

of the road.
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A view of Bahu Fort on a Sunny Monday in Jammu City after rainfall for two days. — Excelsior Photo

Yatra remains suspended from Jammu for 3rd day

Over 24,000 perform darshan at holy cave, total crosses one lakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 10: As yatra was also resumed from Baltal track after remaining suspended for three consecutive days today, over 24,000 pilgrims paid obeisance to naturally formed ice Shiv Lingam at holy cave by this evening.
 However, the yatra from Jammu to twin base camps of Nunwan -Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district and Baltal in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district remained suspended for the third consecutive



Amar Nath Ji bound pilgrims waiting in a long queue for on spot registration at a counter near Railway Station, Jammu on Monday. Another pic on page 4. — Excelsior/Rakesh

of pilgrims reached holy cave from twin tracks of Baltal and Nunwan Pahalgam to perform darshan. Today, most of stranded pilgrims from Baltal, Panchtarni and Sheshnag reached the holy cave after the gates were opened by the authorities early this morning at base camps and other transit camps allowing pilgrims to

leave for their onwards sojourn.
 The decision of allowing pilgrims to proceed towards holy cave in large numbers was taken after improvement in weather conditions entire yatra route since yesterday.
 Reports said that pilgrims were waiting in long queues at holy cave from early in the

I&C to monitor progress on regular basis, furnish report

Govt directs all deptts to fast pace implementation of PM Gati-Shakti

Scheme to be utilized in decision making: CS

Department to monitor progress so that Gati-Shakti can be utilized in decision making, sources said, adding the Commissioner/Secretary Industries has also been asked to furnish report in this regard on regular basis to the office of the Chief Secretary.
 "Implementation of PM Gati-Shakti Scheme will also be one of the agenda points in the Chief Secretaries Conference to be held in October-November this year and will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi", sources said, adding "the Government of J&K UT wants all the departments to make substantial progress in implementation of scheme well

after the conference where a presentation in this regard will be made".
 Moreover, the Chief Secretary has directed all the Administrative Secretaries to have the necessary preparations in place for the upcoming conference the theme of which will be "Priority Area for Highest Attention and Leadership (CSC-PAHAL).
 The Gati Shakti also called as National Master Plan was launched on August 15, 2021 by the Prime Minister for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects across the

Department to monitor progress so that Gati-Shakti can be utilized in decision making, sources said, adding the Commissioner/Secretary Industries has also been asked to furnish report in this regard on regular basis to the office of the Chief Secretary.
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CG decides to counter Oppn narrative forcefully

As a run up to next year's LS poll, BJP to launch UT wide campaign

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 10: As a run up to the next year's Lok Sabha election and to further consolidate party base from booth to constituency level, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held Core Group (CG) meeting at party Headquarters here this afternoon.
 According to party sources, the meeting was also a follow up to recent meeting of North Zone BJP convened by Party national president, J P Nadda at New Delhi which was attended by senior leaders from J&K also.
 Sources said the meeting threadbare deliberated over the prevailing political situation in

the UT as well as country and the public welfare decisions taken by both LG as well as Narendra Modi Government at Centre and their positive impact on the forthcoming elections.
 While the Core Committee was upbeat over the recent announcement of LG regarding allotment of five marlas of land to landless people in the UT and 10 kgs of additional ration at subsidized rates to priority households, it also decided to forcefully counter the opposition narrative mainly created by National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP). The Core Group also accused these parties of misleading the people by negating the

good work of the Government.
 The meeting decided to launch a house to house Abhiyan (campaign) in both regions of J&K to take the message of PM Narendra Modi's good governance and apprise them of the welfare schemes and new projects launched for the development of J&K and welfare of its people especially those living in rural and remote belts which were hitherto neglected during last 70 years of successive Congress and NC Governments.
 The meeting was chaired by the BJP UT president, Ravinder Raina and it was attended by