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India rejects OIC's references on J&K

GENEVA, Mar 4:

India has assailed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "unwarranted references" to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and for allowing Pakistan to hijack and misuse its platform for carrying out Islamabad's "nefarious agenda" against New Delhi.

Exercising its right of reply at the High-Level Segment of 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, Seema Pujani, (Contd on page 5 Col 5)

Higher pension deadline for EPS members extended

NEW DELHI, Mar 4:

Deadline for opting for higher pension for members of Employees Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS) who retired before September 1, 2014, ended today.

However, other members of the EPS can apply for higher pensions till May 3, 2023, a Labour Ministry statement said.

"The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) closed the options on 4th of (Contd on page 5 Col 1)

Teacher thrown from 3rd floor, dies

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 4: A Government school teacher Shabir Ahmed, son of Noor Mohd, resident of Chilly Bala, Gandoh was allegedly thrown from third floor at mid-night by

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

unknown persons.

He was shifted to GMC Doda where doctors declared him as brought dead.

Death of the teacher triggered protest demanding arrest of those behind his killing.

An FIR has been registered in this regard at Police Station Gandoh and investigation started, said SDPO Gandoh, Adil Rishu.

DH Udhampur gets 5 DNB seats

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 4: District Hospital Udhampur was today granted 5 seats in DNB by National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

Assessment of the departments was conducted by different teams of Assessors in 2022 and after meeting the prescribed criteria and parameters the seats were granted in Department of Pediatrics (1 Post MBBS DNB and 1 Post Diploma), (Contd on page 5 Col 1)

Rains, snowfall in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: There were intermittent rains in the Valley and light snowfall in the hills of Kashmir with gusty winds blowing during the day.

A Meteorological department official had forecast intermittent rains in parts of Valley and light snowfall in the hills during the afternoon. However, the weather later improved towards evening.

"It is likely to be partly to generally cloudy during next 24 hours with appreciable rise expected in day temperature. Clear weather is expected from March 5-12," he added.

In the meantime, Srinagar recorded a low of 6.4°C against (Contd on page 5 Col 5)

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 26.9 Degree C
Min: 13.2 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 75.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 44.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 06.32 p.m
Sunrise on Monday: 06.54 a.m

SRINAGAR:
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 16.6 Degree C
Min: 6.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 84.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 64.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 8.4 Degree C
Min: -2.8 Degree C

Will function as separate vertical 11 months after abolition
Counter Insurgency wing revived to hit at terror support network in J&K

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 4: In a major decision aimed at further strengthening Intelligence network to hit at terror ecosystem, the administration has ordered revival of Counter Insurgency (CI) unit of the CID immediately in Jammu and Kashmir with headquarters at Jammu and Srinagar which was the case when the unit was brought under the control of CID Special Branch in April 2022.

"The Counter Insurgency unit of the CID which once functioned as full-fledged Intelligence gathering unit against the terrorism was brought under operational control of Special Branch on April 11, 2022, which works as verification unit and oversees political side.

However, the CI wing has once again been revived as full-fledged separate entity as the need was felt for Intelligence gathering against terror ecosystem," official sources told the Excelsior.

"To ensure the revival of

Intelligence gathering against militants will gain momentum

Counter Intelligence as a separate vertical, the manpower of CI Jammu and Srinagar, working under the operation control of SSP Special Branch Jammu and Srinagar, has been detached with immediate effect to work under operational control and command of the SSP CI Jammu and Srinagar," an official order said.

Recently, the Government ordered posting of SSPs Counter Intelligence in Jammu as well as Srinagar. Sources said the manpower of Counter Intelligence, which was working under operation control of Special Branch, has been withdrawn and it will now be part of the Counter Intelligence at Jammu and Srinagar besides all district headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Special Investigation Agency (SIA), constituted by the Government on the lines of

NIA, which was also drawing manpower from the CID, has got its sanctioned strength and will function as separate entity. "Now, there will be three separate wings including the Counter Intelligence, which will exclusively focus on gathering Intelligence about terror network across Jammu and Kashmir, Special Branch which will focus on verifications and political side and SIA which will be the investigating wing in major terror-related cases," sources said, adding all these measures are aimed at hitting at the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Counter Intelligence wing will get its strength back from the Special Branch as well as Special Investigation Agency and, if required, will be equipped with more staff.

