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CBI quizzes Rabri, summons Lalu

NEW DELHI/PATNA, Mar 6: The CBI today questioned former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi at her Patna residence and has issued notice to her husband and former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad in connection with the further probe in the land-for-jobs scam case, officials said.

There is no search or raid taking place, they said, adding CBI had issued notice to Rabri Devi following which she showed her availability today and the team visited her residence to question her.

Sisodia sent to jail till Mar 20

NEW DELHI, Mar 6: A Delhi court today sent former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to judicial custody till March 20 in excise scam case, after the CBI said it did not require the custody of the senior Aam Aadmi Party leader for now.

Sisodia was produced before Special Judge M K Nagpal on expiry of his seven-day custodial interrogation allowed by the court earlier.

At the outset, the counsel for CBI submitted before the court the investigative agency was not seeking his custody right now which it may do later.

Nitish posted as IG CID, Tiwari IG Armed

JAMMU, Mar 6: The Government today ordered transfer and adjustment of two IPS officers. Nitish Kumar awaiting orders of posting has been adjusted as Inspector General of Police, CID, J&K, vice Mahendra Nath Tiwari.

Tiwari was transferred and posted as Inspector General of Police, Armed, Jammu, relieving Mukesh Singh of additional charge of the post.

Night temps drop

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather, the minimum temperatures recorded a drop at most places in Kashmir today with day temperatures rising. Srinagar recorded a low of 3.5°C against 7.4°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the city with maximum temperature settling at 20.1°C.

Qazigund recorded a low of 2.0°C against 6.5°C the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the town. The maximum temperature for the town settled at 18.5°C.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against 1.2°C the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the tourist

'All colonies of PoJK refugees will be regularized' PoJK integral part of India, dream of 'Akhand Bharat' will come true: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 6: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today declared that dream of 'Akhand Bharat' (undivided India), seen by the elders, would come true in coming times even as he declared that Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) is an integral part of India.

He announced that all colonies of PoJK refugees will be regularized and a 'Samriti Bhawan' will be constructed in memory of those who lost their lives during migration in 1947.

"The dream of 'Akhand Bharat' (undivided India) will come true in coming times. PoJK is also an integral part of India and commitment made in Parliament on this will soon be fulfilled with blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and Baba Amarnath Ji," Sinha said after inaugurating 'LG's Special Governance Camp for Displaced Persons' at Sports Stadium in Bhour Camp this morning.

Asserting that no power on earth can separate PoJK from

them, he said: "I have no doubt that one day the dream of 'Akhand Bharat' conceived by our elders will be a reality". His



LG Manoj Sinha addressing PoJK people at Bhour Camp in Jammu on Monday.

statement drew applause from the crowd which shouted slogans in support of reclaiming PoJK.

The Lieutenant Governor announced that colonies of the PoJK refugees will be regularized.

"Steps will be taken to regularize the colonies of displaced

*Lives of displaced people, others changed after Aug 2019 decision

lies and that they shouldn't consider themselves as refugees. He added that land has already been identified for the purpose and construction work will start soon on Samriti Bhawan.

Announcing construction of Samriti Bhawan in the memory of PoJK martyrs, Sinha said every effort will be made to preserve and promote the culture and tradition of displaced families. It is our responsibility to secure their rights and build an enabling environment to fulfill aspirations of the youth," he said.

Describing abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India on August 5, 2019 as "historic development", the

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Making treatment affordable top priority' India trying to minimise dependence on foreign nations in health sector : PM

NEW DELHI, Mar 6:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that life-savers like medicines, vaccines and medical devices were weaponised when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak, and asserted that his Government has been consistently trying to minimise India's dependence on foreign



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing post budget webinar on 'Health and Medical Research' in New Delhi on Monday. (UNI)

long-term vision for decades to the Health Ministry alone and after Independence but his Government has not confined it

Our entrepreneurs should ensure India doesn't have to import any technology and becomes self-reliant, he said, highlighting various measures taken by his government to boost entrepreneurship in the field.

"Today the market size of the pharma sector is 4 lakh crore. It can be worth 10 lakh crore with proper coordination between the private sector and academia," he said.

