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JAMMU, SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

REGD. NO. JK-71/21-23
RNI No. 28547/65

Vol No. 59
No. 69

16 + 4 (Magazine) = 20 Pages ₹ 6.00

Rs 600 cr crime proceeds detected from Lalu family

NEW DELHI, Mar 11:

As RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his family faced more heat from Central agencies in the alleged land-for-jobs scam, the Enforcement Directorate today said it seized Rs one crore in "unaccounted cash" and detected proceeds of crime worth Rs 600 crore after raids against them in a related money laundering case.

The agency said it is suspected that a huge amount of

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

HC directive on migrant property

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 11: The High Court has held that if a person fails to establish to have the migrant immovable property in his possession with the consent of the migrant with written consent and authority of law, the order of eviction by the authority can be passed and upheld the decision of taking over the possession of the property in question by the concerned authority.

One Abdul Khaliq Rather

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Health Secy writes to States/UTs on COVID cases

NEW DELHI, Mar 11:

Amid a rise in cases of the seasonal influenza subtype H3N2, the Centre today expressed concern over a gradual increase in the COVID-19 positivity rate in some States and said it needed to be promptly addressed.

The Centre requested all States and Union Territories to follow operational guidelines for integrated surveillance of respiratory pathogens

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

5 grenades destroyed

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: Five rusted grenades found buried in a village in Gharota area of this district were destroyed in a controlled explosion by the Bomb

*Watch video on

www.excelsiornews.com

Disposal Squad today. The grenades were found by a resident of Charangal village in Gharota area during the digging work for the construction of a shop, police officials said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

66% income of 7 parties came from electoral bonds

NEW DELHI, Mar 11:

More than 66 per cent of the total income of seven national parties in 2021-22 came from "unknown sources" like electoral bonds, which accounted for a whopping 83 per cent, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The seven parties -- BJP, Congress, TMC, NCP, CPI, CPI(M) and the National People's Party -- collected Rs 2,172 crore from unknown

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Mixed response to Jammu Bandh, transport plies normally on roads

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 11: The Jammu Bandh evoked mixed response as transport plied normally while about 20-25 percent shops in some localities were also found opened during the day today.

*Watch video on

www.excelsiornews.com

A day-long bandh call was given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry in protest against the decision of the JKUT Administration to impose Property Tax in Jammu and Kashmir. While many trade organizations, Bazar Associations, political parties including Congress, NC, AAP,

Toll Free number released for suggestions, simplification of tax Interests of common people of J&K Admn's topmost priority: LG

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 11: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said interests of the common people of Jammu and Kashmir are topmost priority of the Government and suggestions aimed at simplification of Property Tax etc will be considered as doors of the administration are open for dialogue.

*Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com

For the purpose, he said, a Toll Free number has also been released.

In a brief chat with media persons after inspecting various development works in Jammu City, Sinha, in response to a question on bandh in Jammu region on Property Tax, said interests of common man of Jammu and Kashmir are topmost priority of the administration.

"We have released a Toll Free number on which suggestions can be given by the people.

Jammu tourism, people's income to get boost with new projects

Our doors are always open for dialogue. Suggestions aimed at simplification of tax and faci-



LG Manoj Sinha inspecting Tawi River Front project in Jammu on Saturday.

ties to be given will be considered," he said.

"There is no scope for politicization of the issue, he added. The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that Property Tax imposed in Jammu and Kashmir is one-tenth from the rates in Ambala, Shimla and Dehradun. "People in rural areas don't have to pay any tax. Forty per-

cent population in City too won't have to pay tax. Another 40 per cent will have to pay maximum

tax of Rs 1,000 per year. Similarly, in commercial installations totaling 1,01,700; nearly 40,000 will have to pay Rs 700 per annum and another 36,000 will be paying maximum Rs 2,000 annually," Sinha said and pointed out that even a rehirwala pays Rs 5000 every year to Municipalities.

Earlier, Sinha conducted on-

site inspection of key projects here and said their completion would help in boosting tourism in the winter capital.