It will have its Police Stations in Jammu as well as Srinagar, which was the case

earlier. Besides working as an effective Intelligence gathering unit, the Counter Insurgency wing can also undertake operations against the militants on the basis of specific inputs.

Describing Intelligence gathering as an effective part of counter-militancy operations, sources admitted that full-fledged Counter Insurgency unit was need of the hour to ensure that attempts to revive militancy in Jammu region are not allowed to succeed.

"It has been observed that militants of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch districts, sitting in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) have been trying to revive militancy in the region by luring youth. The Intelligence agencies can thwart such designs by ensuring that youths don't fall into trap of the militants," sources said.

They admitted that there will be much better Intelligence network now with revival of the Counter Insurgency wing especially in (Contd on page 5 Col 3)

'Every fact needs to be proved to support right being claimed'
'Cause of action' can't be generated by making repeated representations, legal notices: DB

Order passed by Consumer Forum against JDA set-aside

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 4: A Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta has held that 'cause of action' cannot be generated by making repeated representations and legal notices to the concerned authorities and every fact is required to be proved in order to support the right being claimed before the court.

The Division Bench was dealing with a Writ Petition filed by Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for quashing

order dated 18.07.2019 passed by the Jammu and Kashmir State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission whereby order dated 04.05.2018 passed by the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Jammu was upheld.

As per the facts presented before the court, in response to an Advertisement Notice issued by the JDA on 15.10.1993 for allotment of residential plots at Bantalab Housing Colony, Phase-II on Amb Gharota Road, respondent applied on the prescribed format by depositing the registration fee of Rs 8600.

The JDA vide its communication dated 02.06.1994 asked

the respondent to deposit the balance amount of Rs 77,400 representing 90% amount of the premium on or before 08.07.1994. He was also warned that in case he would not deposit the amount on time, he would be liable to pay penal interest at the rate of 18% per annum and lease deed shall be executed only after that. However, there was no compliance of the conditions by the respondent.

After prolonged delay, the respondent approached the JDA for allotment of the plot in the year 2000 and 2007 by making written representations which were followed by (Contd on page 5 Col 3)

SC gives green signal for construction of Convention Centre at Patnitop

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Supreme Court has allowed Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) to carry out construction work for the much-awaited Convention Centre at Patnitop.

The Convention Centre was conceived and sanctioned as part of the project titled "Integrated Development of Mantalai-Sudhmahadev-Patnitop" under Himalayan Circuit Theme, Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism and the Prime Minister's Development Package with an objective to harness and boost the tourism potential of the Patnitop tourist circuit. However, it was dropped, consequent to the land dispute with the Forest Department.

Hearing an application filed by Patnitop Development Authority, the Apex Court pronounced, "we allow the present application subject to obtaining clearances from the statutory authorities and permit the applicant to construct Convention Centre at Patnitop after demolishing the existing dilapidated Club Building of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation"

With the requisite signal from the Apex Court, the establishment of the Convention Centre at Patnitop will be a reality soon. The Convention Centre was proposed to be constructed in the area under the possession of Tourism Department and at the same site where JKTC's Club House building stood, lying unused and in dilapidated condition.

The existing Club House building of JKTC/Tourism Department was demolished and the construction work pertaining to the Convention Centre was started. However, the Forest Department called a halt and sought land transfer. The indent for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes was placed and the case was taken up before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and was under consideration.