Noting that the pandemic tested even prosperous nations, he said as the pandemic focused global attention on health, India went a step further and focused on wellness.

"That is why we have put (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Bhandari posted as PS to LG, Shah gets Tourism

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: The Government today ordered that Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, awaiting orders of adjustment has been posted as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor.

He shall also hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, in addition to his own duties.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, J&K, was transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department relieving Mr. Sarmad Hafeez of the additional charge of the post.

He shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Excelsior extends Holi Greetings to all its readers. Offices of Daily Excelsior and Excelsior Printers Pvt Ltd will remain closed on March 7 (Tuesday) on account of Holi festival. Therefore, there will be no issue of your newspaper on March 8 (Wednesday). -- Editor

21 Insps promoted as DySPs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: Issuing two separate orders, Government today promoted 21 Inspectors of Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) as Deputy Superintendents of Police, with immediate effect.

Government has accorded sanction to the promotion of 5 Inspectors (Steno) as Deputy Superintendents of Police (Steno)-Private Secretary, Level -8. The officers that have been promoted are Mohammad Latief, Bilal Ahmad Ganaie, Mushtaq Ahmad, Trilok Singh

According to 1st order, (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Yadav tours villages; meets LG, Defence personnel Centre committed to address all issues of border villagers in Ladakh: Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Mar 6: Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Labour & Employment Bhupender Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, border villages will be developed comprehensively through the Vibrant Villages Programme and said that stronger border villages will lead to a stronger nation.

He said this during a tour of border villages during his two-day visit to Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

During the visit, the Union Minister also called on Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor BD Mishra



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav interacting with Defence personnel at a village in Leh.

and discussed with him the issues pertaining to development of Ladakh including the border villages.

Yadav and Mishra held a detailed discussion on key issues

concerning Ladakh's sustainable development, the officials said. As a part of Vibrant Villages Programme, 1400 border villages have been identified, they

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

HC stays eviction of 2 ex-MLAs of NC from Govt Qtrs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: The High Court today stayed the eviction of two National Conference (NC) former legislators from the Government Quarters in Anantnag.

The former MLAs of NC Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi) and Mohammad Iqbal Wani had challenged the eviction notices issued by the authorities from the Government Quarter Nos. 6 and 1 situated at Housing Colony Khanabal area of district Anantnag.

Their Senior Counsel A H Naik submitted before the court that despite having full knowledge about the threat perception to the petitioner Larmi and Wani the authorities have issued notice of eviction from the

Government Quarters in which they are presently residing.

"In the meanwhile, subject to objections and till next date of hearing before the Bench, the impugned eviction orders dated 25th February, 2023, mention supra, passed by the respondent no. 4 as also the Order dated 28th February, 2023, passed by the District Magistrate, Anantnag, shall remain stayed", Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal directed.

The eviction notices have been issued to the petitioners dated 25th February, 2023 whereby they have been directed to be evicted from the Government Quarter No. 6 and Quarter No. 1.

The senior counsel for the petitioners vehemently argued that the Senior

Superintendent of Police, District Police HQrs, Anantnag has already forwarded list of persons who have the threat perception and has communicated in this regard to the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, vide his Communication No. CS/08/2022/19631 dated 09.11.2022.

He has further argued that without considering the threat perception as conveyed by the SSP, Anantnag vide letter mentioned supra to the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Anantnag has issued Notices on 26th November, 2022, to the petitioners which were challenged by them in the earlier round of litigation by way of filing writ petitions and the said

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Unique truss arch Wayil bridge on Sgr-Leh NH nears completion in Ganderbal

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: Construction work on the Wayil bridge, a first-of-its-kind arch-truss-girder design bridge, on Srinagar, Leh National Highway is nearing completion in Ganderbal district.

The bridge, constructed using a unique combination of truss and arch bridge elements and girders, is set to become a vital link for the people of Ganderbal, replacing the old single-lane bridge that caused frequent traffic jams and delays.

The Roads and Buildings department, which is executing the project, has completed the majority of the bridge's construction work, including the approaches

and other finishing works, is ongoing and in full swing and is expected to be completed soon.