"There is satisfactory progress on these vital projects, which, on completion, will fulfil the aspirations of the people of Jammu. These projects will boost tourism in Jammu and the footfall of tourists from outside will increase the economic activities and income of people," Sinha said.

Asked whether the temple will open around the commencement of the annual Amarnath yatra, he quipped, "I do not think there is a need to link the two. I was told that the temple will be set up by end of June."

Sinha, however, refused to comment on agitation by some youth against hiring of Aptech agency for examination by Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

"I believe that if a case is under consideration (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

'Various Depts, HoDs not following earlier instructions' Govt directs officers for speedy disposal of files in Sectt, offices

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: The Union Territory Government today issued instructions for efficiency and speedy disposal of files in Civil Secretariat and other Government offices.

A Circular in this regard has been issued by General Administration Department Commissioner/Secretary Sanjeev Verma.

The circular pointed out that instructions have been issued in 2006 and 2019 for efficient and speedy disposal of files and transaction of Government business in the Civil Secretariat and other Government offices. The instructions, inter alia, prescribe procedure/guidelines regarding

file noting, appropriate levels in the hierarchy and time-limits for disposal as well.

However, it said, it has been observed that various departments and HoDs offices are not adhering to these instructions, a matter which has been viewed with concern by the authorities.

Asserting that file noting is the fundamental daily function performed in offices, the GAD order said it shall be endeavored by all officers/officials that these notings invariably contain brief history/summary of the case, statement of the case and all relevant facts and figures required for generating discourse on the subject, governing law/rule positions which facilitates appropriate and correct decision

making, details of inter-departmental consultations/advice of other Departments, if sought, proper referencing/highlighting to enable identifying a document, a decision and facts mentioned in a note, draft or office copy of the communication issued and implications of various available options and suggested courses of action with reasons or the 'Approval Paragraph'.

"Noting on files shall be initiated as per the Manual of Secretariat Procedure. A simple and direct style of writing shall be adopted and use of complicated and ambiguous language shall be avoided. The verbatim reproduction of extracts from or paraphrasing

of a letter or any other part of correspondence or notes on the same file and repetition of points already made/grounds already covered shall be avoided," the General Administration Department order, read.

It directed that submission of files shall be according to the levels of hierarchy laid down by the Department/Section, which, in turn shall be defined in terms of Circulars issued in 2006 and 2019.

"Files shall be submitted to the deciding authority i.e. the Administrative Secretary/Minister-in-charge for final decision only. Secretaries in the Department/Special

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

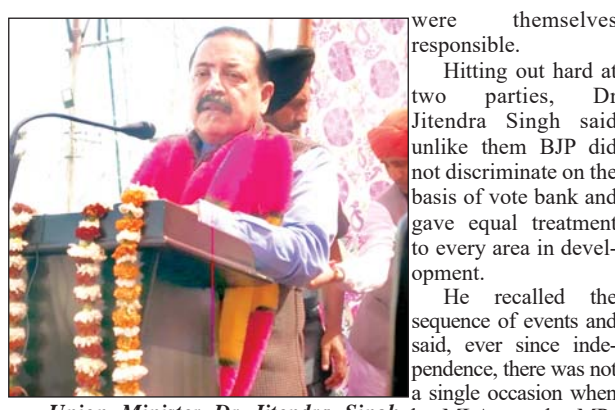
'New projects to prove game changer for region' Congress, NC neglected Doda; now shedding crocodile tears: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

DODA, Mar 11 : Lambasting Congress and National Conference (NC), Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today alleged that erstwhile district Doda was brazenly neglected by them during their rule at Centre and in the erstwhile State of J&K for about seven decades.

*Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com

Addressing a mammoth public rally here today, the Union Minister took a jibe at the leaders of the two parties saying after the people have ousted them from power they have

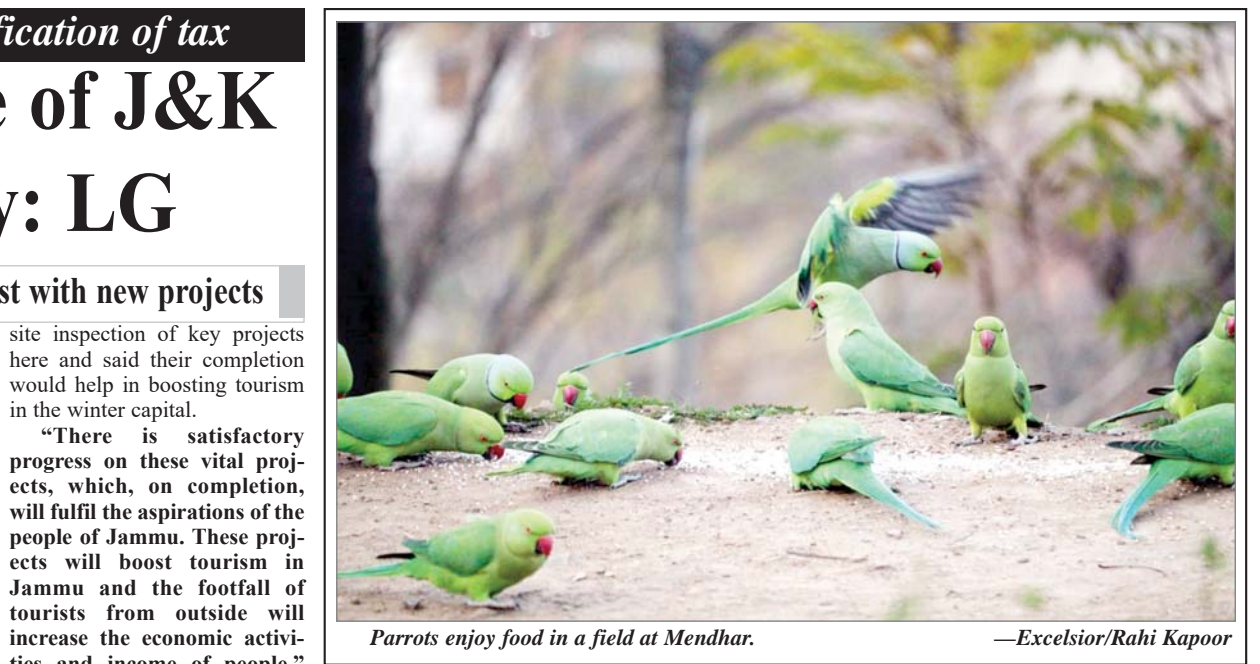


Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public rally at Doda on Saturday.

were themselves responsible. Hitting out hard at two parties, Dr Jitendra Singh said unlike them BJP did not discriminate on the basis of vote bank and gave equal treatment to every area in development.

He recalled the sequence of events and said, ever since independence, there was not a single occasion when the MLAs or the MPs from this region did not protest march in the State Cabinet or the Union Cabinet, but the apathy by these elected representatives is

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)



Parrots enjoy food in a field at Mendhar.

—Excelsior/Rahi Kapoor

Appoints IO in ongoing case against ex-BMO Beerwah Based on audit, H&ME begins process of probing 2274 'illegal' appointments

Irfan Trambo

SRINAGAR, Mar 11: The authorities here have set up a committee to probe 2274 and other illegal appointments in Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department which have come to the fore as per the Audit and Inspection department.

In this regard, an order has been issued concerning the formation of a committee which will be headed by the Director of Finance, H&ME department and will have four other officials as its members.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of the committee to monitor the exercise of identifying and revisiting the illegal appointments in the Health Department as reported by the Audit and Inspection Department and all other illegal appointments," the order issued read.

The H&ME has asked the committee to take a policy decision once and for all to settle the issue "by applying a common yardstick to 2274 employees."

While the committee has been asked to submit its report within 30 days, it will also decide against the officers and officials, who were involved in the illegal appointments.

Meanwhile, in another order, H&ME Department appointed an Inquiry Officer to enquire about the charges levelled against the then BMO Beerwah and others in case FIR no 22/2012 P/S VOK.

According to an order Arshad Ahmad Lone, Chief Accounts Officer in the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been appointed as Inquiry Officer.

The Inquiry Officer has been directed to submit a detailed enquiry report along with his recommendation within 30 days positively from the date of issuance of the order.

