

India becoming powerful nation: Hosabale

SULTANPUR (UP), June 11:

India is becoming a powerful nation and all forces opposed to it are trying to stop its progress, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale has said.

Addressing a programme here yesterday, he said there is a need to acquaint the new generation with the history, culture and heritage of the country so that they take inspiration from these and contribute to the country's progress.

"India is developing into a powerful nation and to stop its (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Rs 7 lakh worth terror funds recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 11: Poonch police today recovered Rs 7 lakh from a house at village Allapeer, which was proceeds of terrorism.

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma told the Excelsior that the cash was recovered at the instance of Mohd Safer S/o Mohd Hussain R/o Poonch.

Recovery was made by a joint team of police and Army. Mohd Safer was among three persons arrested by Army few days back in connection with narco-terror module in Poonch.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Farooq, Mehbooba to attend Oppn meet

PATNA, June 11:

Jammu and Kashmir stalwarts Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti will be coming to the Bihar capital next week for the June 23 conclave of parties opposed to the BJP, a key political aide of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said today.

JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' made the disclosure at the party's Bihar headquarters here.

"Leaders of altogether 18 parties have agreed to attend the meeting. National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, both former (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

IndiGo flight enters Pak

ISLAMABAD, June 11:

An IndiGo flight from Amritsar to Ahmedabad entered Pakistan airspace due to bad weather and went up to Gujranwala before heading back to Indian airspace safely, the airline said today.

IndiGo flight 6E-645 had to take a deviation over Atari into Pakistan airspace due to bad weather on Saturday, the airline said in a statement.

"The deviation was well coordinated with Pakistan by Amritsar ATC via telephone. The crew was in continuous contact with Pakistan on R/T and the (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Agarwal is new DG BSF

NEW DELHI, June 11:

Nitin Agarwal, a 1989-batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, was today appointed as the new Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), more than five months after the post fell vacant.

Agarwal is currently posted as the Additional DG of Operations at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) headquarters in Delhi.

An order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) issued late night stated Agarwal has been appointed as the BSF DG "from (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
 Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 37.4 Degree C
 Min: 24.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 83.0 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 34.0 per cent
 Sunset on Monday: 07:39 p.m.
 Sunrise on Tuesday: 05:23 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
 Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 27.7 Degree C
 Min: 16.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
 RH-I (Morning): 71.0 per cent
 RH-II (Evening): 36.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
 Max: 17.0 Degree C
 Min: 8.2 Degree C

Maha CM meets LG, seeks land for Bhawan in Srinagar
J&K a symbol of success, has converted challenges into opportunities: Sinha

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 11: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde today said following abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India (on August 5, 2019), admirable progress has been witnessed in Kashmir under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Shinde who is in Jammu and Kashmir had earlier visited holy

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and paid obeisance to the Goddess. Today, he met Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar and also wrote a letter to him seeking approval for construction of Maharashtra Bhawan in Kashmir as a hub for students, entrepreneurs and officers from the State to engage, cultivate connections, and collaborate on shared interests.

"Glad to have met Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and Member of

Lot of changes in UT after 370 abrogation: Shinde



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde with LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar on Sunday.

Parliamentary Dr Shrikant Shinde at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar," a tweet from Office of LG J&K said.

A press communique by LG office issued this evening said the Chief Minister of Maharashtra requested the Lt Governor for allocation of the land in Srinagar to build 'Maharashtra Bhawan' to

strengthen tourism, cultural exchanges and economic development. Shinde observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Territory has converted challenges into opportunities and J&K is now the symbol of success and prosperity.

He said UT of J&K is full of self-confidence and it is moving forward on the path to progress.

"Socio-economic growth with equity and social justice in the last four years has ensured all-round development and prosper-

ity for all," the Lt Governor said

In his letter addressed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Eknath Shinde wrote: "In the time since the abrogation of Article 370, we have witnessed admirable progress in Kashmir under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and able leadership of Manoj Sinha".

The evolution of the region brings about an ideal opportunity for greater integration between our States, Shinde said.

"Understanding the value of tourism and cultural exchange in enhancing relationships and economic growth, I kindly ask for your consideration in allocating a land plot in Kashmir to build a Maharashtra Bhawan," the Chief Minister said, adding this establishment in Srinagar would not only showcase Maharashtra art, culture and cuisine but also offer accommodation and support to Maharashtrians visiting the Valley.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Promotion of electric mobility ecosystem across J&K UT
Officers' panel lays thrust on creation of charging infra at Distt, Sub-Divn, Tehsil level

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 11: A high-level committee, which has been assigned the task of formulation of comprehensive Electric Vehicle Policy for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has laid thrust on creation of charging infrastructure at the District, Sub-Division and Tehsil level besides after every 25 kilometers on the highways for promotion of electric mobility ecosystem.

The Government wide Order No.1264-JK(GAD) dated October 20, 2022 constituted a committee for formulation of comprehensive Electric Vehicle Policy for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The committee headed by Administrative

Electric Vehicle Policy to be formulated shortly

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Department and comprising of Administrative Secretaries of Industries and Commerce Department, Power Development Department, Transport Department, Law Department and Director General Budget was asked to evaluate and suggest measures to promote electric mobility ecosystem in the UT in general and in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar in particular.