"This is a remarkable engineering feat that will serve the region for many decades to come. The use of arch-truss-girder design and girders as a means of supporting the deck is an innovative approach that will make this bridge a landmark structure in the region," Chief Engineer of the Roads and Buildings Department, Rafiq Ahmad, told Excelsior.

The bridge, he said, will shortly be opened for traffic. "We are putting the finishing touches on it, and when we are done, it will be available," he said.

An official privy to the details said the two-lane bridge, with a span of 110 meters and a



A view of beautifully designed Wayil bridge in Ganderbal district. -Excelsior Photo

width of 10.50 meters, was funded by the World Bank and it came up at a cost of Rs 23.79 crores and is a major develop-

ment in the region's infrastructure. He said the length of (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quads' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism * Unutilized Yatrika Niwas ...Page 6 Cong seeks early polls, statehood ...Page 3 LG Mishra reviews implementation of pollution control laws in Ladakh ...Page 3 LG for promoting clubs as medium for community development ...Page 5 CS reviews developmental status of 'Aspirational Blocks' ...Page 5 Mumbai's all-round show fires Mumbai Indians to 9-wicket win against RCB ...Page 10 | <p>JAMMU: Mainly dry</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 27.8 Degree C Min: 12.2 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 61.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 37.0 per cent Sunset on Tuesday: 06.33 p.m. Sunrise on Wednesday: 06.52 a.m.</p> <p>SRINAGAR: Mainly dry</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 20.1 Degree C Min: 3.5 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 81.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 34.0 per cent</p> <p>LEH: Mainly dry</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 7.8 Degree C Min: -6.6 Degree C</p> |

Govt orders enquiry against president MC Handwara

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: The Government has ordered an enquiry into the alleged misconduct of the president Municipal Committee, Handwara in Kupwara district.

The Housing & Urban Development Department has ordered an enquiry into the alleged misconduct of the president of Municipal Committee Handwara, Masroor Bandy.

The enquiry has been ordered under Section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Council Act-2000 which empowers the Government to remove a president or vice-president from his office on

the ground of abuse of his powers or of habitual failure to perform his duties.

According to the order, the Government has ordered Itfikhah Ahmed, in-charge, Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organisation to conduct a detailed enquiry into the alleged misconduct of president MC Handwara.

"As a principle of natural justice, a reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be afforded to the president concerned," the order stated.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit his report within 15 days of issuance of the order. Bandy said that he is ready to face a Government enquiry.

New bird resort attracts tourists

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: A new attraction at Srinagar's famous Dal lake is now drawing bird lovers and nature enthusiasts alike.

The Bird Forest Resort, founded by Kashmiri entrepreneur Mohammad Yasin, aims to provide a sanctuary for exotic birds that migrate to the lake during this time of year while inspiring locals to protect the environment.

Yasin's love for birds was instilled in him by his mother at a young age. She would often feed the birds, sparking his interest and inspiring him to pursue his passion.

Now, he has created an environment where people can come and enjoy bird-watching while experiencing the diverse range (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Suicide bomber rams motorcycle into police van 9 cops killed, 13 injured in Pak terror attack

Excelsior Correspondent

KARACHI, Mar 6: In the latest attack on the security personnel in Pakistan. At least nine policemen were killed and 13 others injured today when a suicide bomber rams his motorcycle into a police van in the restive Balochistan province,

The Balochistan Constabulary was hit by the motorcyclist laden with explosives in the mountainous region of Kunbri in Bolan, police said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but previous such attacks have been blamed on Baloch insurgents and Islamic militants.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mahmood Notezai said the attack took place when the policemen were returning from Sibi to Quetta. "They were returning after completing security duties for the Sibi festival which ended yesterday," the official said.

Notezai said that the preliminary evidence suggests it was a suicide attack.

At least nine personnel of the Balochistan Constabulary were killed and 13 were injured in the (Contd on page 4 Col 5)



Paramilitary soldiers and volunteers work at the site of a suicide bombing, in Baluchistan province on Monday.