However, in view of the directions passed in the case titled TN Godavarman Thirumalpad Versus Union of India, wherein, it was stated that no further construction or conversion is permitted at Patnitop, Patnitop Development Authority and Tourism Department (Contd on page 5 Col 3)

'Will frustrate attempt to disrupt peace'
Pak trying to push militants, weapons to revive terror: DGP

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 4: Director General of Police Dilbag Singh today said Pakistan is trying to push more terrorists, drugs and weapons into Jammu and Kashmir, where the graph of militancy is on decline with security agencies determined to finish terrorism.

He termed the recovery of seven kilograms of heroin, over Rs 2 crore and arms and ammunition from a house of a notorious drug peddler near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district as a "big success", saying the security forces are working comprehensively to dismantle the entire support structure of terrorism in the Union Territory. "We have checked infiltra-

tion (of terrorists) through underground (tunnels) and over-ground channels, but Pakistan is still making continuous efforts to push the terrorists in large numbers into this side," the DGP told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Samba district.

He said the infiltration bids are made to fill the militant ranks and upscale the graph of terrorism which is on decline.

However, police along with other security agencies are alert to frustrate any attempt to disrupt peace and determined to finish terrorism from J&K, Singh said.

"Strict action will be taken against anyone who tries to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere," he said.

The police chief said besides pushing terrorists, Pakistan is also involved in smuggling of drugs and weapons into this side.

Referring to the seizure of drugs and money in Poonch on Friday, he said police and other security agencies "had a very big success in the fight against narco-terrorism".

"This impure action of Pakistan was to keep terrorism alive...Security agencies are acting sternly against drug traffickers and an investigation is on to unravel the whole conspiracy and bring the culprits to book," he said.

Singh said inter-state connections have started emerging (Contd on page 5 Col 3)

'It aids, hosts & abets international ultras'
Pak has unique distinction of hosting most UNSC-designated terrorists: India

GENEVA, Mar 4:

Pakistan has the "unique distinction" of hosting the most number of UNSC-designated terrorists and terror organisations, and its policies are directly responsible for thousands of civilian deaths in the world, India has said as it slammed Islamabad for its "malicious propaganda" against it.

Exercising its right of reply to Pakistan's statement at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva on Friday, India said when it is not entirely focused on suppressing its own population, Pakistan actively lends its energies to aid, host and abet international ter-

rorists. "It has the unique distinction of hosting the most number of UNSC designated terrorists and terror organisations. Osama bin Laden lived next to Pakistan's premier military academy. Its security agencies have nurtured and sheltered Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar for decades," First Secretary of India's Permanent Mission to UN Seema Pujani said.

"These are but a few dreaded names from the annals of Pakistan's history of supporting terrorism. Pakistan's policies are directly responsible for the death of thousands of civilians around the world," she said in response to a statement delivered by Pakistan.

Pujani said Pakistan's obsession with India while its population battle for their lives, livelihood and freedom is an indication of the state's misplaced priorities.

She said its leaders and officials should focus their energies on working for the benefit of their own population instead of "baseless propaganda" against India.

"Pakistan's representative has once again chosen to misuse this august forum for its malicious propaganda against India," she said.

Pujani raised the issue of enforced disappearances, saying students, doctors, engineers, teachers, and community leaders (Contd on page 5 Col 7)

NIA attaches property of militant comdr killed in Pak

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today attached properties of a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander, who was

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

killed last month in Pakistan, in the Kupwara district.

The properties of Bashir Ahmad Pir, a resident of the Babarpora area of Kralpora in the north Kashmir district, was attached by the agency as part of the action against the militants operating from Pakistan.

The officials said Pir, a self-styled commander of the outfit, was shot dead in Rawalpindi on February 21.

The NIA attached two land



NIA team attaches property of HM militant in Kupwara on Saturday.

plots at Baghpura and Panzgam areas, measuring over three kanals belonging to Pir alias Imtiaz Alam. Pir, who was reportedly in charge of launching militants into Jammu and Kashmir through Line of Control (LoC), was designated a terrorist by the (Contd on page 5 Col 1)

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