Further, the committee was assigned the task of analyzing scope of incentives as may be granted for ownership of electric vehicles, including conversion of existing commercial fleets into electric set-up; suggest

broad contours of the infrastructural requirements for shifting to electric mobility by comparing similar policies/rules of neighboring States; analyze aspects related to road safety associated with the usage of electric vehicles and suggest measures to promote research and innovation as well as skill development in the field of electric vehicles.

"The committee has held deliberations in its few meetings and every member is of the opinion that creation of charging infrastructure at various levels is imperative for promotion of electric mobility ecosystem in the Union Territory", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

They disclosed that in its

Responsibility of Govt employees to boost people's faith in Govt system: PM

NEW DELHI, June 11:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said it is the responsibility of all Government employees to boost the faith of people in the Government system as he stressed the importance of capacity building, ending working in silos and enhancing service delivery.

He made the remarks after inaugurating the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan here.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of service orientation of Government work, ownership in realising the aspirations of common people, the need to break the hierarchy

and using the experience of every person in an organisation, the importance of people's participation ("Jan Bhagidari"), and the zeal to improve and innovate the system, among other things.

Training modules should be oriented and developed in such a way that these aspects are inculcated in government officials, he said, adding that training should also inculcate a whole-of-government approach and all efforts must be made to nurture the potential of officials.

While referring to his experience as Gujarat's Chief Minister and later as Prime Minister, Modi underlined that the Government has never lacked talented, dedicated and committed officials.

Just as the Army has built

JAMMU, June 11: Jammu and Kashmir Bank (JKB) CEO & Managing Director Baldev Prakash has said that the bank has achieved historic annual profit of Rs 1197 crore during financial year of 2022-23. The Bank, he added, is also in forefront of lending helping hand to unemployed youth by providing them financial assistance under various Central and UT Government schemes.

Prakash disclosed that the Bank has engaged a globally renowned consultancy firm for rationalization of staff and preparation of future manpower plans and the project is at an advanced stage of completion. The Bank recruited 1800 employees includ-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

J&K struggles with drastic reductions in ration

50% decrease in rice allocation in last 3 years

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, June 11: Residents of Jammu and Kashmir are expressing anguish over a 50% reduction in the ration quota over the last three years, with each individual in a Priority Household (PHH) category now receiving only 5 kilograms of rice instead of the average 10 kilograms, leading to discontent among the people regarding their food needs.

The residents expressed their discontent and uncertainty due to a decrease in their ration quota. The situation has raised concerns regarding their capacity to meet their fundamental

need, which is ensuring access to a sufficient food supply. They said the region was facing the worst-ever crisis in terms of food grain distribution, leaving people feeling marginalized and deprived. They demanded that the Government provide them with an ample supply of food grains to alleviate their plight.

Expressing her frustration, Sara Bano, a resident of Srinagar, highlighted that the current rice allocations were insufficient for her family of four. She said that they donated more rice to beggars in the past than what the Government is currently providing, suggesting that they were being treated like

beggars. "We are a family of four and receive only 20 kilograms of rice every month, which is insufficient even for two people," she said.

She further highlighted that the skyrocketing prices of essential items were already making it difficult to run their households, and the scarcity of food grains had added extra pressure to their already strained budgets.

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant decline in the allocation of rice over the past three years. According to data obtained from the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) department, the available figures indicate a staggering decrease of

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)



Man busy catching fish near the shore of Dal lake in Srinagar on Sunday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

Dangerous move by ISI to involve women, juveniles in terror network

'Neighbour creating trouble in Pir Panjal'

SRINAGAR, June 11:

A 'dangerous move' by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and heads of terror groups to rope in women and juveniles to carry weapons and messages has come to light amid a decline in the use of traditional means of communication by terrorists in Kashmir valley, a top Army officer has said.

The General Officer Commanding of Srinagar-based 15 Corps, also known as Chinar Corps, Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla also said the forces need to be cautious as people sitting across the Line of Control (LoC) are busy scheming and planning to disturb the prevailing peaceful atmosphere.

"Today's threat, as I see it, is involving women, girls and juveniles in carrying messages, drugs or, at times, weapons. So far, the Army has detected some cases highlighting an emerging

trend which in itself is a dangerous move that Pakistan's ISI and heads of 'tanzems' (terror groups) have adopted. We, along with other agencies, are jointly working out on this," Lt Gen Aujla said.

Asked if it means that terror groups have stopped using mobile communication, the Army officer said the Techint (technical intelligence) signatures have reduced considerably. Also, many Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who acted as conduits for them have been picked up.

"Therefore, now women, girls and juveniles have been roped in as an alternative to mainly carry messages," the top Army officer in the Valley said.

As part of the deradicalisation strategy, the Army, with the cooperation of the Union Territory administration, has undertaken a series of initiatives - one of which is the 'Sahi Rasta' (right path) programme that has in recent times proved to be a game changer in the right earnest.