It is to be noted here that the case pertains to illegal appointments made by concerned BMO and others before him, regarding which a complaint was lodged in 2010 and before the inquiry got on, some of the clerks as well as the BMOs fell in the net.

There were 2 audits carried out by the authorities. The first one was conducted in 2011 which brought to the fore that there were a total of 89 posts while 102 employees were getting the salary.

Then in 2012, one more audit was carried out and this time the accounts were scrutinized which brought to the fore that an amount of Rs 1.49 cr was withdrawn from the state exchequer as salary in 2 years.

However, it needs to be noted here that the appointments which are in question, their appointees are effortlessly, even as of now, drawing the salary. It was earlier directed to the concerned department to take up the cases individually with the Finance Department, but that was not done so far, paving a way for these appointees to continue to draw the salary.

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Will stress for early Assembly polls, Statehood Farooq-led meeting of political parties decides to meet EC, national leaders

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah today chaired a meeting with leaders of more than a dozen parties which culminated with the decision to meet the Election Commission in New Delhi for an early Assembly election in Jammu & Kashmir and restoration of its Statehood.

*Watch video on
www.excelsiornews.com

The three-hour long meeting held at Dr Abdullah's residence here, also decided to meet national leaders from the Opposition camp to seek their assistance in restoring democra-

cy in the Union Territory. Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President

Raman Bhalla, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, PDP leader Amrik Singh Reen, National Panthers Party leader Harsh Dev Singh, Awami National Conference (ANC) leader Muzaffar Shah, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and District Development Council member Taranjit Singh

Shiv Sena (UTB) leader Manish Sahni and Mission Statehood president Sunil Dimple were among others present in the meet.

"The meeting was convened to the prevailing situation, unrest among the people and discuss future course of action. All leaders put forth their view point and it was unanimously decided that we will go to Delhi and meet the national leaders (from the opposition) to brief them about the issues being faced by the people.

"We will brief them and seek their help in restoration of full Statehood and democratically elected Government. Prime Minister (Narendra

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Excelsior/Rakesh

Tony, Dogra Sadar Sabha president Gulchain Singh Charak,

DB upholds life-imprisonment of militant

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 11: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Mohan Lal has upheld the life-imprisonment awarded by Additional Sessions Judge Handwara to militant namely Mushtaq Ahmad Malla.

According to the prosecution case, on 22.12.2005, an information was received at the Police Station Handwara that two militants including one identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Malla, son of Ghulam Ahmad Malla of Shogund, have killed one person namely Tariq Ahmad Malik, son of Abdul Qayoom Malik of Guloora by firing indiscriminately at Adoura and his dead-body is lying on the spot.

On receipt of this information, FIR No. 337/2005 was registered for the commission of offences

under Sections 302 RPC and 7/27 Arms Act and after completion of investigation challan was presented and on December 31, 2021, accused was sentenced to life-imprisonment.

After hearing both the sides, the DB observed, "trial court has considered all the issues raised by the accused-appellant before the trial court and each issue has been dealt with by the trial court in accordance with law by placing reliance on various pronouncements of the Apex Court."

"Trial court though has convicted the appellant for the commission of offence punishable under Section 7/27 of Arms Act but has rightly not sentenced him for the punishment prescribed under Sub Section 3 of Section 27 of Arms Act because the Apex Court has declared the Sub Section 3 of Section 27 of Arms Act as unconstitutional", the DB said, adding "trial court has after hold-

ing the appellant guilty for the commission of offence punishable under Section 302 RPC sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for life and we do not find that the sentence of life imprisonment awarded to the appellant is disproportionate to the offence committed by him, particularly when Section 302 RPC provides punishment of either death penalty or imprisonment for life".

"We also find that the trial court has rightly convicted the appellant for the commission of offence under Section 201 RPC particularly when there was direct evidence regarding killing of the deceased by the appellant by gun and subsequently running away of the appellant from the place of occurrence with gun", the DB said, adding "we do not find any illegality or infirmity in the judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 31.12.2021 passed by the trial court".

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