"We have come a long way in ensuring peace and stability in Kashmir, but I will be naive to claim an early victory as we feel that every gain needs to be

cemented before achieving lasting peace in the Union Territory," he said. Without naming Pakistan, Lt Gen Aujla said the challenge is that the neighbouring country has not given up on its intent and is repeatedly creating trouble on both sides of Pir Panjal. The latest infiltration bid in the Machil sector of north Kashmir is a testimony of his blatant indulgence.

He stressed that all security agencies, including those from the Union Territory administration, were well geared up to thwart any nefarious designs of the adversary.

"The propensity of infiltration along the Line of Control in Kashmir may have shown some decrease but there have been some attempts in South of Pir Panjal as well as neighbouring Punjab.

"We need to be cautious and not let our guard down at any cost. National security is our prime responsibility. We will leave no stone unturned to maintain it," he said.

"We are cognisant of the likely threats from across and accordingly ensure to the best of our abilities that the current peace (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Profit up, NPAs down, major part of loans given to Malaya recovered
J&K Bank lending helping hand to unemployed youth, consultancy firm engaged for manpower plans: CEO&MD

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 11: Jammu and Kashmir Bank (JKB) CEO & Managing Director Baldev Prakash has said that the bank has achieved historic annual profit of Rs 1197 crore during financial year of 2022-23. The Bank, he added, is also in forefront of lending helping hand to unemployed youth by providing them financial assistance under various Central and UT Government schemes.

Prakash disclosed that the Bank has engaged a globally renowned consultancy firm for rationalization of staff and preparation of future manpower plans and the project is at an advanced stage of completion. The Bank recruited 1800 employees includ-

ing officers and clerical cadre during 2021 and 2022 in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In an exclusive interview to the Excelsior, the Jammu and Kashmir Bank CEO & MD said gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have improved remarkably to 6.04 percent as against 8.67 percent a year earlier while the net NPA figure has reached



Baldev Prakash, CEO & Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

1.62 percent from 2.49 percent.

To a question as to whether the Bank has suffered financial losses due to escape of Vijay Malaya and Nirav Modi from the country, Prakash said the Bank hadn't given any loan to Nirav though they had taken some exposure with Kingfisher Airlines of Vijay Malaya but major portion of the granted loan has already been recovered from the sale of underlying security i.e. shares of United Breweries (UB).

Outstanding exposure to the company is below Rs 20 crore which too is fully provided for.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: After passing through a slow phase of growth and subdued earnings, J&K bank has achieved its highest ever profit so far. Is it a beginning of a new chapter of growth and stability for the Bank?

A: Yes, definitely. We did achieve historic annual profit of Rs 1197 Cr for financial year 2022-23 while recording our highest-ever quarterly numbers at Rs 476.33 Cr in March 2023 quarter.

With availability of growth capital, we recorded advances growth of 17% for the FY 2022-23 while as deposits increased 6% YoY. On Asset Quality front we achieved remarkable improvement by bringing down gross NPAs down to 6.04% after eight long years and a decadal high Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 15.38%.

So, as a Bank we have not only stabilized institutionally but have embarked on a growth journey towards becoming the lead (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

PP rolls out drone emergency response system

CHANDIGARH, June 11:

The Punjab Police has rolled out a drone emergency response system in the border district of Pathankot to foil attempts to smuggle drugs and weapons from across the border using unmanned aerial vehicles, officials said.

Under the drone emergency response system, police will coordinate with village-level defence committees in areas along the India-Pakistan border for a faster response to instances of smuggling of narcotics and arms and ammunition from the neighbouring country.

According to the officials, frequent drone movements for smuggling of drugs and weapons from across the border pose a challenge for security

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Tehrik links 'strong'
Threat of terrorism rising in Afghanistan, region: UN Report

UNITED NATIONS, June 11:

The link between the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan remains "strong and symbiotic", according to a UN report which said the ability of terrorist groups to freely manoeuvre under the Taliban de facto authorities in Afghanistan is raising the threat of terrorism in the country and the region.

The fourteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council said that contrary to statements to not allow Afghan soil to be used for attacks

against other countries, the Taliban have harboured and allowed active support of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.

While maintaining links to numerous terrorist entities, the Taliban have lobbied member states for counter-terrorism assistance in its fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant - Khorasan Province (ISIL-K), which it perceives as its principal rival.

"The link between the Taliban and both Al-Qaeda and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) remains strong and symbiotic. A range of terrorist groups have greater freedom of manoeuvre under the Taliban de facto authorities. They are making good use of this, and the threat

of terrorism is rising in both Afghanistan and the region," the report, issued here on Friday, said.

It added that while they have sought to reduce the profile of these groups and have conducted operations against ISIL-K, in general, the Taliban have not delivered on the counter-terrorism provisions under the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the United States of America and the Taliban.

Further, there are indications that Al-Qaeda is rebuilding operational capability, that TTP is launching attacks into Pakistan with support from the Taliban, that groups of foreign (Contd on page 4 Col 3)